

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-4786

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing within and throughout our community

The Power Of H²O

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." - Luke 3:21-22

The power of water is amazing, and a little or a lot of it can go a long way. With all the storms we have been having over the last month, many of us have had a fresh reminder of what can happen when the heavens are opened and water bursts forth with torrential power. It can clean, it can kill, and it can make alive in a host of ways.

Of course there is another very important power of H²O, and that is the power of **Heaven 2(to) Open** in baptism, and change lives. Luke Chapter 3, describes that during Jesus baptism, while he was praying, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him... And a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." This voice serves as powerful reminder that heaven does indeed have the power to open and break into our reality, and that at the heart of all these heavenly occurrences is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

One of these occurrences took place on August 24th, when several of us had the great privilege of seeing heaven break in once again, when we had the opportunity to take part in the baptisms of four members of the Kimes family, as well as one of their family friends. Seeing five people baptized and enjoying another beautiful day in God's creation on the Lake Michigan beach. Talk about a great Sunday afternoon!

Seeing the power of the Holy Spirit, washing us clean, killing our old sinful nature, and making us living and active members in God's kingdom, it never gets old. Moreover, the heavens are constantly being opened as the Holy Spirit continues to make us new every day. I hope you will spend some time the next month to meditate on your own baptism and the power of heaven to open in your life and the lives around you. Just think of all the people to who the Spirit has revealed Christ and who have now been baptized into an eternal relationship with Him, and you are one of them!

I wonder. What kinds of places might the power of the Holy Spirit be moving even now, so that even more people might have the heavens opened up to them? Might there be places where the Spirit wants to use you to reveal Christ to others? Who knows, we might just have to start going to the beach more often!

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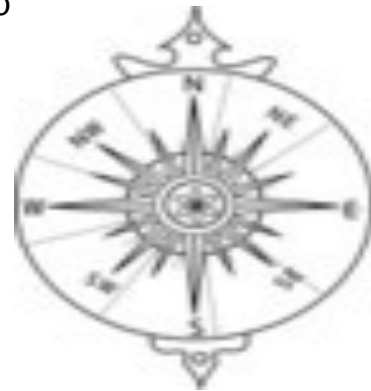
COMPASS EDUCATION PROGRAM

September is here and it's time for another year of the Compass Education Programming. You will remember that this is the program initiated to assist the Hispanic children with tutoring. The program has grown to now include assistance for children of additional ethnicities, and adults with mastering (I could often use that help) English and with obtaining citizenship.

This is a wonderful means of providing service to those in need. If you would like to learn more about the work please speak with Jan Dixon, Dorothy Kehe, Bruce Berner or me.

We could certainly use your help and there are many opportunities.

Dave Pilz
462-2314



FAITH MEMORIAL CHURCH PICNIC— PLEASE COME!

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 14

TIME: 2:00PM

WHERE: Faith Memorial

You know who you are, but does everybody else? It's time for a new church directory and we will start taking photos of households between worship service and the education hour starting **Sunday, September 7th**. No appointment, no charge, and if you have any questions you can contact Linda Berner, Marilyn Lindner, or any of the friendly members of the Board of Directors (Bruce Berner, Mary Dunlap, Ben Fryman or Bruce Lindner.)

MATEHUALA SCHOOL KITS

A big thank you to everyone for your donations!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send 40 school kits to the children at our mission in Matehuala!



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*"I bind unto myself today The strong name of the Trinity By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three," attr. St. Patrick, c. 372-466*

Orthodox Jewish men, older than 13, will tie onto their foreheads and left arms small leather boxes, known as phylacteries. Each box contains slips of paper inscribed with a scripture passage. They wear these boxes during morning and afternoon prayers. This practice comes from Deut. 11:18 and is taken as a way to remind themselves and others of the importance of God's words.

In the baptism section of Lutheran Book of Worship (the green book), hymn #188, "I Bind unto Myself To-day", speaks of binding to ourselves the name of the Trinity. In the hymn, we don't ask the Trinity to bind itself to us. We say that we will bind the Trinity to ourselves. Instead of wearing boxes on our arms, we, by faith, tie the Trinity around us. What an intriguing image! To have the three persons of the Trinity wrapped around us like a belt or a cape. And not only does the hymn talk about being wrapped with God, it also speaks to binding God's creation to ourselves.

How differently would we live our lives if others saw us wrapped in the Trinity and creation? When we put on a favorite article of clothing or something brand new, do we act differently? If we are comfortable in our clothing, do we relate to others in a more relaxed manner? Would binding the Trinity over our hearts make us more loving and more sensitive to others? Would we hear their pain sooner and desire to help? If creation was tied around our waist, would we care more for the environment and the non-human creatures?

Binding the Trinity to ourselves is similar to what happened in our baptism. The cross of Christ was "marked" on our forehead and chest. This is to remind us as to whose we are and the cost to Christ for making us his own.

Martin Luther asks that all baptized Christians should daily remember their baptism, the washing away of sin, and the cross marked on us. May we begin each day remembering that mark and then binding ourselves with the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

*Of whom all nature has creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!*

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT FAITH MEMORIAL

Tuesday, September 23

2:30-6:00 PM

Please give if you are able!



FAITH WOMEN'S LUNCH

Wednesday, September 3,
11:30am



3rd Coast Spice Café

Please join us and bring a friend!

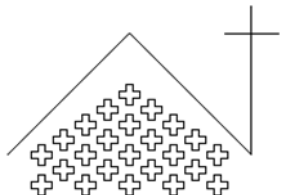
Sign up in the narthex or call

Linda Berner at 464-2774

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Lutheran Church**

**753 N. Calumet Ave.
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**Email:
office@faithmemorial.net**



CRUMBS!!

For our Food Pantry collection during the months of September and October we will collect "crumbs". This is taken from a recent sermon by Pastor Schoech (if you missed it, catch up on our website). The "crumbs" will be loose change. The loose change will be accumulated weekly and dispersed to local food pantries so they can replenish their needs for the holiday season. Please empty your pockets weekly or bring in an old piggy bank for this "crumby" collection. Your participation is greatly needed!

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 7, 9:00am Holy Communion

Holy Cross Day, September 14, 9:00am Holy Communion

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, September 21, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 28, 9:00am

Service of Word and Prayer

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 5, 9:00am, Holy Communion

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 12, 9:00am

Service of Word and Prayer

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 19, 9:00am, Holy Communion

Reformation Sunday, October 26, 9:00am, Holy Communion



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