

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

753 N. CALUMET AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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



You're Welcome!

Matthew 25:34-40 *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

When you hear the words, “you’re welcome,” what do they bring to mind? Your first thought might be that they are an appropriate response to someone thanking you for something you have done. They can also be words of invitation, as in “you’re welcome to join us” or “welcome, we’re glad you’re here.”

While these uses of the word “welcome” may be a little different in nature, they are also deeply connected. After all, we are certainly thankful when someone welcomes us, and it is certainly welcoming when a person is clearly thankful for the opportunity to interact with us. Moreover, what can be more welcoming than when a person has lived out the sort of kindness in our lives that gives us reason to be truly thankful?

When you think about it, which is the more powerful thanks or welcome; to have people thank us for one kind action, or to have someone look at their interactions with us and say, “Thank you for being you!” Individual and random acts of kindness can be powerful things. However, when we establish the kind of welcoming relationships, for which someone says, “thank you for being you,” who knows what kind of doors might open? For example, think how much more likely we are to offer and receive welcome and invitations, and how this in turn can cause our relationships with each other to grow even more.

This same understanding of welcoming relationships applies to us as a family of believers as well. Do we want to be a congregation that sometimes does the things a few people find welcoming, or do we want to be the kind of congregation which can truly be called a welcome congregation? In other words, how can we be the kind of Christ-like family of believers that not only makes people feel welcome once they walk through our doors, but also welcomes people into a relationship with Jesus and our church through how we interact with and care for others each and every day of our lives?

Jesus says, in Matt. 25, “whatever you did for the least of these strangers you did it onto me”. Through welcoming others and providing them with a reason to give thanks, not only are we welcoming them into a relationship with us and the Lord, we are once again welcoming the Lord’s presence among us. What a joy to welcome those that the Lord has welcomed, as well as to welcome the Lord who first welcomed us. What a welcome!

Now this may all sound a bit overwhelming, but it really does begin one welcoming interaction at a time. We have already seen a few new faces recently among us because of the interactions of our members in the community. I have experienced how this congregation has welcomed those new faces with much joy. Can you hope, dream, and imagine what this congregation might be like if we continue to grow in our identity as a welcome congregation, through who we are, here and out in the world? Natural Church Development and our church-wide spiritual growth emphasis, *The Best is Yet to Come*, are two examples of how our congregation is already working together to do just that, and that’s not all.

In addition to my ongoing encouragement to all of you to connect with and get to know new faces at church, efforts are in place to put together a Welcome Center in the Narthex at church, where information can be shared and visitors to the church can be made to feel even more welcome. There will be an opportunity for some of you to become trained greeters. Also remember, being a welcoming church begins outside the church doors. Therefore, I welcome all of you to continue to build those caring relationships around you, both new and old, and if you haven’t already, please begin to invite these individuals to join you in experiencing the love of Christ here at Faith Memorial, in your small groups, in your homes, and elsewhere, by showing them that in Christ they truly are welcome.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schrock

NORTHWEST INDIANA LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSION SOCIETY

The Mission Society is happy to welcome another Pastor on board to help Pastor Angon with ministering to Northwest Indiana. Pastor Garcia has come to us from Mexico and will be helping with bilingual services at Immanuel in Valpo and Trinity, Crown Point. Also coming up is the Annual Cinco de Mayo, May 1st from 12-3pm. There will be authentic Mexican food provided by Gloria Dei Mission Congregation at Immanuel and the Folklorico Dancers. There will be a free will offering.

We are continually striving to broaden our outreach in Northwest Indiana. If you are interested in helping you can support our work through the offering envelopes. Simply mark them Hispanic Mission Society. We are also always looking for tutors for Compass International Family Center which operates during the school year on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:00. For more information please see Dorothy Kehe.

SAVE THE DATE!

For the Annual Grape Cluster Picnic at the Lindners on Saturday, June 25th starting at 5:00pm.

All adult members and friends of Faith are invited. Bring something to grill and beverages of your choice. Cluster members will provide side dishes and desserts, plates and plastic ware and bottled water.



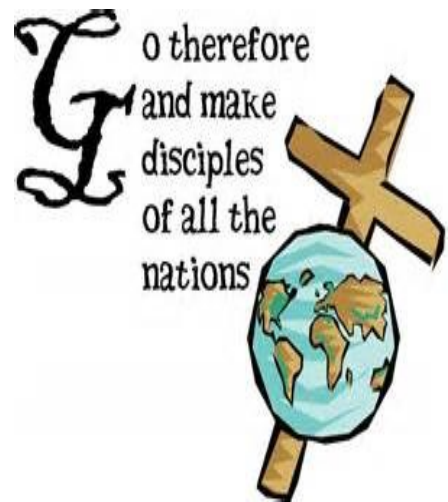
Vacation Bible School

Faith Memorial's VBS will be held in conjunction with Immanuel Lutheran again this year. VBS will be held at Immanuel, but our VBS kickoff picnic will be held at Faith on Sunday, June 19. Watch this newsletter and the Sunday bulletins for more information in the coming weeks.

AN OLD-TIME TEA PARTY

Invitations are still available for Faith Memorial's Old Time Tea Party to be held on Sunday, May 1, from 2-4pm in the Gathering Space at church. Tickets are \$10. Proceeds will be used for sound reduction panels in the Gathering Space. Fancy hats are welcome but not required!

Please see Marilyn Lindner, Jan Dixon or Mary Dunlap for tickets or call the office: (219) 462-7684.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Let go . . ."

Over the decades, and one suspects for centuries, Christians have put together pithy phrases. These short phrases – what would Jesus do; prayer changes things; let go and let God, e.g. – have a kernel of truth, but aren't entirely accurate in their depiction of God's work in this world. Often these phrases are used when life is difficult or when direction from God is desired or maybe when we want God to relieve us of responsibility. The phrase can temporarily "get us off the hook" when we should really get much more involved.

On May 22nd, FMLC will be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years ago on June 10, a group of Lutherans in Porter County, Indiana, gathered for worship at Liberty Township School. Later that day, Faith Memorial Lutheran Church was officially organized. The name "Faith" was chosen because the future growth of the tiny mission would be under God's guidance. "Memorial" was added to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran congregation in Valparaiso, the celebration of which had resulted in the idea for a new mission on the north side of Valparaiso.

The six families who formed the nucleus of the congregation didn't just let go and let God. They got to work. By May 24, 1957, the sanctuary was dedicated with 54 communicant members and 36 children enrolled in Sunday School. If those first families had just "let go and let God" it is highly unlikely that a sanctuary would have been needed. While it is appropriate for us to let God guide and direct us in the spreading of the Gospel, it is not appropriate to sit and wait and do nothing.

We are at a crossroads at FMLC. There are people in Valparaiso who are hurting and hopeless. They are grieving the loss of job, broken families, and the death of loved ones. They don't have a circle of supportive friends or co-workers. They don't know Jesus as their loving Savior and Comforter and Healer. They need God and us. Are we going to help them? Are we going to reach beyond ourselves and our comfortable circle at FMLC? Are we going to be willing to change and let go of old ideas and routines? Are we willing to put aside our prejudices in order to follow a Savior who was willing to touch lepers? Are we willing to "let go . .

"and let God help us."?

Many many thanks to all those who helped during my time of injury. Special thanks to the choir and cantors for working with Deb Porter and a new accompanist. And extra thanks to Deb for covering all those worship services at the busiest time of the Church Year. My stress level was considerably lower knowing that you were taking of the music and worship.

Blessed Easter!

—Becky



*"SPRING INTO
SPRINGTIME WITH A
CREATIVE SPIRIT"
JOIN MARK MAKERS AT
THEIR MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 AT
6:30 AT CHURCH.*

BUILDING USE AND FACILITY USE FORMS!

Our church building is being used now more than ever for church events as well as private party groups. As happy as we are for this development in church use, now is the time to put some thought and attention into the details.

Copies of our *Church Facility Use Form* can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office if the office is closed, or from the secretary on the days she is in the office. Church members as well as outside groups are strongly encouraged to complete these forms, leave them with the secretary and discuss building needs with her. This is necessary to prevent "double-booking", and to let the maintenance staff know when they are needed to set up and/or clean up for an event.

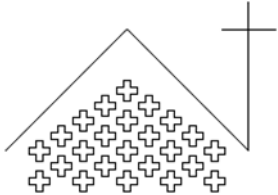
Please remember the Facility Use Forms! They are a great tool in planning successful church events.



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Lutheran Church

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DON'T FORGET!.....

On May 22 of this year the congregation of Faith Memorial will celebrate our 60th anniversary! We will enjoy a pot luck luncheon at noon after worship services and Bible Study. Mark your calendars!



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 1, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 8, 9:00 Morning Prayer
The Day of Pentecost, May 15, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Holy Trinity, May 22, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Second Sunday after Pentecost, May 29, 9:00, Morning Prayer
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 5, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 12, 9:00 Morning Prayer
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 19, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, June 26, 9:00 Morning Prayer

