

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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



Time Best Spent!

Luke 10:38-42 ³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

A dear Pastor I know absolutely loves to tell Midwestern Jokes about a couple called Ole and Lena. His love for these jokes has rubbed off on me, so consider yourself warned. With all of the cold weather we have been having one story in particular came to mind:

A snowstorm hit and the next morning the radio announced, "Due to the snow the city orders that cars need to be parked on the right side of the street to allow snowplowing on the left side". So Ole put on his winter coat and moved the car to the right side. The next day more snow came and the radio announced, "Due to the snow the city orders that cars need to be parked on the left side of the street to allow snowplowing on the right side." So Ole put on his winter coat and moved the car to the left side. The next day more snow came and the radio announced, "Due to the snow the city orders that cars need to be parked on the right side of the street to allow snowplowing on the left side". So Ole started to put on his winter coat when Lena said, "Oh, Ole, why don't you just leave the car in the garage today."

Aside from being amusing this joke makes a good point that we can apply to our journey through both life and Lent. Like Ole many of us do many things that we don't have to do. Many of these things either don't apply to us or really would not matter except for the fact we have already devoted time and attention to them. This can leave us feeling burnt out, overextended, and caught up a whole lot of "busy" work. It can also distract us from the things that really matter, like spending time with God and directing our love and energy toward people in ways that are far more meaningful.

Since many people like to give things up for Lent, why not give up some of the little and unnecessary stuff to make room for some time with God. Perhaps, there are some times when you could leave the car in the garage today and sit down by yourself or with your spouse, or the rest of your family, and engage God that much more deeply. In a lot of ways this is an important part of the Lenten Journey or Discipline. We could all use the opportunity to look at our lives and see how we can grow in our relationship with God through repentance, prayer, and just slowing down to breathe in God's Word. So take time this week to slow down and take a deep breath. Ask God what things you should be doing and what things can be put aside. Then take a few extra moments to really spend some quality time with Him

Keep in mind as you do this that just like there are many things we don't need to do, there are also things we can't do. One of them is earn God's love or our salvation. God has already given these things freely through Jesus Christ. Lent is as much a season of God's love as it is a season of repentance. So take advantage of the cold, snuggle up to Jesus, thank Him for all He has done, and get to know His love and His longings for your life that much better. I know it will be worth it.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Did you ever wonder how the dates for Lent and Easter are determined each year? We didn't think so, but we're going to tell you anyway. Easter is determined first and we work backward to find all of Lent. Easter is always the first Sunday **AFTER** the first full moon **ON OR AFTER** the "Metonic Cycle" equinox, which is **ALWAYS** March 21. (The "true equinox" based on sun and planetary cycles is always near the 21st but actually slightly more often on the 20th.) Easter can, thus, be anywhere from March 22 to April 25. This year it is on April 5. Now, from April 5 count backwards 40 days (not counting Sundays which are technically not "in" Lent) and you hit February 18, Ash Wednesday. It has been this way uniformly (except in some Orthodox churches) since the 8th century when the church adopted the 325 AD Council of Nicea's rule on determining Easter. Try to memorize all of this because there may be a pop quiz next year.

Meanwhile join us during Lent for Sunday services and Bible Study, for Wednesday Soup Suppers at 6 PM and services at 7:00 PM, for all Holy Week services and, of course, for Easter Services and other events. Happy Lent. Happy Equinox. Happy Easter. In that order.

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EVANGELISM

During Lent, the Evangelism Committee will be distributing cloth bags displaying the FMLC logo with a magnet and postcard attached. The card will give recipients instructions to fill the bag with food items for our local food pantries and bring the filled bags back to Faith Memorial on Wednesdays during Lent, just before the soup supper (around 6:00pm). Donors will be welcomed by the greeting committee and invited to stay for supper and church service. The committee has scheduled speakers to give a short talk during supper. Some of these include the Lutheran Comfort Dogs Group, representatives from Immanuel's Food Pantry and committee members from Rebuilding Together Duneland.

What a great opportunity for the congregation to mingle with and welcome newcomers, guests and speakers during the Lenten Soup Suppers!



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

Names"

*"When someone loves you, the way they
say your name is different.*

You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Jan Karon

Take a moment and think about the people in your life – both past and present – who call you by your first name. What is your relationship to those people? Probably parents or grandparents are on that list. Then there may be teachers, children, co-workers, neighbors. When they used your first name, how did you react? How could one word make you feel complete joy or complete terror! Maybe there were those times in school when you promised God all sorts of things if the teacher wouldn't use your first name. If that happened, you would have to admit you didn't know the answer.

Our first name is important. Using it implies some familiarity between us and the person using it. When I am teaching at the university, I give my students permission to use my first name, or Miss Graef, or Prof. Graef. I want them to be comfortable with our relationship and to establish for them what that will be. Once they have decided, I know how to relate to and work with them to reach their musical goals.

Jesus was very aware of the importance of names. When he refers to himself as the Good Shepherd, he was giving us a name to use for him. This name tells us that Jesus is good and that he will also be our guide on our daily path. But more importantly than having a name for Jesus, he knows our names. When we hear our names called, we respond with joy and not terror.

As we move forward in ministry at Faith Memorial, we will be working with fellow members to spread the Gospel. We already know each other's first names and we know that we are members of Jesus' flock. The new faces that will visit our congregation will have first names that we need to learn. When we use those names, may we say them in ways that bring joy to the hearers and assurance that they too are sheep in Jesus' flock. May those names be "safe in our mouths".

"Jesus calls His sheep by name, and our names are safe in His mouth." Jan Karon



***Bring your friends!
Bring your favorite games!
(Card, Board, Collectable, etc.)
Gamers of all kinds invited.***

***Feel free to bring snacks to
share.***

Beverages will be provided.

CHOIR SCHEDULES FOR PASSION AND EASTER SUNDAYS

PASSION SUNDAY REHEARSALS:

- Sunday, March 15, 11:35am
- Sunday, March 22, 11:35am

EASTER SUNDAY REHEARSALS:

- Wednesday, March 11, 7:45pm
- Wednesday, March 18, 7:45pm
- Wednesday, March 25, 7:45pm
- Saturday, April 4, 9:00am



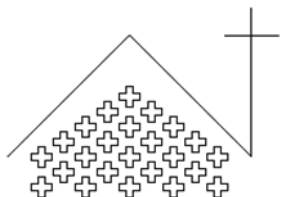
Donations of fabric and yarn needed for Sewing Seeds of Love projects: pillowcases, wheelchair bags and lap robes are being donated to area nursing facilities and others in need. Sewing machines needed also! Please leave a message with the church office: (219) 462-7684.



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Reading Buddies

Day of Caring

A huge thank you to all those contributing to the Day of Caring project. The cart is FULL and we will be delivering the stuffed animals to local elementary students as their "Reading Buddies."

Share the Dream

Sunday School is still collecting offerings for their mission project of a little farm of animals for World Vision. It looks like we may be able to send more than the 13 farm animals we hoped for! Sunday School thanks you for your on-going support.

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Sunday in Lent, March 1, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Second Wednesday in Lent, March 4, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Third Sunday in Lent, March 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 11, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 15, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 18, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, March 25, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Sunday of the Passion, March 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3, 3:00 and 7:00pm Services

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 5, 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion

Lent

