

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## A Passion for Christ's Passion

**Hebrews 12:2-3** *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

The scenes of Lent and Easter are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on what is often referred to as our Lord's Passion or "Passion Week". Without the events surrounding Easter, some of these places might seem everyday and plain, like a garden or a dining room. Others places, like the places of Christ's trial, torture, and crucifixion, have a cruelty, darkness, and gruesomeness that might make many people want to turn away their eyes. Yet whatever the location, when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it.

In our midweek Lenten sermons and Sunday Bible class this year, we are reading and contemplating Luke's account of the week leading up to Easter. Our focus, however, is not on these physical places. Instead, we are seeking to focus in on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. In each moment of the passion, Jesus shares His strength in our times of weakness. He brings hope and praise in the midst of our sorrow. As we enter each of these places of the Passion we discover our Lord. . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

You see, Jesus' passion for us is far more than a week-long event. The suffering part of Jesus' passion often seems at its clearest on the cross and those moments leading up to it, but Christ's passionate love has continued to be at work since the beginning of time. Even now the grace, love, and life-giving power Christ so clearly showed on the cross and in the empty tomb, continues to make its presence known. From the everyday to the seemingly mundane to the most troubling places in our lives, when Jesus visits them they can become the most amazing places of God's grace.

In the light of Christ's presence, our part in the passion takes on a new light itself. The powerful reminders of Christ's Passion that we receive during Holy Week or on Wednesdays during Lent help us recognize and embrace the power of Christ's life-giving and changing presence in other places as well. For example, in gatherings around dining room tables, in coffee shops, or even on garden trails, God's people gather around his Word, prayer, and the breaking of bread, feeling His presence in and through each other. With a greater awareness of His presence in all places, our hearts become drawn to those places from which others might avert their eyes, as we seek to show others our love and compassion with the passion of Christ. Christ's passion becomes our passion.

As we conclude this season of Lent and Easter and move into the season beyond, I pray all of us will seek to keep our eyes open for Christ's presence and passion. Look around your church, your family, your work, and your community, and be on the watch for those places Christ is already coming to you, as well as those new places he may be calling you to share and experience His loving presence. May our Lord's love and forgiveness dwell richly in each of you this Easter season.

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoech*

Pastor Eric Schoech



***A THANK YOU NOTE FROM  
HILLTOP HOUSE TO THE  
MEMBERS OF FAITH MEMO-  
RIAL....***

“Thank you for your support and for helping the food pantry clients at Hilltop Neighborhood House. We are able to thrive because of your gifts of \$200 and over 200 pounds of food and paper products. You have helped to feed the hundreds of individuals who visit our food pantry every month. Thank you so much” -



An Easter Breakfast will be held at Faith between the 8:00 and 10:45am services on Easter morning. Everyone is welcome! Please join us and if you would like to bring a dish, please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

**FMLC GROUP NEWS**

**Mark Makers—will meet the first Wednesday of the month beginning Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 (at church.)**

**Women Wanting Wisdom—will meet the third Wednesday of the month beginning Wednesday, April 20 (location to be determined)**

**Sewing Seeds of Love continues to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9:00am (at church).**

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

### *"The Refrain"*

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and they forsook the Lord. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel and he gave them as slaves to Moab. But when the people cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer.

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and they forsook the Lord. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel and he gave them as slaves to the Philistines. But when the people cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer.

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and they forsook the Lord. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel and he gave them as slaves to Edom. But when the people cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer.

This is the refrain for the entire book of Judges. It never stops. You read the book and you want to scream at the Israelites, "Why aren't you learning from your mistakes? Why do you keep turning from God?"

Hoshea reigned nine years and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

Manasseh reigned fifty-five years and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

Amon reigned two years and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

This is the refrain for the entire book of 2 Kings. It never stops. You read the book and you want to scream at the kings and the Israelites, "Why aren't you learning from your mistakes? Why do you keep turning from God?"

Are we any different? Do we always love God and our neighbor? Do we follow God's commands? Do we always do the right thing? Do we always stay away from evil?

But there is also another refrain that sounds throughout the books of Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles – God's never-failing, never-ending, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Judges are sent to deliver the people. Good, God-fearing kings rule. Even a ruler of a foreign country sends the Israelites back to their own land.

And that refrain is also there for us in a man hanging on a cross.



### PLACES OF THE PASSION

You are encouraged to continue to join us for our on-going Sunday Bible Studies and Wednesday Lenten services as we enter into these places of Christ's Passion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world. Topics include, "The Trial: A Place of God's Will" (Luke 22:63–23:25), "Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love" (Luke 23:44–49), "The Tomb: A Place of Life and Remembering" (Luke 23:50–Luke 24:11), and so much more. Come share in Christ's Passion for you.

### EASTER SUNDAY CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

**Please try to commit to 3 of the following rehearsals—any combination, and you can attend more than 3 if you desire.**

- **Sunday, March 6: 11:35am-12:05pm**
- **Sunday, March 13: 11:35am-12:05pm**
- **Sunday, March 20: 11:35am-12:05pm**
- **Wednesday, March 2: 7:50-8:30pm**
- **Wednesday, March 9: 7:50-8:30pm**
- **Wednesday, March 16: 7:50-8:30pm**

**Everyone who wants to sing for Easter needs to commit to this one:**

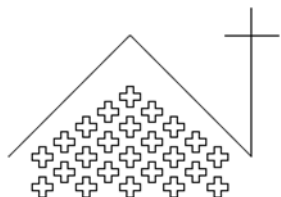
***Dress rehearsal is  
Saturday, March 26: 9-10am***



**Faith Memorial  
Lutheran Church**

753 N. Calumet Ave.  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:  
office@faithmemorial.net



**Faith Memorial will  
celebrate it's 60th  
anniversary on  
Sunday, May 22,  
2016!**

**Watch this newslet-  
ter and church  
bulletins for more  
information! Or call  
the church office at  
(219) 462-7684.**

**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 2, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 6, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 9, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 13, 9:00am, Morning Prayer  
The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, March 16, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Sunday of the Passion, March 20, 9:00am, Holy Communion  
Maundy Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm Holy Communion  
Good Friday, March 25, 3:00 & 7:00pm Services  
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, March 27, 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion  
The Second Sunday of Easter, April 3, 9:00 Holy Communion  
The Third Sunday of Easter, April 10, 9:00 Morning Prayer  
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 17, Holy Communion  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 24, Morning Prayer

