

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to our
New Pastor! 1

Vacation Bible
School 1

Notes from Pastor 2

Thoughts from the
Deaconess 3

Faith Memorial Worship
Schedule 4

Calendar Insert

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CALLED PASTOR REV. ERIC SCHOECH!

A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the Installation of Pastor Schoech on June 22, 2014. Thanks to those who organized and participated in the service, everyone who planned the meal and brought in delicious food, and the members of Faith Memorial who greeted and spoke with guests and made them feel so welcome. Thanks to enthusiastic participation of our members the afternoon was a great success!

Faith Memorial and Immanuel Lutheran Churches are teaming up to provide a Vacation Bible School experience for kids this summer.

Sunday, June 29, 6-8pm: Cook-off Kick-Off at Faith Memorial.

Monday, June 30-Thursday, July 3, Vacation Bible School at Immanuel including rotations of Bible stories, music, games, snacks and crafts.

Registration Forms available at Faith (462-7684) or Immanuel (462-8207)





Making all Things New

Lamentations 3:21-24 ²¹ *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:* ²² *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;* ²³ *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, therefore I will hope in him."*

Lamentations may not be the first chapter of the Bible most of us probably think about when it comes to happy occasions. However, as I thought about new beginnings, the joyful truth of this particular text came to mind. As the text indicates, we are all truly blessed to have a God who is constantly making things new. One place this is true involves our daily lives. Even though it may not always seem like it, no two days are alike. Each new day is often accompanied with new challenges, changes, surprises, and blessing. God uses all these things to help us grow, serve others, and move ever closer to becoming the new restored and wonderful creation He desires us to be.

Unfortunately, in our fallen world we are often not totally sure how to react to the new. Sometimes the new can give us feelings of hope and joy. Other times it can feel scary, especially in the beginning. Yet through it all, we can hold on firmly to the fact that God's steadfast love and mercy never fail or come to an end. Sin, mistakes, hurts, and challenges of the past are constantly being washed over with one new wave after another of God's faithful grace as he moves us on toward new and often better things. Make no mistake, until the day when Christ returns and restores creation once and for all, life will have its ups and downs. Sin will continue to try to put its stain on many of life's new moments. However, in the Lord we have a sure and certain hope, both for today and for eternity.

Now, as we move forward together as the Family of Faith, I look forward to sharing yet another new beginning together with this congregation. In the past year, I have greatly enjoyed serving this congregation as the vacancy pastor and have appreciated the opportunity to begin getting to know many of the members of the Faith family. It means a great deal to me that you have chosen to continue our time together by extending me the call to be your pastor, and I am excited to see what new things God has in store for us.

While we have already had the opportunity to worship and grow side by side, the truth is we are also about to embark on a new journey together. As we transition together from this time of vacancy, we will all have many new opportunities placed before us. As you may know, the role of a full time pastor is a little different from that of a vacancy pastor, and the life of the congregation after a vacancy can be a bit different as well. For many including myself, this will mean new responsibilities, blessings, joys, and challenges. Many of us will have new chances to work together for the good of the kingdom in new ways, and I also pray the Holy Spirit will move and equip many of you step into new roles in leadership, care, worship, outreach, evangelism, and other elements of ministry here at church and in the community. I ask that all of you keep this congregation, its leaders, its individual members, our community, and me constantly in prayer. Also, I hope you will really take the time to meditate on God's word, ask His guidance for our future, and share with our church leadership about the needs, opportunities, and blessings you are seeing in and around this congregation.

With Christ as the bedrock on which we build here at Faith, with the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) as the building blocks through which we support and build each other up, and with the Lord as our portion and guide as we reach out to the community around us; I have great hope for the days ahead. May God bless each new day we have together

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

Pastor Eric Schoech

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily." Sally Koch

When we were little, what did we dream of becoming? Did some of us think we would be the first woman president or maybe the first man on Mars? Maybe there was hope for a great medical discovery like Jonas Salk or winning a Nobel Prize? Or maybe the dreams were a little less grand – being the best teacher in the state or the best chef in a large city? Maybe we just hoped to win a first-prize ribbon at the County Fair or to marry our high school sweetheart. Did our dream become a reality?

For some of us, the dreams from childhood did happen. But for the majority, we have found that life's journey did not go as hoped or planned. Not only did we not land on Mars, we didn't win anything at the fair. The dreams and hopes of childhood stay with us for our entire life. Even when we know they will never come true, it is hard to let those dreams go. We look at our lives as the years pass by and wonder if we have really accomplished anything of worth. Our society is so focused on greatness and phenomenal achievements that it becomes hard for us to find any sense of fulfillment in the small, daily tasks. All we can see is another test to grade, another bowl of oatmeal to prepare, another trip to the doctor, another electric bill to pay, another, another . . .

But in the midst of all of those "anothers", there is a student who desperately needs words of encouragement on that test. There is a spouse who loves oatmeal for breakfast more than anything else. There is a neighbor who can't get to the doctor without us. There is a family member who would not have lights without us handling the checkbook.

So maybe there won't be a notation about any of us in the next world history book. Maybe our achievements will always be small and not even noticeable beyond family and friends and co-workers. But guess what – that's ok.

"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."

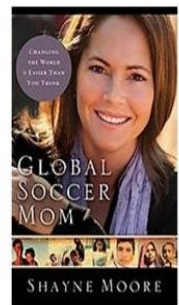
Jesus Christ

YOU'LL BE COOL THIS SUMMER!

Many thanks to Arpad Marton and Chad Gengnagel for their hard work in checking, cleaning and generally getting the air conditioning unit in the church ready for the hot weather this summer. All thermostats are set at a comfortable level, but if you have questions please speak to Arpad or Chad.

WOMEN WANTING WISDOM

All Faith Memorial Ladies and friends are invited to join this group in their new book and Bible Study—*Global Soccer Mom*. The study began on Wednesday, June 25, but it is not too late to join in for the next meeting! Books are available in the Narthex for \$7.83 each. If you would like to pay by check please make checks payable to Deb Porter.



PRAYER LABYRINTH

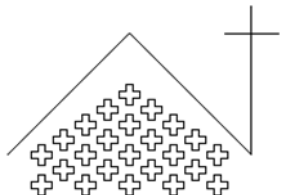
Watch the development of the Prayer Labyrinth at Faith Memorial.

This is the Eagle Scout Project of Micah Nord. He will be building the labyrinth (a short meditation path) by the playground next to the woods. The boys in Micah's Scout Troop will provide the labor. The funding and materials will hopefully come from our congregation. His current cost estimate is around \$2000. A list of materials needed is included in his summary letter to the congregation which is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Let's support him and watch their progress!

**Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church**

**753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383**

**Email:
office@faithmemorial.net**



DON'T FORGET!

To replenish our grocery cart with current needs of local food pantries and shelters. For July we will collect picnic condiments (catsup, mustard, mayonnaise, pickles and relish) as well as powdered drink mixes, lemonade or ice tea. **Monetary donations are always welcome.** The shelters and pantries are able to purchase more at discounted prices with cash. Envelopes for cash donations are available in the grocery cart and should be placed in the offering plate. The soap products collected in June went to Gabriel's Horn, a transitional shelter for families. The condiments will be



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost, July 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday After Pentecost, July 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, August 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
St. Bartholomew, Apostle, August 24, 9:00 am Holy Communion
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 9:00am, Holy Communion

