

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Party Like You Mean It!

Luke 5:27-32 *After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

This passage from Luke, which we looked at during our *Just Walk Across the Room* series, is easy to miss, but it really is full of valuable things to consider. How do we react to Jesus' call? Who do we make an effort to rub elbows with? What settings can give us a valuable opportunity for bringing people into contact with Jesus?

Summer and fall can both be a time for all kinds of fun and interactions with different people. Picnics, time at the beach, bonfires, and barbeques, the list is endless. I still remember a time in my childhood neighborhood when we would have a regular ice cream social or gathering each year. Some of you may recognize a few names of the people involved such as Ruth Gunther or Eldon and Donna Balko. Events like these, as well as ongoing interactions with them, made them important people in my life. They had a valuable influence on me and hold a special place in my heart.

These kinds of community and relationship building events don't just happen. Even when they seem like they are spur of the moment, they usually take planning and preparation on someone's part. More importantly, they require the intentional action of extending an invitation or deciding to attend. It also helps when we come to value these events as opportunities to build relationships through which we have the chance to share Christ. For example, connecting a grieving person with our church's grief support group, connecting someone to a church member who is knowledgeable in an area in which they have a need, inviting someone with a common interest to a sewing or card playing group, or simply becoming a friend to someone when they need it most. All these things are doors that Jesus uses to walk through to reach those who are far from him or who need support in life or their walk of faith.

Maybe you know some neighbors you would like to know better. Perhaps there is an activity that would let your family and the family of one of your children's friends spend some time together. There might be someone, either a couple or a single person, who is hungry for an opportunity to get out and socialize. Perhaps they would love an invitation, but no one has asked, or they are not sure where to look. Surprisingly, despite all the places where there could be interaction, there are many people who are isolated. Even when we are busy or surrounded by people this can still be true. We need to look for ways to foster deeper relationships.

Throwing a "Matthew Party" can make a big difference in addressing this isolation and starting to connect people to Jesus. (*A guide to Matthew Parties is still available in the Narthex*)

At the end of our "Just Walk Across the Room" series, I challenged all of us to start looking for opportunities to bring small groups of our friends, (Christian and non-Christian alike), together in small numbers and see what the Holy Spirit might do. There was also a challenge that if you don't know many non-Christians to get to know some. I've been glad to hear that several of you took this challenge to heart and have been working on new relationships and events of your own. Please continue to share your plans and stories with our Outreach and Natural Church Development teams. It's always exciting and energizing to hear how God is at work through our members.

In addition to building relationships through individual contact and by throwing Matthew parties, there are also some other ways in which we can begin building new bridges between our church and the community. One which we still hope to implement in a few locations this year is to help some neighborhoods throw their own "Block Party". This will build community, and give us an opportunity to hear their needs.

Sean Allwardt recently built a smoker and is looking for a team of individuals who might be interested in preparing smoked meat and/or related food for these block parties or other community or charitable events as opportunities are presented. If you think you might be interested in being a part of this ministry, **please contact Sean at (219) 508-5135.**

Finally, I want to encourage everyone in the congregation to attend our Church Picnic on August 27 and bring some friends. This will be an excellent opportunity to invite people to experience our community, possibly for the first time. May God bless all your efforts as you share God's love and gospel through relationship with others.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

Sewing Seeds of Love

These ladies have been busy! Sewing Seeds of Love meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 9:00am here at church. They recently donated 29 dresses and 20 pairs of shorts and Tshirts to the Christian Appalachian Project in Lexington, Kentucky. The hope is that their sewing efforts will reflect their mission to give the children joy and to make them feel loved.

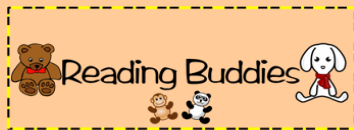
Sewing Seeds of Love is currently working on items for their Fall Sale to be held on October 21 and 22.

The sale will be held at the church and will be open to the public. Mark your calendars and tell your friends! There will be lots of pretty, handmade items for sale!



Join us at the
Church Picnic!

Our Faith Family Picnic will be held here at church on Sunday, August 27 beginning at 2:00. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided along with fun activities for the young and the young at heart. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a side dish or dessert. Please join us for a fun afternoon!



UNITED WAY OF PORTER COUNTY'S
DAY OF CARING IS AUGUST 4.

To participate in the Day of Caring, the Care Committee of Faith Memorial will begin collecting stuffed animals to donate to the Reading Buddies program. Collection will begin August 1 and continue through the end of the month

The stuffed animals should be new and 9-12" high. (hint: Kohl's animals are the perfect size and only \$5.00. They are located by the cash registers in the front of the store).



Best birthday wishes to the Faith members celebrating this month!

Sandor Szoke	August 1
Alicia (Frank) Cooper	August 1
Edith Berndt	August 3
Barb Kehe	August 4
Mary Dunlap	August 5
Karen Stingely	August 9
Myrna Chambers	August 11
Marcy Hassel	August 12
Kathy Kreps	August 13
Travis Dunlap	August 16
Melodie Nord	August 22
Kent Eichstaedt	August 24
Patty Nicholson	August 25
Jackie Allwardt	August 26
Dorothea Price	August 29
Elizabeth West	August 31

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

“What do we know about God?”

Tattooing has been practiced across the globe since at least Neolithic times, as evidenced by mummified preserved skin, ancient art, and the archaeological record. The oldest discovery of tattooed human skin to date is found on the body of Ötzi the Iceman, dating to between 3370 and 3100 BC. Other tattooed mummies have been recovered from at least 49 archaeological sites including locations in Greenland, Alaska, Siberia, Mongolia, western China, Egypt, Sudan, the Philippines, and the Andes.

Over the past decades, tattooing has become more prevalent. Tattoos can be found among both sexes, in age groups from teens to the elderly, and in all economic classes. No longer is it seen as a form of deviance or defiance, but as a form of expression for the person with the tattoo. Even in our GriefShare support groups, people have displayed the name of the loved one who died and the death date. But for me, who can't even imagine having my ears pierced and who hates injections of any kind, tattoos just make me queasy.

In the book of Isaiah, God asks the prophet to condemn the Southern Kingdom of Israel for their sins against God. The Northern Kingdom had already been taken into exile by the Assyrians. Those ten tribes had been removed from the land for their disobedience to God. Isaiah warns the kings and people of the Southern Kingdom that the same thing will happen to them. For their idolatry and unwillingness to follow God, they are constantly threatened by other nations and eventually are taken into exile by the Babylonians. During that exile, they cry out to God – confessing their sins and pleading for God's help.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.” God answered, “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” (Isaiah 49:14-16a) God did not forsake them and eventually they were allowed to return to their land.

And so, what do we know about God? No matter how far we have wandered from God. No matter how often we have turned our back to God. God will never forsake or forget us. No matter how grievous our sin, God has us tattooed on the palms of his hands. And I am so glad that God isn't queasy about this tattoo!



A new GriefShare support group will begin on Tuesday, August 1, 6:30-8:30pm. It will meet every Tuesday through October 24. Cost is \$15 for the workbook. To register or for questions, please speak with Becky Graef or call the church office at 462-7684. (it is not absolutely necessary to begin on August 1. If you or someone you know is interested in joining this group please call the church office, even if it is after August 1)

GriefShare is Christian-based but all religions are welcome.

**SCHOOL KITS ARE READY TO SEND
TO THE MISSION CHURCHES IN
MATEHUALA, MEXICO.**

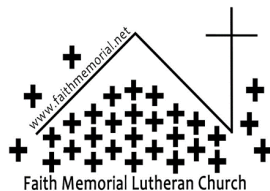
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
DONATIONS TO THESE KIDS!**



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Lutheran Church**

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Coming in October!

In remembrance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we will have special liturgies every Sunday of the month. Also watch for special Bible Study topics regarding the Reformation.

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer

