

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

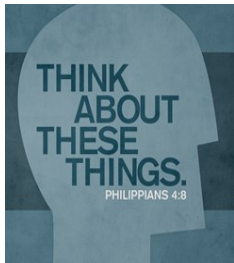
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WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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



## Thought, Resources, and the Practice of Discipleship

**Philippians 4:8-9** *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me- practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

When it comes to discipleship and our relationship with God, I think many of us wrestle with what helps us to grow in these areas. The truth is God provides many ways to help us in this regard. While there are all kinds of things in this world clamoring for our attention, many of which make all kinds of promises, Paul's letter to the Philippians urges us to take a moment and think. Where can we go to find that which is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy? The answer is ultimately to go to those things that find their root and meaning in God's Word, His gifts, and especially in Christ.

Moreover, we are called to go to those things that provide opportunity for the Holy Spirit to do His work. These include those things which inspire Christian thought and provide us with a model and the opportunity for practicing our faith according to the Word of God. It is in these places that God promises that we will find ourselves experiencing God's peace, even as we wrestle with some of life's most challenging questions.

So how do we go about setting our thoughts on God's precious Word and applying it, and God's various other gifts to our practice of the Christian life? One helpful answer I think comes from an interview with Pastor John Piper in which he said, "I think your four best resources for Bible study and Bible teaching are, number one, your Bible and a way to search it. Two, your mind and a way to provoke it. Three, the community of Bible students and a way to hear it. And, four, the Holy Spirit and a way to seek him."

Piper goes on to say, "The Bible itself is your greatest resource, your greatest treasure under God... Never take this for granted. Never minimize this... It is our greatest treasure after God himself. It is inspired by God. It is, therefore, infallible, as it claims to be and it is understandable in all that is essential for living in a way that pleases God. So look, look, look at the book." I think that is sound advice.

I also think it is important that we recognize the host of resources God has made available to us to search, wrestle with, and better understand the Word we are looking at. While the resources themselves should not be the central focus of faith, they can be some of the excellent things that God uses to help set our minds on greater things and to help us grow. For those who prefer good old fashioned paper, there are excellent Study Bibles, commentaries, concordances, and a host of Bible studies and books available. For those versed in modern technology, there are bible search engines, such as *Biblegateway.com*, that allow us to compare different translations or study various Bible verses that contain a specific word such as, "true, just, or pure." There are lovely apps such as *You Version* that allow us to read the bible, utilize different reading schedules and reminders, and that allow us dive into various video and text Bible studies at home or on the go. There are also numerous other online books and resources on many commendable topics.

Not every resource is perfect. Many contain flaws. However, even these can be useful in helping to provoke thought and helping us better understand where we stand as long as we hold them to the standards of scripture, and use God's word to help us learn from them.

This is also one of the many reasons community is so important. When we think and study together as well as apart, we can bounce ideas off each other, hold each other accountable, point each other to God's Word, and seek out the best understanding of it. Worship, Bible Studies, Small groups, Family devotions, all those places where we look at, think about, and practice God's word together are important places where our faith and discipleship grows. This is one of the reasons we work so hard to promote such things in the church.

It really is amazing just how many ways in which the Holy Spirit can help us grow in Christ through different people and resources, often by helping us lower our guard, open our minds, and to hear what God's Word is truly speaking to us. That alone is something worth thinking and giving praise about.

*You will notice that as a church, we continue to try provide resources like some of those I have just described. One new resource, which we recently began offering, is called "Right Now Media." If you have not already tried or heard about this resource, please take a look at the information offered on page 2 in this newsletter or talk to a member of our Education and Fellowship Ministry Team.*

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoech*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE FAITH MEMORIAL BOD MET IN JANUARY TO ELECT OFFICERS. RESULTS ARE:

- PRESIDENT - MARY DUNLAP
- VICE PRESIDENT—SEAN ALLWARDT
- TREASURER—BRUCE BERNER
- SECRETARY—PAUL GROSSNICKLE



BOARD MEETING

## MINISTRY TEAMS AND LEADERS

Care	Nancy Kickbush/Linda Berner
Children & Family	Sherri Nord/Jackie Allwardt
Education & Fellowship	Marilyn Lindner/Paul Nord/ Paul Grossnickle
Outreach & Evangelism	Fran Marton/Shelly Grossnickle
Property	Bruce Lindner/ Arpad Marton/Jon Dunlap
Finance	Bruce Berner/Ben Fryman

## rightnow MEDIA

RightNow Media is like “Netflix for the church” because it has a huge library of Christian videos that people can access anytime, anywhere. RightNow Media produces some originals featuring teaching from respected teachers and pastors. And they distribute video resources produced by over 100 other major Christian publishers and ministries.

Faith Memorial pays a small subscription fee that allows any member, visitor, friend, or family member to use the video library for free. We just need an email address to sign you up.

### RightNow Media video of the month

Love & Respect Conference, by Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs  
This study series includes 10 conference lectures given by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife Sarah. Each video is between 30 and 50 minutes long. Dr. Eggerichs's un.masks some of the sources of tension in relations between men and women with a witty and compelling style. This study is perfect for individuals, couples, or small groups. The series focuses on the differences between men and women as highlighted in the words from Ephesians 5 where Paul tells husbands to “love your wives,” but tells wives to “respect your husbands.”

Access the series online: <https://goo.gl/POsgmo>

## REFORMATION

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation which was triggered by Martin Luther posting his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. Faith Memorial will provide a variety of opportunities for people to learn more about Martin Luther and the protestant reformation. One is a weekly study, already underway, every Sunday at 10:30 AM in one of the classrooms off the gathering space. This study centers on a series of lectures entitled “Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation,” from the Great Courses series and featuring lecturer Professor Phillip Cary. This study began on January 8 and the first break in the 24-lecture series will take place roughly at the start of Lent. Some of us will be going on a 14-day tour of Germany from October 24 to November 6 including being at the Wittenberg Church on October 31. There are brochures about this on the table by the mailboxes in the narthex. We will keep you posted on various events at Valparaiso University about the 500th anniversary celebration.



## SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE

1. **BREW CREW**—begins Feb. 5, 7-8pm for 8 weeks. Location is Ironwood Brewing. Topic: “Wangerin” the Book of God. Leaders are Paul and Sherri Nord
2. **WORKS IN PROGRESS**— began Jan. 9th 7-8pm for 8 weeks. Location is Lindner’s House. Topic: Crazy Love. Leader is Paul Grossnickle.
3. **CARING WITH CARROLL**— will begin after Easter, meeting on Tuesdays, 2:00pm at church. Topic: Falling Upward. Leader is Carrol Ballard.
4. **SUNDAY GROUP** - began Jan. 7 at 10:30am for 10 weeks. Location: Church. Topic: Luther. Leader is Bruce Berner.
5. **YOUNG GUNS**—meets the second Saturday of every month for 12 weeks, at 10:30am at the South Bend Chocolate Factory. Topic TBA. Leader is Pastor Schoech.
6. **COUPLES**—will meet at Sean and Jackie Allwards house with times and topic TBA. For details see Sean Allwardt.

To join, or find out more about any of these groups please speak to one of the leaders. Even if a group has already begun, we would love to have you join us!

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

### "A Heart That Sees"

February is the month of hearts and I couldn't help but remember a phrase that I read many years ago – a heart that sees. The author was referring to the heart of Christ. This heart sees through love. What a rare treasure to have! A heart that sees everything the way Christ sees the world – through love.

A heart that sees does not come easily for us. Our sinful nature causes us to 'see' through our eyes or ears, and make judgments according to what we see or hear. We see the drug addict or the convict or the adulterer or the abuser. We hear the foul language and the lies and the unbelief. We are often unable to get past the sins to the sister or brother of Christ underneath. But how do we gain this heart that sees? How do we find the treasure of seeing with our heart – with love?

Before we can see others with our heart, we must see ourselves. We must face our own successes, failures, joys, and sorrows. We learn that we are not different from anyone else. We remember that we, too, are sisters and brothers of Christ, but often covered with sin. But even in the midst of looking at whom we truly are Christ's heart is seeing us through love. This is the love-filled message of the Epiphany season and the month of hearts. Christ came, not to see us as sinners, but to see us as saints, loved and saved by a gracious God. As saints, we join with Christ in seeing all of creation with a heart that sees through love.

In this month of hearts and for all the months to come, we will be able to close our eyes and ears and see with our hearts. What a Valentine to have from God – a heart that sees!

Happy Valentine's Day!

### **You are invited!**

**To the 33rd Annual Grape Cluster  
Valentine Party**

**When: Saturday, February 4, starting at 7:30pm**

**Where: At the Lindners' - 459 E. 900 N. Valpo.  
926-6956**

**Casual dress—munchies and beverages provided  
by the cluster—high school age or older are wel-  
come—come alone or preferably bring a friend  
or more! Enjoy optional games and an evening  
of socialization!**

**Directions from Faith: Turn right or east on  
Hwy. 6, go about 4 miles past Anderson Winery  
and turn left or north on 500E. Go .4 miles to  
home on north side of road. Gray house and  
one last clue—we'll leave our Christmas lights on  
for you!**

*This is my  
commandment, that  
you love one another  
as I have loved you.*

*John 15:12*

### **SPRING 2017 CHOIR SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Rehearsals: Feb. 26, March 5,  
March 12**

**11:35am-12:05pm.**

**Sing: March 19: 9:00am.**

**Sunday Rehearsals:**

**March 26, April 2, April 9**

**11:35am-12:05pm**

**Wednesday Rehearsals:**

**March 29, April 5, April 12**

**(right after Evening Prayer)**

**Sing: Good Friday, April 14: 7:00pm.**

**Rehearsal: Saturday, April 15 (9-10am)**

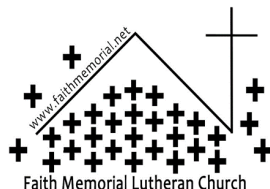
**Sing: Easter Sunday, April 16**

**8:00am & 10:45am.**

**Faith Memorial  
Lutheran Church**

753 N. Calumet Ave.  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:  
office@faithmemorial.net



TO: CONGREGATION OF  
FMLC

FROM: FIRST CONTACT  
"Dear Faith Memorial  
Church:

Thank you so much for  
your help in the *Warm a  
Home* project. We had 14  
churches and 3 business-  
es involved this year. Our  
total raised was \$13,672.  
Faith Memorial Church  
raised \$420 of that.  
These funds will be used  
to help families stay warm  
in their home this winter.

Peace of Christ,

Barbara Kemler,  
First Contact"



**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 5, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 12, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 19, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Transfiguration of our Lord, February 26, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 1, 7:00pm Holy Communion  
The First Sunday in Lent, March 5, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The First Wednesday in Lent, March 8, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Second Sunday in Lent, March 12, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Second Wednesday in Lent, March 15, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Third Sunday in Lent, March 19, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 22, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 29, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

