

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

753 N. CALUMET AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

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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



Freedom and In + Dependence

John 8:28-32 ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me." ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

In a summary of his sermon entitled "Real Freedom" Dr. Charles Stanley points out the fact that, "We usually associate freedom with the right to live as we please and pursue our ambitions and dreams. However, Jesus spoke of a deeper aspect of freedom that pertains to the state of our souls. God wants to free us from every internal form of bondage that prevents us from becoming the person He created us to be."

Unfortunately, when people talk about "freedom" today it often seems to include the following: lists of demands involving self-proclaimed rights, "live and let live" attitudes extending only so far as the line where someone else's idea of freedom affects our own, and a license to use and abuse language and other methods to exert one's beliefs, individuality, dominance, and sense of freedom. In some ways, this approach to "freedom" is not terribly surprising. Due to sin and the widely differing beliefs of people today, living "as we please" and pursuing "our ambitions and dreams" often includes stepping on someone else's ability to do the same. If our dream is for everyone to value and embrace the same things we do, or at least act the way we want them to, then short of living on our own islands independent of everyone else, someone's sense of freedom is inevitably going to be affected by our own.

However, if we set aside this worldly view of freedom and instead look at freedom in terms of "becoming the person God created us to be," then our freedom becomes something else entirely. Living in Christian freedom, Stanley suggests, involves responding "to our circumstance based on our salvation, position, possessions, and personhood **in Christ**." Christian Freedom focuses not so much on our independence, but on our dependence on God **in Christ Jesus**. Whatever our circumstances or level of worldly freedom, in Christ, we have salvation. In Christ, we are now free to live as a child of God. In Christ, we possess all that we need and more than we could dream of according to God's promises. In Christ, we have been given a new God-pleasing identity that will last throughout eternity.

Take a moment and consider Jesus' own behavior when it came to freedom. Jesus had the power to do anything He pleased, and yet in John 8, what does Jesus say? Jesus says, "I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." Remarkably, it was when Jesus was bound, beaten, and lifted up on the cross that He perhaps most clearly showed us His true identity, life, and freedom. There on the cross, He subjected Himself to the will of the Father. There on the cross, Jesus freely laid down his life and took it up again, so that we might be set free. By the power of the cross and the power of His word, the true meaning of God's grace and freedom in Christ is raised up for all to see. No wonder, Christ promises each of us saying, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

This 4th of July as we celebrate our nation's independence, I pray we will also celebrate the freedom, dependence, and life we have in Christ. To God be all power and the glory. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck



SCHOOL KITS FOR MATEHUALA

Our Mission for July is to provide help with school kits for the children in Matehuala, Mexico, where we took our mission trips in 2006 and 2008.

A sample kit is in the Narthex, along with printed lists of those items needed. Take a list, buy those items and place them in a plastic bag and return to church by July 31 for mailing. If you would rather not purchase, but want to contribute, about \$20 will buy a kit or you can contribute money for the postage.

For questions, please see Dorothy Kehe.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Due to lots of vacations this summer, there will be no regular Sunday School classes until **August 28**. Plan to join us in the fall for singing, crafts and Bible stories!

A big thank-you to our teachers who served faithfully this past year: Jackie Allwardt, Lisa Gengnagel, Sherri Nord and Bruce Lindner. Also thanks to Dorothea Price who led music during our opening and Joseph Price, Linda Berner and Dorothy Kehe who were substitutes throughout the year.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES—

Coming this fall, the Youth and Family Ministry Committee has opportunities for you to serve! Faith's Sunday School will consist of 4 classes. Teachers are being asked to commit to a 13-week session (fall, winter, or spring). This would allow every teacher to benefit from adult Bible study classes for two quarters, while providing instruction for our children. The class divisions and students listed are the current Sunday School "regulars" If we can successfully staff the current classes, we would certainly have room for more children to come! Please prayerfully consider when you can serve and notify Sherri Nord or Jackie Allwardt.

*WOMEN WANTING WISDOM WILL
MEET ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 20
AT 6:30 PM AT THE HOME OF
MARY DUNLAP,
1498 INDIAN BOUNDARY RD.,
CHESTERTON.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

MOMMY AND ME CLASS

Laura Allwardt, Daisy Fryman,
Mykenzie Brandt

LOWER GRADES

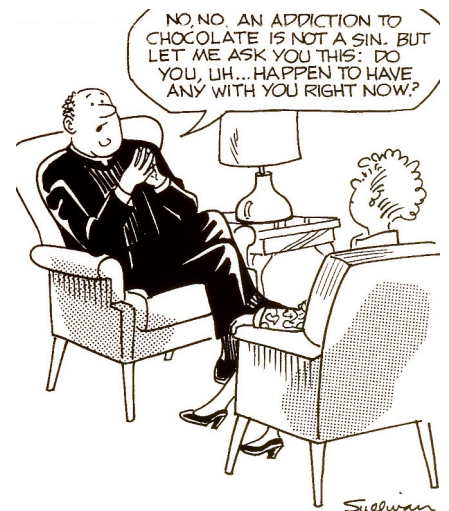
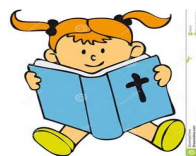
Dean Gengnagel, Dayla Fryman,
Payton Marton

MIDDLE GRADES

Adison Foxx, Lucy Fryman, Ryan
Gengnagel

HIGH SCHOOL

August Nord, Melodie Nord



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Daddy and Mommy and God"

On June 22, Pastor Schoech, Deb Porter, and I left for a conference in Milwaukee. Pastor drove his car. Deb was in the back seat and I was in the front. At lunch time, Deb and I changed seats. The bright sunlight of the front was just a bit much for my left eye that had glaucoma surgery ten days before. We pulled back onto the interstate with Pastor still driving and Deb navigating with two smart phones. With both eyes closed, I drifted in and out of sleep knowing that I had no worries and no concerns about safety and destination. As All-state would say, I was in good hands with those two in the front seat.

In one of my awake moments, I remembered car trips from my childhood home in California. There was a green station wagon, with the back seat folded down. I was on a twin mattress, the family dog in his bed, and suitcases in the empty space. Dad was driving and Mom was navigating. I always knew the destination – a campground, or Missouri or New York where grandparents eagerly awaited our arrival. I didn't know anything about the in between. Dad and Mom were in control. No reason to be afraid or worried. Total trust.

Isn't this the way it should be with our Heavenly Father – the best, most loving, strongest, bravest parent one could ever have. We know our destination – heaven – but the in between is unknown. For our entire lives we have heard that God is in control of everything that happens. God can even bring good out of a terrible situation. But our humanity gets in the way of total trust. Even as I lay in the pre-op room before surgery, even after the chaplain had prayed with me, I was still scared and anxious.

Thanks be to our Heavenly Father who knows us inside and out. Loves us through all things. Loves us even when we don't have total trust. Loves us when we are scared and anxious and doubt-filled.

No matter where the in between takes us, our Heavenly Father will never abandon us, always knows what is ahead on the journey, and promises (and God never breaks promises!) to get us to the best destination we will ever experience.

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

We are continuing to sew and knit every second and fourth Thursday of the month. We finished and sent 20 dresses to Belize. We have made more pillow cases, and bowl huggers. Our Prayer Shawl ministry still ministers to those going through illness or difficult times. We are making burp cloths and baby blankets. Donna Cawby is also teaching us some quilting techniques as she makes new quilted wall hangings for our church. In the future we hope to make a few small stuffed animals for the Fire Department and Reading Buddies programs, and some quilted covered dish carriers. SO if you want to learn, or just have not sewn in a while, join us for work, fun, devotions and fellowship. We would love to have you!



A COUPLE OF NOTES.....

- Please consider using the large east parking lot on Sunday mornings, leaving more spaces in the small west lot for members who need to minimize their steps. Thanks much!
- If you haven't completed your blue "The Best is Yet to Come" survey card, please do so and give it to an usher on Sunday. Your feedback is important! Thanks.



A *GriefShare* support group will begin on August 18 and end on November 10 from 7:00-8:30pm, here at church.

Becky Graef will be leading the group. Cost is \$15 for the workbook.

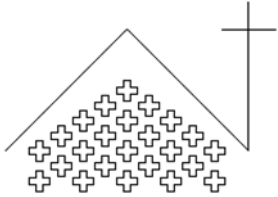
Please call the Church Office at 462-7684 to register.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS MINISTRY, PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THEM.

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Lutheran Church

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**FAITH MEMORIAL'S
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
WILL BE ON SUNDAY,
AUGUST 28! WATCH SUN-
DAY BULLETINS AND THIS
NEWSLETTER FOR MORE
DETAILS TO COME.**



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 10, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, July 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 31, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 14, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 28, 9:00am Word and Prayer

