

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

753 N. CALUMET AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

*I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1 vs 3*

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

***Philippians 1:3-6*** <sup>3</sup> *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,* <sup>4</sup> *always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,* <sup>5</sup> *because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.* <sup>6</sup> *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.* <sup>7</sup> *It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.*

Being thankful—it is something we often talk about at Thanksgiving and at certain points of the year. Still, it is amazing how easy it is for us to forget the blessings that are before us. When we look into the future, many of us often become fixated on the clouds of uncertainty or potential disasters that seem to loom on the horizon. When we look into the past, our past and present often become shrouded by a rose colored nostalgia of how things used to be, but are no longer, or, the opposite is true and we find dark hurts from our past covering everything else in shades of grey. Even when we live in the present, we can so easily get caught up in our own busyness, what we want to accomplish, what others have, or a host of other things, that our eyes and emotions are focused on little else. With all this going on, we can quickly lose sight of the joy to be found in the people around us, the various ways that God is at work in our lives, or the countless reasons and opportunities we have to give thanks to God and to others in any given moment. This does not change the fact that we are indeed blessed.

Paul's words in Philippians bring us back to the fact that, in Christ we have a great deal to be thankful for, not the least of which is the grace displayed by God even when we fall short in our gratitude. Paul's prayer helps to put the past, present, and future in context as he looks at each one of these in the joy of the work God has done, is doing, and will continue to do both in his life and the lives of those around him. Paul's partnership in the gospel with his fellow believers is one that finds its true meaning in the grace and person of Jesus Christ. Therefore, whatever the circumstances they face, Paul is able to hold those around him in his heart, with thanks and confidence, knowing that God and his grace are on the move.

Like Paul, I also give thanks and praise to God for our own partnership in the gospel. As I watch God's work in and through this congregation, I too "*am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*" And that "*It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace.*"

I know I don't say thank you enough, but I am grateful for all the ways I see God's people growing and taking action in this place. In my time here and especially in recent months, I have repeatedly seen members stepping up to support sick or dying members in their time of need. In just the last couple of weeks, I watched the immediate response to a call to take care of the church windows, as well as in several other areas of stewardship. On a nearly weekly basis, I have watched our board of directors, staff, action teams, and natural church development team meet and take action in order to help meet the needs of our congregation and community, and to seek to find ways to do so even better in the future. I have been blessed by the growth of our small group leaders and various small groups, as they dive deeper into the meaning of what it means to be disciples and share in the partnership of the gospel. I have been humbled by various private conversations in which many of you have shared your heart for this congregation, and also shared with me some of the hurts, struggles, and joys that are going on in your life. I look forward to future conversations like this and invite those of you who have things on your heart or who would be interested in an opportunity to chat to make an appointment with me so we can find a good time to get together. Time and space in this newsletter article would fail me to thank all of you who so diligently serve in worship and preparing for worship, caring, teaching, reaching out, building, and a host of other areas in God's kingdom. In fact, there are many places that God is using people to serve that many of us, myself included, don't even know about or see. So to all of you and especially to God let me simply say, "Thank you."

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoeck*



This holiday season Faith Memorial will host two *"Surviving the Holidays"* seminars.

The dates are:

- Wednesday, November 9, 6: 30-8: 30pm *or*
- Sunday, November 13, 2: 00-4: 00pm

Cost is \$5.00 to cover the cost of the printed materials. Both of these seminars will be led by Deaconess Becky Graef. Walk -ins are welcome!

If you know someone who might benefit from attending one of these meetings please let them know or have them call the church office at (219) 462-7684.

### THANKSGIVING EVE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE AT FAITH MEMORIAL



**Five kernels of corn!  
Five kernels of corn!  
To the Thanksgiving Feast  
Bring five kernels of corn!**

**Faith Memorial will celebrate Thanksgiving with a worship service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00pm.**

**Please invite family and friends and join us in worship and praise to the Giver of all good gifts.**

### VALPARAISO MEN'S OVERNIGHT SHELTER

Please join us on Saturday, November 19th in ministering to the Valparaiso Mens' Overnight Shelter. We bring an evening meal and serve it to the Shelter clients in the Immanuel Lutheran School Cafeteria. This will be our 9th season for this ministry. There will be a sheet in our narthex, so you can indicate what part of the dinner you are able to provide or if you can help serve and help with clean up. We also do a short devotion and lead a prayer before dinner. Questions? See Fran Marton.

Thank you from  
Westchester  
Neighbors Food  
Pantry....



"Dear Parishioners,  
On behalf of the Westchester Neighbors' Food Pantry, we wish to thank you for your generous donation of food and sundry items which we are able to distribute to families in the Duneland community in their time of need. We continued to be able to serve these families in the Westchester, Liberty, Jackson and Pine Townships with the ongoing support of giving Christian people such as you."

### GREATER PORTER COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK

**CROP Hunger Walks are community wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are viewed by many as "the granddaddy of charity walks" and the event has been continuous since 1970.**



**Faith Memorial will be participating in this year's walk, which will be held on Sunday, November 6.**

**Registration is at 12:30 with walk beginning at 1:30. Meet at VU Chapel.**

**For more information there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. See Pastor Schoech, call the church office (462-7684) or visit : [cwww.crophungerwalk.org/valparaisoin](http://cwww.crophungerwalk.org/valparaisoin)**

*I give thanks unto the*  
**LORD**  
*for he is good:*  
**FOR HIS MERCY**  
*endureth forever.*

Psalm 107:1

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witness . . ."*

November is an interesting month in the Church Year. Not only is it the last month of the Church Year, but it includes three, and possibly four different celebrations. The month begins with All Saints' Day. Then it moves to Christ the King Sunday, which will be preceded or followed by Thanksgiving. As it does this year, the month will end with the First Sunday in Advent. Each celebration brings its own unique set of scripture readings and theme for meditation. But in a unique way, all can find a common focus in a "great cloud of witnesses".

On All Saints' Day, we remember those who have died, especially those who witnessed to us of their faith in God. Thanksgiving calls us to be thankful for many blessings, but especially for the family and friends, dead and living, who filled and fill our lives with joy and love. Christ the King celebrates that future time when we will be reunited with that cloud of witnesses, under the gracious and loving rule of Christ. And Advent is a time of hope and promise of salvation for the entire world, including that cloud of witnesses.

So, with this common focus on the witnesses of God during this month, take a few moments – maybe before going to sleep, or while waiting for an appointment, or while doing yard work – to acknowledge the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds you. Who in your life was or is a witness of God's great love and forgiveness? Was it . . . a parent or guardian

a blood relative

a spouse

a teacher

a pastor

a co-worker

a son or daughter

a classmate

a store keeper

a friend

a child

a boyfriend or girlfriend

a neighbor

or a . . . ?

*Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord:*

*Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment,*

*and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you. Amen*

LBW, Prayer of the Day, All Saints' Day



Remember these important dates during the upcoming Advent Season!

- The Childrens' Christmas Service will be presented by the Sunday School children on Sunday, December 11 at 9:00am. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study after the service as we will continue our tradition of the **Greening of the Church** during that time.
- Advent Community Suppers—will be held at 6:00pm on November 30, December 7 and December 14 preceeding Advent Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. All friends and family are welcome! Choir rehearsal will be held from 7:45-8:15pm on these three dates.

## HOLIDAY MARKET

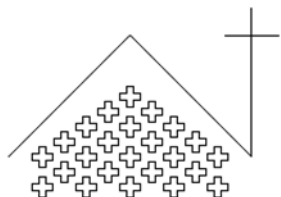
This will be a fundraiser for the church boiler, windows and Sewing Group supplies. It will be held in the Gathering Space after worship on Sunday, November 13. All members are encouraged to provide items or services for the sale (examples are hand-crafted gift items, home baked goodies and certificates for services to be rendered later.)



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office@faithmemorial.net**



**VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**

Faith Memorial will hold our annual Voters' Assembly on **Sunday, November 20 at 11:30am.**

On the agenda:

- Election of Board members
- Approval of 2017 budget.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

All Saints' Day, November 6, 9:00am Holy Communion  
w/Remembrance of the Faithful Departed  
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
Christ the King, November 20, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 23, 7:00pm Holy Communion  
The First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The First Wednesday in Advent, Wednesday, November 30, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Second Sunday in Advent, December 4, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Second Wednesday in Advent, December 7, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Third Sunday in Advent, December 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Third Wednesday in Advent, December 14, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Christmas Eve, Service of Lessons and Carols, Saturday, December 24, 7:00pm  
The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25, 9:30am Holy Communion

