

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

753 N. CALUMET AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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

Thanks-Giving

In
EVERYTHING
give thanks



Romans 1:20-21 ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Thanksgiving is part of the heart of who we are as Christians. We were made to glorify God. When sin strips away that thanksgiving from our hearts we become “futile in our thinking” and our “foolish hearts are darkened.” Not only do we miss the many blessings around us, but we begin to lose sight of who we are and more importantly, who God is. So then, what does it mean for us to be thankful?

One type of thanks involves our mouths, as we “*sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God (Col 3:16).*” More than simple lip service, this thanks-giving involves recognizing all that God has done and giving him our thanks and praise. We might even look at this as a form of taking of the gifts God has given us like music and giving them back to him in grateful worship.

Similarly, another type of thanks involves our using our hands in thanks-giving. In other words, we show our thanks by giving generously of what God has given us by the sharing of the gospel message and for the sake of others. I frequently hear people say that one major motivator for Christian generosity comes from the fact that God has given us so much. God has given us salvation so we should share the gospel with others. God has given us food so we should feed those in need. God has given us wealth so we should give some of that wealth to those less fortunate than us. We need to be careful this does not turn into offering God small kickbacks in return for having blessed us or trying to bribe God in order to get more. Still, when we genuinely recognize that everything we have; our time, our talents, our treasures, truly are wonderful blessings, which along with everything else continue to belong to God, it is only natural that we would want to give thanks and share what has been shared with us.

So far we have talked about thanks-giving mostly in terms of words and action, particularly those that flow from the things that God has given us. However, I believe that ultimately true thanksgiving flows from the heart and the essence of God's own identity. True, we are blessed to have a God who is generous, but more than that, we have a God whose very nature is love. God is faithful. God is powerful. God is relational, revealing himself to us throughout his creation and again through his Son. If we were given nothing except to stand in the graceful presence of our great and wonderful God, this alone would be reason to give thanks. To know who God is and who we have become because of who he is— what greater reason could there be to give thanks? No wonder **Psalms 100:3-5** says, “*Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*”

This holiday season as we go about our thanks-giving, I pray that our words, actions, and our entire beings would show not only our gratitude for the things God has given us, but for the very nature of who God is and who we are in Him. To God be given all praise, honor, thanks, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

Pastor Eric Schoech

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the past five years or so, Faith Memorial has hosted the Women's Shelter, "Open Arms", on Mondays nights for the six months from October 15 to April 15. On any given night, this might have included as few as two or three women who needed emergency shelter that night, or as many as 7 or 8. Volunteers supervised in shifts (usually 2 per shift) from 6-10pm, 10pm-2am, and 2am-7am. Other volunteers brought in dinner at about 6 or 6:30 in the evening and breakfast at about 6:00 in the morning. Michelle Grossnickle was a frequent volunteer in the evening and Karen Albertson would often supply dinners for the women. Arpad Marton was always available to handle any problems with the building.

This year, the Open Arms leaders were able to begin a different style program by combining the resources of DaySpring Women's Shelter and Housing Opportunities, Inc. (HO). The women will be put up each night in an apartment of HO on Calumet Ave. in Valpo. Although they will still have to check in each night (HO also provides affordable housing for longer stays and some of these women may qualify for those), the location is right by a V-Line stop and much more accessible than many of the churches that have hosted this for years. Nevertheless, FMLC and the other churches who served Open Arms should feel good that they have helped bridge this difficult time for both Open Arms and the women their selfless services aided. Volunteers and food will still be needed at the new location. Anyone wishing to serve may contact me
—Bruce Berner

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

During the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products for needy families. The items received will be taken to a local food pantry before Thanksgiving. Monetary contributions are also appreciated. May we provide a little comfort for those less fortunate than ourselves.



ADVENT SUPPERS

Advent Suppers will be held at 6pm prior to evening services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, and 16. A main course and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a side, salad, or dessert.

FAITH MEMORIAL LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Where: Dish Restaurant, Valparaiso
When: Wed., December 2, 11:30am
Why: For fellowship and fun!



Please join us! Our seating is limited to 20 -RSVP by signing up in the Narthex.

MINISTRY TEAM AND SMALL GROUP MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, November 2—Finance Committee	6:30pm
Monday, November 2—Board of Directors	7:00pm
Wed., November 4—Mark Makers	6:30pm
Sunday, November 8—Voters' Meeting	12:15pm
Monday, November 9, Edu. & Fellowship	6:00pm
Thursday, November 12—Sewing Seeds/Love	9:00am
Friday, November 13—Game Night @ FMLC	6:30pm
Wednesday, November 18—Women Wanting Wisdom	6:30pm
Saturday, November 21—Men's Shelter (@ Immanuel Lutheran)	6:00pm

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for Faith Memorial's worship schedule including Thanksgiving and Advent Services.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FOR PASTOR SCHOECH

In the case of an emergency where you need to contact Pastor right away we now have an emergency contact phone number on the church answering machine. It is (317) 983-3652. You may also call his cell phone: (219) 242-9139. Please always leave a message in case he is unable to answer his phone immediately.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"And When You Pray"

Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer is in two places in the Bible – Matthew 6 and Luke 11. Jesus gives this prayer to his disciples as an answer to their request, "Lord, teach us to pray." I wonder if the disciples comprehended the request they made. We know from the Gospels that they often 'put foot in mouth and bit down hard'. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." "How often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" "Jesus, we are able to drink the cup you will drink." "I will not deny you."

Now, I'm not pointing my finger at the disciples, because we put our foot in our mouth plenty of times. I guess I just wonder if we have done any more thinking about prayer than the disciples. Have we really given any thought to the ramifications and the obligations that come with prayer.

A catch phrase that has been around for quite awhile is "Prayer changes things". Prayer doesn't change anything. God changes things and people. One of the ways that we are in God and God is in us is through prayer. Through prayer, we find out what changes need to be made in ourselves and the world. That's scary. Because when we pray, we are setting ourselves up to be changed and to enable change to occur around us.

We ask God, in prayer, to feed the hungry. Are we willing to work in a local soup kitchen? We ask for clothes for the needy. Will we cut back on purchases for our fall wardrobe and give the money to the Salvation Army? We pray God to be with grandma who is lonely. Will we take Saturdays to visit her? We beg God for peace and forgiveness in a family rift. Will we be the one to model that forgiveness? We ask God to do something about the neighbor child in trouble with the law. Will we include that child in family outings?

When we pray, have we really thought about what it means to pray? Are we willing to open ourselves to God, through prayer, and let God change us, and use us to bring about the changes the world needs?

"The restoration of the church will surely come from a life of uncompromising adherence to the Sermon on the Mount in imitation



Faith Memorial hosted the Valparaiso Men's Overnight Shelter on Saturday, October 17, at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Dinner was served to 18 clients of the homeless shelter. On the third Saturdays of the month volunteers provide and serve supper for 20-25 shelter guest and the staff. Before the meal, a devotion and prayer is read. Volunteers oversee some social time and converse with guests. This fall folks from Faith formed a Thrivent Action Team to get funding to purchase the main dish for the meals this fall. If you wish to help with this ministry a sign up sheet to provide side dishes or to volunteer to help serve meals is located in the Narthex.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR MARK MAKERS!

We will have one more meeting this year on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30pm at church. We would love to share our fellowship with others. We are working on some projects which we hope will enhance Advent and Christmas for others. We could use some help! NO special skills required!

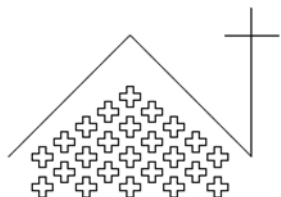
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 6:30 PM



Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church

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Email:
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**HOLY COMMUNION—
HEALTH CONCERNS
AND THE COMMON CUP**

Concerns have been shared about the use of the Common Cup in Holy Communion and the spread of germs. This concern is being taken seriously and the feasibility of options to address this concern are being studied. Due to various factors that need to be addressed, for example, changes that might be involved in the inclusion of individual cups, a decision on this issue will not be made until sometime in 2016. If you have questions or concerns, please speak directly with Pastor Schoech or Deaconess Becky.

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Saint's Day, November 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
Christ the King, Sunday, November 22, 9:00am Holy Communion
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 25, 7:00pm Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 9:00am Holy Communion
The First Wednesday in Advent, December 2, 7:00pm, Evening Prayer
The Second Sunday in Advent, December 6, 9:00am, Holy Communion
The Second Wednesday in Advent, December 9, 7:00pm, Evening Prayer
The Third Sunday in Advent, December 13, Children's Service, 9:00am
The Third Wednesday in Advent, December 16, 7:00pm, Evening Prayer
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, Thurs., Dec. 24, 7:00pm Service of Lessons & Carols
The Nativity of Our Lord, Friday, December 25, 9:30am Holy Communion
St. John, Apostle, Evangelist, Sunday, December 27, 9:00 Holy Communion

