

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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



Re-Evaluating

Luke 14:27-33 ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and comes after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ...Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

As we wrap up another school year, many students and teachers are taking a deep breath after completing yet another round of evaluations. While it is easy to be critical of how certain evaluations are done, this does not change the fact that, when done well, evaluation is important in many areas. Whether it is in schools, the work place, our personal lives, or in other places including our churches and communities, evaluation can be a great help, particularly in terms of our health and growth.

Those who get the most out of evaluation are those who approach it with honesty, a positive attitude, and a willingness to take the results to look toward the future. It is not hard for most of us to accept an evaluation on which we believe we will get an A+. However, what about those evaluations on which we know we will not do so well, or what if the evaluation reveals something we may not like? I think this is why many of us hesitate to do serious self-evaluation and why people often get fearful or defensive before many evaluation processes begin. What if I am not doing as well as I thought? What if the evaluation suggests I need to give up, change, or reconsider something I don't want to do? What if the evaluation shows the need for more work? When I am unwilling to accept the possible answers to these questions, I often find myself becoming avoidant, looking for flaws in the evaluation, or trying to find ways to write off the evaluation as a waste of time. Yet, ask parents of children who had to work through test anxiety, who needed to repeat a grade, who had different learning styles that needed to be identified, who worked through the unique challenges that come with being gifted, or who simply went through the process of regular exams, and they will tell you that when they worked through the evaluation processes and the corresponding follow-ups, the greatest growth occurred.

Rather than seeing evaluations in terms of the "good" results which will make us look good, and the "bad" results to hide from and avoid, when we are willing to take an honest look at ourselves, it is amazing how any results can become a powerful tool which God uses to help us move forward and to bring blessing. This is just as true in the Christian life. Part of the Christian life, Jesus says, includes evaluating what it means to bear our own cross and follow Jesus. Renouncing everything for Jesus includes being willing to take an honest look at ourselves, our home, and our churches and acknowledge those places where we are putting ourselves ahead of God. Even seemingly "neutral" areas may need to be looked at to make sure that we are not so determined to justify or do things our way that we have created our own "sacred cows." By refusing to evaluate such scared cows they will only continue to become that much more entrenched and unhealthy. However, by evaluating these and other areas we open new opportunities for the Holy Spirit to reclaim or change these things, so that the family of believers, and its interactions with those who do not yet believe, can be at their best.

Finally, it is important to recognize two more things. First, self-evaluation in particular is an ongoing process. A first grade teacher can help prepare for the future, but many more course corrections will be needed along the way. Our lives and churches are no different. Second, not all evaluation will require change. In fact, one of the ways God uses evaluation to help us grow, is by helping to point out the many areas in which we are doing well. Evaluation helps us to see how God produces blessings in our lives in areas of natural skill as well as challenge. So while some evaluation may lead to repentance and correction, all evaluation, when its results are turned over to God, can give cause for celebration. I look forward to celebrating with you as we continue to evaluate ourselves and our ministry here at Faith, especially in the months ahead. I also look forward to the future that the Holy Spirit, working through such ongoing evaluation, can bring, both in the church and in our individual lives.

In Christ,,

Pastor Eric Schoeck

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As summer arrives and warm weather (hopefully) returns, we continue to work on various projects at FMLC.

Music Office: The renovations to Becky's office are now complete. If you haven't already, take a moment to admire the new carpet and Arpad's handy-work with the trim and the painting of the walls. Thank you to all who helped with moving the stacks of books and music and, as always, thank you to Arpad.

Church Basement: the other small renovation project is going on in the youth room in the basement. Thanks to the rapid growth and popularity of our "Sewing Seeds of Love" group, we have run out of storage room upstairs and need a different space to stock materials and supplies. Since we are currently not using the basement Youth Space, we are re-purposing it for temporary use by "Sewing Seeds of Love". Thanks especially to Fran and Arpad (again, of course) for their work and initiative on this project.

Church Growth: At the beginning of May, Pastor and a handful of FMLC members were able to attend an all-day conference in Illinois for a program entitled "Natural Church Development." These folks spent a beautiful Saturday inside, being introduced to some very interesting methods aimed towards church growth. These ideas focus on identifying the God-given gifts of the people in our church and finding how each of us can use those gifts to further our growth inwardly and our ministry outwardly. Those who attended report excitement about the techniques and process. We thank them for taking the time to attend and reporting on their experience at the May BOD meeting. Watch for more information as we prayerfully consider the Natural Church Development opportunities.

Outdoor Projects: If you are looking for ways to get involved, summer always brings new opportunities. Weeding and mulching parties are likely to occur in the coming weeks. There will also be chances to help with the Meditation Path through the wooded area. Those projects may include helping to cut paths or mulching ones already cut. Talk to Pastor if this work interests you or to ask about other opportunities to get involved.

BLOOD DRIVE AT FAITH MEMORIAL

Wednesday, June 10

2:00-6:30pm



**PLEASE GIVE IF
YOU ARE ABLE!**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Faith Memorial and Immanuel Lutheran will once again team up for VBS this summer. Kick off dinner is at Faith on June 21 from 6-8pm. Classes for kids pre-school-5th grade will be at Immanuel, Monday-Friday, June 22-26, 9:00am-noon. Students must pre-register by June 8. For more information call the church office, (219) 462-7684.



"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Built on the Right Foundation"
Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:24-2

The battle lines have been drawn. The king had chosen one road and Elijah another. Who will the people follow?

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel have been worshipping false gods and persecuting the prophets of the one true God. Elijah has repeatedly spoken against these two rulers. Who will the people follow?

Famine and drought have spread throughout the land. This is the punishment for not worshipping the one true God. But Ahab blames Elijah and refuses to change. Who will the people follow?

And now the confrontation on Mount Carmel. Elijah turns to the people, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

If we are going to get anywhere in God's kingdom, we cannot limp with two different opinions. We must lay a firm foundation with God as the head of our life. Standing on God's foundation may mean that other people will ignore us and laugh at us. Having God as the only ruler and guide in our lives may cause us to feel as outcasts in our own community or family or job. As a congregation, our only calling, no matter how difficult, is to point to God as the only salvation for this sinful world.

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

P.S. This article is the first in a series of six based on teachings from Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian and martyr for the faith, strongly felt that these teachings could be a guide for the growth of the church and the spread of the Gospel. As Faith Memorial goes forward with the Gospel message, the Sermon on the Mount can also be a guide for our congregation. I ask you to join me in taking one day each month from June through November and to read chapters 5-7 from the Gospel of Matthew. I've picked the 15th of every month. What day will you pick?

May this journey together through Christ's words enable and inspire us to lay our foundation firmly on God, and to willingly spread the Good News.

You won't want to miss "Mark Makers" on Wednesday, June 3, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall (church basement). We will be doing something "unique and spiffy" that our leader, Sue Schoech, says anyone can do. She also said it would be best to wear something that would be improved if it had some new paint spots on it! Questions: call Marilyn Lindner.

Home: 926-6956 or

Cell: 730-0190.

If possible, bring a friend!



**What Do You Say?
Let's DO LUNCH!!**

**Faith Memorial Womens' Lunch
Wednesday, June 3, 11:30 at
Dynasty**

Buffet in Valparaiso.

**All FMLC ladies and friends are
welcome!**

Please join us.

**For more information call Linda
Berner, 462-2774.**

SAVE THE DATE!!

The annual Faith Memorial Church Picnic will be held this year on Sunday, August 9.

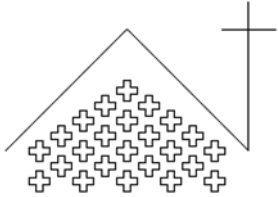
**Watch this newsletter
and Sunday Bulletins for
more details.**



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Lutheran Church

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**MEETINGS AND
GROUPS**

MARK MAKERS

WED. JUNE 3,
6:30PM

**SEWING SEEDS OF
LOVE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE
10

**WOMEN WANTING
WISDOM**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE
17
6:30PM

All groups meet at FMLC
unless otherwise noted.
Everyone is welcome!

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 14, 9:00am Service of Word and Prayer
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 29, 9:00am Service of Word and Prayer
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 5, 9:00, Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 12, 9:00, Morning Prayer
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 19, 9:00, Holy Communion
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 26, 9:00, Morning Prayer

