

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
753 N. CALUMET AVE.  
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET



## The Totality of the Cross

**Psalm 91:1-2** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

*I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen:  
not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*  
-C.S. Lewis

Remember the Solar eclipse? The build-up and excitement prior to the eclipse lasted for weeks. People took off work and school and put their lives on hold in order to flock great distances to see this rare event. On the news, we heard people say how much experiencing the eclipse had affected them.

Like many others, I also went out to see and enjoy the solar eclipse, but when it was all said and done and the crowd that had gathered was trickling away I found myself asking, "now what?" What did it all mean? For all those who said that the eclipse had been a life changing event for them, how many people are still thinking about it even a few weeks later? In fact, except for a few changes in weather, the shortening of our days, or when it is particularly hot, how many of us truly pay that much regular attention to the sun at all?

Fleeting though they may be, one of the things that events like an eclipse can give us are moments to pause and reflect on God's creation. This creation, so incredible in its complexity, beauty, and power serves as a constant reminder of the God who created it. Remarkably, just as we so often miss the wonders of the world around us due to busyness of life, we often do the same thing with our God. Whether it is incredible moments involving events like those surrounding the birth of another son and a star in Bethlehem, or the ways in which God works in our lives, we and the world around us often miss these events or their meaning entirely. Even when we do take note of God's work and its meaning, we often quickly move on. It then takes the darkness obscuring the light for us, or some other significant event, to grab our attention. Allowing nature and its wonders to help us pause and once again reflect on our God and his amazing work, not just in creation but in our lives, can therefore be a great help in our walk of faith.

So then what meaning can we grasp from this past eclipse, other than the science and wonder of it all? To start with let's consider the immense shadow involved. Standing in the heat of the day to watch the solar eclipse, one thing I certainly appreciated was the brief relief from the heat created by the moon's shadow. Yet as great as that shadow was, the Bible speaks of another far greater shadow and that is the shelter and refuge of our God. Protecting us in a much more vast and lasting way than the moon or those nifty solar glasses that kept many of us from going blind, God cares for and watches over all who put their trust in Him.

Part of this shadow and protection includes the cross. During the eclipse we heard a lot about the "path of totality," those places where the effects of the moon's movement would be most complete. I can think of no other shadow that covers believers more completely or shows us the totality of God's love for us more than the shadow of the cross. Interestingly, Matthew 27:45 tells us that as Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross, "there was darkness over all the land from the sixth hour until the ninth hour." Again, God used nature to point to the gravity of the situation, and what he was doing for us in that incredible moment. Jesus was experiencing our darkness, even as he worked to cover us with the shadow of his forgiveness. Until finally with a cry of "It is finished," Christ declared His total victory on our behalf over sin and death.

Now redeemed and set free in the total grace and power of the blood of our risen Lord, we live as children of God. This is not just some spectacle to glance at and walk away from, but a reason for constant rejoicing. Therefore, may each of our lives be a constant celebration together in the shadow of the almighty, as we look to and point others both to the cross and to another exciting day on the horizon when our Lord returns and we will abide in His presence once and for all.

**Worth Noting:** As I thought about the eclipse I had just seen and decided on the topic for this newsletter, I came across an interesting article by Don Hamlin that gave me some ideas for this article. It also contains some additional material worth reading. To read it go to <https://donhamlin.com/outdoors/solar-eclipse-2017/>

*In Christ,*

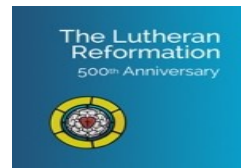
*Pastor Eric Schuch*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3

After a summer hiatus, Sunday School will resume on September 3 (10:30am). On this first Sunday we will feature a Backpack Blessing and enjoy an Ice Cream Social.

On Sunday, September 10, we will host a Grandparents' Day celebration.

During the months of September, October and November, we will be assisting the Care Committee in collecting stuffed animals for the *Reading Buddies* program.



**As we work our way up to the 500th anniversary of Luther posting his 95 theses on the church door in Germany on October 31, 1517, which ignited the "Reformation" of the church, in September we will do the last 4 of 24 lectures about Luther from the Teaching Company on DVD. These will be at 10:30 on Sunday, September 3, 10, 17 and 24 in a Sunday School room. In October, Pastor Schoech will conduct a Bible Study on Luther leading up to Reformation Sunday on October 29.**

## GAME NIGHT AT FAITH

Please join us for Board Game and Card night at church on **Friday, Sept. 22** beginning at 7:00pm.



## NORTHWEST INDIANA LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSION SOCIETY

NWLHMS is alive and doing well. We have two Missionary Pastors, Pastor Angon and Pastor Garcia. Pastor Angon is our visionary, outreach person and is always building relationships throughout Northwest Indiana. Pastor Garcia has been with us for two years now and is based in Crown Point with Trinity Lutheran Church, although he does help out Pastor Angon in other towns like Demotte and Cedar Lake. The missions of this organization are continually growing and include Bible studies, confirmations, weddings, Quincinera's, Fiestas, Cinco de Mayo, Via Crucis, and the Folklorico Dance Troupe and counseling just to name a few. The mission society is still responsible for half of both pastors' salaries. The society is a 501C3 so any donations are tax deductible. Donations can be mailed to: **Mission Society 753 North Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.**

Compass, a mission of the society, was started over 10 years ago and has gone through many growing pains. It now is its own 501C3 and has formed its own board. This fall Compass International Family Education will be at Immanuel Lutheran in Valparaiso every Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:30-7:00. Classes offered include tutoring (from preschool through high school), citizenship classes, English classes and babysitting for toddlers. Recently funding for Compass has been through grants. We are always looking for volunteers for tutoring. See Dorothy Kehe if you are interested. Check the Compass website at [compassifc.org](http://compassifc.org). If you are unable to help by volunteering, or monetarily, please keep these two groups in your prayers as their outreach and Mission is growing every day.

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

**Each church member who has a Thrivent account is eligible to apply for 2 action teams per year, at \$250 each.**

**This money can be used for projects that you think are needed at the church. Examples are: maintenance of our playground, Matehuala School kits, help with the picnic, sewing group supplies and storage, supplies for Mark Makers, and drum and sound equipment for a contemporary church service. There are many more ideas. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to apply see Dorothy Kehe or Fran Marton to get started.**



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

“What do we know about God?”

In my career as a church musician, I have been the organist for approximately 260 weddings in 17 different churches. During the rehearsals, there would be many questions from the couple, wedding party, and families. They were concerned that all would go well for the big day. But there was one question asked regularly, “Which arm - left or right - does the bride take as she walks down the aisle?” One pastor harked back to the days of chivalry, “The woman always takes the left arm. The man’s right arm is holding his sword, ready to protect the woman.”

Does it seem like life is worse now than in the past? Everywhere I look – family, friends, city, state, nation, world – I don’t ever remember in my sixty-three years a time that is this difficult. If I was one of those people on the street ranting and raving, my words would be “the world will end tomorrow”. We are overwhelmed with fear and worry – can we pay the bills this month, will the medical report be fine, are there enough locks on the doors, will terrorists strike again.

We don’t know if life is any worse now than other times in history. But we do know that evil surrounds us. The devil seems more and more determined to be a sore loser to God and take as many of us to hell as possible.

When children are afraid, they take the hand of an adult they trust. Or if the adult knows the current situation is not safe (like crossing a street) they take a firm hold on the child’s hand. Even if the child rebels the adult does not let go. God is the same with us. *“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’” Isaiah 41:14*

And so, what do we know about God? Our right hand is firmly held by God, so the sword arm can protect us from all evil. Notice that we don’t even have to be concerned about reaching for God’s left hand. God is already holding it – firmly – and has no intention of ever letting go.

### ***BEST WISHES TO THE FAITH MEMORIAL MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH!***

Tamara Hall	September 1
Jacob Grossnickle	September 8
Adison Foxx	September 9
Dorothy Kehe	September 10
Bruce Lindner	September 10
Aaron Porter	September 12
Pastor Schoech	September 13
Karen Albertson	September 15
John Frank	September 21
Bruce Kehe	September 21
Phyllis Meyers	September 21
Ilona Allwardt	September 22
Carlene Schultz	September 26
Monika Yover	September 28
Annette Frank	September 30
Nancy Kickbush	September 30



—We don’t want to miss anyone’s birthday! If your name is not listed in your appropriate month, please sign up on the calendar in the Narthex or call the office at 462-7684.



***Please join us!***

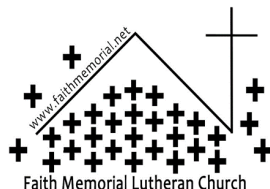
***Faith Ladies Lunch at Pesto's Restaurant will be on Wednesday, September 6 at 11:30am.***

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

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Lutheran Church**

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Email:  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Mark Makers:** Wednesday,  
September 6, 6:30pm

**Sewing Seeds of Love:**  
Thursday, September 14 &  
28, 9:00am.

**Women Wanting Wisdom:**  
Wednesday, September 20,  
6:30pm.

**COMING UP!!**

**HOLIDAY MARKET** (in the  
Gathering Space)  
Saturday, Nov. 18, 10-2  
Sunday, Nov. 19, 10-2

**VOTERS ASSEMBLY**  
Sunday, November 12  
12:00 noon.

**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 1, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 15, 9:00am, Holy Communion  
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 22, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Reformation Sunday, October 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

