

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## Baby Steps



**1 Corinthians 13:11-13** <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup> Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Few things are better than the sound of a child's laughter or the sight of a baby taking some of their first steps. I love seeing and hearing the sights and sounds of children around the church, and enjoy each chance I get to visit with one of these blessings and their family. It is amazing to watch how these children grow a little more each time I see them.

However, as I have been reminded recently, watching my niece and other children, first words, walking, crawling, or even just rolling over don't come in an instant, do they? They often come through countless days and even months of trial and error. Parents provide hours of help and encouragement just to help a child eventually walk on their own (Even in adulthood we sometimes literally fall down like a child and need a hand to get back up.) If you've ever watched children's faces, even the most basic things can sometimes be a frustrating and slow process. Just watch a child who knows he ought to be able to communicate something with words but can't. Then, all of a sudden, the child seems to get it, and in the blink of an eye we are on to the next stage, often forgetting the steps that got us there.

The reality is that just about everything we do requires some kind of baby steps, and usually involves more than a few setbacks. Whether it is building or improving programs at church, something like the call process, growing in our relationship with God, sharing our faith with those around us, or many of life's more basic skills or tasks all these things take time and more than a little effort on our part. Not to mention an infinite amount of grace, patience, encouragement, and help from our heavenly Father.

As we walk through life, 1 Corinthians 13 serves as a reminder that none of us will become perfect in a day, or before we get to heaven. Unfortunately, we often demand perfection of ourselves and others, wanting things to be the way we think they should be, practically in an instant. Our fast-paced society only perpetuates this. However, while God wants us to grow (and we should make our best effort to do so), we must also acknowledge that things will happen in God's time. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither were we. The person reading this article has probably changed in some way since they started reading it, and they have certainly changed in the last days, months, and years. Those changes required countless baby steps and a willingness to grow.

So my fellow baby steppers, together, let's each simply put one foot in front of the other and hold God's hand, trusting in Him to lead the way, and seeking to grow a little at a time, until the Lord finally leads us to the place he wants us today and the place he wants us in eternity.

**Proverbs 4:10-13** <sup>10</sup> Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. <sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. <sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. <sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schreck*

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This is a quick report and update on the issues and programs the Board of Directors has been working on recently.

**Sound System and Security System.** The BOD, in conjunction with Pastor Schoech and Deaconess Graef, has been studying the purchase and installation of a new sound system in the sanctuary and adjacent areas, as well as a Security System for the building. We have been aided by the knowledgeable and generous help of Jon Dunlap and Jim Dixon in studying the various possibilities and moving toward this important improvement to our worship services. They have interviewed four companies who work in these areas. We will keep you updated on this and other ongoing issues in newsletters and "What's Happening" sessions.

**New Locks and Key System.** The Board is also considering redoing the locking and key-ing of the doors to the outside. The current system is old and making it difficult for church workers, members, and outside users who rent spaces in our building to open and adequately lock the doors. We are taking estimates on all the possible ways of doing this. This must, of course, be kept in synch with the Security System. Thank the Lord for Arpad Marton, our man of all trades who helps in numerous ways around the building.

**New Accounting System.** We have installed on the computer system and are all beginning to learn to work with Quick Books for Non-Profits, a software package which helps track both the contribution side and the expense side of the church financial operation. The new system is in many ways more transparent than the old ones and will enable us to supply the congregation with simpler, more understandable, accounting information.

The BOD is thankful for all of the following goings on at Faith: (A) The Fabulous Wednesday Groups: Donna Cawby's "Sewing Seeds of Love" (get the pun?); Marilyn Lindner's "Mark Makers"; and Deb Porter's "WWW--Women Wanting Wisdom"; (B) As of April 26, Three--count 'em 3--Sunday Morning Bible Classes--Pastor Schoech teaches a class for new members or those who wish to re-study basic Lutheran teachings; Jim and Jan Dixon are teaching "That the World May Know," a series from Focus on the Family which includes both video and discussion; and video lectures from the Great Courses series on Great World Religions on "Christianity" led by Crazy Berner. It is particularly gratifying that our congregation continues to support three different bible studies at the same time, though there is a rumor of a movement to replace Berner with a real teacher.

Finally, the BOD asks you to look forward to another great Church Picnic in August or September.



## FOOD DRIVE

DURING LENT FMLC MEMBERS HEADED BY THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE, COLLECTED OVER 1000 POUNDS OF FOOD TO DISTRIBUTE TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES. THE CLOTH BAGS USED FOR FOOD COLLECTION WERE PURCHASED WITH FUNDS FROM THRIVENT. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!!



"We're grateful for the checks, but in order for us to cash them, you'll have to make them out to the church, not to 'The Big Guy Upstairs.'"

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

### *"Thank You"*

Please excuse a deviation from what this corner of the newsletter usually shares. I want to take this opportunity for a very public "Thank You" to some members of Faith. As I still bask in the high of Holy Week and Easter, there is a group of people who contribute substantially to that high. Those people include the choir, the cantors, instrumentalists, and the choir's co-director – Deb Porter. Even I, who should know better, often take the worship and music life at Faith for granted. Without all of the above individuals, there wouldn't be unique psalm settings in almost every service. There wouldn't be anthems during communion or descants on the Easter liturgy. And without those musicians, we wouldn't be blessed with the ability to learn different liturgies that bring variety to our worship services.

I have had the privilege of working with seven church choirs before working with the choir at Faith. I am a bit biased, but Faith's choir is far above the other seven. Our choir does not hesitate to commit to the rehearsals that are needed. They are willing to put in the same amount of effort to learn any style of music or any level of difficulty. When strange things happen, ie. a director is ill, this choir puts out even more energy and more focus to enhance the worship service. I have watched them consistently grow as musicians and as ministers of the Word through music. We are blessed to have them as our choir.

And finally, "Thank You" to all the members at Faith. Without your support, your participation in worship, and your willingness to learn and try new psalm settings and hymns and liturgy, the worship and music life at Faith would be dull indeed.

*Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

### SHARE THE DREAM!!

**Faith Memorial and its Sunday School have raised \$480 to buy animals for hungry families through World Vision. We will be buying:**

- 2 sheep
- 1 goat
- 10 ducks
- 3 rabbits
- 2 chickens
- The animals will provide families with wool, milk, and eggs to eat. As the animals multiply, families can sell surplus food or animals for extra income.

**Thank you for sharing the dream!**



**Join us once again for our May Game Night.**

**Watch the bulletin and website for details.**



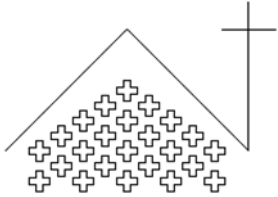
Sunday, June 7, the children's ministries of Faith will have a special end of the year celebration. During the education hour, all the students will meet together to sing, make crafts, eat snacks and watch a VeggieTales movie.



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**MEETINGS AND  
GROUPS**

**MARK MAKERS**

**WED.MAY 6,**

**6:30PM**

**SEWING SEEDS OF  
LOVE**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY  
13,**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY  
27**

**6:30PM**

**WOMEN WANTING  
WISDOM**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY  
20**

**6:30PM**

**All groups meet at FMLC  
Everyone is welcome!**

**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 9:00am Holy Communion**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer**

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17, 9:00am Holy Communion**

**The Day of Pentecost, May 24, 9:00am Holy Communion**

**The Holy Trinity, May 31, 9:00am Holy Communion**

**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**

