

The Faithful Reporter

June 2016

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



Philippians 4:4-8 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

The Bible is filled with reasons to celebrate and rejoice. We have a God that loves us. We have a God that provides for us. We have a God who has saved us, redeemed us, and prepared for us to take part in an eternity of celebrating being in his presence. Even when things seem at their worst, the Bible reminds us that we have reason to celebrate. When we are anxious, The Lord reminds us He is with us. When we are struggling, God reminds us He is our strength. When we need help and may not even know what to pray for, God is still there to hear our prayers, guard our hearts and mind, offer us His peace, and help us refocus on those things that really matter. We can so easily focus on the negative and the things that can bring us harm, but God assures us that whether we are facing times of struggle and persecution or times of great success and harmony, He is working for what is best, and working in a way that is worthy of praise and celebration.

Looking around at some of the things that have been going on at Faith in the last few months, I see a number of reasons for celebration. I've seen the faces of new people being touched through our ministry here at Faith. I've seen people successfully taking on new efforts such as leading and participating in small groups, improving our ability to hear in worship, developing events and activities aimed at connecting people, helping those in need, and improving our ability to minister in this place. Planning, building, visiting, outreach, encouragement, and all the other quiet efforts that often seem to go unnoticed, but can have such a powerful impact—all of these are reasons to rejoice and celebrate at what God and His Spirit are doing here in our midst.

So what are some of the ways we can celebrate and rejoice over what is going on here at Faith, our lives, and God's kingdom in general? Well, for starters how about we **praise, pray, party, participate, and put back** out there the things God has given us that give us reason to celebrate.

Praise and prayer are something we can do both spontaneously and intentionally throughout our day and when we gather together, as we reflect on all of the honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy things God is doing to us, through us, and around us. There will even be a special concert this month where this can also take place.

Partying or spending time together to celebrate and support each other is important. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have just celebrated the 60th anniversary of the start of our ministry at Faith Memorial. In the coming weeks, there will be opportunity to support our children and families at the VBS kick off picnic. In another picnic event, there will be a chance celebrate and look ahead to the future, as we celebrate and wrap up our church-wide "*Best is Yet to Come*" activities.

Participation and putting back out there the things that God has given us. Perhaps, one of the greatest ways we celebrate, rejoice, and give thanks for what God has done in our lives is by simply participating in the opportunities he has placed before us and by using the gifts he has given us to His glory. Our time, our talents, our treasures, each of these is an opportunity to celebrate life in the Lord by using them for the good of His church and those around us.

For those of you who are looking at this list and thinking "Pastor these sound a lot like the 7 doors of Worship, Witness, Connections, Prayer, Bible Study, Service, and Giving from the *Best is Yet to Come*," you would be right. That is just one more reason to celebrate, because whatever doors God places for us to walk through, his plan for us includes both consistency and cause for celebration. So let us rejoice as we celebrate and walk through those doors together with Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schrock



A CONCERT BY MICHAEL RIVERS



On Sunday, June 5 at 4:00pm, Michael Rivers will be performing a concert of Christian music at Faith Memorial. Michael grew up in the area and is the son of Chuck and Midge Rivers. He has performed here several times in the past. Through his music, he tells of God's wondrous works and invites the audience to join in praise to God.

THE CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL!

PLEASE JOIN US!

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Solace or Strength?"

Life has some simple pleasures. A favorite of mine is to come home after a day at work, peel off the professional clothes and put on the rattiest, softest, most comfortable sweat pants and sweatshirt that I own. All I want is some comfort after a hectic day. I want to feel comfortable and I want to be comfortable and I don't want anyone or anything to upset that.

All of us have those needs to be comfortable and, at times, to be comforted. We want to find a place where we can seek relief and solace after a rough day or a difficult time. Maya Angelou comments that "each person deserves a day away, in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us." Each of us deserves that time to be comfortable.

We also seek that comfort in our home congregation. Our church brings security when we are with family and friends. The words from the pastor and the liturgies remind us that God is with us. The Holy Spirit is even named the Comforter. Throughout the history of the church, it has been referred to symbolically as the ark that carries us through the floods and storms of life. We see ourselves as Noah and his family; safely protected from the dangers of the world.

But many times, we have stopped there, and have sought to not hear or see the world outside. Did Noah hear the screaming of the wind or the screams of those who were dying? And what were his prayers? Was he praying to stay in the security of the ark or was he praying for the strength to leave the ark and start again? As a man of God, he knew that the comfort and security could only last so long, and God would again call him into service and ministry in the world.

There is a phrase in the church's liturgy that reminds us that we are not to seek the church for solace only, but also for strength. So while I find comfort and solace in my sweatshirt and you in your simple pleasure, we pray that we may have strength for the day to come. That the Comforter will enable us to face the next day's task and burdens, evils and ills, and even more – that we may have strength to be Christ in the world.

**ALL FAITH MEMORIAL LADIES AND
THEIR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO OUR
LADIES' LUNCH!**

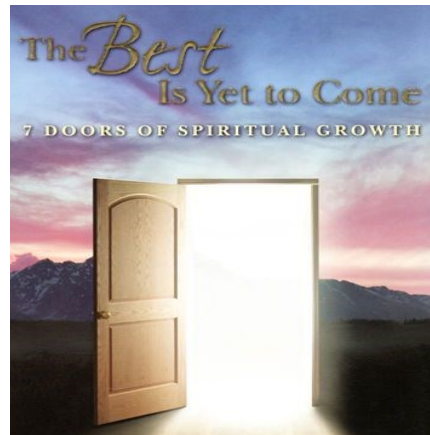
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 11:30AM

**WHERE: SAGE RESTAURANT, DOWN-
TOWN VALPO**

**RSVP: IT'S NOT TOO LATE! CALL THE
CHURCH AT (219) 462-784 OR SPEAK
WITH LINDA BERNER.**



You're Invited!



Thank You To All of You Who have
Participated

And Helped in Making Our Church-Wide
Spiritual Growth Emphasis Such a Success!



**A *GriefShare* support group will begin on August 18 and
end on November 10 from 7:00-8:30pm, here at church.**

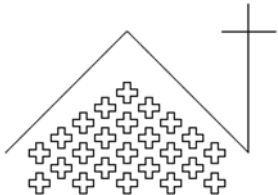
**Becky Graef will be leading the group. Cost is \$15 for the
workbook.**

Please call the Church Office at 462-7684 to register.

Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 5, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 12, 9:00 Morning Prayer
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 19, 9:00 Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, June 26, 9:00 Word and Prayer
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 10, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, July 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 31, 9:00am Holy Communion

