

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



Hitting a Hole in One

Golf is one of those games that many people love to play in the summer. My brother is one of them. Recently he gave me some clubs in hopes I might join him. The gift reminded me of an article about golf written by a dear friend:

"In golf there are terms like "par, birdie, and slice", but one term I like is "mulligan". A mulligan is an extra stroke allowed in golf after a poor shot and is not counted on the scorecard. It is not allowed in professional golf, but many amateurs allow it."

Pastor Fred seldom needed a mulligan, and on this Saturday he played his best round of golf all season, but tomorrow was the last day the course would be open. Since it was Sunday, he would not be able to play. But that Sunday morning the sun was shining brightly and he decided to skip church and go golfing. He began by calling his head elder and saying "Hey I woke up feeling sick today, so if you could cover for me that would be great. The sermon is on the pulpit and I plan to go back to bed." The elder agreed and as soon as the phone call was over, Fred raced to the golf course. As he drove, he saw storm clouds brewing and he thought, "Oh, God you are going to punish me. It's going to rain and I won't get to play." But there was no storm. The first nine holes went great, then another storm cloud appeared and he heard thunder, and said, "Oh, God you are going to punish me. It's going to rain and I won't get to play." But no rain fell, so he kept on playing. The 18th hole was a simple par 3. Pastor Fred was excited. If he shot par on this hole, he would have the best game of his life. At that very moment all kinds of dark clouds formed and there was even a flash of lightning. Fred thought, "Oh, God you are going to punish me. It's going to rain and I won't get to finish this game." But no rain fell, so Fred hit his drive and miraculously the ball landed on the green and rolled into the cup for a hole in one. Fred was ecstatic and shouted, "Oh, God I thought you were mad at me, but I just got a hole in one. A hole in one, that is amazing." At that moment a voice like thunder spoke from the cloud and it said, "And who are you going to tell?"

When we do something we shouldn't, we normally want to keep it hidden. We don't want others to know our faults. A reason for that is because we are afraid we will suffer for what we have done. So we try to cover it up. But God knows everything and we tend to think that God is going to punish us for what we did.

The Scriptures reveal a different picture of God. God certainly hates sin and He knows that we are sinners. As the Bible states, "**there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**". The Bible is full of stories of people who failed to do the right thing and the judgment for sin is eternal punishment. But instead of being sent to Hell for eternity, God provides a way for them and us to have eternal life with God. That way is Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners and He did it by his death on the cross. God doesn't punish us for our sins; Jesus suffered that punishment for us. The Bible states, "**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed**". Instead of punishing us, God forgives us because of Jesus.

Now we may still suffer some consequences for our sins. Cheating spouses may end up with broken marriages, but there is still forgiveness for them. A drunk driver may go to prison, but there is forgiveness for him. Suffering in life doesn't mean God is getting even with us for something we did. Instead God invites us to turn from our wrongs and look to him for forgiveness. That's called repentance. In the military we call it "an about face" and in the game of golf we call it a mulligan. God is all about mulligans!"

Where in your life do you need a mulligan? Where in your life are you not taking a swing because you think you might miss? Whereas a church or individuals do we need to ask God's forgiveness or take a new swing of faith? Just like golf, faith rarely involves us managing to get a hole in one. However, whether we are in the weeds, taking the big swing, or slowly working our way one stroke at a time down the fairway, God is with us and as my fellow Pastor pointed out, God is all about mulligans.

In Christ,
Pastor Schoech

A Report from the District Convention

In June of this year I accompanied Pastor Schoech to the bi-annual conference of the Indiana District of the LCMS as Faith's lay delegate. It was a valuable learning experience for me in many ways.

Many representatives of the Synod's Office Staff were present along with faculty from the St. Louis Seminary and from almost every committee and task force of the church. Reverend Daniel May was re-elected as President of the District and Pastor Don Williams was re-appointed as the "visitor" for our Circuit. Reports were received on: Missions Outreach; Concordia Theological Seminary; Concordia Plan Services; Lutheran Church Extension Fund; Lutheran Foundation; and many others.

The Synod voted on many resolutions put forth by members in advance of the Convention including one urging some LCMS churches to cease the practice of "infant/toddler communion," and another to "encourage and support Christians abroad who suffer on account of their faith."

Another resolution called to renew the Synod's position against same-sex marriage within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. As fate would have it, this was to be taken up on Friday, June 26, on the morning of which the decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on same-sex marriage was announced to the assembled members. As someone who lives both in the LCMS and at Valparaiso University, I found myself reliving Martin Luther's great story of learning how to live in Two Kingdoms at the same time. As Luther indicated, we are always on this earth called to do so but there will be times when it is not easy. Trust me. Thanks be to God from and for both of our kingdoms!

Respectfully submitted, Lay Delegate Bruce Berner

LC-MS NEWS

Faith Memorial Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The roots of the LC-MS go back to 1847, when Saxon and other German immigrants established a new church body in America. These ancestors were seeking the freedom to practice confessional Lutheranism. Today, the LC-MS has more than 2.3 million baptized members in more than 6,100 congregations and more than 9,000 pastors. Two seminaries and 10 colleges and universities are under the auspices of the LC-MS, and its congregations operate the largest Protestant parochial school system in America. The church broadcasts the saving message of Jesus Christ over KFUE radio, and it has relationships and active mission work in nearly 90 countries around the world. In the last five years, the LC-MS has awarded more than \$35 million through 900 domestic and international grants for emergency response and disaster response. Today, the LC-MS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 33 other Lutheran confessional church bodies worldwide.

Within the LC-MS are many organizations that spread the Gospel message nationally and internationally. Some of these are:

**International Lutheran Laymen's League
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Christian Senior Ministries
Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots
Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute
Bethesda Lutheran Communities, etc., etc.**

In the Lutheran Annual, 2015 (the phone/address directory of the LC-MS), nine pages are used to list the Auxiliaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSO's). The LC-MS is a wide ranging church body that both shares the Gospel and aids God's children.

It is a good thing for an LC-MS congregation like Faith to learn more about the church body of which they are a member. Watch for a box in the newsletter (maybe not every issue) titled LC-MS News, that shares some information about an aspect of the LC-MS. This box may contain a bit of news about one of the universities, or an RSO, or the Indiana/Kentucky District.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Let Your Light Shine"

Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:14-16

In the book, *Women in Scripture*, she is in the section titled "Unnamed Women". Not only does she have no name in the Bible, only two verses in 2 Kings 5 mention that she even existed. And yet this no name, two verses only, slave girl lets her light shine.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria and a mighty man of valor, has leprosy. In one of the Syrian raids through Israel, a little Jewish girl is captured. We know nothing about her background. Was her entire family captured or were they killed and she was the only one left alive? We do know enough about slavery from our own history as a nation, to know that no matter what the scenario, it wasn't the life that she would have dreamed or hoped. This little maid becomes a servant to Naaman's wife.

The world at that time labeled many skin diseases as leprosy. Some, like psoriasis, were not contagious, while others were. No matter what disease Naaman had, it surely affected his relationships with his family and others with whom he worked. We can imagine his wife lamenting her husband's illness and the lack of a cure. Now a light begins to shine.

The little slave says to her mistress, "Would that my Lord were with the prophet (Elisha) who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Do you notice that she doesn't say that he might be cured? Her light is so strong and so coming from God that she knows Elisha would cure Naaman.

We know the rest of the story. Naaman is cured. But if it has been awhile since you were in Sunday School, go back to 2 Kings 5:1-14. Read how an unnamed, two verses only, slave girl lets her light shine.

If an unnamed, two verses only, slave girl can let her light shine in a foreign country, how much easier should it be for us to let our light shine?! Maybe it is just saying a table prayer before we have a meal in a public place. Maybe it could be signing our emails with God bless you. Maybe when someone comments on our gracious behavior, we – out loud – give credit to God. Maybe when we are waiting in the doctor's office and someone can't stop talking, we give them our full attention instead of to the magazine. Maybe when someone needs healing of body, mind, or spirit, we invite them to church.


This little light of mine; I'm going to let it shine.

"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

FOCUS: Chaplains

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
Heb. 4:16 ESV

At home or abroad, LCMS chaplains bring Christ to those struggling in body, mind or soul!



The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM) and Ministry to the Armed Forces military chaplains deliver Christ's mercy through their words and service, providing much-needed spiritual care for His people in unique and challenging environments.

Prayer—O Lord almighty God, as You have always granted special gifts of the Holy Spirit to Your Church on earth, grant Your continual blessing to all who minister in Your name in the armed forces, in institutional and emergency services chaplaincy, in pastoral counseling and clinical pastoral education, that by Your grace, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



PLEASE JOIN US!

FAITH WOMENS' LUNCH, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 11:30am @ Sage Restaurant

MARK MAKERS—Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 @ FMLC

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE— Wednesday Sept. 9 & 23, 6:30pm @ FMLC

WOMEN WANTING WISDOM—Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 (location to be determined)

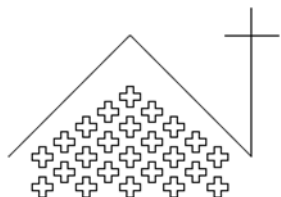
These groups are open to all FMLC members and friends.

Mark Makers meets the first Wednesday of the month at church for fun & fellowship—no artistic talent is necessary! Like to sew? Please join Sewing Seeds of Love to work on church banners, pillowcases, wheelchair bags, lap robes, etc. which are donated to area nursing homes and shut-in members. The ladies who attend Women Wanting Wisdom read and then study and discuss books pertinent and relevant to women and women's lives. They meet on the third Wednesday of the month, either at a member's home or at church. Meetings of all groups are suspended during Advent and Lent.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 13! IT IS HELD DURING THE EDUCATION HOUR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES, 10:30-11:30. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (219) 462-7684 OR SPEAK WITH SHERRI NORD OR JACKIE ALLWARDT.



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 11, 9:00am Holy Communion
w/Confirmation
St. Luke, Evangelist, October 18, 9:00am Holy communion
Reformation Sunday, October 25, 9:00am Holy Communion

