

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



Communing Together

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

The word communion literally means to have, “a close relationship with someone or something” involving “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.” In the Lord’s Supper our communion with our Lord goes even deeper, as the Lord touches our bodies and souls in a very real and physical way through the presence of His body and blood. Each time we receive the Lord’s body and blood “in, with, and under” the bread and wine, we not only remember Christ’s great sacrifice for us on the cross and those great things God has done for us in the past leading up to that event, we also receive Christ’s presence and forgiveness in our midst right here and now. In communion, the Son of God, Himself, intimately proclaims, “this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin” (combination of Luke 22:20, Matt 26:28).” This is the incredible gift and promise we are offered each time we come to the Lord’s Table. This is also part of the incredible gift, promise, and reality we profess by faith each time we proclaim the Lord’s death and resurrection together through our participation in the Lord’s Supper.

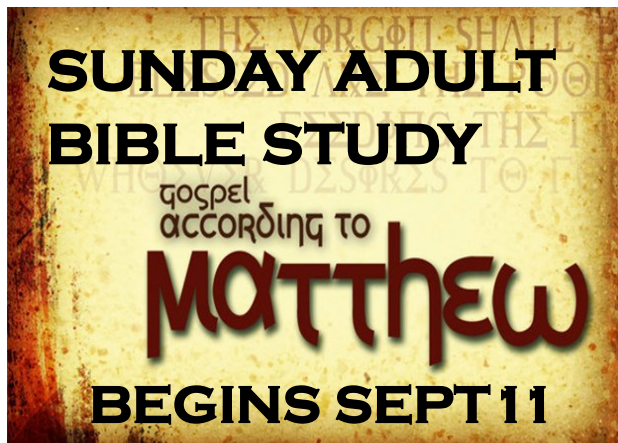
Take note of the word, “together” in the previous sentence. When we commune with Christ, we commune with Him together. “Many” are receiving and meant to receive the Lord and his forgiveness through this meal. We do this not simply as individuals, but as a body. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 says, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” In our intimate connection to Christ, we become intimately connected to one another as well.

The ramifications of this are significant. One of which is that we should approach communion with a great concern and compassion for each other. For instance, because we are one body, whenever a part of that body finds itself approaching the altar with animosity in their heart toward another part of the body, we should feel compelled to show love and seek reconciliation. “The believer cannot pretend that the horizontal relationships that he carries on with his fellow believers are independent of his relationship with God.” This same care and compassion also plays out in the church’s stewardship of the Lord’s Supper and how we seek to educate each other on what the Bible teaches about the Lord’s Supper, so that we might truly understand the incredible gift that we are receiving and be able to properly examine ourselves before receiving it according to God’s command.

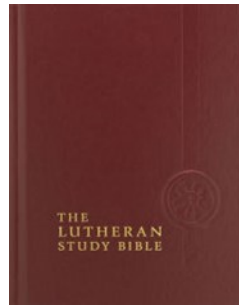
This also finally brings us to the subject of receiving communion itself, or more specifically distribution. While there may be biblical reasons for lovingly encouraging someone to abstain from communion for a time (for example: the need for further education, certain false beliefs, unrepentant sin, or unbelief), the method of distribution is usually not one of the things we would want to be the reason someone is prevented from receiving the incredible gift of communion. While the Christian church has generally upheld the need for the use of bread and “fruit of the vine,” in communion, the method of distribution and the type of bread and wine have varied greatly. Unleavened and leavened bread from a wide range of grains have been used. “Fruit of the vine” of various varieties and alcoholic contents were used. (It is really only in recent years that grape juice with no fermentation was truly possible). Common cup, individual cup, and other distribution methods have all been used. Therefore, since it is neither commanded nor forbidden in scripture Lutheran churches have used several of these practices. Due to a concern about germs, many churches have moved to the use of individual cups. To help avoid precluding those with sensitivities to alcohol, grape juice has been narrowly offered to those who need it. With the more recent recognition of those who have sensitivities to the gluten, some of which are severe, there are now wafers available made from grains that do not contain gluten, and some churches seek to offer wine that has not come in contact with gluten through methods like intinction. The primary motivation for making or not making these changes, hopefully comes less from a desire to appease a “smorgasboard” of personal preferences, desires, and traditions and more from a sense of care and compassion for those that truly need them so that they might fully share in the experience of God’s blessing in communion, that we have already described.

Recently, the staff and board here at Faith Memorial Lutheran, have come to recognize that several people who attend our church or might attend our church, have several of these same needs. That is why after prayer, research, and careful discussion, out of care and compassion, it has been decided that we should begin offering certain things like individual cups. More information on how this is taking place is offered elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have questions regarding these additions, please speak to Pastor or a member of the Board.

Pastor Eric Schreck



Lutheran Study Bible Sale



Our Study of Matthew this year will be based off of the Lutheran Study Bible. Having a Lutheran Study Bible is not required, but for those who are interested Concordia Publishing House is currently having a sale. Those interested in purchasing though the church can place an order on the signup sheet in the church narthex.

Prices vary based on the Bible cover and format selected. The deadline for signup and turning in a payment is **September 18**. If you have questions please speak to pastor or the church secretary.



Families Group

Meets: Biweekly, TBA
Location: Church
Leader: Jim & Jan Dixon
(219)462-4934
Topic: "That the World May Know"

Bibles at the Brewery Group

Meets: Mondays 7:00pm
(beginning Sept. 12)
Location: Ironwood Brewery
Leader: Paul & Sherri Nord
(219)764-8425

Caring with Carrol

Meets: Tues. 2pm biweekly
Location: Church
Leader: Carrol Ballard
(219)531-1711
Topic: Angels

Anyone's Group

Meets: TBA
Location: Marton's Home
Leader: Fran Marton
(219)464-7133
Topic: TBA

Sunday Group

Meets: Sunday 10:30
Location: Church
Leader: Deb Porter
(219)764-8425
Topic: Lighthouse Foundations-Prayer

Men's Group

Meets: Saturday, 10:30am
(as scheduled)
Location: South Bend Chocolate Factory
Leader: Pastor Schoech
(219)242-9139

Works in Progress

Meets: Tues. 6:30pm weekly
Location: Lindner's Home
Leader: Paul Grossnickle
(219)477-5821
Topic: C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity

Contact the leaders at the phone number given for details, days, times, location, etc. Subject to change.



CHILDREN'S BIBLE

It is important that every child have a chance to hear and experience the Word of God. Therefore, the Youth and Family Action Team wants to ensure that every child connected to our congregation has an age appropriate Bible available to them.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, we will be blessing and giving Bibles to the children within our congregation. We want to encourage our families with children from age 2 - grade 4 to attend. If you would like to help donate specifically toward the cost of these Bibles please contact Sherri Nord or Jackie Allwardt or the church office.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS AT COMMUNION

Beginning in October, in response to health concerns, both individual cups and the common cup will be offered at communion. The individual cup tray will be offered first. Please take one of those if you desire, or wait for the common cup to follow. In the center of the individual cup tray will be cups holding white grape juice for anyone who would prefer that over wine. As you leave the communion table a small table will be at the head of the aisle. The empty cup can be placed in the bowl on the table. For those who commune in the pews, communion will be brought to you.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*"For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb." Ps. 139:12*

Have you ever had someone tell you that you are not indispensable? Has a boss or co-worker reminded you that someone else could do your job? Maybe a teacher or a coach thought you needed to learn some humility and not so gently reminded you that another student or player could fill your shoes. Could even fill your shoes and do the task better than you.

In the dark times in life, have you questioned your own worth? Have you wondered if you have any purpose in life? You watch someone younger than you tackle a task with more skill than you will ever have. You begin to feel very dispensable and unworthy.

Society does a great job of reminding us of our lack of beauty, lack of knowledge, lack of skills, and lack of talent. We are constantly bombarded with the most beautiful, the most scholarly, and the most talented people in the world. Every day we are faced with knowing that we never quite measure up to the best and the brightest. We realize, often with great struggle, that we are very small fish in a very large ocean. What purpose do we really have and can we or do we even make a difference in this world?

In these times, we need to run quickly to the One who not only thinks we are indispensable, but who created us to be indispensable. Go to the scriptures and find Psalm 139:1-15. Learn about a Creator who knows our every molecule. A Creator who thought that we were so crucial to this world and to the plan of salvation for this world, that we were known even before our parents knew of our existence. Our very being is so vital for the work of salvation that the Creator will go to the ends of creation to find us.

We are indispensable to God and to the spread of the Gospel message. There is no one else in all of creation who can do the work that each one of us can do. Each one of us is so unique and so special that God needs each one of us. Every task that we perform and every conversation that we have are necessary to the work that God wants accomplished in this world. No matter what our skills or abilities, no matter how large or small the task, we are, you are, indispensable to God.

*"I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works (including me!) are wonderful and I know it well." Ps. 139:13*

Hospitality

He knew she was the one and it was time to bring her home to meet the family. The afternoon was going well, other than she wanted to shed her sweater and use the bathroom. But where to put the sweater and where is the bathroom? Supper came and all the family was gathered at the table. Conversation was labored at first – the family wasn't sure what to talk about with the visitor. Eventually, the talk turned to a past family vacation and all the crazy things that had happened. She laughed to be courteous, but couldn't comment. The inside jokes and stories had no meaning for her. He noticed her lack of participation. Of course she couldn't talk, she had no knowledge of the vacation. He graciously, without insult, told her about the trip and encouraged the family to fill in the story. By the end of supper, she was laughing at the inside jokes and shared stories of her own.

New faces have been and will be seen at FMLC. We want them to feel at home here and included. But that takes more than just the Welcome Center and a few members who have offered to seek out the new faces. All of us have the responsibility of welcoming visitors into our church home. Hospitality means getting out of our comfort zone and our Sunday routines. We stop our chat with a friend and eagerly extend a hand to a visitor. We say our name first and offer help. We show them the coat rack and the bathroom. We move out of our normal pew and sit next to the visitor. We help them find their way in the bulletin even if it means not singing a favorite hymn. We don't leave seating to the ushers. If there is room in our pew, we watch for visitors and slide away from the aisle so a visitor isn't sitting in the choir section. Visitors with children are told about the Children's Message and Sunday School. Coffee is offered after worship and an invitation extended to stay for Bible study.

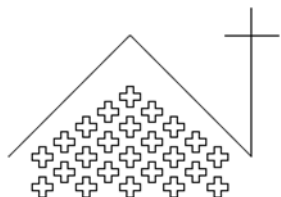
Hospitality takes intentional work and a desire to treat others like we would want to be treated in a new place. Let's join to make FMLC a place where hospitality abounds!



Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



**GRIEF SHARE
SEMINARS**

THURSDAYS
7:00PM THROUGH
NOVEMBER 10

**FMLC WOMENS'
LUNCH**

WEDNESDAY,
SEPT. 7, 11:30 AT
DON QUIJOTE'S

**MARK MAKERS
MEETS WEDNES-
DAY, SEPT. 7,
6:30PM**

**WOMEN WANTING
WISDOM**

MEETS WEDNES-
DAY, SEPT. 21,
6:30PM.

**SEWING SEEDS OF
LOVE**

MEETS THURSDAY
SEPT. 8 AND 22
9:00AM.

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 25, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, October 2, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 9, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, October 16, 9:00am Holy Communion
St. James of Jerusalem, October 23, 9:00am Holy Communion
Reformation, October 30, 9:00am Holy Communion

