

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Stepping out In Faith

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-21, 15-21 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave one time for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. ⁸ Walk as children of the light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord... ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians uses the word "walk" several times as it paints a living and active picture of what it means to walk in the light. I suggest taking the time this month to read all of Ephesians in order to get a broader context for the passage above and to grow in your own Christian walk.

"Stepping out in Faith." "Risen to Walk." "Just Walk Across the Room." You may have noticed a theme in several of the titles around church lately. That is because we Christians are called to be a people in motion. It is no mistake that Paul repeatedly uses imagery like a race to describe the Christian life. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and even before, He repeatedly sent out his followers to walk with a purpose. Jesus Himself stepped out of heaven in order to be our savior. He stepped into this world with the message of hope and the Gospel. He stepped back into heaven to prepare a place for us and to continually intercede for us at the Father's right hand.

So if we Christians are to follow our Lord's example and be a people in motion where are we supposed to be going? Well, one place God does not desire us to be going is simply through the motions. In His time walking this earth, Jesus actively drew a powerful contrast between Himself and the people who were doing just that. The Pharisees, for example, were masters at going through the motions of tradition, the law, and the bare minimum of helping others, all while missing their calling. Pontius Pilot and others went through the motions of asking, "what is truth?" and seeking justice, without ever really connecting the meaning and source of such things, or truly following through on them. Still others went through the motions of following Jesus, but for numerous reasons turned back to chasing after things other than the heart of Christ.

The difference between going through the motions, as these people did, and the direction Christ calls us to follow, may seem obvious, but the difference for many of us can also be far more subtle. We can all go to church, read our bible, and follow the golden rule, and these things are all good. However, Christ also calls us to something more. It is the difference between serving and serving as the hands of Christ. It is the difference between living and living love out loud. It is the difference between doing good and doing good to the Glory of God and for the sake of His kingdom. Christ calls us to seek what is pleasing to the Lord, and this involves two very important things. These are love and people being restored to a right relationship with Him through the message of the gospel. No wonder then that God desires that His name be always on our lips and present in our actions.

Many of us have heard the old Kennedy evangelism question, "If you die tomorrow will you go to heaven." Praise be to God that we all have the joy of knowing that Jesus already answered that question through His life, death, and resurrection. This is one of the great reasons why we should be motivated to give thanks to God in all that we do! However, there is another question we Christians need to ask ourselves, which goes to the heart of where God is calling us to walk. "If you die tomorrow will you do so knowing you have shared Christ and His love with your neighbor?" Better yet, "As living walking members of the body of Christ, how can we better give thanks to God than by sharing Him and His love with others?" This is the question I hope will challenge all of us over the course of this month, as we consider the joyful privilege of doing that which God has told us matters most. I pray that by participating in and applying this month's Sermon Series, the book "Just Walk Across the Room", and various activities and small group discussions, we will all take a valuable walk together toward better following Christ's example of love and reaching out to others with the message of the gospel.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

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RightNow Media is like "Netflix for the church" because it has large library of Christian videos that people can access anytime, anywhere.

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RightNow Media Video of the Month

JOSEPH: CARPENTER OF STEEL

In this month's video recommendation Rev. Gregory Seltz, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour, sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes in *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*. Adding historical perspective to this study is scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier.

The four video segments, between 8 and 15 minutes each, are intended to be used as part of a men's Bible Study group. Joseph is a man appointed by God to do extraordinary things. This series examines the fascinating life and times of this New Testament "average Joe" in rich and absorbing detail.

<https://rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/199763>

June 4th is Pentecost Sunday. Please join us following church activities at 11:30am in the church basement for a Pentecost Potluck! Look for a sign up in the Narthex soon.



FIRST CONTACT

One of the ministries Faith Memorial supports is First Contact. Below are some excerpts from an article which ran recently in the NW Indiana Times.

..."Twenty-five years ago, several people got together to help people in need. They became First Contact, a not-for-profit, interdenominational, referral ministry developed to work directly with the township trustees to help keep a roof over heads and keep utilities on in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

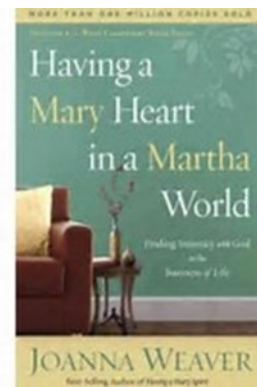
Joyce Maynard, one of the original founders of the group worked as the executive director for 20 years and then passed the reins to Barb Kemler who started as a volunteer in 2005 and became executive director in 2013. During Barb's tenure she opened a new office in Chesterton and began the Warm a Home Project (*Faith supports this project every year at Christmas*). Barb is retiring in May and is training Dan Grass to be the new executive director. This ministry relies on the donations of over 55 partner churches, 14 organizations and foundations, grants and individuals. Check out www.firstcontactinc.org for more information or to volunteer."



WOMEN WANTING WISDOM

WWW will be starting a new study in May called *"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"*. The next meeting will be at Dorothy Kehe's home at 6:30 on Wednesday, May 17. Books will be available on Sundays and at the WWW meeting for \$9.00 (also available on Amazon if you want to order on your own). This study should take us through October.

Anyone may join WWW and this is a great time to join our monthly Bible Study and fellowship.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep."

Jesus to Simon Peter

I promise. You have my word. I won't forget. You can count on me. I won't fail you. I'll get the job done tomorrow.

How many times have we heard those words come out of our mouth or the mouth of someone else? With the speaking of any of those words, we commit ourselves to some type of obligation. It may be something as simple as taking out the garbage or as serious as swearing to tell the truth in court.

There was a man whose name was Simon Peter. He was a fisherman by trade, married, and had a brother named Andrew. Jesus Christ asked Peter to become a fisher of men and Peter said yes to the call. From early on, Peter held the first place among the close followers of Jesus. He also spoke on behalf of the disciples in various situations. Peter was fiercely loyal and totally committed to Jesus. Peter had even promised to follow Jesus to the death.

But one night, and you know the story, Jesus was arrested and brought before the High Priest. Peter waited in the outer court to see what would happen. As he waited, his fear overcame him, and he denied knowing Jesus. And he didn't deny once, he did it three times. "Even though they all fall away, I will not!" The promise to Jesus was broken.

We know nothing about Peter's thoughts between that awful night and the morning on the lake shore. Peter had seen Jesus die, but also had seen the resurrected Jesus. Now Peter and others were fishing early one morning. Jesus called for them to come to shore and have breakfast. Not a word was said about Peter's denial. Instead, Jesus said almost the same thing three times, "Feed my sheep. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep." Jesus knew that the broken promise from Peter's mouth would not happen again.

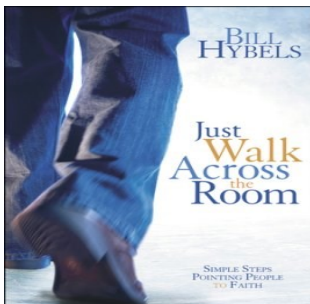
May we rejoice in this Easter season that we, like Peter, hear no words of condemnation from Jesus' mouth, but only "Feed my sheep."

THANK YOU!!



Thank you to Loretta and John Frank and family for the wonderful Easter breakfast that was served downstairs between church services on Easter Sunday. It was so appreciated and enjoyed by all.

And thank you, Arpad Marton for the unending hard work you do to keep our church building secure, safe and maintained. The Faith Memorial congregation appreciates it very much.



It's not too late to connect with a small group and join our new Bible Study.

One small group meets on Sundays during the Education Hour. For information about this study or small groups in general please speak to Pastor Schoech.

HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE WISH LIST

In the upcoming weeks the Care Committee will be collecting items for Hilltop Neighborhood House's "Wish List".

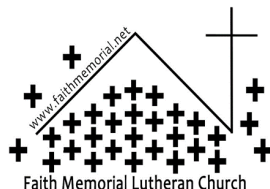
Watch the Sunday announcements for more information and the Narthex for the list of items needed.



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***LIFELINE
SCREENING***

Lifeline Screening offers safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical.

Faith Memorial will host this group on Friday, **May 26** from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, you may register for these tests by calling 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>. There is more information in the Narthex as well as coupons for \$10 off the \$149 cost.



FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 14, Morning Prayer

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 21, Holy Communion

The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 28, Morning Prayer

The Day of Pentecost, June 4, Holy Communion

The Holy Trinity, June 11, Holy Communion

The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, Morning Prayer

The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 25, Holy Communion

