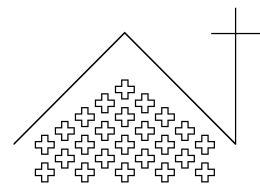


THE FAITHFUL REPORTER



Faith Memorial Lutheran Church
The Rev. John M. Albers, Pastor

753 N. Calumet Av. (Old Hwy. 49)
(219) 462-7684

Valparaiso, IN 46383-7903
Vol. 18, No. 8, September, 2010

KINGDOM QUEST

So much fun ... you wish you were a kid again!

Thanks to the testimonials from other sister congregations in the area, Faith Memorial will this fall embark on a new Sunday School ministry: Kingdom Quest, published by Kid's Kount Publishing, a ministry of King of Kings Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

Things have been shuffled around a bit in the Education Ministry Team (See "Shuffling the Deck: Who's on First?", page 7), so Debra Albers with the assistance of daughter Sarah (recent VU graduate with a degree in Elementary Education), have been spending the last several weeks getting ready for the big unveiling on Sunday, September 12.

COME MEET "ALBIE"

Albie may struggle a bit, learning along with the children each Sunday morning. He may get a little confused at time, but that's why the children are "standing by" (with the help of a leader) to teach Albie what he's otherwise missing. (He finally "gets it" by the end of the lesson!)



NOT YOUR MOTHER'S PLAN FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kingdom Quest is not your usual plan for Sunday School, for the children or for the leaders.

Kingdom Quest is, in short, Sunday School that is fun to teach! The lessons are fun, simple, and interactive while teaching Bible points. The Old and New Testaments are covered every year and, most importantly, Jesus is in every lesson.

The simple concept behind Kingdom Quest is that kids learn when getting involved and staying engaged as they discover and experience bible truths.

It's no secret that Jesus used everyday objects and storytelling to teach his disciples. Kids learn this way, too, as they explore and interact with the games, puppets, and small groups, about how Jesus works in their lives.

From what we've heard from others who are already using Kingdom Quest, kids leave Sunday School so excited they can't help but share Jesus with others and invite their friends to come with them to church!

(See "Kingdom Quest," page 4)

IT'S ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP!

So many ideas ... so many opportunities

The event on Saturday, August 21, produced plenty of ideas ... and more than a little interest in making something happen!

DISCIPLESHIP

The difficult ... and wonderful ... piece of the puzzle is being set free from the notion that the challenge we were about to undertake was not about increasing membership or improving statistics. It would be about discipleship.

The Rev. Daniel Schumm, Pastor for Outreach and Discipleship from Carmel Lutheran Church, made that clear ... and more than once or twice ... to the 30 or so folks gathered for the event. The key, he reminded those gathered, was to move

from a "membership" mindset ... focused inward and on entitlements ... to a "discipleship" mindset ... focused outward and on self-sacrifice.

Many recognized the significant challenges we face as a congregation and everyone seemed drawn to discipleship as the goal of our work.

The big question: how do we get from here (membership) to there (discipleship)?

PLANNING

Dave Reed, the lay leader of Carmel Lutheran's Outreach Ministry Team, got "down and dirty" with the business of

(See "Guiding Principles," page 6)

FALL STUDY PLANS

Books Studies for mid-week

Joy Martinsen made an excellent suggestion recently as she and Pastor Albers finished up a book study on Wednesday September 1. She hasn't been able to participate in other studies, and there may be a book or other study that would be a great "fit". And ... so it is ... at least for the fall mid-week studies get a new start in September.

RECEIVING THE DAY

Beginning Thursday, September 9, the Thursday Morning Bible Study will take a look at a wonderful resource, *Receiving the Day*. Authored 10 years ago by Valparaiso University professor, Dorothy Bass, the book takes a look at "Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time."

In a culture where time is often an enemy to be battled every day, we are tempted to think only in terms of "time management". What we miss, according to this resource, is the "opportunity to embrace time as the gift of God."

Pastor Albers will begin the study on September 9 with an introduction to the book, and the group will read and study

(See "Book Studies," page 4)

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Pastor's Perspective

MY EXPERIENCE AS A VISITOR

I had the joy of being a part of worship at a sister Lutheran congregation recently. I'm not intimidated easily, and I found myself more than a little "ill at ease" from the start.

It was certainly a timely experience, coming on the heels of our outreach planning event. One group is working on this aspect of ministry at Faith Memorial. My experience may help us in our own ministry to newcomers and other visitors.

FROM THE START

I wanted to mimic my usual Sunday morning routine. The website indicated that Bible Study began at 9:30am. I "googled" the address for directions. Fortunately I was familiar with the area near the French Quarter of New Orleans.

Parking was an "experience". Turns out I could have parked in the church parking lot around the corner. There were no signs to indicate that possibility.

It was New Orleans, near the river. The "main" level of the church was the second floor. I wasn't quite sure of the location for bible study. I chose a door and hoped for the best. It was a blessing to find two folks who led me to the room for bible class.

The pastor was helpful in making me feel welcome and a part of the group, encouraging me to tell "my story" and what had brought me to New Orleans and their church on that day.

It was good that I had been to bible study and met someone who could give me directions.

FOR WORSHIP

Worship was another interesting piece. The church building itself was more than 100-years-old. Bathrooms were in a different part of the building. It was good that I had been to bible study and met someone who could give me directions.

It was a joy to see the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in the pew, I felt a bit more "at home". The ushers greeted me warmly and I took my place about mid-way in the sanctuary. It appeared as though I was one of about 25 in worship. It wasn't until the communion distribution that I realized most of the congregation chose to sit in the back.

The liturgy was familiar. I knew I wanted to come to communion, but I wasn't familiar with their practice, which is the reason I sat farther back. Unfortunately, I was still in the first "table". I was able to "follow along", but the directions of the ushers and others only "suggested" what I should do.

After worship I followed the invitation to join together for fellowship in the lower level. It took a while, but several folks did come up to me and introduce themselves, after they had greeted their friends.

OUR EXPERIENCE

I've been wondering if our experience at FMLC is unique or very much the same as that which is experienced in other corners of the church. If my experience is any indication, nice, well-meaning children of God miss many opportunities to welcome others into their community on Sunday morning.

My hope, is that in the coming months our experience will be changed ... dramatically!

That is my perspective of life among God's people at Faith Memorial Lutheran Church. What's yours?

Pastor John Albers

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY WOMEN — The luncheons of the Wednesday Women are opportunities for informal fellowship. The group now will be meeting for lunch at 11:30am on the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December.

Contact Linda Berner, 462-2774, if you would like to be included on her list of "regulars" to be called each quarter.

On September 1st, the group gathered at Gelsosomo's in Chesterton. If you have a suggestion for the December gathering, please be sure to let Linda Berner know about it!

Friends and family who are not an active part of the Faith Memorial family are WELCOME! Please invite them to join the group.

GRAPE CLUSTER — Cluster members should check their schedules for the next gathering of the cluster.

WWW — There has been rumors of plans to start up again this fall. Whether you are the source of the rumors or have heard them ... there are certainly worse things to spread in this manner! Watch the weekly bulletin *Announcements* for more information.

YOUTH NEWS — Although specific plans have not yet been finalized, bit things are planning for the coming months for FMLC youth.

One suggestion will involve making more "connections" with other youth groups in NW Indiana, at least for activities focused on fellowship.

The group that went to the National Youth Gathering July is still planning for their Stockholder's Luncheon. They had hoped to schedule that for something in September, but various schedules may push that back into October.

Make plans now to be a part of things this fall.



"... and to you late arrivals ... anyone can get to church on time if he tries hard enough."

**SUBMISSIONS
NECESSARY!**

Submissions of articles and news items are absolutely necessary for THE FAITHFUL REPORTER to be an efficient and helpful publication. Thanks to those who continue to submit regular articles. Each board chairperson and officer should consider submitting regular updates on the activity of his or her board or office. Everyone is invited to participate.

THE FAITHFUL REPORTER is the primary communication resource for the people of Faith Memorial Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Indiana.

THE FAITHFUL REPORTER is published monthly throughout the year. Officers, board chairpersons, and other members or friends of Faith Memorial are encouraged to submit articles on upcoming events, updates on congregation activities, and items of interest for our members and friends. Deadline for submission of articles is the 2nd last Tuesday of each month. Content of articles and other submissions must be in harmony with the mission of the congregation and serve to promote unity and fellowship among God's people.

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Tuesday through Thursday
8:30am-3:30pm

MISSION STATEMENT
Embraced by God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, we share hope and healing within and throughout our community.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"The Lord's Prayer"

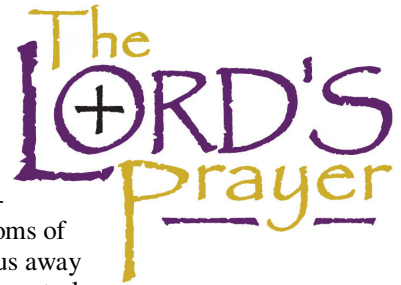
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

We end our translation of the Lord's Prayer with a doxology – a praise of God and an acknowledgement of God's kingdom, power and glory. This ending is not found in all manuscripts of the Bible and isn't found in the translation that we use in worship. But it was not uncommon for the Jewish people to end their prayers with praise of God, so the Jewish Christians of the Early Church may have done the same. Similar words can be found in 1 Chronicles 29:11 and they are a true and fitting ending for this prayer.

Ending the prayer with these words provides brackets at the beginning and the end – for just as we begin the prayer with God, so we end in the same way. We begin with the assurance that God's name, God's will, and God's kingdom govern all of life. That assurance gives us the confidence to continue praying. If God wasn't in charge, why call on God at all?

In the center of the prayer, we present our needs and hopes to God. By asking for daily bread, we admit to ourselves that it is God who provides all that we have. We live in a state of grace, knowing that forgiveness is there for all of our failings. And we commit to spreading grace and forgiveness to others. When the dark days come, we know that God will never leave us and will strengthen us in all that happens.

And then, at the end, when we should be loudly shouting, we say the final phrase quietly and maybe even quickly. The prayer is almost over and we need to move on to the next item in the liturgy, or the next prayer request, or the next task in our busy lives. But if there is any time that we should be declaring with loud and triumphant voices, it is now. For if the kingdoms of this world, and the powers and principalities that strive to draw us away from God, and the glory of fame and riches are not under God's control, then why pray at all? But because all of those things and because all things under heaven and on earth are under God's control, we can pray and we do pray.



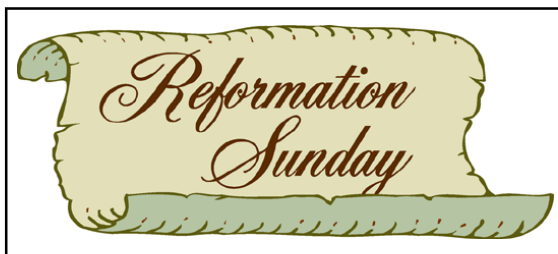
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Becky Graef, Deaconess

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all services are from the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

	Day	Time & Service	Time & Service
Sept. 5	Pentecost 15	8:00am, Morning Prayer "Come, Let us Sing" Setting	10:45am, Holy Communion "Tree of Life" Setting
Sept. 12	Pentecost 16	8:00am, Holy Communion "Tree of Life" Setting	10:45am, Morning Prayer "Come, Let us Sing" Setting
Sept. 19	Pentecost 17	8:00am, Morning Prayer "Come, Let us Sing" Setting	10:45am, Holy Communion "Tree of Life" Setting
Sept. 26	Pentecost 18	8:00am, Holy Communion "Tree of Life" Setting	10:45am, Morning Prayer "Come, Let us Sing" Setting
Oct. 3	Pentecost 19	8:00am, Morning Prayer	10:45am, Holy Communion
Oct. 10	Pentecost 20	8:00am, Holy Communion	10:45am, Morning Prayer



Special plans are in the works for worship and following.

*Mark your calendars:
Sunday, October 31!*

Assisting Ministers' Schedule, September 5 — October 10

	Hour	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Cantors	Communion Assistants	Intercessors	Lectors	Ushers
September 5 15th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am			D. Porter			A. Lyons	B. Kehe & K. Kehe
	10:45am	H. Albers	D. Albers	L. Frost	I. Nimtz	D. Albers	D. Albers	A. & F. Marton
September 12 16th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am	J. Grossnickle	E. Bradshaw	M. Kersten	1. T. Prange 2. D. Kehe	J. Szoke	J. Kilpinen	K. Eichstaedt & K. Hoge
	10:45am			P. Nord			S. Nord	M. Zasada & OPEN
September 19 17th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am			B. Berner			B. Kehe	L. Berner & A. Lyons
	10:45am	A. Price	B. Kehe	L. Frost	A. Brandt	M. Chambers	M. Chambers	B. & M. Lindner
September 26 18th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am	E. Gustafson	L. Berner	F. Schultz	1. D. Pilz 2. D. Allwardt	B. Kehe	D. Pilz	K. Eichstaedt & S. Szoke
	10:45am			F. Schultz			M. Price	D. & M. Chambers
October 3 19th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am			OPEN			A. Lyons	J. & C. Splitgerber
	10:45am	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	M. Chambers	M. Chambers	OPEN & OPEN
October 10 20th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	1. OPEN 2. OPEN	J. Szoke	OPEN	OPEN & OPEN
	10:45am			OPEN			OPEN	M. Zasada & OPEN

NOTE: As always, it is VERY helpful if Assisting Ministers take the time to SIGN-UP themselves, rather than be scheduled by the office. If you would RATHER have the office "assign" you a time, please just let Becky Graef know.

KINGDOM QUEST

(Continued from page 1)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The FMLC puppet team is already forming, but could always use additions to the "cast of characters". In *Kingdom Quest* the puppets provide the "set up" for teaching. As a result kids are more ready to see how God's word answers a need in their lives.

Large group presenters help to oversee the entire presentation so that kids are fully engaged with the message. Each week *Kingdom Quest* lessons are organized around a single "take home point" reinforced throughout the large group presentation.

Shepherds have the most one-on-one time with the children of the Sunday School. Shepherds serve in a different way than the traditional Sunday School "teacher", focused more on activities than on just talking to the students.

Kingdom Quest begins on Sunday, September 12. It's so much fun ... you'll wish you were a kid again!

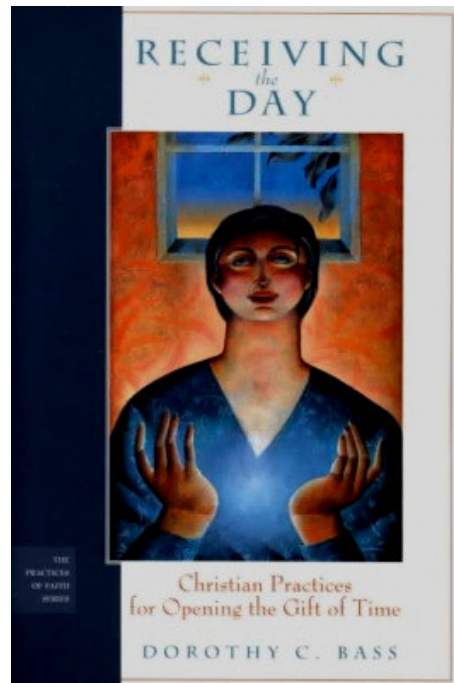


BOOK STUDIES

(Continued from page 1)

the book through the months of September and October and, if necessary, even into November.

The Thursday Morning Bible Study meets at the church beginning at 9:30am.



THE LAZARUS LIFE

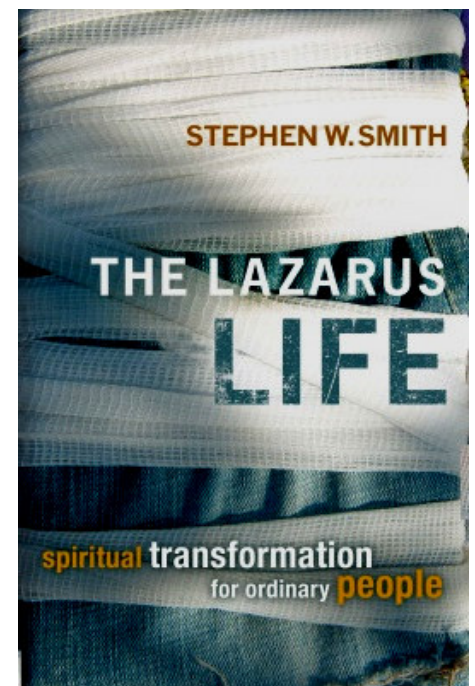
Last spring Pastor Albers led the Thursday Morning Bible Study through a study of a most helpful resource, "The Lazarus Life: Spiritual Transformation for Ordinary People." This fall Pastor Albers and Joy Martinsen will be using the book on Wednesday mornings.

The book is a look at the story of Lazarus from the 11th chapter of John's

gospel. This familiar story comes alive for the reader in this presentation by Stephen W. Smith. He takes, as one reviewer commented, "a profound walk through the life of Lazarus, a story that offers remarkable insights into our own spiritual transformation."

The small group meets over coffee (and a bagel or other breakfast item) at The Bow Coffeeshop near the new Valparaiso YMCA in Cumberland Crossing.

The conversation begins at 6:45am and ends no later than 7:45am.



If you have a book or topic of interest and would like to help start a study group, speak with Pastor Albers.



The Runaway Son

Jesus loved to tell stories. In this story a loving father welcomes home his son who ran away. He wasted all his money and had nothing to eat. Instead of punishing his son, he happily welcomes him home. Come learn more at Kingdom Quest on Sunday morning at 9:30am!

HELP WANTED

NEW POST: Faith Memorial Photographer
OLD POST: Membership Clerk

Consider this your invitation to help with various aspects of ministry at FMLC.

MISSING ANYTHING?

Missing anything in this edition of THE FAITHFUL REPORTER? In the past month we gathered for a major planning event including several dozen congregational leaders ... dozens more came together for fun and fellowship at the annual church picnic. What's missing? Photos of either event!

If taking photos is your "thing", consider signing up to be identified as an "official" FMLC Photographer. It may not get you into as many places as being with the Associated Press, but your work will certainly help share the

joy of ministry together at Faith Memorial. Speak with Pastor Albers to indicate your interest and to get more organized.

KEEPING TRACK

Membership records are an easily overlooked but important piece of ministry at Faith Memorial. Although records are mostly up-to-date, the activities of a Membership Clerk would be to make sure any gaps are filled and records are kept up-to-date moving forward.

The clerk would work closely with Debbie Lamb, our office staff. Although experience with computer data base is helpful, it is not required.

PLANS FOR OUTREACH

(Continued from page 1)

planning, on how to get from here to there.

After spending some time using Carmel Lutheran Church as an example, he challenged the group to develop ideas for discipleship.

No one at FMLC would be surprised that the group was in no way at a loss for ideas! Dozens of ideas came to the surface. After a process of combining and the participants "voting" for their preferences several ideas rose to the top and will get some significant attention in the coming months.

NO SURPRISE HERE

Everyone agreed that FMLC needs to do a better job of receiving visitors and newcomers, of working to change the prevailing "culture" from one that focuses on the current member to one that engages everyone in receiving new disciples into the life of the congregation.

One focus group is working on that very challenge, and already has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 14. The plan will be to have a new "greeters" ministry in place by Sunday, October 3, working more intentionally to welcome newcomers and encourage their participation in the life of the congregation.

A NEW IDEA

Even before August 21 one member had an idea that seemed to "have legs" (as they say). The first Faith Memorial "Prayer Walk" is being scheduled for Sunday, October 31.

Don't know what a "Prayer Walk" is? Don't worry, you will by the end of October. The target neighborhood is near Kirchoff Park in Valparaiso. Watch THE FAITHFUL REPORTER and the bulletin *Announcements* for more information.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

The group kept working to think "outside the box" on how Faith Memorial can reach out into the community. Another group began to brainstorm a bit on how we might better make use of our ample property in a way that would connect with the community.

The group is working to narrow their scope a bit, but several ideas came to the surface: everything from a community vegetable garden to a prayer garden to welcome the community.

AND EVEN MORE

Two other ideas didn't get much development at the gathering, but were right up there near the top of the group's priorities.

Many folks agreed that FMLC needs to do more to raise our visibility in the community, including the use of technology (like the website).

Everyone agreed that it is time to study the feasibility of opening a preschool or day care ministry, especially with the construction of the new Porter Hospital just "down the street and around the corner".

Check out the list on the next page for other items already underway or assigned to another ministry team.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

More new pieces to add to an already varied music and worship ministry

It's been this way for decades. Faith Memorial has regularly drawn from a variety of resources when it comes to the ministry of music and worship.

If you haven't noticed, it's continued this past summer. More plans are underway for the fall.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Over the past several years Deaconess Becky Graef has made sure the psalms we sing each week reflect a variety of settings and styles.

In the past several months simple — and in some cases very ancient — changes to the way we sing together have provided even more variety. "Antiphonal" singing means that two groups essentially "take turns" singing a phrase or stanza at a time.

Singing in "canon", commonly known as a "round", involves layering one group's sound on top of another resulting in some wonderful harmonies.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Paying attention can sometimes pay off. While on vacation this summer Deaconess Graef noticed another congregation using a "litany" in places where a prayer is usual spoken only by the presiding or assisting minister.

She located the resource the other congregation is using and plans, later this fall, to introduce this form in our worship, especially for the Prayer of the Day or the Offertory Prayer.

LITURGICAL SETTINGS

Faith Memorial continues to regularly use and know well nearly a dozen liturgical settings, at least FIVE settings for Holy Communion, TWO settings for Morning Prayer, another NON-COMMUNION setting, and TWO settings for Evening prayer.

Many of these settings are led from the organ, but about 1/3rd of them are led from the piano, giving the worship that morning a more "contemporary" feel.

If you experience something in worship as you visit other churches, especially other sister Lutheran congregations, bring Pastor Albers or Deaconess Becky Graef a bulletin. Maybe we would want to consider introducing it as part of our worship life.

DO THE SHUFFLE!

Education Ministry Team shuffles responsibilities and adds key leaders

The new "Ministry Team" way of organizing congregational ministries is getting a test in a critical area of ministry: education.

The intent is to organize all Education Ministry efforts ... from preschoolers to adults, from new members to those who have only known FMLC as their church home ... under one umbrella.

The result will be the Education Ministry Team. At present three key leaders are in place with Pastor Albers providing additional leadership and resources as necessary.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The biggest "shuffle" will be seen in the area of youth ministry. Garett Ellis, a newcomer at FMLC, will be providing leadership in the area of Youth Education, including Junior Youth (confirmation) and High School Youth, both on Sunday morning and midweek. Obviously he cannot do all the teaching. His job will be to include others in this vital ministry.

Sherri Nord will be taking on primary leadership in the area of Youth Events and Activities, including sepa-

rate events specifically designed for Junior and Senior Youth. Again, Sherri's job will include involving other adults leaders.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Debra Albers will move from Youth Formation (confirmation) to Sunday School ministry. Her first project is the introduction of the new Kingdom Quest Sunday School curriculum.

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Pastor Albers will still be the primary leader in this area of ministry, although he continues to seek others who want to take the lead in "planning" and "organizing", so that he can focus on the job of teaching.

TEAM LEADER

The goal is that, by the end of 2011, each team has a strong Ministry Team Leader in place. Garett Ellis will be helping out in this position through the middle of 2011, but working to find his own replacement by the time he heads to the seminary at the beginning of next school year.

CHOIR PLANS

Sign up ... early and often!

Call it "Chicago Style Church Choir" ... when next in the narthex, sign up early and often to sing with the Adult Choir this fall.

PLANS ADJUSTED

The plans for choir this year have been adjusted in an attempt to better fit the schedules and ability of singers to make a commitment to rehearsals.

Instead of singing for a "season", the FMLC choir will be organized to sing for several worship services and events.

The Reformation Day choir will sing on Sunday, October 31, rehearsing each of the Thursday evenings in October.

Similarly, the Thanksgiving Eve choir will sing on Wednesday evening, November 24, and rehearse the first three Thursdays in November.

Finally, the Christmas Choir will sing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, rehearsing the first three Thursdays in December and on Wednesday, December 22.

In other words, if you want a church choir, its here for you, through the months of October, November and December.

If, on the other hand, you have some travel or other plans that will cause you to miss lots of rehearsals, you can sign up for only the choir that fits your schedule.

RECRUIT NEW SINGERS

One goal of the plan this fall is to recruit new singers for the choir, giving them an opportunity to "test the waters" before making a long-term commitment.

If you hear someone singing behind you, suggest to them the possibility of joining one or more of the choirs this fall.

Currently, the plan is to do duplicate this model in the spring and reassess the number of singers available and commitment level before securing the services of another student choir director in the fall of 2011.



Join the Choir...

ADDITIONAL PLANS FOR MINISTRY

Outreach Planning leaves other items still "in the works"

The outreach planning event on August 21 helped get some new ideas "brewing", but it also reminded the participants of the many things already "on the table".

Take a look at the list below and see which ones are the most interesting for you. If so, speak with Pastor Albers or the designated ministry team leader for more information.

OTHER NEW IDEAS

Here's a couple of new ideas that could use a bit more attention. Interested in taking the lead?

- Expanded "elder care" including more shut-in contact, a tape ministry (recordings of services), or even elder "day care".
- Forming new small groups for single parents or empty-nesters, college students or 20-somethings. Others might want to focus on strengthening current small groups (such as the WWW group).

ALREADY A PART OF FMLC

There were several other ideas brought to the table during the plan-

ning event that "take advantage" of relationships and ideas that have already been a part of the ministry at FMLC.

- Strengthen our congregation's ties to Gloria Dei, especially between youth groups.
- Repeat the successful "Free Will Sale" that was held at FMLC last year.
- Strengthen our participation in the Relay for Life event, expanding the possibilities for outreach.
- Continue our participation with Rebuilding Together in Valparaiso and Duneland, again looking for ways to better identify ourselves and highlight our participation.
- Work with the Men's Overnight Shelter ministry beginning again in the middle of October.

In short there is no lack of opportunities. Pastor Albers and congregational leaders will be working even more diligently to RECRUIT you to be an active part of at least one of these endeavors.

ORGANIZING FOR MINISTRY

Ministry Team Development ... Anyone interested?

In the coming months the focus of this article will be "Organizing For Ministry". There are changes that have already been implemented in the way we get ministry done, and more changes will happen along the way.

This third in a series of articles focused of what might be the most critical part of our congregational re-organization, the formation of new Ministry Teams.

A NEW IDEA

The previous way of "doing business" involved establishing, through congregational bylaws, ministry boards who were responsible for various aspects of congregational ministry.

Each year the goal was getting the boards organized by finding at least one person to serve as "chairperson."

The new idea places ministry ahead of personnel. The new way of doing business involves identifying the need for ministry and then gathering a team to organize for action.

The new idea is intended to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of ministry now and in the future.

INITIAL TEAMS

Although not every team is organized as completely as others, Pastor Albers has

identified SIX ministry teams and has begun to ask various individuals to take on specific roles in either leading those teams or taking on a specific task.

These teams are:

- o Education
- o Music and Worship
- o Outreach
- o Community
- o Resources
- o Marketing and Communication

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

The first two teams are ready to "hit the ground running", as it were. Several people are already working in the areas of Education and Music and Worship.

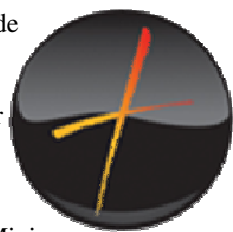
Although there is plenty of opportunity for growth in ministry, there is already ministry in place.

Garet Ellis (See "A New Face at FMLC", page 10) is stepping into the role of Education Ministry Team Leader through the middle of next year while Deaconess Becky Graef will continue as Music and Worship Ministry Team Leader.

GETTING RE-ORGANIZED

The former Board of Social Ministry was busy ... it was ALWAYS busy. In his vision for re-organization Pastor

Albers plans to divide the duties between two ministry teams and then add to their duties as leaders step up and get organized.



The Outreach Ministry Team will take on the "events" that were previously organized by the Board of Social Ministry (Relay for Life, Rebuilding Together, Day of Caring, etc.) while the Community Ministry Team will take on the projects designed to engage FMLC disciples in direct service to others (homeless shelter, food baskets, etc.). We are still seeking ministry team leaders for these two groups.

The last two ministry Teams are the least developed in their plans. Each team is a bit less defined than others. In fact, in a larger congregation the Resources Ministry Team might be divided into at least two teams.

The Marketing and Communication Ministry Team would take over primary responsibility for many items already being produced, working with Pastor Albers to help "coordinate" work on the website and THE FAITHFUL REPORTER.

INTERESTING E-MAIL

One messages from another church newsletter; and one from a faithful reader of THE FAITHFUL REPORTER.

A LITTLE HUMOR

1. God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts.
2. "Dear God: I have a problem. It's me." My dear child: I have the solution. It's ME!"
3. Growing old is inevitable ... growing up is optional.
4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
5. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
6. Do the math ... count your blessings.
7. Faith the ability to not panic.
8. Laugh every day. It's like inner jogging.
9. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
10. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
11. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.
12. The most important things in your house are the people.
13. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so he can untangle the knot.

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family.

The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it.

When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem"

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife.

After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears.

Their only cow, whose milk had

been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen?

The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied.

"When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it."

"Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem."



If you have an interesting e-mail that you would like to share, send it to newsletter@faithmemorial.net.

LEARNING COMMUNITY UPDATE

A blessing for Pastor Albers and a valuable resource

A significant part of the revitalization “plan” is for Pastor Albers to join a local “Learning Community”. This Learning Community is intentional about its purpose: to study and learn together, holding each other accountable along the way.

BOOK STUDY

Each month the assignment to each member of the group involves reading a book in preparation for discussion with the others.

A majority of the books the group reads focus on the topic of leadership. Recently the group completed a study of *Effective Church Leadership: Building on the 12 Keys*. The book was a follow-up to the author’s *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*.

In September the group will be discussing the book, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable*. This book and others the group has read in the past year are not necessarily about “church” leadership or having any relationship to “faith”. Some of the principles, however, can be extremely helpful as the pastors grow in their skills as leaders.

RESOURCES

Recently the group has become more active in sharing with one another various

resources for ministry. For example: this fall three of the five congregations represented by this Learning Community will be using *Kingdom Quest* from *Kid’s Kount Publishing*.

Before we “signed-on” and purchased the materials, Sunday School leaders from FMLC were able to visit St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kouts and get a “first-hand” look at how they are implementing the materials.

Pastor Albers is going to suggest a joint training event to be held later this year for *Kingdom Quest* leaders from each congregation. Two or three joint meetings a year can only help to support others in their endeavors.

OTHER IDEAS

When one member suggested the possibility of getting youth groups from similar-sized congregations together for fellowship and other activities, the first group that Pastor Albers thought about were other congregations in this Learning Community. While one congregation is a good distance from Valparaiso, others are in Portage, Merrillville, and Kouts. In other words: just down the road.

Look for more information coming out of this Learning Community in the coming months.

EVENT REMINDERS

Each month FMLC helps with services designed to bring word and sacrament ministry to those who cannot attend worship regularly.

WHISPERING PINES

Service of the Word
4th Sunday at 2:00pm

PINES VILLAGE

Holy Communion
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 2:00pm
(Pastor Albers leads on the 1st Thursday. A pastor from Immanuel, Valpo leads on the 3rd Thursday.)

THRIVENT CHOICE

Remember to direct dollars to Faith Memorial

Thrivent Choice is a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership in Thrivent Financial for Lutheran intended to connect Thrivent members more directly in supporting the organizations important to them.

CHOICE DOLLARS

Through Thrivent Choice Dollars, eligible benefit members can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable funds among thousands of Lutheran organizations, including Faith Memorial Lutheran Church.

The amount of Choice Dollars available to Thrivent members depends on their level of participation with Thrivent, including premiums as well as participation in chapter leadership.

ON-LINE OR CALL IN

Visit www.thrivent.com/choicedollars. If you are not a registered user, you will have to create a username and password. To register you will need either your Thrivent ID or Social Security number. Additionally, you will need your Contract Number or Birthday.

Once you are logged in, click on the “Direct Choice Dollars” link, then searching for “Faith Memorial” in “Valparaiso, IN” and following the directions.

You will also be able to set up a “Recurring Direction” which means that Faith Memorial will continue to receive Choice Dollars whenever your Choice Dollars balance reaches \$10 and until you would make a change in how you wanted your Choice Dollars used.

For those who are not on-line, call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice”.

Choice Dollars for 2010 must be directed by March 31, 2011.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN OUR CHURCH SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 9, 9:30am Classroom	New Book Study Begins <i>Receiving the Day</i>
Sunday, September 12, 9:30am Gathering Space	Sunday School Rally Day <i>New Adult Bible Studies begin</i>
Wednesday, September 15, 6:45am The Bow Coffeeshop	New Book Study Begins <i>The Lazarus Life</i>
Sunday, September 19, 9:00am Gathering Space	What’s Happening!!
Saturday, October 16, 6:00pm Immanuel Lutheran School	Staff Men’s Overnight Shelter
Sunday, October 17, 9:00am Gathering Space	What’s Happening!!
Saturday, October 30, 6:00pm Immanuel Lutheran School	Staff Men’s Overnight Shelter
Sunday, October 31, 9:30am Sanctuary	Reformation Sunday <i>Festival Service with Holy Communion</i>
Sunday, October 31, 11:00am Kirchoff Park, Valparaiso	Prayer Walk
Sunday, November 7, 8:00am & 10:45am Sanctuary	All Saints’ Sunday <i>with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed</i>
Sunday, November 7, 9:30am Narthex	Memorial Wall Dedication

Special Events

THE FINANCIAL REPORTER

Actual through 8/31/2010

Financial data is hidden in the online version. Members should contact the church office for the latest information.

More detailed reports of income and expenses are available to those who would like to review them. Send an email to office@faithmemorial.net or call 462-7684.

Board of Directors Update

The Board of Directors met last on Wednesday, August 18. The primary item on the agenda, the "Annual Action Plan of the Pastor" was presented in "draft" form.

One reason the plan was not completed is that Pastor Albers underestimated the amount of time it would take to gather input from congregational members. More members wanted to offer input. Many ideas will take significant "editing" to prepare a plan that can be realistically accomplished.

The second reason was a matter of poor planning! The Board was meeting three days in advance of the *It's About Discipleship* event, an event that was designed to add items to the overall congregational plan. "Any plan," pastor observed, "must include ideas that are a result of that event."

Pastor Albers will present a final draft of his action plan at the September meeting of the Board of Directors currently scheduled for September 21. (It may be rescheduled due to conflicts with the schedule of one board member.)

In other business the Board enthusiastically approved the use of the *Kingdom Quest* Sunday School curriculum from *Kid's Kount Publishing*. Pastor Albers has approached a family about using memorial funds for the significant start-up investment required. If the family does not agree, a Foundation Fund grant will be used for the purchase.

If you have any input, please speak with Pastor Albers or a member of the Board: Jon Kilpinen (president), Laura Frost, Dorothy Kehe, or David Pilz.

A NEW FACE AT FAITH MEMORIAL

So new we don't even have a photo!

Garet and Bethany Ellis are more familiar to the usual 10:45am "crowd" than those who attend the 8:00am service. Garet and Bethany have been familiar faces at Faith Memorial since Sunday, August 16, 2009. (It's not that Pastor Albers has such a great memory, it's that Garet and Bethany were so interested in getting involved that the first Sunday they visited they also came to the church picnic last summer!)

This year Garet will be taking a leadership role in the Education Ministry Team and, in particular, with Youth Education and Formation.

GARET'S BACKGROUND

Garet comes to Faith Memorial with a perfect background for helping us with Youth Education and Formation and in general with strengthening the Education Ministry Team as it is formed over the next several months.

Before coming to the Valparaiso area Garet spent about a year and a half working at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield, NJ, as its Director of Family Life Ministry. Last year Garet spent teaching religion at Holt Lutheran Schools, a ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Holt, Michigan. (Turns out, Garet is an alum of Holt Lutheran Schools!)

Garet is in Valparaiso this year to be with his wife, Bethany, who is a graduate student at Valparaiso University. She and Garet were just married in July. He plans to attend the seminary next fall.

THIS YEAR'S PLAN

After talking with Pastor Albers and others actively involved in the Education Ministries at Faith Memorial, it was decided that the best way to use Garet's skill and interest was in a leadership role in the area of Youth Education and Formation Ministry. (See "*Do the Shuffle*", page 7.)

When asked, Garet said that his plans this year are "to work with the congregation and its leaders to continue to spread the message of Christ to the families and youth of the congregation and the community. I plan on helping the education team explore new possibilities and ideas."

When it comes to the youth most specially, Garet plans to "work with the youth as they grow in their relationship with Christ."

CONTACT GARET

If you would like to be more active with the Education Ministry Team or help most specifically with the Youth Education and Formation Ministry, send an email to gellis@faithmemorial.net. Or, you can plan on meeting Garet and Bethany in worship on Sunday morning (usually at 10:45am).

WHAT'S NEXT?

Plans for the fall

The fall has regularly been a busy time at Faith Memorial; lots and lots of meetings to do the "business" that keeps an organization running. This year those tasks fall to Pastor Albers, the Board of Directors, and its two Standing Committees.

NOMINATIONS

The President of the Congregation, Jon Kilpinen, will soon be appointing a Nominating Committee consisting of one current member of the Board of Directors and two other members of the congregation.

There are but two persons to be elected by the Voters' Assembly this year. Two of the four initial directors were elected to two-year terms, while the others were elected to one-year terms. Both of these directors are eligible to serve an additional two-year term but others are encouraged to speak up once the Nominating Committee has been appointed.

All other leaders are appointed by the Board of Directors of Pastor Albers.

2011 BUDGET

The Board of Directors through one of its standing committees, the Finance Committee, will soon begin work on the 2011 Ministry Budget. Pastor Albers and the Board of Directors have already committed to preparing a budget that can be realistically presented as a "balanced" budget. It will be difficult and, indeed, may prove impossible.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be scheduled in November. Watch THE FAITHFUL REPORTER and the weekly bulleting *Announcements* for more information.

Lectionary Focus

This resource is provided so that the readings and other resources we use in worship each week might be used in your personal or family bible study. Consider using these resources to prepare for worship or to review the lessons and other resources following worship. Typically this page will include information for the current month plus one or two Sundays as space allows.

The Time of the Church Sundays after Pentecost

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 5, 2010

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, *Walk in the way of life*

Psalm 1, *The LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.* (Ps. 1:6)

Philemon 1-21, *Paul says, Receive Onesimus*

Luke 14:25-35, *Give up your possessions*

16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 12, 2010

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Ezekiel 34:11-24, *Moses begs forgiveness*

Psalm 119:169-176, *I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.* (Ps 119:176)

1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17, *Christ Jesus came for sinners*

Luke 15:1-10, *Lost sheep and lost coin*

17th Sunday after Pentecost, September 19, 2010

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Amos 8:4-7, *Those who trample the needy*

Psalm 113, *From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!* (Ps 113:3)

1 Timothy 2:1-15, *One God, one mediator*

Luke 16:1-15, *Serving God or wealth*

18th Sunday after Pentecost, September 26, 2010

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Amos 6:1-7, *Warnings to the wealthy*

Psalm 146, *I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.* (Ps 146:2)

1 Timothy 6:6-19, *Pursuing God's justice*

Luke 16:19-31, *Poor Lazarus and the rich man*

19th Sunday after Pentecost, October 3, 2010

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, *The wicked surround the righteous*

Psalm 62, *For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.* (Ps 62:1)

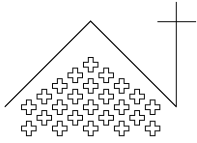
2 Timothy 1:1-14, *Guard the treasure entrusted to you*

Luke 17:1-10, *Faith the size of a mustard seed*

A Note on Proper Numbers ...

The LC-MS lectionary follows the same counting pattern as the Revised Common Lectionary and “connects” the two “green” seasons by continuing a series of readings begun near the end of the Sundays after Epiphany into the season of the Sundays after Pentecost. If the Time after Epiphany is long enough, Propers 1 & 2 come at the end of the first “green” season.

- *The “green” season began on June 6, with the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost ... proper 5 this year.*
- *We “regularly” skip 2 or 3 readings each year, but they “move” a bit, so that the same ones are not skipped each year.*
- *This year we “skipped” Propers 2 through 4, noticed most in the Gospel and NT readings which are read “semi-continuously.”*
- *The result is that the series of readings ends in November with propers 28 & 29 (just like every other year).*
- *Can you imagine, in just a few months a new year begins! (A new church year, that is. Can you calculate which Sunday that is in November?)*



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Celebrations!



BIRTHDAYS September

ANNIVERSARIES September



- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 Tamara H. | 16 Karen A. | 3 Andy & Linda | 32 years |
| 3 Earl S. | 21 John F. | 5 Tom & Inge | 46 years |
| 4 David A. | Bruce K. | Kirk & Ingrid | 24 years |
| 6 Wendy B. | Phyllis M. | 6 Dave & Ilona | 35 years |
| 8 Jacob G. | 21 Veronica W. | 8 Mike & Erin | 20 years |
| 9 Adison F. | 22 Ilona A. | 12 Jon & Mary | 23 years |
| 10 Katlyn J. | 23 Cindy S. | 18 Lee & Karen | 56 years |
| Dorothy K. | 26 Carlene S. | 25 Carl & Bonnie | 43 years |
| Bruce L. | 26 Will T. | Jay & Roxanne | 28 years |
| Amanda M. | 28 Monika Y. | | |
| 11 Joseph K. | 30 Annette F. | | |
| 12 Lois K. | Nancy K. | | |
| Aaron P. | Samuel P. | | |
| 15 Kristen D. | | | |
| Andy H. | | | |
| Riley M. | | | |
| Herb S. | | | |

Due to the privacy of personal information, last names are either abbreviated or eliminated in the online version. Members are encouraged to call the church office for complete information.

Did we miss one?

Check the dates if you celebrate a birthday or anniversary this month. Put a note on the desk in the church office or send a note to office@faithmemorial.net.