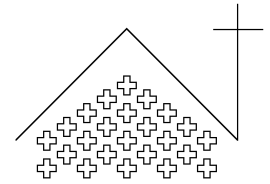


# THE FAITHFUL REPORTER



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. 9, October, 2010

## WALK THE WALK

Be a part of the first-ever FMLC Prayer Walk

You've heard the phrase, "If you're going to talk the talk, you've got to walk the walk."

On Reformation Day, October 31, you will be given the opportunity to do just that, "walk the walk", that is.

### THE CONCEPT

The idea is rather simple, take a walk through a neighborhood with the idea of praying for our community and, in particular, the people of that neighborhood.

Participants from FMLC will, after receiving a bit of training during the Education Hour, be sent out two-by-two into the neighborhood, knocking on doors with a rather simple three-part presentation:

1. We're from Faith Memorial Lutheran Church and we're walking the neighborhood today as we get ready to pray for our community and this neighborhood.
2. Can we include anything from you or your family in our prayers?
3. If you want to join us, we're going to gather at 1:30pm at the picnic shelter in Miller Woods (at the end of Institute St. near Parkview School).

### THE IMPACT

Those who are organizing the event hope that it makes a dramatic impact on the neighborhood we visit (Blaylocks



neighborhood in Valparaiso), the greater Valparaiso community, and those from FMLC who participate in the walk.

(See "Prayer Walk," page 4)

## BIBLE STUDY PARTICIPATION INCREASES

Plans in the works to help sustain that growth

The week of September 19, 37 individuals from Faith Memorial participated in some form of Adult Bible Study — and that includes only those who participated in one of the four studies at FMLC.

The reasons may have something to do with the current Bible Study offerings, or a commitment on the part of individuals to make participation in Bible Study an intentional part of their Sunday morning or weekly plan.

Either way, hopefully it is part of a larger trend.

### CURRENT OFFERINGS

The books studies have started, and will continue, throughout the month of October. Wednesday Morning the small group is contemplating the gift of "time"

as they read and discuss *Receiving the Day* by Dorothy Bass.

The Thursday morning group are contemplating spiritual transformation using the story of Lazarus from John 11 as an outline. A book by Stephen W. Smith, *The Lazarus Life*, serves as a guidebook for the study and conversation.

On Sunday Mornings a DVD series presented by Bruce Berner has drawn in as many as 20 participants, while the class *Outreach Discipleship* led by Pastor Albers has averaged another 11 people.

### CURRENT OFFERINGS

While these numbers may not seem all that spectacular, they represent a significant increase from the "norm". In the  
(See "Bible Study," page 6)

## MEMORIAL WALL

New addition to the narthex to be dedicated on All Saints Sunday

It's been taking shape for months now, but it may have gone mostly unnoticed. Actually, that's because the new Memorial Wall has been a part of the Narthex since it's renovation many years ago, but only recently have the original plans come to completion.

### REMEMBRANCE

While we have not filled our building with memorial plaques, there are a few reminders of note, mostly near pieces of artwork that have been created for a special occasion or to remember a loved one.

Now the crosses that form the FMLC logo in the narthex will add to the more obvious reminders of those persons who have "gone before us with the sign of faith" as the prayer on All Saints' Sunday reminds us.

Faith Memorial appreciates the purpose of remembrance, of calling to mind these persons, that they and we were "created by God to offer him praise and thanksgiving forever."

Over the years our remembrance on All Saints Sunday has taken on a scale

(See "Memorial Wall Dedication," page 9)

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# Pastor's Perspective

## LEARN FROM DAISY ... AND MELODIE

She doesn't wait for me to find her. She's not happy to stay in the basement ... or upstairs ... or behind a door ... when I come home. She wants to see me and makes it very obvious, how happy she is to see me.

I refer now to our dog, Daisy, a small Maltise who can be quite adorable, especially when she's jumping up and down, tail wagging, demonstrating in some very clear ways that she is thrilled to see me.

## LEARNING FROM DAISY

I don't want Faith Memorial to be known as the church that "jumps" on visitors and newcomers, but we can learn something from the way that Daisy receives us when we return home. She's *waiting* for us, even *anticipating* our arrival. And she wants to make it very clear that she's *glad to see us*.

How would things change at Faith Memorial if we were *waiting* for visitors and newcomers, even *anticipating* their arrival? Most of our plans for visitors and newcomers involves them coming to us, finding us, finding their own way around Faith Memorial. And, for that matter, we're not *waiting* for them to walk through the door.

I know we are glad to receive visitors and newcomers, but is it unmistakable? Do we make it perfectly clear that we're *glad to see them*? It takes a bit of work on our part.

For that matter, and this could hit close to home, I know we are glad to receive visitors and newcomers, but is it unmistakable? Do we make it perfectly clear that we're *glad to see them*? It takes a bit of work on our part.

## WATCHING MELODIE

There is one flaw in the metaphor, Daisy isn't sure about strangers, especially postal workers (sorry, Dave). So, for a different sort of example for the best way to receive newcomers, I turn to Melodie and the way she works to receive Penny whenever she is at church.

(And, no, the names have NOT been changed to protect the "innocent". Quite the opposite ... Melodie is "guilty" of being a fabulous example of how to welcome the one who is otherwise unknown to us.)

I hope Paul and Sherri don't mind their family being separated from one another during worship. Melodie isn't satisfied to have Penny and her mom sit by themselves, she sits with them and has even been known to bring her sister along to the pew.

How would things change if, instead of being satisfied to have visitors and newcomers sit by themselves and be on their own to find their way through our worship experience, we would seek them out, sit with them, watch carefully to see if they need a bit more assistance in finding their way through our liturgy.

## BE AN EXAMPLE

My challenge to each one of you as we move along the way of revitalization, of doing a better job of receiving into our midst those who are new to us, be an example. Find that one way that is unique to you, the way that you show welcome to others.

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.

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** — In September, Cluster members gathered for their annual Wine and Cheese party. Cluster members should check their schedules for the next gathering of the cluster.

**WWW** — Women Wanting Wisdom gathered on Wednesday evening, September 29, as this edition of THE FAITHFUL REPORTER was "going to press". Hopefully a large group gathered at the home of Dorothy Kehe and plans were made for an October gathering. Watch the weekly bulletin *Announcements* for more information.

**YOUTH NEWS** — The Stockholder's brunch on Sunday, September 26, was a great success, gathering several dozen friends and family who helped to "send" the group to this summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

The slide show and stories from the members of the youth group demonstrated that they gained much by the experience. The Boomwhacker Chorus seemed to be a fun way to end the time together with some folks from the audience "filling in" for missing members of the youth group.

Plans are already in the works for a joint event on Saturday, October 23 (see "Youth to Gather for Service and Fellowship," page 6) and maybe even a Fall Festival for church members and friends before the end of October.

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



"Charlie, we'd prefer you bring the grapes to our harvest festival."

**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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(219) 462-7684

Office Hours:  
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**

*"Autumnal Equinox"*

Well, it's official. Summer is over. The Autumnal Equinox arrived on September 23 and summer left for another year. From now until the Vernal Equinox, the Northern Hemisphere will not be tilted toward the sun and the darkness of each day will last longer. Summer is over and with it went time outside, vacations, swimming, long walks in the evening, barbecues, sitting in the lawn chair. Even if summer was hectic and we had to continue at our jobs, we still carried that child within us who remembers summer as the time of no school. The routine was different. There would be evenings when we stayed up later, not to study, but to catch lightning bugs or play hide and seek. There would be time to be a child and just play.

As adults in this over-stressed, time demanding, deadline oriented culture; we have forgotten the need to rest, relax, and to be like a child. We have forgotten how to play. We seem unable to enjoy simple activities, to wonder at the little things of life, or to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his stories. We adults have lost a crucial part of ourselves, when even our leisure activities take on the nature of how many miles we can drive in one day, or when winning at the pick-up basketball game is more important than the sheer pleasure of playing.

As Christian adults, we have forgotten that "on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" (Genesis 2:2-3) and "Jesus said to them (apostles), "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves." (Mark 6:31-32) And the best verse of all: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me . . ." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-15)

When we don't take a break or rest, we do a disservice to everyone around us. We are not at our best with family, friends, and co-workers. Ultimately, we even thumb our noses at God. We act like we know better than God. Just because God created a day for rest and God rested on that day, that doesn't mean that we need rest. What an insult to our Creator. We must do something to rest and recharge. If we don't, we will not be at our best with others, and we certainly won't have the energy to share the Gospel message.

So, whether we watch the birds, sit in the parking lot with our favorite milk shake, take a short walk, or read one of our favorite stories about Jesus, God calls us to rest. God wants us to rest. Only rested and recharged children of God can be at the work of disciples.

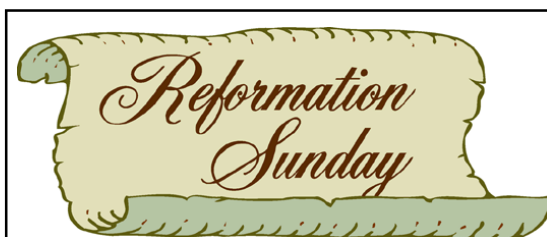
Becky Graef, Deaconess



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

	Day	Time & Service	Time & Service
Oct. 3	Pentecost 19	8:00am, Morning Prayer	10:45am, Holy Communion
Oct. 10	Pentecost 20	8:00am, Holy Communion	10:45am, Morning Prayer
Oct. 17	Pentecost 21	8:00am, Morning Prayer	10:45am, Holy Communion
Oct. 24	Pentecost 20	8:00am, Holy Communion	10:45am, Morning Prayer
Oct. 31	Reformation Day	9:30am, Festival Service with Holy Communion	
Nov. 7	All Saints Sunday	8:00am, Holy Communion <i>with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed</i>	10:45am, Holy Communion <i>with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed</i>



*Mark your calendars:  
Sunday, October 31!  
One Service at 9:30am  
In prepare*

## Assisting Ministers' Schedule, October 3 — November 7

	Hour	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Cantors	Communion Assistants	Intercessors	Lectors	Ushers
October 3 19th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am			<i>D. Porter</i>			A. Lyons	J. & C. Splitgerber
	10:45am	<i>H. Albers</i>	<i>D. Albers</i>	<i>P. Nord</i>	1. Nimtz 2. M. Porter	M. Chambers	M. Chambers	A. & F. Marton
October 10 20th Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am	J. Kilpinen	<i>H. Fryman</i>	<i>C. Kilpinen</i>	1. <i>D. Kehe</i> 2. <i>M. Porter</i>	J. Szoke	<i>M. Price</i>	B. Kehe & S. Szoke
	10:45am			<i>L. Frost</i>			<i>D. Albers</i>	<i>M. Zasada &amp; M. Lindner</i>
October 17 21st Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am			<i>B. Berner</i>			<i>B. Kehe</i>	K. Eichstaedt & K. Hoge
	10:45am	<i>A. Price</i>	<i>B. Kehe</i>	<i>P. Nord</i>	<i>A. Brandt</i>	<i>M. Price</i>	<i>M. Price</i>	<i>J. Gottleber &amp; E. Studtmann</i>
October 24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	8:00am	J. Grossnickle	<i>J. Kilpinen</i>	F. Schultz	1. D. Pilz 2. <i>D. Allwardt</i>	T. Prange	<i>J. Kilpinen</i>	<i>B. Kehe &amp; K. Kehe</i>
	10:45am			F. Schultz			<i>S. Nord</i>	D. & M. Chambers
October 31 Reformation Day	9:30am	J. Kilpinen	<i>K. Eichstaedt</i>	Adult Choir	1. D. Pilz 2. C. Splitgerber	A. Lyons	D. Pilz	J. Splitgerber & K. Eichstaedt
November 7 All Saints' Sunday	8:00am	OPEN	<i>H. Fryman</i>	OPEN	1. OPEN 2. OPEN	OPEN	A. Lyons	J. & C. Splitgerber
	10:45am	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	A. & F. Marton

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.

### PRAYER WALK

(Continued from page 1)

We will be sharing information about Faith Memorial congregation, but that is really secondary to the greater purpose of participating together in prayer. God has promised to be present with us and hear us when we pray.

This is just one way that Pastor Albers and other congregational leaders plan to make prayer an even more important part of our life together as God's people in this place.

### THE SCHEDULE

The schedule for this one Sunday will be a bit different. There will be but ONE SERVICE on Reformation Day this year, beginning at 9:30am. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Education Hour will begin at 10:45am. In place of the Adult Bible Study, Prayer Walk Preparation will fill the time. We plan to leave the church at 11:30am to begin our Prayer Walk.

We will gather again for a time of prayer beginning at 1:30pm, but not at church. We've reserved the Picnic Shelter in Miller Woods, at the end of Institute Street east of Roosevelt Rd. in Valparaiso.

### THE COMMITMENT

There are several leaders from Faith Memorial committed to making this first-ever FMLC Prayer Walk a success. These leaders hope that several dozen members join in the walk and the service to follow.

Remember: God has promised to be present with us and hear us when we pray. On Sunday afternoon, October 31, we plan to take God up on his promise in a new and exciting way!

### THE LUTHERAN COURSE

Get to know the basics ... and why Luther's winking!

Beginning Thursday, October 14, "new Lutherans, old Lutherans, and anyone in between" can combine learning with a bit of laughter to learn the basics of what Lutherans confess together.

### SCHEDULE

*The Lutheran Course* is a "look at the basics." In seven sessions participants will hear much about God's grace, and learn about the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and a bit about who Jesus is and what he did. And a couple of "how-tos": "How to read the Bible" and "How to share your faith with someone." (Turns out the best evangelists are those who are new to the faith!)

### WHY "WINKING LUTHER"?

The foreword to the Leader Book for *The Lutheran Course* provides a wonderful explanation for the "Winking Luther" as a logo for this course and the accompanying material, *The Lutheran Handbook*.

"Luther's theology is grounded in paradoxes—sinner/saint, law/gospel, hidden/revealed—and illuminated by a down-to-earth, everyday sense of humor. 'Winking Luther' combines the serious, formal scholarship that was his life's work with the humor and lightheartedness that characterized his personality.

"The wink on Luther's face indicates that, even though theology is serious stuff,

we should nonetheless remind that it is not our theology that saves us, but Jesus Christ. Our life in the church, therefore, can be buoyant, and our theological wranglings can be done with a sense of humor and love for our neighbor."

### FOR NEW AND OLD ALIKE

Hopefully it will not only be "new" folks who find their way to these sessions, but also folks who long ago "completed" confirmation instruction and have since spent little, if any, time thinking about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

### THURSDAY EVENING

These classes will be held on Thursday evenings, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Currently at least two participants are planning to participate, but we can always add one more!

### THE LUTHERAN COURSE

New classes begin on October 14.

Thursday evenings  
6:30pm — 8:00pm



**Thursday, October 7, 7pm**

*Didn't sign up?  
Join the group anyway to prepare for Reformation Day*



## ***Three Men and the Fiery Furnance***

Here's a familiar story, from the book of Daniel. They might look worried, but the three men learned that God is powerful and that they can trust God above all things.

Come learn more at Kingdom Quest on Sunday morning at 9:30am!

**YOUTH TO GATHER FOR SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP**

October 23 event designed to be the first of many

On Saturday, October 23, youth from Faith Memorial will gather with those from other area Lutheran congregations for a time of service and fellowship.

**SERVICE**

Bruce Lindner, as the Executive Director of Porter County Aging and Community Services, and Pastor Albers, in his work with Rebuilding Together, have partnered to provide semi-permanent ramp systems to those in need.

They have two recipients in Liberty Township identified. The youth will be helping assemble the ramps. In a matter of 2 or 3 hours those who previously could not safely enter and exit their home, will be able to.

**FELLOWSHIP**

Sherri Nord and members of the FMLC youth group will be planning a time of fellowship back at the church after the ramps have been assembled.

Youth from Gloria Dei Mission, Holy Cross LC (Portage), St. Paul LC (Kouts), Trinity Memorial LC (Merrillville), and St. Luke LC (Rensselaer) will be included. The last four groups are part of the Revitalization Learning Community that Pastor Albers has been a part of over the past two years.

The plan is that this is the first of many times for service and fellowship together.



**MEN'S OVERNIGHT SHELTER**

Get ready for another year of service

If you are new to Faith Memorial you may not know that there is a unique opportunity for service that others may not know exists.

We are proud to be a part of a coalition of area congregations working to provide safe shelter for homeless men. The shelter works on a "pads" model, providing a simple pad on the floor in the church fellowship hall or school cafeteria. An evening meal and some fellowship provide a place for those who are otherwise "at risk."

**OUR SECOND SEASON**

This is our second full season helping to staff the Valparaiso Men's Overnight Shelter. We staff the shelter on the 3rd and 5th Saturday evenings at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso.

We need to staff just EIGHT evenings between October 15 and April 15 the months the shelter is open.

**SHIFT WORKERS**

The Valparaiso Men's Overnight Shelter gives a new definition to "shift worker." Faith Memorial divides the evening into FOUR shifts.

- The first works from 6pm to 10pm, assisting with the set up and meal.
- The second works from 10pm to 2am, mostly just sitting and reading and chatting with the other staff person.
- The third shift is on from 2am to 5am doing about the same thing. The final shift comes in to help with breakfast and cleanup.

Want to help? See Fran Marton or sign-up in the narthex on Sunday.

**BIBLE STUDY**

*(Continued from page 1)*

past an average of 20-25 individuals would regularly be a part of bible study at Faith Memorial. An increase of 10 or more is huge in comparison.

**DIVERSITY**

If none of the current offerings ... on Sunday mornings or throughout the week ... are interesting, there are a few changes already being planned. The idea is to offer a considerable diversity in that which is offered. Pastor Albers and other church leaders are looking at:

- "Level" of study. Some studies will intentionally be designed for "beginners" while others target a more "advanced" group, at least academically.
- "Topic" for study. A variety of topics will be explored in a blatant attempt to "hook" someone who, in the past, decided bible study just "wasn't for them".
- "Type" of study. Some studies will be designed for open conversation, while others will look more like a "presentation" or even "lecture". Still others will be book studies while some are intended to be more "devotional".

The current offerings are an example of this diversity, as are the plans later in October.

Beginning Sunday, October 17, Deaconess Becky Graef will be leading a study of the Lord's Prayer, *Lord, Teach us to Pray*, a study published by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. (Don't worry, men are in-

vited.) The study is, as Becky describes, a "101" level course designed to encourage sharing and discussion.

Pastor Albers will be leading a study of selected parables, especially parables of the kingdom as told by Jesus and collected by the evangelists.

The study will intentionally take a "closer look" behind the parables, an exegetical and comparative look at the texts of the parables themselves.

**CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVITATION**

Haven't been to Bible Study in a while? Consider this your invitation to be a part of what's planned for study in the next several months at Faith Memorial.

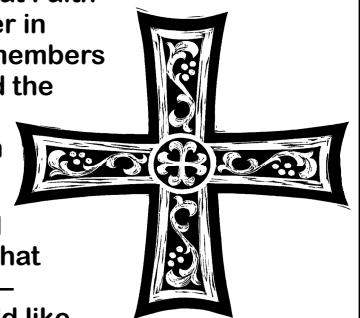
Don't see something which fits? Mention an idea for study to Pastor Albers and see what can come of it.

**REMEMBRANCE OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

**All Saints' Sunday, November 7, 2010**

On All Saints' Sunday it is our tradition at Faith Memorial Lutheran Church to remember in prayer, with thanksgiving, the faithful members of this congregation who have received the ministry of Faith Memorial during their last days and have received a Christian burial.

A Book of Remembrance will be placed in the narthex Sunday, October 17, so that you might submit the names of others — families and friends — whom you would like remembered in prayer on that day.



## WHAT DO THE NUMBERS SAY?

When you're not here ... you're missed!

One of the great things about being part of a congregational family the size of Faith Memorial Lutheran Church, when you are not in worship you are missed!

One of the biggest challenges about being a part of a congregational family like Faith Memorial, when you are not in worship you are missed.

It is one of those "good news/bad news" sort of statistic for a church that averaged 101 people in worship so far in 2010. It can create a more tight-knit family, but when a family of five is on vacation or otherwise not in worship, a full 5% of the congregation is "MIA"!

### TRENDS

When it comes to worship attendance at Faith Memorial, there are a few notable "trends", not the least of which is that any downward "slide" over the past five years appears to have been halted. Worship attendance in 2010 is almost identical to the average for all of 2009.

One "unseen" trend in worship is the number of new persons who have found their way into the pews at Faith Memorial in the last two years. Some of these persons are friends of those already at Faith Memorial. Others are those looking for a new church home. And still others are just "looking",

searching for a place for spiritual feeding and growth.

One trend that is much more noticeable is the "balance" between the numbers of people attending the 8:00am service as compared to those at the 10:45am service. In 2005 nearly 2/3rds of those in worship on any given Sunday were in the "early" service. So far in 2010 just over half (54 of 101) came to worship at 8:00am. The 8:00am service has seen a dramatic decrease in attendance (76 in 2005 as compared to 54 so far in 2010), while the 10:45am has seen a slight increase (41 in 2005 as compared to 47 so far in 2010).

It's no secret that worship attendance in the past five years has "slid", from an average of about 115 per Sunday in 2006 to an average so far in 2010 of just over 100 persons in worship. There was no dramatic "drop".

Many leaders would say that's what made it so difficult. It wasn't one dramatic drop that could be noticed over just a few weeks or months.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The big question, of course, "Why does it matter?" Worship attendance is not some sort of "guarantee" of spiritual growth ... although it is designed to be a big piece of our growth as God's people. Some who miss worship one Sunday are not missing worship at all, but are attending worship with family or friends. In this case, however, it is the community of God's people at Faith Memorial who "miss out" on your participation.

In short, statistics do not tell the whole story, but they can be a window in the world of a congregation, helping us to see something about how God is working in this place and through this place.

	Month (Sep)	YTD	Annual
2010	55/48 103	54/47 101	
2009	55/45 100	57/46 103	55/45 101
2008	60/43 103	59/46 105	58/47 105
2007	60/46 106	64/49 113	62/49 111

## AC AND HEATING SYSTEMS INVENTORIED

What's your unique skill?

The announcement was anything but pleasant concerning the expense and hassle of an air conditioning service call and repair. The response from one member of the FMLC family was the exact opposite. Turns out Chad works in the field of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning installation and repair. "Any time you need help, just give me a call!"

### STEP ONE: INVENTORY

Arpad Marton, Property Director, and Pastor Albers made plans to put this unique skill set to work.

Late last month they met and took an inventory of the equipment at church, getting some basic information such as model and serial numbers and cooling capacity. Chad asked all the right questions, forcing Arpad and Pastor to think a bit more critically about how we ended up with such a collection of equipment, some of it

dating back five decades and other pieces installed just 10 years ago. **MAINTENANCE, UPGRADES, AND OTHER WORK**

It was pleasant to see that the equipment we have is in relatively good order. Repairs to the boiler and adjustments to the controls made last year should continue to save many hundreds of dollars in the winter. There are other possible upgrades that could result in better efficiencies, especially in cooling the offices, the parlor, and several classrooms.

Repairs should be a bit easier to handle going forward. Chad's expertise will mean that our costs will be limited to the cost of parts and, since labor is a good part of any HVAC repair, it should mean some significant savings in the future as well.

### WHAT'S YOUR GIFT?

It may not be in the area of property and equipment maintenance, but

this experience has opened up the possibilities that there are other members of the congregation who have an *under-utilized* gift – specific training or an interest that impacts the congregation's ministry.

Several have already mentioned the idea of an FMLC Garden Club to help with landscaping and otherwise maintain the flower beds surrounding the building. Others have mentioned the need for scraping and staining the siding of the church.

What's your gift?



# ORGANIZING FOR MINISTRY

## Action Plan Presented

This fourth in a series of articles revisits a subject from a couple of months ago, the Annual Action Plan of the Pastor. This time, however, a plan has been presented to the Board of Directors.

### FIRST EVER

There are struggles with any “first ever”, but there is also a sense of anticipation that an intentional plan can better facilitate actual “on the ground” ministry.

In forming this plan Pastor Albers attempted to balance “between filling our congregation’s schedule with meaningful activities that can include a variety of church members and overwhelming a small group of well-intentioned persons who want to make things happen.”

### SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS

The challenge was to identify specific action items in each area of ministry (Education, Music and Worship, Outreach, Community, Resources, and Communications).

By the time the plan was completed there were some 30 individual action items identified. Many of these items indicate that we will “continue” something that is already in place, while others are completely new.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

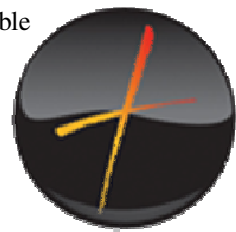
Earlier this year the Board of Directors adopted a set of Guiding Principles focused on three areas of ministry: education, fellowship, and evangelism. Additionally, they identified three accountability principles: finance, communication, and engagement.

Each of the 30 individual action items must be tied to at least one of these principles in order to be included in the overall action plan. If there is no connection, the action item will need to be modified or eliminated from the plan.

### STEWARDSHIP

Another primary principle that Pastor Albers worked to include as he developed

this plan is responsible stewardship. This relates not only to available financial resources, but also to “people” resources (time and abilities).



While one or more idea may not have been made a part of this current action plan, that does not mean it is a “bad” idea or that it would not work well at FMLC.

In this coming year:

- The plan will change and be adapted to fit current circumstances.
- The plan can change based on the demonstration that members of the congregation want to undertake a new project or get involved in a different way.

Look for more information as the Board of Directors reviews the draft of the plan, adjusts it, and then adopts it.

## INTERESTING E-MAIL

*This is one of several interesting emails sent to Pastor Albers by church members this month.*

### THE CHILDREN’S BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL

*A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible.*

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, “The Lord thy God is one”, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, “Give me a light!” and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren’t embarrassed because mirrors hadn’t been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn’t have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than

his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh’s people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don’t lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor’s stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses’ best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn’t sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There

were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don’t have to worry about them.



After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, ‘Close the door! Were you born in a barn?’ It would be nice to say, ‘As a matter of fact, I was.’)

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn’t stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

*If you have an interesting e-mail that you would like to share, send it to [newsletter@faithmemorial.net](mailto:newsletter@faithmemorial.net).*

# LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY



**What:** The Lord's Prayer  
**Who:** College age and older  
**How:** a Bible study from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League with Deaconess Becky Graef guiding the sharing and learning  
**Where:** Third/Fifth grade classroom (first one on your left)  
**When:** Sunday mornings during the Education Hour beginning October 17

## SPECIAL EVENTS IN OUR CHURCH SCHEDULE

<b>Thursday, October 7, 7:00pm</b> Sanctuary	<b>Adult Choir Rehearsals</b> <i>first rehearsal for Reformation Sunday</i>
<b>Thursday, October 14, 6:30pm</b> Classroom	<b>The Lutheran Course</b> <i>first of seven sessions</i>
<b>Saturday, October 16, 6:00pm</b> Immanuel Lutheran School	<b>Staff Men's Overnight Shelter</b>
<b>Sunday, October 17, 9:00am</b> Gathering Space	<b>What's Happening!!</b>
<b>Sunday, October 17, 12:00am</b> Old Towne Banquet Center	<b>Thrivent Chapter Election Dinner</b> <i>for Porter County Chapter Members</i>
<b>Saturday, October 23, 2:00pm</b> Meeting at FMLC	<b>Youth Service and Fellowship</b> <i>with Lutheran youth from other area congregations</i>
<b>Saturday, October 30, 6:00pm</b> Immanuel Lutheran School	<b>Staff Men's Overnight Shelter</b>
<b>Sunday, October 31, 9:30am</b> Sanctuary	<b>Reformation Sunday</b> <i>Festival Service with Holy Communion with Education Hour beginning at 10:45am</i>
<b>Sunday, October 31, 11:30am</b> Kirchoff Park, Valparaiso	<b>Prayer Walk</b>
<b>Sunday, November 7, 8:00am &amp; 10:45am</b> Sanctuary	<b>All Saints' Sunday</b> <i>with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed</i>
<b>Sunday, November 7, 9:15am</b> Narthex	<b>Memorial Wall Dedication</b>
<b>Sunday, November 21, 8:00am &amp; 10:45am</b> Sanctuary	<b>Christ the King Sunday</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 24, 7:00pm</b> Sanctuary	<b>Thanksgiving Eve Service</b>

Special Events

## 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.)

## MEMORIAL WALL DEDICATION

*(Continued from page 1)*

that other congregations would fear. Our size has enabled us to remember ALL of those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, at least all of those who were a part of Faith Memorial Lutheran Church when they died.

In addition to all of these persons, we regularly remember dozens of others — family, friends, neighbors and others.

It is a more "usual" tradition to remember only those who have died since the last All Saints Sunday. The size of other congregations would suggest a reading of names that would take many minutes if not hours.

For that matter, had it not developed as a congregational practice over many years, it is likely that we would have followed a similar practice.

On March 31, 2010, Richard Wienhorst brought the total of those who have died while a member of the Faith Memorial family to 105. Forty of those names have been added in the past 18 years.

Each one of those names, along with the date of their death, is now inscribed on one of the crosses on the Memorial Wall. There is room for 100s more.

## DEDICATION

The wall will be dedicated to the Glory of God on All Saints Sunday this year. The dedication will begin at 9:15am. Pastor Albers is currently looking for names and addresses of children and other family members for those whose names are engraved on one of the crosses. Take a look next Sunday. When you see a name you recognize, and remember a family member or friends, be sure to invite them to join you on November 7.

## THE FINANCIAL REPORTER

Actual through 9/30/2010

*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](mailto:office@faithmemorial.net) or call 462-7684.*

### Board of Directors Update

Even as this edition of The Faithful Reporter was "going to press", the Board of Directors was getting ready to meet. The agenda for the meeting on September 30 was "packed".

At this meeting (if all went as planned):

- Pastor Albers finally presented his Annual Action Plan in draft form,
- The Finance Committee presented reports and asked for direction on the development of the 2011 Ministry Budget, and
- The group scheduled the Annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly.

The Annual Action Plan turned out to be a rather lengthy presentation of the ministry of Faith Memorial including 30 specific Action Items to be undertaken in the coming months. (*See "Organizing for Ministry," page 8.*)

The Finance Committee presented updated financial reports which still indicate a significant deficit between actual income and expenses, although much less than in 2009. Income is considerably higher than in the same period last year and expenses are considerably less than what was approved in the 2010 Ministry Budget.

According to the new interim by-laws, the Board of Directors will also need to appoint a Nominating Committee which presents a slate of candidates at the Annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly in November.

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 "BEST GUESS"

But based on better information than before

When it comes to the 2010 Ministry Budget the best the Finance Committee can do is offer the Board of Directors and the congregation a "best guess", mostly because actual income is so much of an "unknown". You are a large part of that "unknown".

### EXPENSES

More of the "known" involves the expense side of the 2010 Ministry Budget. Actually one plan for 2010 is to work diligently to not only lower expenses for the year, but to know earlier in the year a close estimate of expenses.

As of the end of September, we are on track to underspend the 2010 Ministry Budget by some \$21,850. Our target last spring was \$20,600. This includes several notable areas:

- Utilities should come in around \$5,800 under budget. Some of this is due in part to a decrease in natural gas costs and warmer weather last winter, but some repairs were made to the boiler that resulted in significant savings.
- The school tuition budget will be \$2,000 under budget. This is due to a memorial gift made earlier in the year which helped offset some of the dramatic increase in this line item in 2010 when compared to 2009.
- The Sunday School budget will be at least \$1,100 under budget. The new Kingdom Quest curriculum was underwritten by a grant from the Foundation Fund. Although there is a large one-time "start-up" cost, the ongoing costs each year will be much less than in previous years.
- This current estimate assumes offerings to the District and Synod of \$2,500, about half of that originally budgeted, but a slight increase when compared to the actual amount in 2009. This amount is in addition to any amount church members designate for "missions."
- Becky has held off on investments in music and will underspend the 2010 Ministry Budget in this category by about \$800. This item, however, has regularly been underspent.
- Since there will be no student Choir Director at the end of this year, this line item will see a savings of about \$2,000 as compared to the 2010 Ministry Budget.

### INCOME

Income is more difficult to estimate. If offerings in the first part of 2010 is an indication of what will be given in the last three months of the year, income to support the Ministry Budget will total about \$215,000. This is more than we expected at the beginning of 2009, but much less than what was estimated in the spring following the small group gatherings hosted by the Finance Committee. At those meetings the Finance Committee estimated total offerings of more than \$220,500.

In addition to these offerings some funds are being used from the ORB (Outreach, Reinvigoration, and Budget Relief) fund to bring the "high" estimate to about \$225,000.

### DEFICIT

These estimates will still leave us with a significant deficit, although one that is much smaller than in 2008 or 2009. The Finance Committee would not be surprised by an ACTUAL deficit of about \$14,000. This is the actual difference between offerings and expenses and would, therefore increase our General Fund debt. HOWEVER, in 2009 this figure was more than \$28,000 and in 2008 the figure was about \$31,000.

If the estimate offered by the Finance Committee following the small group meetings is accurate, the actual deficit would drop to less than \$9,000. Both of these estimates assume some increases in offerings at the end of the year as compared to the first part of the year. As we get closer to the end of 2011 we can state with a bit more certainty what our end-of-year financial statement might indicate, but some years many large gifts have been made the last Sunday in December, while in other years end-of-year gifts have been much smaller.

	2010 BUDGET	2010 LOW ESTIMATE	2010 HIGH ESTIMATE	DOLLAR CHANGE*
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$ 214,850	\$ 219,251.50	\$ 225,151.50	10,301.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$ 256,251	\$ 233,226.50	\$ 234,406.50	(21,844.50)
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(41,401)</b>	<b>(13,675.00)</b>	<b>(8,955.00)</b>	

\*As compared to the 2010 Budget Figure

## 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*

#### **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*

#### **20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 10, 2010**

*Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

Ruth 1:1-19a, *The story Ruth and Naomi coming to Bethlehem*

Psalm 111, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.* (Ps 111:10)

2 Timothy 2:1-13, *We live with Christ*

Luke 17:11-19, *One leper gives thanks to God*

#### **21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 17, 2010**

*O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

Genesis 32:22-30, *Jacob's struggle with the angel*

Psalm 121, *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? <sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* (Ps 121:1-2)

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5, *Christ the judge*

Luke 18:1-8, *A widow begs for justice*

#### **22nd Sunday after Pentecost, October 24, 2010**

*Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

Genesis 4:1-15, *Cain and Abel*

Psalm 5, *Let all who take refuge in you rejoice let them ever sing for joy.* (Ps 5:11a)

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, *The good fight of faith*

Luke 18:9-17, *A Pharisee and tax collector pray*

#### **Reformation Day, October 31, 2010**

*Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

Revelation 14:6-7,

Psalm 46, (Ps 46:7)

Romans 3:19-28, *Justified by God's grace as a gift*

John 8:31-36, *The truth shall set you free*

#### **23rd Sunday after Pentecost, October 31, 2010**

*O Lord, stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to welcome and joyfully receive Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that He may find in us a fit dwelling place; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

Isaiah 1:10-18, *Learn to do good.*

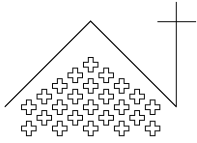
Psalm 130, *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.* (Ps 130:3-4)

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5 (6-10) 11-12, *Faith and love amid adversity*

Luke 19:1-10, *Zacchaeus climbs high to see Jesus*

#### **A Note on Lesser Festivals ...**

*Every Christian congregation has a unique local practice when it comes to the celebration of "lesser" festivals (Saints' Days, etc.). At Faith Memorial there are two lesser festivals we always celebrate "transferring" them to a Sunday if necessary. These include Reformation Day, October 31 (which is "transferred" as necessary to the last Sunday in October), and All Saints' Day, November 1 (which is transferred as necessary to the first Sunday in November).*



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# Celebrations!



## BIRTHDAYS

October

## ANNIVERSARIES

October



3	Ryan G.	14	Linda H.	5	James and Dawn	14 years
4	Kenneth K. Caryl K. Tyrell N.	15	Hannah E. Arpad M.	29	Fredrick and Julia	23 years
6	Megan M.	17	Melinda K.			
7	Bobby S.	18	Marie A. Ronald C.			
8	Sarah A. Nicholas C.	21	Harold F. Benjamin F.			
9	Andrea F.	22	Darlene E.			
10	Tim A.	25	Beth P.			
12	Lucy F. Gerald R.	26	Fredric S.			
13	Sarah K.	29	Michael D. Stephen P.			

*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](mailto:office@faithmemorial.net).*