

SHARE

Best memorable moment? Moment you want to forget?
Moment where the Holy Spirit was nudging you?

THE GIFT OF FAITH

READ *Bible verses in the right hand column, then discuss:*

As Lutheran Christians, we believe faith is a gift from God guided by the Holy Spirit and made evident in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- God's grace is a gift of love that is freely given.
- We don't earn God's love, we live in response to it.
- Through faith God's people join God's work in the world as we actively love and serve our neighbor.
- Love is always connected with a relationship. God came to earth in the person of Jesus and in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection God's love and promises broke into the world in the flesh.
- Jesus' life centered on sharing God's love by inviting people into a relationship with God and announcing God's kingdom was near.
- Martin Luther teaches we live by faith alone. Salvation is ours and our faith secures our relationship to the Triune God (God, the Son, and Holy Spirit.)
- Faith Calls people not only to love themselves, but also to love and serve their neighbor.
- Serving our neighbor draws us outside of ourselves and into the

CONNECT

- How has the **gift of faith** made a difference in your life?
- Describe your first memory of other people **sharing God's love** with you.
- Who do you know that is **in tune** with God. Describe that person.
- Tell about a time God's love for you **helped you help someone** else.
- How do other people in your **faith community** help you live out your faith?

PRAY

- *What do you want to say to God?*
- *What might God be saying to you?*

BLESS *You are a child of God.*

Ephesians 2:8-10
NRSV

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. ⁹Not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Message

⁷⁻¹⁰Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing life.

So What? Now What?

- ◇ We have faith. So what?
- ◇ What do you do with it?
- ◇ What is faith inspiring you to do for others?

For your discussion partner:

I see God in you when . . .