

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHVALPO.ORG

Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing within and throughout our community within and throughout our community



Always Worth the Wait!

[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you... John 16:12-22

This faith community was a mess. Several times during their history, they had a number of successes. A fair number of people had once shown interest in what they were doing, even celebrated it. They had worked through a number of rough patches, detractors, and near disasters. Yet now, about the time it seemed like things might be looking up, everything seemed to go wrong. Despite their best efforts, their numbers had dwindled to only a few. They had experienced betrayal and abandonment. People had failed to live up to their promises and had choked on their own words of undying commitment in some very public ways. Worst of all, death had struck their number and now they appeared leaderless. If you looked around the place where the group gathered, you could say their faces often looked like God Himself had died. So what were they waiting on? What did they have to look forward to? What should they do now?

If this sounds familiar it should. You might say that similar scenes have played out many times among groups of believers past and present. Times of success. Times of decline. Times of failure. Times of loss. Times of God saying, "Yes I will", "No I won't", and "Wait." All of these times have been and are times where God is at work. Yet, for even for an optimistic believer, it can feel like an endless and uncertain wait.

Following Judas's betrayal, the crowds turning on Jesus, Peter's denial, Jesus's death and burial and what immediately followed, things looked pretty grim. Jesus had told them what would ultimately happen, both the good and the bad, but they did not comprehend it. Maybe some were waiting, wondering if there would be anything to the talk about rising after three days. None the less, we know that emotions were high, the doubt among some of them was real, and they were certainly afraid. Call it shock, call it uncertainty, call it disbelief, all they could do it seemed was wait.

Even after Jesus resurrection, while there does seem to be some movement as some of the disciples rushed to tell others that they had seen the Lord, this was not the end of the waiting. As Jesus appears to His disciples and visits with them, he also instructs them to wait. Something else big was coming, and that something was the Holy Spirit. Why didn't Pentecost happen right then? Why not earlier? Why did Jesus have to ascend back up to the Father for the Holy Spirit to be sent the way it was at Pentecost? Why did any of the other good, bad, or ugly things that happened to the disciples have to happen when they did? Honestly, other than the reasons God gives, like Jesus does in John chapter 16, I don't have the answers, except that God knows his own trustworthy and perfect timing.

What I do know is the importance of watching and listening, like we have already been talking about during Lent. If you read all of John chapter 16, you will discover that, like giving birth, the labor of the church, the sharing of God's word with those who will believe, God's work and restoration in creation and the life of the Christian are not something that all happens in an instant. There will be pain, there will be joy, there will be plenty of yes, no, and wait when it comes to the things we think should be part of God's plan for us. It is important to remember that the Holy Spirit and not man birthed the church, but we were blessed to be a part of it. That is why while it is God who ultimately does the work our waiting is not strictly passive. Instead, we wait, we listen, we watch, and we seek to act according to the Lord's lead trusting that God is in control, so that just as Jesus said, "¹⁶In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) May the Spirit fill us and lead us all as we wait and watch, listen and live out the Gospel, this Pentecost season and all year round. Amen.

Pastor Eric Schoech

THE HOLY SPIRIT
- NOT MAN -
BIRTHED THE CHURCH.



Micah Nord	May 2
John Stingely	May 6
Marc Nicholson	May 8
Marilyn Lindner	May 11
Jon Beagley	May 12
Cora Bernard	May 23
August Nord	May 24
Dave Allwardt	May 29

Call the office and let us know if we have left out someone's birthday.
(219) 462-7684.

VBS AT VALPARAISO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Our VCA will be hosting Vacation Bible School all summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 beginning on June 3 and ending August 7.

A snack will be provided.

Everyone is welcome, but you must sign up in advance. For more information please call the VCA office at (219) 548-5799.



Our Lenten Suppers this year were enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. Many thanks to those who contributed!

Congratulations!!

A special congratulations to all 10 of our VCA Pre-K kiddos that were accepted into Immanuel Lutheran's Kindergarten program for the 2025-2026 school year. We are so proud of the wonderful compliments we received on their academic performance and social readiness they have showed in their assessments. We know this was such a happy experience and proud moment for our families! We are also excited to continue to further our relationship with Immanuel. Best of luck to all our Pre-K graduates this year!



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID *Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church.*

WHAT: Mental Health First Aid Training. This is a skills-based training course that teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

WHEN: June 7, 2025: 8am-5pm

WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church: 753 N. Calumet, Valparaiso, IN 46383 (Fellowship Hall)

WHO: Mental Health First Aid training is for anyone who wants to make their community healthier, happier, and safer for all. They include teachers, first responders, veterans, neighbors, parents and friends. They are people in recovery and those supporting a loved one.

COST: \$10.00 registration fee includes training, morning snack and lunch (cash or check payable to Faith Lutheran Church)

** Scholarships available if registration fee is cost prohibitive. Space is limited! Sign up by May 25.

For more information and to sign up, email Faith's Mental Health Action Team at:

faithvalpomentalhealth@gmail.com (please include your name, email and phone number)



Mental Health
FIRST AID

FAITH SMALL GROUPS

Micro Brew Crew will meet Monday, May 12, 2:00pm at church. We will not meet on May 26 as it is Memorial Day.

Disciples of Light will meet next on Friday, May 9 at 5:00 to continue with our viewing and discussion of **The Chosen**.

Sewing Seeds of Love meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 9:00am in the Sewing Room.

Mark Makers meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm in the Parlor.

Watch the weekly bulletin announcements for meeting dates for Brew Crew. Have you joined a small group yet? Everyone is welcome to join!



On Earth Day (April 22) we prayed for the wisdom to care for our planet, act responsibly and make wise choices to protect it and all its inhabitants, asking for guidance to become better stewards of the Earth. Prayer ideas for Earth Day (and every day) may be found on Faith's Facebook page.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Third Sunday of Easter, May 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 11, 9:00am Word & Prayer
The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25, 9:00am Word & Prayer
The Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Day of Pentecost, June 8, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Holy Trinity, June 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 22, 9:00am Word & Prayer
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

