

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



THE HAND OF THE LORD

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work on or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise. Join us Wednesdays during lent as we talk further about the powerful, loving, creative, merciful, saving, hand of the Lord.



Bill Schoech	March 14
Michelle Grossnickle	March 20
Joy Martinsen	March 20
Laura Allwardt	March 21
Sharon Harris	March 22
Lisa Koroncz	March 24
Dora West	March 25
Kathy Lund	March 26
Daisy Fryman	March 28
Cora Grossnickle	March 29



Bowling at Inman's in February was fun for all!

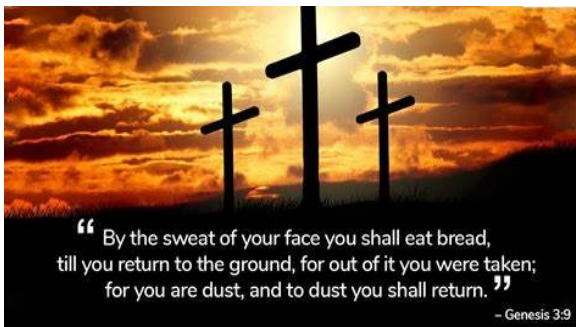
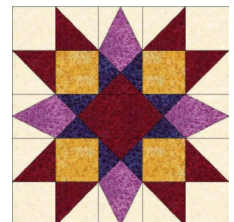
Valparaiso Christian Academy

VCA summer camp registration and before and after school care registration for the next school year starts **April 1**. For more information please call Angie or Heather at (219) 548-5799.



SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Due to weather and illness we have not met as often as we would have liked. But we are busy getting blankets ready to tie for our graduates in May. If you know of anyone who needs a comfort shawl or quilt please let Dorothy Kehe know. We have many on hand.



Come and join us for Lenten Suppers beginning on Wednesday March 12th, prior to the midweek service. Table prayer is at 6:15pm. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



Wednesday Evening Prayer services are: March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.

WISE Class

Faith Memorial Lutheran Church hosted the WISE class that was offered through Porter-Starke Services. Eighteen people participated in the program. Over the last six weeks, participants learned more about the aging process, what changes are normal, which ones are not normal (an indication you should discuss it with your health care provider), and how to make healthy lifestyle choices. The use of alcohol, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications was discussed, as their use requires understanding and adjustment due to changes in our bodies associated with the aging process. Simple tools to become more empowered were taught, as well as a discussion of the benefits of aging! A great time was had by all through lecture, interactive discussion, and role-playing. Participants enjoyed the snacks, gifts, gift cards, and graduation ceremony. They are all WISER!! Thank you to Angela Wehner, our instructor!



LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is **March 5**. Evening Prayer Holy Communion Service begins at 7:00pm.

Wednesdays during Lent are **March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9**. There will be a Lenten Supper at 6:15pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm.

The Sunday of the Passion is **April 13**. Holy Communion Service with Procession of Palms begins at 9:00am.

Maundy Thursday is **April 17**. Holy Communion Service begins at 7:00pm.

Good Friday is **April 18**. Liturgy of the Cross is at 3:00pm. Tenebrae is at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday is **April 20**. Holy Communion Service for the Resurrection of Our Lord is at 9:00am.

FAITH HAS A SMALL GROUP FOR EVERYONE!

If you are not involved yet, and would like to be, please see one of the group members at church or speak with Pastor Schoech.

Brew Crew, led by Paul Nord, will be meeting each Wednesday in March, immediately following the Lenten Service.

Brew Crew Dates: Each Wednesday in March, following Evening Lenten Service

Micro-Brew Crew Dates: March 3, 17, and 31 at 2 p.m.

Sewng Seeds of Love: meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9am.

Mark Makers: meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm.

Disciples of Light meets on one Friday per month at 5:00 at church for dinner and discussion. Check with the church office for their upcoming schedule.

MICRO-BREW CREW

Micro-Brew Crew is a group that gathers together at church to share God's word and enjoy fellowship over a freshly brewed cup of tea or coffee. Our group utilizes the booklet, "Hope-Full Living - Daily Devotions for Living Life to the Fullest." It is published by Worship Anew through Lutheran Ministries Media. Their mission is to inspire God's seniors with the assurance that "This very day I have a body, a mind, a spirit, and a message - God's rejuvenating Gospel message to and through me - to share with my world, my friends, and my Lord." Participants are also welcome to share any devotional message, story, scripture, or hymn that they read or heard that was meaningful to them. In March, we will be meeting at 2 pm at church on the 3rd, 17th, and 31st. We would love to have you join us! For any questions or to order a booklet (\$2.00), please contact Diane Driver through the church office: (219) 462-7684

Faith Lutheran Church

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm Holy Communion
First Sunday in Lent, March 9, 9:00 Word and Prayer
First Wednesday in Lent, March 12, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Second Sunday in Lent, March 16, 9:00am Holy Communion
Second Wednesday in lent, March 19, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 9:00am Word and Prayer
Third Wednesday in Lent, March 26, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 30, 9:00am Holy Communion
Fourth Wednesday in Lent, April 2, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
Fifth Wednesday in Lent, April 9, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Sunday of the Passion, April 13, 9:00am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm Holy Communion
Good Friday, April 18, 3:00 Liturgy of the Cross, 7:00 Tenebrae
The Resurrection of Our Lord, April 20, 9:00am Holy Communion

The
Season
of
Lent

