

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



Psalm. 19:1-7 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, mak-*

One of the things I have wanted to do for awhile is to periodically share some spiritual thoughts from our church leadership and members on the front page of the newsletter. As I drive home today looking into a beautiful sunset and few snowflakes, I am reminded of two things. First is how even amid the cold bleak remnants of literal and spiritual winter our Risen Lord shines though. The other is a helpful newsletter article written by one of our current Board members long before my arrival with the congregation. So without further ado, I give you an article by Dave Pilz from a series entitled...

MUSINGS OF AN ELDER MAN

I'm not sure if I have ever done much deep meditation (muse` noun, a state of musing or deep meditation); I'm just not a deep kind of guy. But the word muse is such a cool word - I had to use it somehow, somewhere. I considered "Ruminations of an Elder Man", but I try not to chew things over too many times— with me the thoughts or emotions are here and on display, and then, poof, they're gone. So muse it is. And let's get on with it or Pastor won't let me muse here any more, even if it does fill up space in the newsletter.

Did you see the beautiful sunset tonight? I thought it unusual to see on a January evening -- more suitable for May or October. Of course, viewed between the NIPSCO poles and wires, and half obscured by the top of the old McGill plant, it really couldn't hold a candle to the sunsets over Lake Michigan viewed from the beach at Platte River Bay or Good Harbor Bay; but then what does?

But the colors were beautiful nonetheless. It was unexpected, and a total surprise as I drove home after a Monday at the office. A little gift from God maybe? A sign of His marvelous hand? A reminder? As I've gotten older I've come to think God does that when the roads are bad or I have to wade through the cold slop at the curb now and then. I took it at that.

I so often miss reminders that are right in front of me, signs of God's presence, of His wonder, of His hand, of His love for the world and me. Signs such as the early morning light sparkling on the frost covered branches -- the pure white snow draping the evergreens - the cardinal as it feeds against the snow- the crisp feeling of winter as it reaches -your face - the absolute stillness of the air - the silence -shhhh - be still-if you listen you can hear His presence in the silence!

When I am caught up in the daily rat race or in a rush to get to my next meeting, when the truck doesn't start or I have to scrape the windshield, it was an absolutely horrific day, then it's difficult to notice the signs. That's when God sends the sunset, and reminds me to slow down and see and appreciate all that he has given me even the cold, cold winter. But then that's only me, and my personal observations. And me? Why I'm just an elder man. What reminders does God send for you?

David Pilz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carol Ballard	April 2
Anne Lyons	April 13
Max Dunlap	April 16
Roxanne Gottleber	April 19
Sean Allwardt	April 27
Heather Brandt	April 28
Dean Gengnagel	April 29

Please call the office if we have left out a birthday (219) 462-7684.

Prayer Chain – each week the prayer team includes the families of Faith and the VCA in our prayers. If you have specific prayer requests, please call the church office and leave a message for Jan Dixon. You may also leave prayer requests through a link at the church website: faithvalpo.org. If you would like to receive weekly prayers, contact the church office at (219) 462-7684 or email of-office@faithmemorial.net. We invite you to join us under the cross between Sunday service and Sunday School.

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

The group continues to work on veterans' quilts. In the next month or two we are hoping to send some children's quilts to Orphan Grain Train.

The ladies of the group were saddened at the passing of Donna Cawby. She started our sewing and knitting group. She shared her knowledge and love of quilting with all of us. She made some quilted banners for the church and also confirmation stoles and baptismal capes. We will miss her, but know she is resting in our Savior's arms.

If you would like to remember Donna in a way she loved, consider making a donation to the Quilting Mission at *Orphan Grain Train*. For more information or to make a donation visit www.ogt.org and click donate.



New flooring has been installed in our education wing in the VCA's classrooms.....



... and it looks fabulous!



Volunteers from Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, N.C., help build an outdoor kitchen at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in November 2023. (LCMS/Ashley Lehr)

From Nov. 11–18, 2023, a short-term team of volunteers from Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, N.C., traveled to Puerto Rico to assist with a project at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) in Mayaguez. LCMS Missionary to Puerto Rico Ashley Lehr shared this update about their work.

“The team worked hard all week building an outdoor kitchen. ... Each evening a different church member made a meal for the team. At the end of the week when the kitchen was finished, we celebrated with a meal, campfire and hymn sing. We sang together from our Spanish hymnals and English hymnals, alternating one verse in Spanish and the next in English. It’s a fun way to sing together.

“One of the team members from North Carolina said that he was blessed by the times to worship together because even though we were speaking in different languages, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, members of the same Body, and this was a new understanding through the experience.

“The next day the men of the church gathered for a Bible study and used the new outdoor kitchen for a meal. The following week we celebrated Thanksgiving together and made the turkey two ways in the outdoor kitchen. What a blessing it is to have this space. Our usual activities outdoors are Friday bonfires and the men’s Bible study time with a barbecue. These are easy opportunities to invite friends to come and enjoy some fellowship. We are planning new ways to invite the community to our church and to use our outdoor space more with the new outdoor kitchen as well.”

Posted March 18, 2024 on the LC-MS website.

Some information about Orphan Grain Train— an important ministry at Faith Lutheran Church.

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ’s example as a servant and His love for us.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN’S MISSION STATEMENT:

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God’s people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ’s name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

For more information about Orphan Grain Train visit ogt.org. You can also find information about their missions and projects and ways you can get involved on the display table in the church Narthex.



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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Day of Pentecost, May 19, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Holy Trinity/First Sunday after Pentecost, 9:00am Morning Prayer

