

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
753 N. CALUMET AVE.  
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*Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing within and throughout our community*



## Tough Love?

*And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, <sup>19</sup> "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>20</sup> There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. <sup>21</sup> And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. <sup>22</sup> And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. <sup>23</sup> In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? <sup>25</sup> For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? <sup>27</sup> He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong." <sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mk. 12:18-31 ESV)*

I don't know if you have ever noticed, but there is often a bit of what I believe is intentional irony highlighted by God in scripture. Take this passage from the Gospel of Mark for example. It starts with a religious teacher, who doesn't believe in life after death, asking about life after death! His goal is to trap Jesus into something this scholar can criticize. So what does he use to do this? The topic of marriage! Get Jesus to say something that offends someone about marriage, and this Sadducee figures he wins. Get Jesus to say something that doesn't make sense according to human logic and the Sadducee figure he can criticize not only Jesus, but the entire idea of eternal life and salvation. Sounds like the kind of "gotcha" moments we often hear people trying to set up today.

However, there is even more irony in this section of scripture. Not only does the person who doesn't believe in the resurrection ask a question about life after death. Not only does he use the love people have toward each other in marriage as a hateful weapon against Jesus. Look what happens next.

*"One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' " Jesus' response? "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Do you see the irony? Jesus is literally in the middle of an argument in which he has just told the other person that God *"is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."* In other words, Jesus has just firmly told this Sadducee that the man's basic beliefs are all backwards. Then when another religious teacher, with the same beliefs, steps into the confrontation, Jesus responds with love. Yes, love.*

I don't think the timing here is an accident, because even in the middle of what had to be a sensitive and possibly heated moment, Jesus is indeed showing love. The world might say that arguing with someone, questioning or in this case directly calling out their error and beliefs, is the opposite of love and the very command that Jesus has just given. However, this is not the case. It is only through love of God, through being true to His Word by seeking to understand, share, and live by it, that we can show true love to our neighbor. In His interactions with these two individuals, at least one of whom has come to Jesus with questionable intentions, what does Jesus do? Jesus displays God's word. He firmly (yet lovingly) corrects the man's beliefs that are leading this Sadducee down a dangerous path. He points to God as the one in which all our love and relationships should be centered (at least if we want them to be true). Doing the same can be quite tough, especially given we are not Jesus. Our patience often runs thin. The world's definitions of kindness and our own sinful lack of kindness often lead us to the wrong courses of action. Yet when we turn to the Lord and His word to lead us in love, even the toughest of love and human interactions go differently on our part.

I hope you will take this season of lent and renewal to dive that much more deeply into your relationship with God through the power of His Word, and in doing so, you will also take a critical look at your interactions with others. How do you go about sharing the truth, and also share the love of Christ to others? Look to Love. Look to the Word. Look to Jesus.



Alexis Brandt	February 6
Anna Price	February 7
Patsy Berndt	February 7
Deb Porter	February 12
Beth Underwood	February 13
Kenny Frank	February 22
Frank Morris	February 22

**\*\* New members—please send us your birthday if we do not have it listed. Email to [office@faithmemorial.net](mailto:office@faithmemorial.net)**



Sewing Seeds of Love has been busy. 20 scarves were knitted. We then used some of the sale money to purchase gloves and hats. 20 sets were delivered to Living Hope Church who have the homeless shelter. The sets will be given to those in need this next week. You all have helped those in need! The bibs and walker pockets will be delivered to a nursing home in town. We will let you know which one, TBD. Thanks to all! We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 9am. Winter months it depends on the weather.



**Good food and good fellowship— Enjoyed by all at our Advent Suppers, held prior to Advent Evening Prayer in December.**



**The Sanctuary at Faith Lutheran, ready for worship of the Nativity of Our Lord, 2023.**





We celebrated five baptisms last month.  
Praise the Lord!



**Love Board Games and/or Football?**  
Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 – Starting at 4:00PM

Super Bowl Game projected on our big movie screen

Board and Card games of various levels available to play

Area for the kids to play

Some Pizza and Drinks Provided

*(You are welcome to bring food and games to share as well)*

Please RSVP, if possible, so we have an idea for how much food to have (We will order extra just in case)

For more info contact: (317)983-3652

## COMMUNITY FOOD SWAP AND POTLUCK EVENT

**Coming this month — be watching the weekly church bulletins and Facebook for details**



Starting in February, during the Sunday School hour..

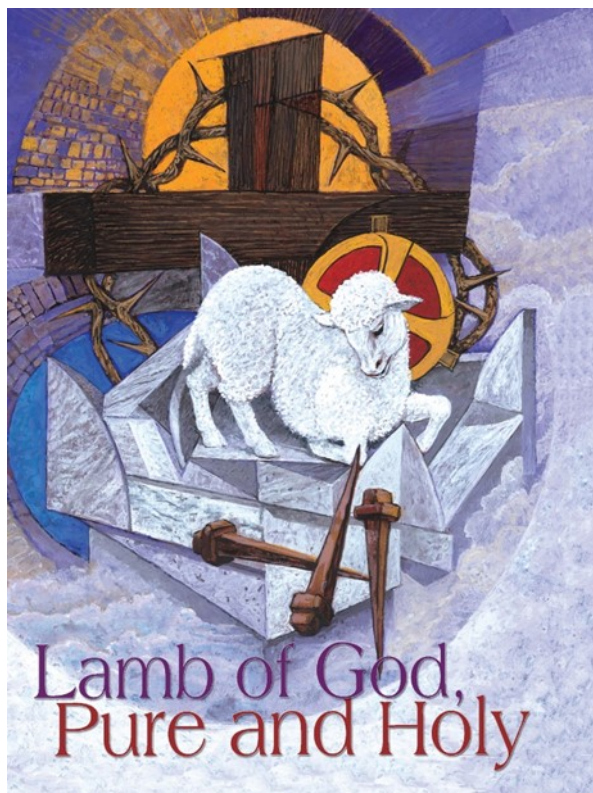
## First Communion Classes



Starting Sun. Feb. 18, during Sunday School Hour  
Parents of children who are close to 10 years of age and above, if you believe your child may have reached a level of spiritual maturity where they are ready to learn, understand, and practice what it means to examine one's self and receive the Lord's Supper, according to our Lord's encouragement and the teaching of His Word, please have a conversation with Pastor Schoech prior to February 18.

Anyone who has questions about 1<sup>st</sup> communion, communion in general, or our communion practices here at Faith Lutheran, is also encouraged to contact Pastor Schoech as well.

**Starting in February, during Lent our theme for Wed Night Services & the Sunday Bible Class hour will be:**



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**FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 4, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11, 9:00am Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7:00pm Holy Communion

The First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 9:00am Holy Communion

The First Wednesday in Lent, February 21, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 9:00am Word & Prayer

The Second Wednesday in Lent, February 28, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 6, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 13, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

