

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



Thanksgiving Every Sunday

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

You may have heard the saying, “Every Sunday is like a little Easter.” Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning. Therefore, every Sunday worship service is like God’s Family getting together to celebrate a little Easter.

So what about Thanksgiving? Can we celebrate Thanksgiving every time we come together as God’s people as well? Pastor, you might say, “wouldn’t having a giant potluck and watching football every Sunday cause us to gain weight and get distracted a little from the church service...” That’s not quite what I was going for.

Gathering together more often as God’s family in a relaxed meal setting would be a great way for the body of Christ to build up and encourage each other, plus a place we could invite others. However, what I’m talk about is another special place where we could go to receive the kind of things we could be most thankful for... spiritual things, eternal things, Godly things! What if we had a place we could go that would help to refocus on God and all the blessings HE has already given?

What if we gathered to sing songs like, “Now Thank We All Our God,” written by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor in Germany who lived in the 1600’s during the 30 Years War. Even in the midst of sorrow, suffering, pain, and death, songs like this one could uplift our souls and point us to God!

What if we also were to gather together in thankful anticipation of God speaking directly to us through His Word, like in Psalm 100 above? What if someone helped us understand the scriptures, speaking of the many abundant blessings we have given by our gracious God, and reminding us of the dangers of the thanklessness that has so often plagued humanity?

Imagine being able to lift our hearts in prayer to God even in those places where we struggle to see a reason to be thankful, and could bring our needs before God. Imagine a place where we could repent of our unthankful mistakes, hear God speak forgiveness of our sins to us, and ask God to strengthen our faith and help us live thankful lives. Imagine the thankfulness that could come from indeed knowing that God hears us and that He will indeed provide what we truly need.

Then what if during this amazing worship gathering, we celebrated the greatest thanksgiving of all? We celebrated something known as the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving. Eucharist is same name used in the Gospels on Thursday of Holy Week when Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, and in so doing, instituted the Lord’s Supper. As Luther suggests, what greater gift could we have than to regularly participate in a thanksgiving meal in which we eat and drink the body and blood of Christ for our forgiveness and salvation, knowing that He is truly present in the Sacrament, and that as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death and resurrection until he comes again.

Talk about an every week Thanksgiving celebration that rivals anything else we have here on earth, and which points us toward the never-ending thanksgiving banquet that all believers will celebrate, gathered around God’s throne! Thank God that we don’t have to only imagine such an event. God provides just such a weekly family celebration opportunity to many of us and invites us to attend. See you Sunday at church for worship! *And for those who can’t attend in person, I hope you will join us online through our YouTube Channel or through the worship links at*

www.FaithValpo.org

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Bob Hassel | November 3 |
| Sam Grossnickle | November 3 |
| Thomas Price | November 5 |
| Becky Graef | November 6 |
| Rebekah Peterson | November 6 |
| Dave Brandt | November 7 |
| Bruce Berner | November 13 |
| Dave Pilz | November 13 |
| Haley Fryman | November 14 |
| Charlene Leffert | November 28 |

!! New members—if we do not have your birthday and you would like to have it listed please email Deb at office@faithmemorial.net

Voter's Assembly will be Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 11:45am. We will hold elections for the BOD members and the budget will be presented for approval.

Please plan to join us. Look for copies of the budget which will be in the Narthex in the next few weeks.



PICK UP YOUR PIES!

If you have ordered pies for the VCA's fund-raiser, pick up will be on **Thursday, November 2** from 3:00-6:00pm in the school Gathering Space.

JOIN THE VCA FOR A THANKSGIVING FEAST!

At the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims and Native Americans joined to give thanks for the blessings God had bestowed on them and to enjoy a meal together.

All church members, families, friends, are cordially invited to join our VCA teachers, parents, staff and children for a Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday, November 21 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

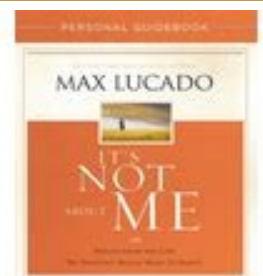
If you would like to contribute a gift of food, side dishes such as corn or green beans, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and rolls would be much appreciated. (no nuts please). The VCA staff will provide the turkeys and gravy. The lunch will be served buffet-style and everyone will eat together.

Please come and join in the Thanksgiving celebration!



Disciples of Christ—is a small group for busy adults who meet once a month at church to enjoy a meal together and have a Bible Study. We are currently reading "It's Not about Me". Our next meeting will be Friday, November 10. We will gather at 5:00 for dinner, followed by discussion at 5:30. Everyone is welcome, please join us!

For questions please call the church office, or see Sean or Jackie Allwardt or Nathaniel and Kari Koeneke.



FAITH LUTHERAN MISSIONS

Sunday, October 15 was **Mission Sunday**. Faith is involved in several. VCA is our mission to the surrounding community. LWML mite boxes are another one. We have small boxes that you can fill with change or a check and return to Shelly Grossnickle's mailbox. She will see that they are mailed to LWML for global missions.

Our newest mission is the Orphan Grain Train. Our sewing group has already sent our first shipment of pillowcase dresses and shorts. The Sunday School will be heading up *Undie Sunday* soon. Other kits we could do are Sewing Kits, Teacher Kits, School Kits, Hygiene Kits, and Christmas Gift Boxes. At the beginning of 2024 we will let the congregation know which one we will be focusing on so that everyone can participate. Orphan Grain Train also accepts checks and money orders at:

**Orphan Grain Train P.O. Box 1466 Norfolk, NE 68702-1466
or online at: www.ogt.org**

To contribute by credit card, click the "Donate Now" button.

We can also use a Thrivent action Team to donate funds or direct our Thrivent Choice Dollars to OGT.

There are many ways to help spread God's love around the world. We hope you will join us.



The season of Advent is almost here! Here are some events you will want to put on your calendar:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 3 | Greening of the Church after worship and Bible Study |
| Sunday, December 10 | Faith Childrens' Service (9:00am) |
| Friday, December 15 | VCA Childrens' Service |

On the 3 Wednesdays in Advent we will gather for a light supper in Fellowship Hall prior to Evening Prayer. The dates are Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20.

Supper is at 6:15 followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00.

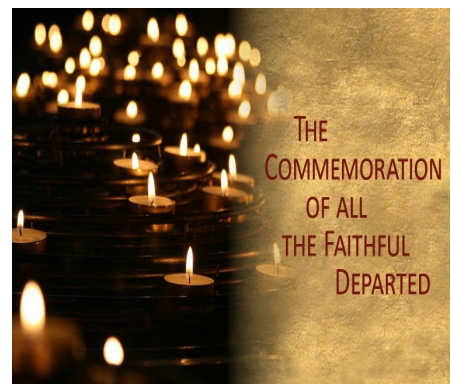
Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Our annual *Service of Lessons and Carols* will be held at 7:00pm. Watch the December newsletter and the weekly announcements for a decision on whether we will have a 9:00am church service on Christmas Eve morning as well.

December 25—The Nativity of Our Lord will be a Holy Communion service held on Monday, December 25 at 9:00am.

ALL SAINTS DAY WITH REMEMBRANCE OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On All Saints Day, November 5, as is our custom at Faith, we will remember with prayer the faithful members of this congregation and our families who have died. The Remembrance Book has been out in the Narthex for congregants to sign.

If your loved one was a member at Faith Lutheran his/her name will automatically be read. The other names will be read only if the book has been signed this year.



Faith Lutheran
Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, November 5, 9:00am Holy Communion

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 9:00am Non Communion

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost, November 19, 9:00am Holy Communion

Christ the King, November 26, 9:00am Holy Communion

All Saints' Day w/Remembrance of the Faithful Departed, November 5, 9:00am
Holy Communion

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 9:00am Service of Word & Prayer

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost, November 19, 9:00am Holy Communion

Christ the King , November 26, 9:00am Holy Communion

