

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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

The Price of Betrayal and a Place in the Kingdom



But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken-- that is, things that have been made-- in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that

cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:22-29)

Betrayal Hurts. Betrayal kills. Just ask Julius Caesar. Thanks to the famous line, "beware the ides of march," from Shakespeare's famous play, the month of March often reminds me of the price of betrayal. It may seem hard to believe that a man, like Julius Caesar with such power, popularity, wealth, and armies at his command would fall victim to his own people. Yet, fearing that Caesar's consolidation and claim to power was undermining, or even bringing about the downfall of the Roman Republic, certain senators, including a close friend from Caesar's inner circle, chose to murder Julius.

Apparently, these events did not come without warning. Some suggest, that similar to Shakespeare's play, at least one individual or more may have predicted and tried to warn Julius Caesar of His impending death. Yet, even if the phrase, "beware the ides of March," was never actually spoken to Julius, the words themselves would prove true on multiple levels. In Roman society, the Ides of March, or middle of the month was the traditional time for one to settle their debts. With the death of Julius Caesar, many debts would come due. Julius would pay the price of jealousy and political intrigue with his life. The conspirators, who claimed to be trying to save the Roman Republic, would instead end up contributing greatly to the events and powers that would destroy it.

Of course, this is not the only betrayal that often gets talked about in March. Judas often gets pointed out as Jesus' betrayer. Yet, as sinners, we have all betrayed our creator. While Julius appears to have laughed at the idea of being murdered, by those closest to him, remarkably Jesus himself, along with many prophets before Him, predicted exactly the kind of death that Jesus would die, at the hands of those he cared for. This is made all the more remarkable when one considers that while Jesus Christ came into this world with a humble appearance, in reality His power, wealth, and the kind of armies at His disposal really were (and are) unmatched, even by the likes of a 1000 Julius Caesars.

Most political leaders if they believed there was a credible threat to their own life, would do everything they could to protect it. The religious leaders of Jesus' day certainly seemed concerned with protecting their own skin from death at the hands of Rome. Not so for Jesus, He walked right into it. Jesus had His disciples and even the angels at His command to defend him. Our Lord had the power and the means to lash out at all of His betrayers, including us. Yet, His words from the cross including, "Father forgive them," and "It is finished," reveal a very different focus and mindset. A debt, the debt of betrayal, not by Jesus, but against Jesus (God Himself), needed to be paid. Jesus' death, needed to happen for that debt and God's plan of restoration to be fulfilled. Jesus' death paid that price in full. Yet, unlike worldly kingdoms that rise and fall in our sinful and betrayal-filled world, the Kingdom of God didn't end with the death of its King. Rather it established itself in the hearts of man for eternity with the King's resurrection. *Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, as we contemplate the great love and mercy that God has shown to us despite our betrayal, and the unshakable kingdom of which He has now made us a part.*

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schrock

THE SEASON OF LENT

On Wednesday evenings during Lent on March 1, 8, at, 2 and 29 we will gather for Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. Prior to service we will share Lenten suppers



at 6:15pm in our Fellowship Hall.. Bring a side or dessert if you can, but in any case, bring yourself!

Lenten Devotionals and Lent Family Calendars are available in the Narthex.



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



A fun afternoon bowling at Inman's! A word of advice: don't bet against Frank!



10 red white and blue quilts were delivered to the VFW post in Porter, Indiana made by Sewing seeds of love and delivered by Gail Hoover. She presented them to the Commander and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. The quilts were blessed by the congregation at one of our services. We pray they bring comfort to those who receive them.

NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

According to a brochure from Lutheran World Relief, March 18, 2023 is **National Quilting Day**.



For more than 75 years, compassionate people have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. Nearly 28 million quilts have been created! These gifts of love make life brighter, softer and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world who are struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict. As you can see from the picture and caption above, the ladies of Faith Lutheran are doing their part in this effort.

Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING THIS SUMMER!

The VCA (Valparaiso Christian Academy) is running a VBS for their summer campers and they are inviting Faith's children to attend. It will be a 9-week program from **June 6-August 10**, held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11am**. Members who are interested in having their children, or their grandchildren (age 5-12 by May 29, 2023) attend, must contact the VCA director: Angie, at areys.vca@gmail.com to receive a registration packet before March 1. Families must register using the packet by March 1.

Unlike previous VBS programs, this is not a drop off/drop in program. Students must be registered with VCA in advance and will be expected to attend every Tuesday and Thursday for the duration of the program (unless the family is on an extended vacation.) This year, the VCA will waive the cost to Faith families as they want to thank Faith for all the support they have received. We can assist the program in the following ways:

- Look for future sign-up sheets to donate certain materials or snack items for VBS
- Look for future sign-up sheets to volunteer to help out for a specific day or event during the VBS program (volunteers will need to have a limited background check on file before helping)

We thank the VCA for their initiative in creating this program and their excitement to include Faith's members in their community. If you have any questions, contact Jackie Allwardt, Dorothy Kehe or Sherri Nord of Faith or Angie of the VCA. Spots are limited and must be reserved with Angie by March 1 – don't miss out!



Thank You!

Many thanks to all of the members of Faith Lutheran for your best wishes and gifts for my retirement. A small group gathered on the 15th for a retirement party. While I wish that I could have seen all of you, the Multiple Sclerosis and the drug that I am on make me very susceptible to respiratory infections. Thank you for understanding and letting a small group represent all of you. The cards and greetings will be cherished for many years. The Amazon gift card will be put to good use, as most of my shopping is online. There are not enough words to express my surprise at the gorgeous wrist watch that was given. I will wear that with pleasure.

Thank you for letting me share in your ministry for all of these years. You will continue to be in my prayers and heart. May you truly be a congregation that shares the embrace of God with all you meet. —

Becky

BECKY'S RETIREMENT

Due to Becky's health issues we kept the gathering small. We had a small group gather to wish her well in her retirement. A beautiful watch was presented to her with her initials engraved with the date. A lovely bouquet of flowers and all the cards the congregation had written were given along with an Amazon gift card to spend as she likes. Candy, cake and ice cream were enjoyed by those there. A lot of reminiscing was done. There are not enough words to express our love and thanks for all she has done for all of us. God Bless You Becky and thank you!



