

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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VALPARAISO, IN 46383

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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 within and throughout our community

Gear up! Get Ready! Here We Go!



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Eph. 6:10-18)

Here it comes! Are you ready to do battle? That last road trip of the summer, the start of the new school year, growing in your faith, the time has arrived. These things may not always look like war, but they can be a battle. As with most successful battle campaigns, it's a good idea to have a battle plan. Do you know your **Purpose, Priorities**, and what we need to be **Prepared**? What about the **Tools, Travel companions**, and **Times** that need to be more than just an optional note in the margin of your day planner?

You might notice I included growing your faith right in there with the other big two that many people focus on this time of year. A sword and shield might not be the first clothes you would normally lay out as you prepare you child for school or yourself for work. In fact when it comes to the little ones I would advise against it. However, as you prepare for life's battles, joys, and everything in between, there is nothing we need more than the Lord Himself and the things described in Ephesians 6:10-18. For example, as parents, hopefully part of your everyday purpose and what sets your priorities are the bible passages like:

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done (Psalm 78:4).

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).

In everything set them an example by doing what is good (Titus 2:7).

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth (3 John 1:4).

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Heb. 10:24-25).

These are just a few of the passages that guide us if we want our children to live life faithfully. Furthermore, it is through growing in our relationship with the Lord and seeking him with others that we become better equipped to live and model these passages for our children and those around us. So as you are packing those backpacks, briefcases, or travel bags, as you are putting together those schedules and looking to the days ahead, may the Lord be with you. Also, let us seek to grow in righteousness, grace, prayer for one another, and all those other incredible gifts God has given to us and to our children. In Jesus name. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

Pastor Eric Schoech

Next Page: upcoming tools and times for families growing together in life & Faith



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Alicia Cooper Frank	August 1
Barb Kehe	August 4
Mary Dunlap	August 5
Karen Stingley	August 9
Myrna Chambers	August 11
Marcy Hassel	August 12
Kathy Kreps	August 13
Travis Dunlap	August 16
Melodie Dunlap	August 22
Kent Eichstaedt	August 24
Patty Nicholson	August 25
Jackie Allwardt	August 28
Dorothea Price	August 29
Elizabeth West	August 31

MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

Our annual planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 20 at 11:45am.

Team leaders please have any dates to be included on the calendar (even if they are tentative) and be prepared to present your ministry team's plans for 2024.

If you are unable to make this meeting please speak with Pastor Schoech.

DURING OUR REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON **AUGUST 6**, PASTOR SCHOECH WILL BLESS BACKPACKS TO KICK OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR FOR OUR CHURCH CHILDREN, VCA CHILDREN, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

Blessing
of the
Backpacks



CHURCH PICNIC and VCA END OF SUMMER PARTY

On Friday, August 4 from 5:00-9:00pm Faith Lutheran and our Valparaiso Christian Academy will combine for an **END OF SUMMER PARTY AND PICNIC** to be held here at church.

Activities will include:

- Food
- Games
- Dunk Tank
- Pony Rides
- Ice Cream
- Music
- Bounce Houses



Please bring a side dish to share.

Call the church office to find out more ways you can help with the picnic/party. Sign-ups are available in the Narthex

Come join in the fun! Bring your family and friends!

The following is a letter from President Ray Wilke of Orphan Grain Train (taken from their website)

Dear Friends,

In late 1991 the Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, former Associate Speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio broadcast, and his family were sent to Riga, Latvia, to start broadcasting The Lutheran Hour in former communist countries in Eastern Europe. Early the next year, my wife and I had the opportunity to participate in Lutheran Hour Ministries' volunteer program in Riga.



While there in Riga the idea of how to provide spiritual help and humanitarian aid to hungry souls and bodies resulted in the formation of the Orphan Grain Train. Since then, with God's blessing and a generous outpouring of time, talent and contributions, Orphan Grain Train has become a hands-on mission project – a national network with regional divisions across the country organized to get necessary help to the endless requests for food, clothing, medical supplies, and Christian-centered literature to Riga, Latvia, and other areas where calamities occur.

More than 3,728 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials have been sent to 69 countries and several disaster areas in the U.S. since 1992. All of this is done by volunteers and individual contributors – people who are thankful for their blessings and want to provide a blessing to someone they will probably never see this side of heaven.

Volunteers sort and pack the donated items in our warehouses across the US. Contributors donate money to ship the precious cargoes of hope where most needed. (Eleven dollars sponsors the shipment of one box of aid!) Volunteers at the other end of the journey place these gifts of love into the hands of needy people. We believe that through Christ there is great hope embodied in the efforts of Orphan Grain Train. Read what is going on! Pray for it! Join us!

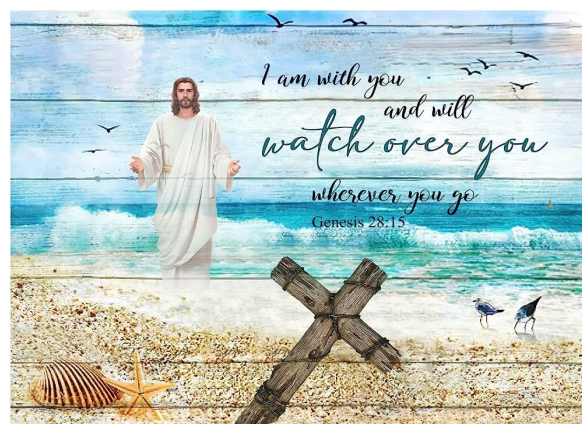


Sincerely in the Lord,

Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President

To learn more about Orphan Grain Train and how you can help or donate please visit:

www.ogt.org



**Faith Lutheran
Church**

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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 6, 9:00am Non Communion Service
(Backpack Blessing)

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 20, 9:00am Holy Communion

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost, August 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 9:00am Morning Prayer

