

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

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WWW.FAITHVALPO.ORG

Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing within and throughout our community



Some of you may remember that this past month one of our sermon texts included Paul's travel to Athens. There, as he walked through an area known as Mar's Hill, Paul used a statue dedicated to, "the unknown god," as a symbol to point people to the one true God. This time of year is a good season for taking walks of our own: Walks through our neighborhoods to visit with neighbors, walks through nature to enjoy God's creation alone and with others, etc. If we pay attention during such travels, we will encounter our own opportunities to witness reminders of our God's presence and His call to use the things around us to share Him with others, like Paul did.

As I have hiked on my own and with some members of our congregation this last month, I have encountered two symbols that are appropriate for the present season in the church year during, which we celebrate both Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Both are plants sometimes used as Christian symbols.

The first is the Trillium. The white version of this early blooming flower, can be seen a symbol for the Trinity. The white reminds us of God's purity, holiness, and the beauty of his creative power. The three pronged yet interconnected petals of this flower serve as a reminder of the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Showing His love to the world in three persons as Creator, Redeemer and Transformer, the white of this flower also reminds us of God flowing forgiveness for us. Interestingly, one of its many other names, "birthing root," given for its use in the past as a medicinal root for those giving birth, could also serve as reminder of the new birth we receive in our baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt. 28:19-20 NIV)



This brings us to a second plant you sometimes have to look hard for called, "Jack in the Pulpit." This plant which has been used as both food source and medicine over the years, looks a little like a preacher preaching from one of those elevated pulpits like we see at Valparaiso University or in many older churches. Where would the church be without Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit moving pastors, and all sharers of the Word (including you) to spread the gospel. Though the voices may seem few and far between at times, we are never alone as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us for the good of all.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Rom. 10:14-15 NIV)

Now there are a few other positive plants that come to mind directly from the pages of scripture. The massive pine tree, and the fruit of the field/garden are just a few examples. There is simply not time to go into all the ways that these are used both literally and as symbols of God's majestic power in scripture. They certainly stand as reminders of how God provides both for and through his people. Speaking of which, if you are interested in helping, there are a couple of opportunities around church in the plants and planting department. Soon we will be using a Thrivent grant to put in some raised beds around the brick pad near the meditation trail for a "Children's Garden." We would also like to acquire and plant some specific varieties of pine trees that are fast growing and tend to drop their needles (which help deter undergrowth) to help maintain the improved trails and worship area on our property. There is also always help needed involving various levels of groundskeeping. Finally, and most importantly of all is the growing in Grace that takes place in our lives and others as we continue to gather and grow in God's Word, and as we share and care because God cares. I hope several of you will find an opportunity to help with VBS, or in some other capacity this summer.



In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck



Paul Grossnickle June 10
 Gabriel Beagley June 12
 Inge Nimtz June 22
 Jay Gottleber June 23
 Fran Marton June 25
 Donald Underwood June 25
 Kristin Busch June 29

If we miss someone's birthday it is probably not in our records .. Please let us know! Call (219) 462-7684 or email us at office@faithmemorial.net

PENTECOST POTLUCK

Our Pentecost Potluck this year will be held on June 4, which is the Sunday after Pentecost—to avoid conflict with memorial Day weekend plans. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex should you wish to bring a main dish, a side dish, a salad or a dessert.



Thank you to all who helped and will be helping in trail and worship areas.

In memory of Evelyn Bradshaw

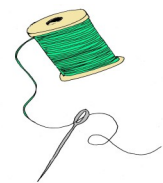
Many thanks to the Bradshaw family for planting a tree in the front of the church in memory of Evelyn. It is beautiful and we will remember her each time we see it.



SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

The group is looking for gently used, unstained pillowcases. We will be making pillowcase dresses this summer for the Orphan Grain Train. There is a box in the Narthex to collect the pillowcases.

Watch for our sewing classes on July 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9-11:00am in the Sewing Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome and the classes are free of charge.



Half Day Pre-K

2023–2024 School Year



Registration Now Open!

\$250 PER MONTH

MULTIPLE DISCOUNT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

\$60

ONE TIME REGISTRATION FEE

12 STUDENT CLASS SIZE

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Morning Class: 8:45 am – 11:15 am

4 YEARS OLD BY AUGUST 1

KINDERGARTEN READINESS PROGRAM

- Follow NAEYC Guidelines
- Curriculum based on Indiana Foundations Standards
- Safe, secured facility
- Chapel and devotional time
- Monthly Field Trips
- Wonderful Family events throughout the year!
- Small class size: 12 student Max
- Extended care available!





About a dozen folks joined in each of the spring nature walks to Brincka Cross Gardens to see over 400 varieties of daffodils & J Timothy Richie Nature Preserve to enjoy thousands of trillium blooms. We found several other spring ephemeral flowers at each place. It was fun to use Google Lens & other apps to identify the many flowers and learn more about them. It is amazing that there are so many white trilliums in our area when they are an endangered plant in Michigan.



SERVING PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FOOD IN PERU.. the following is an article taken from the May, 2023 issue of “Sharing” the Lutheran World Relief newsletter—it has been edited for space.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Jeancarlos Ramirez, a native of Lima, Peru, attended culinary school and had his sights set on becoming a chef. One evening, he went to an informal English class offered by the Lutheran mission in La Victoria, Peru. At the time, he had no idea that God would use this class to set him on a new path to become a Lutheran pastor. At the class, LCMS missionaries were looking for volunteers to assist with work at Castillo Fuerte, an outreach to children and families in the poor sector of Lima. The mission serves neighborhood children with a daily meal, a devotion and help with homework while their parents work long hours in local garment factories. Ramírez was quick to volunteer. Soon he was offered employment at the mission, where he began preparing daily meals for the children. The kitchen was adjacent to the chapel, so he could hear the missionaries sharing the Gospel with the children.

The pastors, who were still learning Spanish, began asking Ramírez to check their sermons for grammatical errors. This prompted Ramírez to ask theological questions. In 2015, Ramírez was confirmed and began to assist with teaching the children. The missionaries who saw him interact with the children recognized his potential and encouraged him to consider attending seminary. Through the mission, Ramírez also met LCMS missionary Deaconess Caitlin Worden. The two were married in 2017, and the following year they relocated to the Dominican Republic so Ramírez could begin formal studies at Concordia the Reformer Seminary. In May 2022, Ramírez received his diploma. Seminary Director Rev. Joel Fritsche reflected, *“Over the course of four years of theological study and pastoral formation at Concordia the Reformer Seminary, Ramírez grew from a new husband, new father and fairly new Lutheran into a confident, yet humble man of God, an astute Lutheran theologian, and a passionate preacher of the Gospel of Jesus, with a pastoral heart of gold.”* Ramírez was ordained and installed in Peru on Oct. 23, 2022, and he now serves in La Victoria. While he previously prepared physical food at Castillo Fuerte, he now serves something even better: the spiritual food of the Word of God.

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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Holy Trinity, June 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 11, 9:00am Non Communion Service
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 25, 9:00am Non Communion Service
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 2, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 9, 9:00am Non Communion Service
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 16, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 9:00am Non Communion Service
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30, 9:00am Holy Communion



Isaiah 55:12 - "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

