

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



Resurrection Truth

Matt. 27:62-66, 28:1-15: *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.'⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as*

*you can."⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. **28:1** Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."¹¹ While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.¹² And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers¹³ and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the*

Conspiracy theories and scammers, it seems like the last year has been filled with them. None of us like the ro-bocalls, the lies and illegal efforts we hear about, or having ourselves or others defrauded, especially when it takes away from helping someone truly in need. We all need to be careful, Satan and other deceivers can be very convincing. Even scripture says to always verify well who you are talking to.

However, what do we do with all those nice juicy conspiracy theories out there? Some of us promote conspiracies because we like to gossip or argue. Sometimes, when situations start taking a negative turn, we find ourselves turning to questionable means and information to help our side. Depending on our political affiliations, the things we do or don't support, or those people we like or dislike, it seems many of us are quick to entertain certain conspiracy theories, while laughing at those who would entertain others.

Now, don't get me wrong, some conspiracy theories can certainly be entertaining. Some of them can even be true. However, others can be both false and dangerous. Just take a look at the Bible. Saul was convinced that David was out to get him. His paranoia drove him crazy, caused him to act irrationally, and in many ways was part of his ultimate downfall. On the other hand, look at the lengths the Pharisees went, both to create their own conspiracies and to prevent conspiracies by those they saw as their opponents. They bribe Judas, run an illegal trial with false witnesses, brutally torture and kill an innocent man, lock down Jesus's tomb to try and prevent any false resurrection reports, then bribe soldiers to say they had fallen asleep and the body had been stolen (*a completely unbelievable story as it would have carried a death sentence for the soldiers, unless someone interested in promoting such a story let them live.*) Interestingly, the Pharisees' effort and soldiers' presence only resulted in more witness and evidence of the resurrection. (*Notice the presence of the soldier and other witnesses throughout the passage above*)

This brings us to a very important point. What God wants to take place will take place, regardless of human efforts or conspiracies to the contrary. Also, what God wants to reveal, will be revealed and it will be revealed according to His timing. This does not mean we should not seek out the truth. However, the question, is what truth should we spend our time seeking? Is it our own truth or the Truth that God has wonderfully and powerfully revealed, particularly though His written Word and the Word made flesh, our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? What things are worth spending our credibility on, and where should focus our efforts? In the end, what we and others believe will ultimately come down to what we want to believe and a matter of faith. However, the Truth, God's Truth, the Gospel Truth or our resurrected Lord and Savior will always be true and worth telling. So this Easter and following, let us join the other Easter witnesses in sharing the Truth!

For more on **conspiracy** go to:

www.gotquestions.org/conspiracy-theories.html

For more **Truth about Easter**:

www.faithdefenders.com/the-christian-and-conspiracies/
Join us for *The Case for Easter* - more info on next page

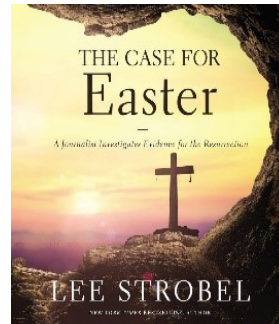


Ron Barger	March 11
Bill Schoech	March 14
Michelle Grossnickle	March 20
Joy Martinsen	March 20
Laura Allwart	March 21
Carolyn Klodzen	March 24
Lisa Montania	March 24
Dora West	March 25
Kathy Lund	March 26
Daisy Fryman	March 28
Cora Grossnickle	March 29
Carol Ballard	April 2
Anne Lyons	April 13
Mary Dunlap	April 16
Roxanne Gottleber	April 19
Sean Allwardt	April 27
Heather Brant	April 28
Dean Gengnagel	April 29
Ray Kickbush	April 29

February Attendance/Offerings

(Attendance includes both inside the church and in the parking lot, but does not include those worshipping at home)

January 31:	Attendance 17	Offering \$2160
February 7:	Attendance 34,	Offering \$2172
February 14:	Attendance 29,	Offering \$1694
February 21:	Attendance 42,	Offering \$5778
February 28:	Attendance 49,	Offering \$3328.26
March 7:	Attendance 43	Offering \$5199



The Case For Easter
 Join us for a 4-week Bible Study!
 Starting April 11,
 Following Worship on Sun-
 days
 Approximately 10:30 am
 Attend in person or on Zoom
 Contact Pastor Schoech for
 more info

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Faith's Sunday School continues to meet weekly after church on Sundays. We are meeting in the basement, so there is room to distance ourselves and everyone wears a mask. Any student from pre-school through high school is invited to join us. We will be doing an Easter-themed Escape Room Puzzle lesson and a small Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday (March 28).



NOTE: If you still have Easter eggs from last year please fill with candy if possible and return to the church. Thank you!

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday Evening services for Lent are being pre-recorded and are always available on our website or our Facebook page. Wednesday evening services will not be held inside the church.

In continuation of the Amazing Grace Lenten theme that began on Ash Wednesday, Holy Week Services are as follows:

Palm Sunday, 9:00 March 28

*Holy Communion Service held **inside** and streamed*

Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm April 1.

*Holy Communion service held **inside** and streamed*

Good Friday: 3:00pm April 2

*Service held **outside** and streamed*

Good Friday: 7:00pm April 2

*Service held **inside** and streamed*

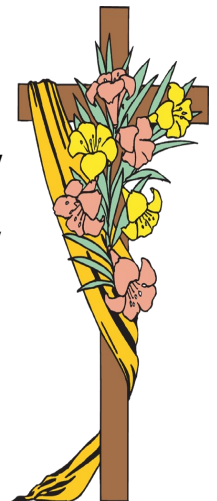
The Resurrection of Our Lord, 9:00am April 4

*Holy Communion Service held **outside** and streamed*

The Resurrection of Our Lord, 11:00am April 4

*Holy Communion Service held **inside** and streamed*

Please note: there are two services on Good Friday, one inside and streamed and one outside and streamed. Also there are two services on Easter Sunday, at 9:00am held outside and streamed and at 11:00 am held inside and streamed.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

“He set his face toward Jerusalem”

Well, you just arrived home from the knee specialist. In two months, the right knee will be replaced. As family members and friends had shared their stories about hip and knee replacements, you quietly rejoiced that you didn't have to join that special group. The pain and the hours of exercises, staying in a rehab facility for several weeks, the change in routine and lost hours at work – you were so relieved to just listen and go home with your own body parts. But now, you have to agree that surgery is needed. So, you set your mind for two months from now and begin to plan life for those post-surgery weeks.

In some ways, you can't believe that you are agreeing to this. Who would want to agree to extreme pain, excruciating exercises, and possibly weeks away from home. But you know the end result will bring more joy with the grandchildren, hopefully a better golf game, and a puppy that will love longer walks.

Before the universe was created, the plan for crucifixion and death and resurrection were in place. Already then, Jesus knew that we would turn away from him. We would demand our independence and claim that we “knew better” about everything. Our “holier than God” attitude would infect all of creation with sin and disease and sorrow and death. So already then, the Trinity put into place the plan to rescue us and the creation we destroyed by our arrogance.

Already then, Jesus set his face toward the one week for which he was born. Already then, Jesus knew what would happen during that week. *“See. We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”* Mark 10:33-34

Already then, Jesus set his face toward the cross. Already then, he knew what would happen to him and the physical pain he would endure.

But more than the physical pain, he knew that he would be carrying the burden of all the sin and disease and sorrow and death that we brought into creation. If we feel guilt over one sin, we cannot imagine what guilt Jesus would feel over the sin of all of us. And even with this knowledge, before the world began, Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem.

Blessed Holy Week!

SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE



Our small but mighty group has been busy even through the pandemic. The ladies have made 75 pillowcases which will be sent to a pillowcase mission and to a organization in our area to be named later. We also have 17 quilts, destination to be determined. We also still have prayer shawls. If you know of anyone who needs one please let Dorothy Kehe know. It can be a person who is having surgery, or has cancer, or a shut-in.

We will also be putting some Easter items out on the pew in the Narthex for sale. Check them out if you need to fill some Easter baskets. The money will be used to buy supplies for sewing or for postage so we can mail items to the missions. Thank you, we appreciate all your support .

We will also be trying something new this summer. We have a few young people who would like to practice and learn more about sewing . We would like to have sewing lessons, so if you are interested please let Dorothy Kehe know and we will let you know when final plans are made.

A note from Barb Prange's daughter Jeannie.....

Faith members:

Barb is doing quite well. Her home in Chesterton has been sold, making her a full-time resident of Greenwood, IN. She misses everyone, but is adapting to her new home. The family is grateful for all the prayers, well wishes, cards and calls from friends at Faith.

You can continue to contact Barb c/o Jeannie Armstrong, 775 San Carlos Dr. , Greenwood, IN 46254.

EASTER FELLOWSHIP

Following the early service on Easter morning, we will have coffee and snacks available outside, weather permitting. Looking forward to being able to connect with our church family members!

PEW SEATING

As we have more people attending our services in person we need to make room for everyone to be seated with safe spacing. If you are the first to be seated in a pew, please move in toward the wall so that another party can also use the pew without the need to climb over anyone. This is a good habit any time! Thanks.

**Faith Lutheran
Church**

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



EASTER SUNDAY

As mentioned in the body of this newsletter there will be two services on Easter Sunday. The first one at 9:00am will be held outside and streamed. The second one at 11:00am will be held inside and streamed.

Between these two services, at approximately 10:15 am we will have a time of fellowship outside (weather permitting).

Looking forward to seeing everyone again, safely and with proper distancing.



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Wednesday in Lent, March 3, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Third Sunday in Lent, March 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 10, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 17, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, March 24, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Sunday of the Passion, March 28, 9:00am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm Holy Communion
Good Friday, April 2, 3:00 & 7:00pm :
(3pm outside and streamed, 7pm inside and streamed)
The Resurrection of Our Lord, April 4, 9:00 & 11:00am Holy Communion
(9am outside and streamed, 11am inside and streamed)
The Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Third Sunday of Easter, April 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 9:00am Morning Prayer

