

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



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible... (Hebrews 11:1-3)

Many of us remember, perhaps as a child, reading the book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This fantastic tale would go on to become part of a larger series called the *Chronicles of Narnia*. However, it started off simply, as a set of images appearing one day in the mind of author C. S. Lewis. The lamppost in a wintry forest, the queen in her sleigh, the powerful and majestic lion, all of these could have been common enough elements in any fantasy novel. Yet, it quickly became apparent to Lewis and others that something more was revealing itself in layer after layer of the story. He later wrote, "At first there wasn't anything Christian about them; that element pushed itself in of its own accord." To this day, theologians, literary scholars, and children alike still enjoy unpacking this story and the Christian messages within.

In addition to the winter setting and the various themes that can be connected to Christ, there is something else about the nature of the writing itself that makes this book distinctly suited to Advent. Think of all the prophetic images and event that lead up to Jesus's birth. The verses above, from Hebrews 11, begin a long list of well-known people and events, in which God was present and foreshadowing the reality of the wonderful yet not yet visible story to come. Think of how many times the ancient Hebrew people familiar with such past events must have wondered, when will God's promises be fulfilled, how will they be fulfilled, and what shape will they take? The marks of God on His people and creation should have given even unbelievers a sense of God's nature and what was coming. Yet, what a surprise... what a gloriously humble, quietly powerful, amazing thing took place that first Christmas and the days and months leading up to it. For centuries God set the groundwork then, all of sudden, with announcement of angels and a baby's cry, the God of the Universe, the Savior, Immanuel, was laying there amidst the straw of a cattle stall. Looking back, it's hard to imagine the sheer awe and wonder of being a part of it all.

Yet here too, Christ's footprints in Narnia, help us to experience Advent, anew. For those of us who have already spent many years encountering the themes of Advent and Christmas, I think we sometimes lose sight of some of the wonder of the season. The virgin birth, God humbly becoming a real human child, the plan of salvation already in place since the beginning of time, all of this should boggle the mind. Yet, for many of us, I think such things can somehow become both familiar and yet at the same time distant. We are able to describe them in detail, yet have not really seen most of them directly. As Heidi Haverkamp, puts it in her devotional book, *Advent in Narnia, Reflections for the season*:

"Too often, Christianity may seem to be a known quantity. We can take its radical values for granted and see Jesus as a cliché instead of our Savior. Lewis, by placing Christianity into another world, makes it unfamiliar again. He gives us the chance to feel a newfound wonder at the depth of God's love, the power of Christ's grace and the totality of his sacrifice, and the wonder of a world infused with the Holy Spirit. We all can use a spiritual wake-up call like this, whether we aren't sure Christianity can mean anything to us or whether it means everything."

I hope you will join with me and some of the themes and characters of Narnia, during our Wednesday Advent Meditations, as we go into the snow and the forest to experience afresh the power, wonder, and the depth of God's love found in the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. After all, the one you encounter means everything.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Eric Schoeck



**Happy Birthday to those born in
December!**

Linda Berner	December 1
Chris Chambers	December 3
Eric Berner	December 6
David Chambers	December 7
Christian Nicholson	December 8
Joseph Price	December 10
Kathi Busch	December 15
Liam West	December 20
Margeaux Berner	December 20
Karl Berner	December 25

Happy Birthday Jesus! December 25

VCA NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair Fundraiser

This will be open in the school from December 5-11.

It is open to everyone, with special shopping open to church members on Sunday, December 11 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Books are preschool through 8th grade and adult, including cooking, sewing and hobbies.

Breakfast with Santa...

Will be held on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00am to 12 noon. A \$15 donation includes breakfast and a digital picture package with Santa by professional photographer Brittney Slaghter.



The Book Fair will be open during this time and we will also have crafts and ornament decorating.

Everyone is welcome to both these events!

**SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE HOLIDAY
GIFT SALE CONTINUES!**

Be sure and check out the beautiful handmade items displayed in the Narthex. They are perfect gift ideas for the holidays.

There is a list of prices and a box for payment. Your money will help buy supplies and pay for postage when projects are mailed for Missions.

Thanks for your support!



Across generations and different stages of life, our Faith Family continues to seek to provide opportunities for everyone to:

Welcome, Care, Gather, and Grow.

Join us on Sunday, Dec 11, after the Children's service, for a conversation about a new monthly gathering particularly aimed at those who have retired or who are over 50 years old.

Conversation may also include general discussion on how to best provide, promote, and support ministry in the 50 plus age group. So, bring your thoughts, feedback, and an open heart.

We Look Forward to Seeing you there!

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual Voters' Assembly was held on Sunday, November 13. Bruce Lindner was elected to serve on the Board of Directors, as Paul Grossnickle is rolling off of the board as required after completing his third term. Dorothy Kehe was reelected to serve a third term. Thanks to all who attended the assembly and provided input, and to all who have volunteered to serve Faith in the governance of the Faith family.

Please hold our board, Bruce, Dorothy, Sherri Nord and Nathaniel Koehneke, in your prayers as they do God's work in this place, as well as our appointed Financial Officers, Jay Gottleber and Jon Beagley.

—Paul Grossnickle

GREENING OF THE CHURCH AND CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/ADVENT SUPPERS

A light Advent Supper will be held in our Fellowship Hall prior to Wednesday Advent Evening Prayer. The supper will begin at 6:15 followed by service at 7:00pm.



Please join us as we "green" the church in preparation for the Advent season. We will be putting up trees and decorating on Sunday, December 4 after Bible Class.

Our Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 9:00am.

DISCIPLES OF LIGHT

Disciples Of Light is a small group for busy adults who want to make time for Bible Study. We will be meeting monthly on Fridays at church throughout the year to gather for dinner and discuss "The Chosen" series. Babysitting will be provided for those with children. Our next meeting is Friday, December 9 and we will be having a Christmas celebration dinner. Dinner will begin at 5:00 with study beginning at 5:30. Come join in the fun!



SERVICES DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

Sunday, November 27	First Sunday in Advent	9:00 am
Wednesday, November 30	First Wednesday in Advent	7:00pm
Sunday, December 4	Second Sunday in Advent	9:00am
Wednesday, December 7	Second Wednesday in Advent	7:00pm
Sunday, December 11	Children's Christmas Program	9:00am
Wednesday, December 14	Third Wednesday in Advent	7:00pm
Sunday, December 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9:00am
Saturday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols	7:00pm
Sunday, December 25	The Nativity of Our Lord	9:00am



Faith Lutheran
Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



VCA FUNDRAISING
UPDATES

Valparaiso Children's Academy's teachers and parents have been hard at work fundraising for an after school bus. To date their efforts include:

- \$2864 from their pie sale
- \$1814 from their fall festival and silent auction
- \$475 from parents night out.

Totaling over \$5000 toward our bus!



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 9:00am Non-Communion Service
The First Wednesday in Advent, November 30, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Second Sunday in Advent, December 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Wednesday in Advent, December 7, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Third Sunday in Advent, December 11, 9:00am Children's Christmas Service
The Third Wednesday in Advent, December 14, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols
The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25, 9:00am Holy Communion
Epiphany, January 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

*"For unto you is born ... a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Luke 2:11