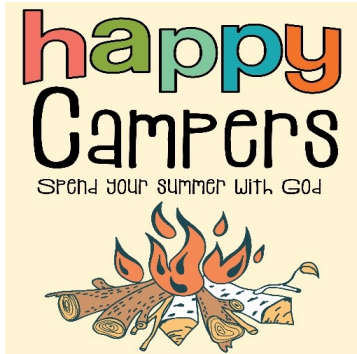


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(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



Are you a happy camper? As we turn toward summer and summer vacations, many people will be enjoying a variety of activities, including camping. Now, I know not everyone loves camping. Take many kids (or even adults) into the woods and initially the grumbling might sound like you just joined the Israelites during their 40-year trek in the wilderness. “I’m hungry. What’s with all the bugs? What do you mean you want me to put down my electronics and interact? Did you bring me out here to die!” A few Boy Scout and other trips, that I’ve participated in, started off with some reacting this way. Yet, once the initial shock of change and the withdrawal from certain distractions wore off, something strange often happened. People began to notice and interact with their surroundings. People

began to enjoy and interact with each other in a different way. It was like an entirely different reality and outlook on life took over, when people were willing to set aside certain things and engage. I think there may also be some important applications for life together as the body of Christ in there somewhere. It’s interesting that when Jesus invited His disciples, including the 12, to share in his life and to join him on a great adventure, they seem to have spent a fair amount of time in the wilderness or at least in places that helped facilitate a certain kind of interaction. I wonder what that might look like for you right now?

Now, personally, I generally enjoy camping, playing, and working on things outdoors. Some of my best conversations have been around a campfire or working beside others, including those I might not have otherwise. Even in childhood, when my brother and I did not always get along, some of my fondest memories are of our interactions during of our family trips together. My families yearly trip to support Camp Lutherhaven in setting up for the year is one that has played an important role in my spiritual journey... not to mention my love for camp songs and strumming a guitar. Bottom line, I think there is just something about the outdoors or taking a journey together that can not only bring people together but also bring us closer to God. I am looking forward to some time intentionally spent with family, friends, neighbors, and hopefully a few strangers connecting with God and with each other this summer.

One of the new places I am looking forward to doing that this year is Vacation Bible School. This year’s theme, happens to be “Happy Camper.” This will be a great chance to interact with God, the VCA, and each other in a focused way. Don’t worry, if the outdoors is not as much your thing there will be indoor adventures together as well. Here are some of the weekly takeaways from this year’s theme that I think we can already start to learn from and which might influence your own activity this summer. Read the following scriptures, pray for this year’s VBS, ask God what adventure He might have planned for you this summer, and then ask Him to lead you on it.

Catch Some Fish. Nothing passes the time quite like going out and catching fish. It’s up to us to share the gospel with others as we become fishers of men. (John 5:1-11)

Put up the Tent. It’s worth paying attention to how we pitch our tent. Jesus deserves our attention. (Mark 9:2-13)

Set Out Your Sleeping Bag. When you’re “roughing it” you give up your warm house and comfortable bed. Following Jesus means being willing to give up everything for God. (Mat. 8:18-22)

Go on a Hike. During your trip, it’s nice to go out to the hiking trails and explore nature. Jesus sends us out to help and serve others. (Luke 10:1-17)

(Continued on next page)

Make S'mores. No camping trip would be complete without fixing up s'mores. Jesus is the bread of life that makes us complete. (John 6:25-40)

Sing Camp Fire Songs. Nothing's more joyful than singing songs under the stars. Praise Jesus joyfully. (Luke 19:28-40)

Telling Camp Stories. It's nice to sit around the campfire and tell each other stories. We have the best story ever to tell: Jesus is alive! (Luke 24:13- 32)

Keeping the Fire Going. When the camping trip is over, make sure to put out the campfire is out. Fortunately, the promised Holy Spirit, the fire of good news will never go out. (Acts 2:1-12)

May God Bless your journey with Him and with others this summer! For more information on how VBS can be a part of that journey see the additional info included in this newsletter and watch for future announcements.

In Christ, *Pastor Eric Schreck*



Micah Nord	May 2
Donna Cawby	May 4
John Stingely	May 6
Sherri Nord	May 8
Marc Nicholson	May 8
Marilyn Lindner	May 11
Jon Beagley	May 12
Cora Bernard	May 23
August Nord	May 24
Julia Roesler	May 25
Dave Allwardt	May 29



Everyone had fun at the Easter Egg Hunt!

happy Campers

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH GOD

This year's VBS will be held during our Summer Camp program, and will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:00. We have some ways that you could get involved! Please contact Kaytie Abraham (kabraham.vca@gmail.com) by May 8th if you would like to volunteer! VCA appreciates all of the help and support that you all provide!

If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to be involved, please see our donation list posted below. Donations must be brought to the VCA **NO LATER** than May 26th. You can contact Kaytie Abraham at the above email address with any further questions.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Fishing Rod ***Can be returned upon request.*
- Fisherman's attire (Hats, vests, ect.) ***Can be returned upon request.*
- 3 Person tent ***Can be returned upon request.*
- 6 Small buckets
- Magazines
- Unused photo album
- 3 New Tie-Dye kits
- 25 8x5 hardback sketchbooks
- Bracelet making kits



Disciples of Light is a small group for busy adults who want to make time for Bible study. We will have our last monthly meeting for this spring to gather for dinner and discuss "The Chosen" series. Babysitting will be provided for those with children. Our next meeting is Friday, May 12 and we'll be having grilled chicken. We will start dinner at 5:00pm with the study beginning at 5:30.

Come join in the fun!



Heartfelt thanks to John and Loretta Frank and their family for providing our Easter Breakfast again this year. It was fabulous and a wonderful time was had by all!



PENTECOST POTLUCK

This year we will be holding our Pentecost Potluck on June 4th, to avoid conflict with Memorial Day weekend plans.

**Mark your calendars!
More details to follow.**



Spring Painting!

We continue to paint and organize our building for spring!



One of the class rooms in the main hallway and vestibule entrance has been painted for the VCA. Painting will also be done in the upcoming weeks in the main hallway and gathering space along with repair for cracks in the drywall. Many thanks to Sean Allwardt, Ken Kehe and all the other volunteers!



Faith Lutheran
Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 9:00am Service of the Word & Prayer
The Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Day of Pentecost, May 28, 9:00am Holy Communion
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

