

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



Treasure from the Ashes

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. ⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who

takes refuge in him! ⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. ¹² What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. ¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. ²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. ²² The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. (Ps. 34:1-22 ESV)

You have probably heard or experienced the stories. A person desperately clings to a one-sided relationship only to have it blow up on them; then when the smoke finally clears, they discover their future spouse standing there, amid the ashes. A person puts a great deal of effort into earning more money in their present job, only to lose that job and discover greater meaning in a lower-paying but much more rewarding calling. A covid-like event takes the things people often prioritize and smashes them, only to have many suddenly realize that a host of other things, like family, which they may have been putting on the back burner, are worth making first priority.

Like a man named Job, whose own journey through the ashes is described in the Bible, sometimes we have to experience great loss in order to put things into perspective. Bread does not seem that exciting until you don't have any. Water is not something many of us think about, until the faucet won't turn on, we can't take a shower, or we are dying of thirst. Hopefully, we don't always have to hit rock bottom before we recognize the blessings God continually places before us. However, when we do thank God, He is ready, waiting, and able to pick us up and give us what we truly need.

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God's amazing love and his precious gifts to us, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that "faith comes from hearing" (*Romans 10:17*), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (*Mat 13:52*). So, each Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements.

Starting near the end of February, our Wednesday Lenten series is called *Promised Treasures*. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (*Col 3; Eph 4*). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoeck



February 22 is Ash Wednesday. Our Holy Communion Service that evening will be at 7:00. There is no Lenten supper prior to the Ash Wednesday service, but we WILL have suppers on the next five Wednesday evenings. Please join us as we gather in fellowship at 6:15 followed by Evening Prayer at 7:00.

ROLLIN', ROLLIN', ROLLIN'.....

Join us for an afternoon of bowling fun at Inman's on Sunday, February 19. We will meet there at 2:00pm and cheer each other on to hitting the head pin once in a while!

Hope to see you there, and bring a friend!



END OF YEAR FINANCES

SPENT:	\$184,225.91
GENERAL OFFERINGS:	\$166,913.46
DEFICIT:	\$23,740.21

DISCIPLES OF LIGHT

Disciples of Light is a small group for busy adults who want to make time for Bible Study. We are meeting monthly on Fridays at church for dinner and to discuss "The Chosen" series.

Babysitting is provided for those with children.

Faith & Fellowship

Our next meeting is Friday, February 17 and we will be having fried chicken.

Dinner is at 5:00 with study beginning at 5:30.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert.

*Mother / Son
Father / Daughter
Dance*

The entire family is invited to join us!

HAPPY
Valentine's
Day
Dance

Join us for a Spaghetti Dinner and Dancing

Friday February, 10
6:30-9:30

Complete with DJ, dance floor, desserts and MORE!

Faith Lutheran members, family and friends are cordially invited to the VCA Valentine's Day Dance.

If you are planning to attend please RSVP: (219) 548-5799.



The Sewing Seeds of Love ladies have been busy. The red, white and blue quilts and blankets will be delivered to the Porter VFW for the veterans. The other quilts are lap robes which were delivered to Reverend Graef at Avalon. He received the print one because Gail Hoover used one of his wife's quilt toppers to complete the lap robe. The other two were made by Dorothy Kehe, and Reverend Graef will gift them to some of the residents he is ministering to.



February

Birthday Wishes to our members born in February!

Alexis Brandt	February 6
Patsy Berndt	February 7
Anna Price	February 7
Deb Porter	February 12
Beth Underwood	February 13
Kenny Frank	February 2
Frank Morris	February 22

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped with the Christmas decorations around the building this year. It adds a beautiful touch to our celebration of Jesus' birth.



And... to those who brought food dishes to our Advent suppers, a big and well-satisfied thank you! If you haven't participated yet, you can join in on our Lenten suppers which take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm prior to Lenten Evening Prayer. These will begin on the first Wednesday in Lent, March 1.

God's Mercy Poured Out Upon Us....

This is an excerpt from Sharing Newsletter... an LCMS World Relief Publication, January, 2023. it has been edited for space.

"... Some 14 years ago we dreamed of the possibilities for the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, German. Since then, it's been used for educating new European and Asian pastors, for training global Lutheran leaders, for weekly Lutheran services for locals and visitors, for confirmation and pastors' retreats. COVID-19 shut it down for a while. Nevertheless, God has blessed the endeavor through all with balanced budgets and sufficient revenue. And it's all paid for and has been for many years. But God is a God of surprises.

As a result of the Ukrainian conflict, people -including many Lutherans- have had to flee. Through LCMS World Relief and Human Care, we've been able to offer significant aid to many of our European friends in caring for refugees. About 1000 Ukrainians ended up in Wittenberg, and we were able to open the Old Latin School's rooms, kitchen, church and gathering space for their use. We've also been blessed by having a wonderful Ukrainian pastor, the Rev. Andriy Honcharuk (working via our German partner church), providing catechism instruction, pastoral care and weekly services. I was in Wittenberg recently when a young Ukrainian girl named Viktoria was baptized at our Old Latin School. What blessed mercy. Luther said it many times: Christians care for body and soul. Because Christ has had mercy upon us, we cannot but serve our neighbor with His own mercy (Baptism!) and love. Thanks be to God. "

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison, President,
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Faith Lutheran
Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 5, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 12, 9:00am Non-Comm. Service
The Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 9:00am Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday, February 22, 7:00pm Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 9:00am Non-Comm. Service
The First Wednesday in Lent, March 1, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Second Sunday in Lent, March 5, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Wednesday in Lent, March 8, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Third Sunday in Lent, March 12, 9:00am Non-Communion Service
The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 15, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 22, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 9:00am Non-Communion Service
The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, March 29, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

