

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

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHLUTHERAN.ORG

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

INVITATIONS!

Zechariah 3:8-10 ⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

God is a God of blessings and invitations. We have all received the blessing of God's forgiveness and the invitation to be a part of His family. As members of God's family we have also received the blessing of being a part of a community where we can gather together to hear God's word, support one another, and learn more about the blessings that come from a relationship with our Lord. We are also blessed by taking the time to get to know one another and enjoying the blessing of being in each others' company.

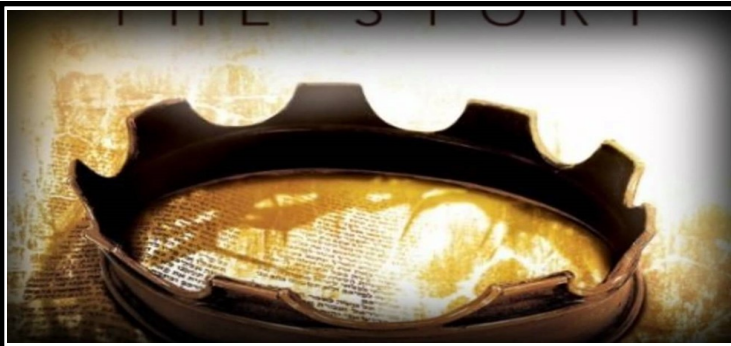
Of course the blessings don't have to stop with us, nor should they! With the church picnic and rally day at the end of August, Griefshare, the start up of Sunday School in September, and other activities that begin with the new school year, now is a great time to build your relationship with some of your neighbors and invite them to come with you to a church event. New small groups and a sermons series called *The Story*, which begin in September, will be great places to invite people to experience God's Story, whether they are familiar with scripture, or completely new to the Bible. Also, for those who haven't tried it, it is still not too late to have a summer event in your neighborhood (big or small) that allows you to invite neighbors you have not had a chance to get to know. Several people have tried it and had big success in starting to build or strengthen connections with those around them. I invite all of you to attend the church picnic, small groups, and other events at church this year, and I also hope you will bring a friend. To help you do this, feel free to share the invitation that we have inserted in this newsletter.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

Pastor Eric Schoech





THE STORY BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER.....

As *The Story* brings the bible to life, the broad scope of God's message will penetrate hearts. This congregation will be swept up in the story of God's love and God's plan for our lives.

The Story will be presented in worship, adult bible study, Sunday School and small groups. We pray that this will increase our faith and enable our sharing of the Gospel with those around us.

The Story premieres on September 8.

JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY!

Sunday, August 25

Our service will include the preschool and Sunday School teacher blessing. Table displays will be set up in the Narthex sharing up-coming church events and ministries. What a great opportunity to find out more about what goes at Faith and to get involved!



Sunday, August 25 beginning at 2:00pm.

A bouncy house and other activities will be available for children of all ages!

Bring a dish to share (if you like)

Hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and water, plates and utensils will be provided.

PLEASE JOIN US (and bring your friends!)



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|---------------------|-----------|
| Alicia Frank Cooper | August 1 |
| Edith Berndt | August 1 |
| Barb Kehe | August 4 |
| Mary Dunlap | August 5 |
| Karen Stingely | August 9 |
| Myrna Chambers | August 11 |
| Marcy Hassel | August 12 |
| Kathy Kreps | August 13 |
| Travis Dunlap | August 16 |
| Melodie Nord | August 22 |
| Dick Baepler | August 24 |
| Kent Eichstaedt | August 24 |
| Patty Nicholson | August 25 |
| Jackie Allwardt | August 26 |
| Dorothea Price | August 29 |
| Elizabeth West | August 31 |

If we have left out your birthday please let us know. Call the office at (219) 462-7684

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*"Give thanks to God, bless his name."
Psalm 100:4b*

Mary was born when I was ten months old. Her dad was the superintendent at the first Lutheran High School (1951) in Los Angeles. My dad joined the faculty in 1954. Mary and I became friends at a very early age. There were Saturdays together, sleep overs, Barbies, birthdays, trips to the beach (courtesy of Mary's older sister). High school came and Mary was gone for a year and I moved to Illinois and we lost touch. But our parents, especially our moms, didn't. I also happen to think that God kept a string connected between our two hearts, knowing that we would need each other again. For you see, in the bizarre way that life happens, Mary also has Multiple Sclerosis. She has battled this disease about twenty years, along with other health issues and surgeries.

We reconnected over fifteen years ago and stay in contact by phone and email. Sometimes our conversations don't even mention the MS, while other times that is the only topic. In a call right after Easter, I got the details of Mary's unexpected three day stay in the hospital and the update for her May 10 surgery. I had been in a funk over a number of things – health included. In light of her hospital stay and the upcoming surgery, I asked if she ever wanted to just give up. Not suicide – but to stop the doctor appointments and blood tests and out-patient therapy, etc., etc. Living with a disease for which there is no cure and there still is no knowledge of what causes it, I wondered how she goes on. "Becky", she said, "lean on God and find one thing each day for which to be thankful."

Her last words reminded me of Psalm 100 and St Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians. Both remind us to be thankful – and to direct that thankfulness to God. Neither text tells us to be thankful for the yucky stuff that happens. Paul clearly says to be thankful "in" all things, but not "for" all things. While God can and does use the yuck of life to draw us into a completely dependent relationship with God, we aren't called to celebrate when the difficult things of life occur. Instead, we are called to lean on God and be thankful for something. And if we just can't find that something, recite over and over again, "Thank you God for loving me."

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



Calendar and Planning Meeting

The Ministry Team Leaders, Board of Directors and office staff will meet on **Sunday, August 11** to plan the calendar year. Each team/leadership group should have at least one member in attendance (the whole team is preferable). Bring a handout listing your group's planned efforts for the year with all dates, events and initiatives. Identify and share 1-2 areas where you plan to put your focus or growth efforts for the year. This is our main planning meeting for the year and we will get as many dates and events on the calendar as possible.



The ladies of Sewing Seeds of Love have been busy. We will be sending 20 dresses to the Christian Appalachian Project.

If you sew and would like to join us we meet at 9:00am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Email:
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New GriefShare group meetings will begin this month. Two days/times will be offered: Thursday mornings at 10am beginning August 1 and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm beginning August 6. Groups meet each week for 13 weeks. If you or someone you know might benefit from this ministry please call the office (462-7684) and speak with Becky. For questions about the program you may also visit www.griefshare.org.

FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, August 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

