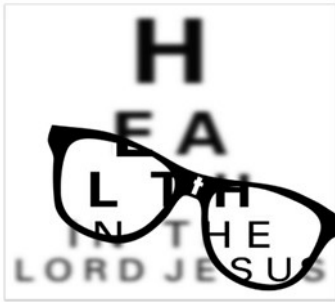


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(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*



20+20 VISION

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. (Rev 3:18)

So how is your vision? I know in many ways mine is not what it once was. At the very least, work, taking care of children, or spending a bit more time staring at screens lately may be leaving you feeling a little blurry-eyed. Of course, there is another kind of sort-sightedness, and that is when it comes to our overall health. The Bible is clear that God desires us to be healthy. He has already taken steps to provide for our ultimate total health and restoration as described in the book of Revelation. He also makes it clear, that in as much as we can in this fallen world, God has plans for us to take care of our present body, which serves as his temple.

Yet, what does healthy mean? The Apostle John may give us some insight when he writes to a friend named Gaius, "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. (3 Jn. 1:2)" Certainly, John wants Gaius (and us) to be in good mental, emotional, and physical health, but he also recognizes that this begins with the health of our soul. In his letter, John goes on to address matters involving relational health as well. After all, our spiritual health is built upon our relationship with God, as well as the body of Christ. Seeing and hearing also get mentioned in this extremely brief, 15 verse letter. I encourage you to take some time to meditate on this letter on your own, and maybe talk a little bit with another believer about how this letter relates to your health and the health the church. (*who knows there might be a quiz !*)

For now, let me ask you directly: how's your health? How would you evaluate your health in the various areas I listed above? If we are looking and listening, there is plenty in the world to remind us, especially right now, that we need to stay engaged in the different areas of our health...especially our spiritual health, to which all the others are connected. Unfortunately, our looking and listening skills can get a little fuzzy, can't they? When things seem to be going well enough, many of us tend to put on the blinders, much like a youth whose diet consists of a steady flow of pizza and french-fries, like there is no tomorrow. Even when we know better or have had a few warnings, many of us still choose to be oblivious. Who has ever met a medical worker, who seems like they might be one stressed-out moment or one pack of cigarettes away from a coronary? Yes, we all have our blind spots.

This is where Revelations 3:18 comes in and says, it is time to address our overall health, including those blind spots. Doctors, government workers, trainers, church workers, and a wide variety of others can try to give us all the information and support at their disposal, but change starts with opening our eyes and ears. Moreover, true health begins with opening our hearts to the Lord and listening to his guidance. Whatever area of health He knows we need growth and support in, Jesus is already waiting at the door with his running shoes on. "²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." While it won't always be easy Jesus says, "¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent..."²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Rev. 3:17-22 ESV)

So brothers and sisters, even though our vision in this fallen world may not be completely clear (see 1 Cor. 13:12), what have you been starting to see over the last several months particularly in yourself? What in your routine or change in routine has pointed out a need for change in the long run? Are there things you have been relying on in a certain way that turned out to leave you poor, blind, and naked? Are there ways in which you have been doing better, during this time: time with family, connecting with old friends in new ways, exercise, hygiene, eating habits, taking more time with God, getting better rest, doing things for your mental health, asking for health and support, finding creative ways to give and help to others. Are there some of these areas you are just starting to see the need for growth or have just begun working on? I'd love to know how I, our prayer team, or others in the church could pray for and support you. In fact, be on the lookout because starting over the next few months we are going to be zeroing in on some of these very topics, and providing ways for the congregation to support each other in being the healthiest in their lives, in their relationship to Christ, and in caring for one another.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

BACK PACK BLESSING



**School age children,
bring your backpacks to
church for a special bless-
ing as you begin your
school year.**

Sunday, August 9.



Happy birthday to the following Faith mem-
bers with birthdays in August

Alicia Frank Cooper	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
Kent Eichstaedt	August 24
Dick Baeppler	August 24
Patty Nicholson	August 25
Jackie Allwardt	August 26
Dorothea Price	August 29
Elizabeth West	August 31

OUTDOOR FELLOWSHIP!

The annual Faith family picnic is on! Please join us at 1:00pm on Sunday, August 23rd at Kirchoff Park in Valpo. Since we want to avoid common dishes and utensils, everything is being furnished. We will have burgers and dogs, drinks, tableware, everything. Just bring your appetite for simple food and fellowship. You may want to bring along a lawn chair as well, to help with spacing.



Also, since God is feeding us, let's use this opportunity to help feed the less fortunate around us. Please bring non-perishable food items for food pantry donation, with sponsorship by Thrivent. Let's be generous in our donations to help our neighbors.

Hope to see you there!

TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER.....

As you probably know, the governor of the state of Indiana has declared that masks must be worn inside of public buildings starting July 27th, so this means that we'll need to wear masks throughout our time inside of the church building. If we can't or prefer not to wear a mask during worship, we can participate in worship together in the parking lot or via livestream. Thanks to everyone for all of the adjustments which we make to ensure that we can continue to worship our God no matter what.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 AFTER CHURCH SERVICES. FOR THOSE COMFORTABLE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING, WE WILL SPREAD OUT IN THE BASEMENT. YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM. FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL PASTOR SCHOECH.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANS



We hope to hold in-person Sunday School beginning August 23. All activities will be either outside or in the basement.

Students and staff will be required to wear masks. Our first mission project will be collecting food for the Immanuel Food Pantry, so bring any non-perishable food items in from August 23 to November 22.

If Valpo schools cancel in-person learning, we will not meet in person either, but will hold short, weekly Zoom sessions for singing, praying and chatting. Gordy can't wait to see you all!

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*"We are the Aroma of Christ."
2 Corinthians 2:15*

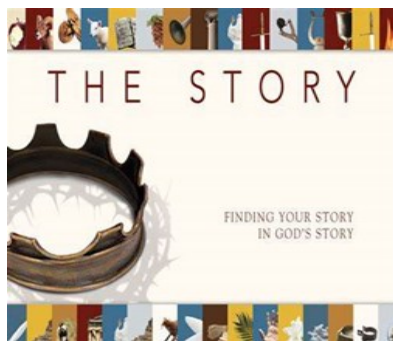
Vacaville, California is in the northern part of the long, fertile valley that is the center of the state. The fruits and vegetables produced in that valley feed many in the United States. If the weather is quiet on a spring day, with no wind or rain, a resident of Vacaville can stand outside and experience two senses from Mother Nature: your ears can hear the bees at work and your nose can smell the sweet aroma of camellias and roses, fruit and nut blossoms. The scent is not overwhelming where those with allergies need to dash inside for a tissue. Instead, it is as if nature has briefly wrapped you in a light blanket and then took it away to wrap others. The scent lingers in the nose for a few moments, but the memory stays for the day. Those aromas are also wonderful promises of farmers' markets overflowing with fruit and nuts. Oh, the bounties on dinner tables and in holiday baked goods!

St. Paul says we are the aroma of Christ. After a day of hard, sweaty work, we have difficulty thinking that we might smell good and might even be appealing to others. But the sweet aroma of Christ is not changed by our physical aroma. No matter where we are and what we are doing we carry the aroma of Christ.

And how do we do that? It is amazing what simple actions and words can communicate to those around us. Others can "smell" the aroma when we say please and thank you. For those who are unable to physically help, say the words "May God bless you" to care givers. Maybe we could return to the old ways of farmers and wave from our vehicle to friends and neighbors, and maybe even total strangers. And there is always that one action almost every Christian can do – pray.

When these words and actions become a regular habit in our lives, we leave that pleasing aroma behind no matter where we are – work, home, travel, appointments, shopping. We are the aroma of Christ and not only spread Christ, but share the promise of life everlasting with him.

"For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." 2 Corinthians 2:15



Thanks again to all of you, who helped to make the Story so successful. We are glad you were able to participate in this part of the Story, and we look forward to the rest of the even bigger story that is still ahead. Don't forget that we would like to have copies of your filled in handouts that were given to you on the last two Sundays of the Story. You can email copies to us or turn them in at the welcome center so we can make a copy and return them to your church mailbox. If you did not get or misplaced these handouts, they are available at FaithValpo.org under the resource section. We will be coming back to some of this material again in the future and are interested in some of your responses, so please be sure to take the time to work through the material. Pastor is happy to address any questions.

Communities are struggling all across this country due to the corona virus and the financial crisis which has been a direct result of it. Here at Faith we are supporting our local food pantries in several ways. At our picnic we will be collecting non-perishable food items in sponsorship with Thrivent. The Sunday School children will also be collecting food during the next few months. You may leave a donation at any time in the grocery cart here at church. Monetary gifts are also always welcome.

Immanuel Food Pantry, 1700 Monticello Park Dr., Valparaiso, 46383

Hilltop Food Pantry: 604 Monroe St., Valparaiso, 46383



Faith Lutheran Church

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



UPDATING OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Deb is in the process of updating our church directory. If you have any changes in contact information since the last directory was issued please email them to the office at office@faithmemorial.net.

Thank you!



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2, 9:00am inside and parking lot
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 9:00am inside and parking lot
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 9:00am inside and parking lot
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 9:00am inside and parking lot
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 30, 9:00am inside and parking lot

The above services are subject to change if covid 19 virus regulations change again. For questions please call the office at (219) 462-7684.

For parking lot services tune your radio to FM99.1.

Services will also be streamed on our website at www.faitervalpo.org.

