

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

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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



Praying in Humble Confidence

Luke 18:10-14 *"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For every-*

During Lent, as we once again ask God to center our hearts on Christ and help us grow in our relationship with Him, prayer is an important part of this relationship. For many of us prayer is a challenging thing. We may feel unsure of what to pray for, unsure of what difference it makes, or unsure of whether we are worthy to pray to God at all.

Given this struggle this is what Luther had to say on prayer:

Some say, "I would feel better about God hearing my prayer if I were more worthy and lived a better life." I simply answer: If you don't want to pray before you feel that you are worthy or qualified, then you will never pray again. Prayer must not be based on or depend on your personal worthiness or the quality of the prayer itself; rather, it must be based on the unchanging truth of God's promise. If the prayer is based on itself or on anything else besides God's promise, then it's a false prayer that deceives you—even if your heart is breaking with intense devotion and you are weeping drops of blood.

We pray because we are unworthy to pray. Our prayers are heard precisely because we believe that we are unworthy. We become worthy to pray when we risk everything on God's faithfulness alone.

So go ahead and feel unworthy. But know in your heart that it's a thousand times more important to honor God's truthfulness. Yes, everything depends on this alone. Don't turn his faithful promise into a lie by your doubts. For your worthiness doesn't help you, and neither does your unworthiness hinder you. A lack of faith is what condemns you, but confidence in God is what makes you worthy.

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Luke 18:13

O God, we come before you this Lenten season, asking Your forgiveness for where our lives, and yes even our prayers have fallen short, help us to grow in our faith. Help us to trust in Your faithful promises, and let us pray with ever increasing confidence "Thy Will Be Done."

In Jesus name, Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

Pastor Eric Schoech

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BOD would like to encourage the congregation that if they have an issue or comment, please see a board member so that it can be brought up at the Board meetings. We would like the input of the congregation on the events currently happening in or around the church. They may also contact one of the board members via email.—Members of your current BOD are:

- Mary Dunlap
- Paul Grossnickle
- Bruce Berner
- Sean Allwardt



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For our Sunday School Mission Project we have been collecting donations for Porter County Animal Shelter. It's not too late to donate small blankets, pet toys, pet food, or money. The kids will be invited to help deliver the donations sometime in March.



SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our Cub Scout Pack 986 will hold their Pancake Breakfast here at church on Sunday, March 11 from 8:00-11:00am. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 3-12 and free for kids under 3. Come before services or stay after to support our scouts!



BECOMING AN EVERYDAY MISSIONARY

From Gary, Indiana to rural Kenya, people who live in darkness are yearning to hear the life-changing Gospel message. Through His Word, the Lord tells us that the fields are ready for the harvest. Are you ready to tell the world about Jesus?

Join the discussion at St. John's Lutheran Church, Gary, IN on March 18 from 2:00-4:00 pm to learn how the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the LCMS Indiana District and dedicated Lutherans like you can work together to share the Gospel and show Christ's love to people around the world.

Mission Advocate John Lewis will facilitate this event which is being held jointly by the Indiana District and LCMS Mission Advancement. Food and beverages will be provided.

There is more information posted on the church activities bulletin board or speak with Pastor Schoech for details.

Works in Progress
Small Group will resume the week after Easter, to start the second half of the commandments. We will resume with the 5th commandment, utilizing Luther's Large Catechism.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Canceled Sin"

On Sunday, January 28, the closing hymn was "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (#559 in the green hymnal). The beginning phrase of the fourth stanza reads "He breaks the power of canceled sin." In the confession, we ask God to forgive any sin that we have done. We also ask forgiveness for not doing the things we should have done. But the confession never talks about the sin that has been forgiven and the weight we still carry because of our own inability to forget past sin and to forgive ourselves for our sin.

Years ago in a women's Bible class in a small town in Kansas, the topic was the Psalms. The group had been challenged to read their way through all 150 psalms over the course of the study. Each week any one could share thoughts and questions about what had been read. One of the women who was in her 70's, asked about Psalm 25:7: "Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions." Even though she had attended church and Sunday School and confirmation and Bible classes and heard the absolution every Sunday, she still carried guilt about some sins from her youth. Those sins had been forgiven and canceled by God. But deep in her heart, she could not forgive herself. The power of canceled sin still held her captive.

We are finite beings who are loved and cared for by an infinite God. While there are many memories we hope will never be lost, there are those that we wish would never come to mind again. Most of us have at least one skeleton in the closet that we hope no one will ever see. But we know and we remember the sins of our youth and the sins of yesterday and the sins of an hour ago. Our own humanness makes it impossible to forget the broken relationship that we have with God. And often, that leads us to despair over our past actions and words. The power of canceled sin still holds us captive.

In this Lenten season, a man hangs on a cross for us. By his death and resurrection, canceled sin – all sin – has lost its power over us. That fourth stanza ends, "He sets the prisoner free. His blood can make the foulest clean. His blood avails for me."

BEST WISHES TO THE FAITH MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH!

Lee Albertson	March 7
Caryl Kugler	March 7
Joy Martinsen	March 20
Michelle Grossnickle	March 20
Laura Allwardt	March 21
Lisa Montania	March 24
Carolyn Klodzen	March 24
Dora West	March 25
Daisy Fryman	March 28
Cara Grossnickle	March 29



Happy Birthday

Did we miss your birthday? Call the office at (219) 462-7684 or sign up on the calendar in the Narthex.

Thursday Prayer and Praise

"Beginnings" series
continues every Thursday evening
at 6:15pm

Join us for a pre-worship supper
at 5:15 and an optional Bible
study after the service.



**Faith Lutheran
Church**

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**FAITH LADIES
LUNCH**

We will meet next at Pesto's Restaurant on Wednesday, March 7 at 11:30am. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please join us and bring a friend!



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Prayer and Praise Service, March 1, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Third Sunday in Lent, March 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 7, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Prayer and Praise Service, March 8, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 14, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Prayer and Praise Service, March 15, 7:00pm Contemporary Worship
The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, March 21, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
Prayer and Praise Service, March 22, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Sunday of the Passion, March 25, 9:00am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00pm Holy Communion
Good Friday, March 30, 3:00pm Liturgy of the Cross, 7:00pm Tenebrae
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 1, 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion

