

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*



The Rite of Confirmation

1 Tim. 6:11-16 ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things (love of money, conceit, false doctrine, craving for controversy and quarrels, and treating godliness as a means of gain... see prior verses in 1 Timothy). Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testi-

mony before Pontius Pilate made the good **confession**, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Over the past months, even during Covid, God has provided us with ways to continue on the path of discipleship. In addition to worship, many of us have also continued to serve, study the Bible, and grow in our relationship with the Lord and each other in a variety of ways. For three of our young people at Faith, this has included the process of confirmation. I say "process" rather than "class" because confirmation should be more than just a series of lessons and tests. Confirmation is one step (or really many steps) on the life-long adventure of faith and discipleship.

Of course, there are certain milestones along this path, which we specifically celebrate in the Lutheran Church, and one of these involves the Rite of Confirmation. Luther's Small Catechism describes it this way, "Confirmation is a public rite of the Church preceded by a period of **instruction** designed to help baptized Christians **identify** with the **life** and **mission** of the **Christian community**. The rite of Confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, **relying on God's promise of Holy Baptism**, to make a **personal public confession of the faith** and a **lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ**."

As you may notice from this description, confirmation is very much about identity, life, mission, and community. Our identity as a redeemed child of God in Christ Jesus, sealed with God's promise and the power of the Holy Spirit in baptism, is no small thing. This identity also does not end with the milestone of baptism or the confession of faith that affirms our baptism on confirmation day. In the Great Commission, (Matt 20:18-21), God's call to the church and the Christian community is to bear the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in which we are baptized and taught, throughout our lives. As we do this, we bear witness to all people in all that we say and do. Then as the opportunities present themselves, we in turn baptize and teach others, as Jesus walks beside us in this process.

All of this is more than an obligation or a knowledge thing. This living confession is an identity thing. It is not just something we do, it is who we are, redeemed children of God, in the ongoing process of living and growing into the people we were meant to be, and proclaiming the gospel! As we invest and grow in our relationship with the Lord, we make confession with our lives, proclaiming the good confession laid out for us in the sacrificial life, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

The Apostle Peter points out, there is not a day that goes by, that who we are and how we live does not proclaim something. Therefore, he says, "in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; with gentleness and respect." (1 Pet. 3:15)

Similarly, regardless of your age, Paul's admonitions and encouragements to the young leader Timothy are not just valuable for those who will be confirmed this month, but are worth taking some time to ponder for yourself as well. I encourage you to take some time this month to reflect on the book of 1 Timothy and on your own confirmation, as you pray for the ongoing walk of faith of our confirmands, as well as your own. Their growing process is not done, and neither is ours. So let us continue to live out and confess the wonderful identity, life, and mission we have been given, both in our Christian community here at Faith and in the community in which we live.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

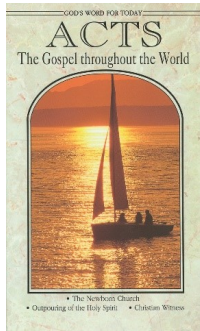
Pastor Eric Schoech



Marge Elam	June 2
Paul Grossnickle	June 10
Gabriel Beagley	June 12
Inge Nimtz	June 22
Jay Gottleber	June 23
Fran Marton	June 25
Donald Underwood	June 25
Kristin Busch	June 29

Discipleship Corner

Sunday Bible Study



New Study of the Book of Acts
Begins June 6, 10:30am
Both In-Person and online attendance

To attend online go to our website
<https://www.faithvalpo.org>
and click on education events



Faith Lutheran has a current tradition of giving blankets to our high school graduates to bless them as they move into the next chapter of their lives. With the covid shut-down last spring, we were not able to present last year's blanket to August Nord.

This Pentecost, May 23, we finally made this presentation! Thank you to the Sewing Seeds of Love group for purchasing the blanket, and to the high school Sunday School for tying it together. We are not aware of any graduations this year. If you know of a 2021 high school graduate, please contact Sherri Nord through the church office (219) 462-7684.

Opportunities to Serve:



Painters wanted
for Church maintenance project
If you are available
Contact Sean Allwardt



Book Buddies
Read to our VCA Children
Multiple day and time options
No regular commitment required



Nap Time Monitor
Help give our VCA teachers some additional prep time.
Any time between 12:30 and 2pm M-F
All you have to do is keep an eye on the kids and get the teacher if needed
(perfect service opportunity for someone who likes to sit and do crosswords, read, or other quiet activity)

Sewing Seeds of Love will be offering sewing lessons with the date and times yet to be determined.

If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Dorothy Kehe through the church office (462-7684)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School students planted flowers in painted tea pots for Mother's Day gifts as they learned about the Fruit of the Spirit.



We wrapped up the year with the last class on Sunday, May 23 and will resume Sunday School at the end of the summer.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"A Question"

How many questions do you ask of yourself during a day?

Do I really have to get up? What do I want for breakfast? Which outfit? Do I need a jacket? What about an umbrella? Do I have the list of groceries or errands or tasks for work? Should I try to beat the red light? Can getting gas wait until tomorrow? Which task is most important? Why do we need another meeting? What's for supper? Can I get the laundry done this evening? Would the lawn last another day without mowing? Etc., etc.

Think of that small child who wakes up asking questions and is probably still asking while sleeping. Sometimes we just want to ask, "Would you please stop asking questions?" I suspect that child would like to point out that he or she doesn't ask any more questions during a day than we do.

Many moons ago, I had a professor who wanted no questions asked during class. We could come during the professor's office hours and ask questions, but not during class. And what did one do if the office hours didn't match our free hours? (another question)

Questions are a part of life. We learn by asking questions. Questions help us to make decisions. Questions clarify what is going on around us. Counselors ask us questions to help identify struggles and stressors.

Before his death and resurrection, Jesus asked his disciples a question, a question that is still asked of the Church, the world, and us, "Who do you say that I am?" (*Matthew 16:15*) Of all the questions that we will ever be asked or we ask of ourselves, this is the most important.

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Faith in Technology

If you've been able to attend worship in person you might have seen some changes to the technology in the sanctuary. There are a couple of cameras and we've set up a computer for live streaming (sharing live video through the internet). Micah and Nathaniel have graciously taken on the new lay ministry role of technology coordinator for the service. Sitting in the parlor they control a couple of cameras and the sound system.

If you've been joining us virtually through the YouTube live stream, you may have noticed that we've been tinkering with audio quality and have gotten progressively fancier with our cameras. If you've faithfully stayed with the live stream for the past several months you know that the changes have not been without some failures. It took us some time to figure out how to get a microphone setup that would make the organ sound right. For many weeks it sounded like it was underwater. We still don't hear the words that the congregation is singing very well. Please encourage everyone to remember the advice of their choir director and sing the consonants very clearly and precisely.

That said, the worship service is not a performance. We've intentionally set up the cameras so that the congregation is not in the picture. During communion distribution the view is switched to the cross behind the altar. Perhaps from time to time we will ask those who wish to gather at the altar after the service to wave and show their faces to our shut-ins, distant family members, and community.

We continue to get about a dozen people watching the service with us on Sunday morning. And the service is viewed another dozen times or more in the days following. We know that some of those are grown children of the congregation who have moved away but whose churches have not been meeting in person. Some of our viewers are members who sometimes work on Sunday morning and join us virtually. Some members join virtually while on vacation. And more than a few are not able to attend in person due to health concerns.

It's exciting to provide this new ministry. The technology has been available for many years. In the last year we've felt a great urgency to look for other ways to minister. Fundamentally we needed to find other ways to be a church. We will probably keep the FM transmitter running to broadcast the service to the parking lot. For the foreseeable future, we'll share the service online. The technology is reaching people where they are. That's a marvelous thing. — Paul Nord

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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating the pictures and information in our church directory.

If you would like to change your picture or add one, please see Marilyn Lindner or contact her through the church office. (462-7684)

If any of your contact information has changed within the last 3 months please contact Deb at of-



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 13, 9:00am Holy Communion w/Confirmation
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 25, 9:00am Morning Prayer

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

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

