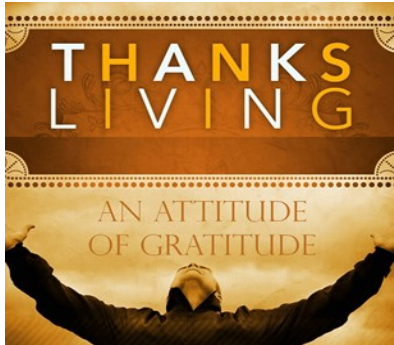


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(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*



ThanksLiving

1 Thess. 5:14-18. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Many of you have probably heard on the news and elsewhere about a number of concerns revolving around Facebook. Part of these concerns involve just how toxic the things that people write, are directed toward, and seem to seek out are. However, regardless of what Facebook may or may not be doing to perpetuate this, this is nothing new. Most forms of media, political individuals, and yes, even churches, have figured out that anger, pessimism, and a host of other negative emotions tend to sell and spread faster than anything else. We constantly hear more negative about people and events than anything else.

Now, we don't want to ignore the problems of the world or walk around with rose colored glasses. However, God does also want us to be thankful. As one who has been known to go beyond just a realistic view of the world and fall into the pit of negativity, thanksgiving does not always come easy. I may be thankful for those around me, but not always remember to say it out loud. (If that ever happens with you, know that you are still valued and appreciated and feel free to call me on it). Just in case, let me say thank you to all of you who richly bless me, our congregation, and our community on a regular basis!

Of course, gratitude does not end at Thanks-Giving to those who have blessed, in including God. What God truly desires from us is Thanks-Living. This kind of life shows our gratefulness to God in all circumstances, including the rough ones. This kind of life serves before people ask, without asking anything in return. This kind of life encourages those around us, and openly commends good wherever we find it. Thanks-living really is all those fruits of the Spirit and positive attitudes and behaviors you see throughout scripture, including passages like 1 Thessalonians 5:4-18.

This also ties into all we have been talking about throughout the last couple of months, involving Acts, the church's mission, and our role in it. Thanks-living motivates us to carry on the kind of self-sacrificial mission Christ began in our lives with life, death, and resurrection among us. Yes as a church we are called to call out sin, yet even more than that we are called to live lives that point people to Christ. As with other areas of life, thanks-living may involve stepping outside one's comfort zone. Praying at a meal in public, asking someone if you could pray for them not just in a difficult moment but in a joyous one, taking time to say thank you in a situation where you might normally have left it unsaid or said it without ever looking the person in the eye while you walked away... These are just the start of the kind of thanks-living that can build relationships and point people back to Christ.

Imagine what Facebook and other aspects of our lives would be like, if rather than constantly feeding ourself and others with anger at the touch of a button, we would set aside a month or more to get in the habit of limiting ourselves to posts that state important belief/positions in the positive and that encourage those places people are saying and doing good and positive things. In fact, this November, I want to encourage you to do 2 things:

Try to stick to sharing things on social media and elsewhere that are positive and encouraging. I will write a note on our church Facebook about this that you could include in places, which encourages others to join you in this during the month of November and which states the ultimate reason we are all thankful

I strongly encourage you to check out <https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/10-ways-to-turn-thanksgiving-into-thanksgiving.html>. This site gives some excellent thoughts on how one lives a life of thanks-living. I will also post this link to Facebook and possibly our web page.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck



Sewing Seeds of Love

Our sewing ladies have been busy at work. Nine quilts were delivered to Family and Youth Services Bureau for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers to hand out to children in need of services. For those of you who do not know, Ray Kickbush brought the CASA program to Valparaiso. Ken Kehe is a CASA volunteer. Thank you to the ladies.

Also, watch for our annual Christmas sale. The items will be on display in the Narthex, take a look, do some Christmas shopping and drop your payments in the box provided. We will also have items at our Advent suppers. This will help us when we need material or batting. Our ladies are always busy sewing so if you know someone who needs a prayer shawl or quilt please let Dorothy Kehe know. If you would like to join us we meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month.



Bob Hassel	November 3
Sam Grossnickle	November 3
Thomas Price	November 5
Becky Graef	November 6
Rebekah Peterson	November 6
Dave Brandt	November 7
McKenzie Temme	November 9
Sandy Hernandez	November 12
Bruce Berner	November 13
Haley Fryman	November 14
Charlene Leffert	November 28

If we have left out anyone's birthday please let us know! (219) 462-7684 or email of-

PLEASE JOIN US FOR TEA

The Sunday School children, their teachers, family and friends will host a tea to celebrate their efforts in the Reading Buddies program on Saturday, November 20 at 2:00pm.

Everyone is invited to bring their own favorite stuffed animal or doll to enjoy tea and cookies. Bringing a reading buddy or two along with you would be greatly appreciated as well. If you are not interested in purchasing a stuffed animal, a donation of \$10 puts two reading buddies in a classroom. For questions please contact Sherri Nord or Jackie Allwardt.



Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 7	All Saints Day w/Remembrance of the Faithful Departed
Sunday, November 14	Voter's Assembly (11:30am)
Sunday, December 5	Greening of the Church (11:30am)
Sunday, December 12	Children's Sunday School Program
Wednesdays:	Advent Evening Prayer -7:00pm
December 1, 8, 15	(preceded by an Advent Supper (6:15pm))

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY



The Voter's Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 14 after church service and education hour. The budget will be voted on and board members announced.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Advent"

Advent (the start of the new Church Year) begins on Sunday, November 28. What with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, those few weeks of Advent are often overlooked. If we do not have those weeks, do we lose anything? Is there any meaning in a baby without Advent?

Advent and Christmas go together, in the way that Lent and Easter do. Without Lent, Easter has no meaning. A man on a cross and an empty tomb make no sense without a time to reflect on what brought that man to the cross and tomb. With no knowledge and realization of our broken relationship with God, the cross and tomb mean nothing. It is the same with Advent and Christmas. A baby in a manger makes no sense without time to realize why that baby had to be born.

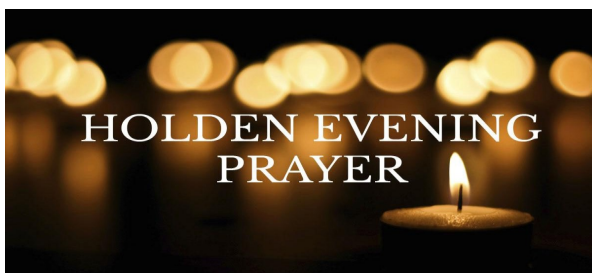
We may not know it or feel it, but we are in desperate need of Advent. Advent forces us to slow down and contemplate the meaning of the coming Messiah. Advent asks us to look again at our priorities in life and see if they will be in sync with the priorities of the coming Messiah. Do we want to run with the shepherds to the manger? Are we ready to tell what we have seen? Are we willing to know what that baby will expect of us?

Because of the coming of this baby, the prophet Isaiah foretold strange happenings in the world:
nation will not lift up sword against nation
people who walked in darkness will see a great light
comfort will come to the people
the blind will see
sorrow and sighing will leave

These are only a few of the things that will happen because of the arrival of that baby. But these will not be realities unless we are involved. Nation will continue to lift up sword against nation unless we put down the sword of anger with our co-worker. People will not be comforted in their grief unless we enclose them in arms of love. There will only be light if we bring it.

Advent Evening Services

We will finally be able to gather for worship in the sanctuary for the three Advent Evening Services—December 1, 8 and 15, 7:00pm. The liturgy will be one of our favorites, **Holden Evening Prayer**. Dr. Joseph Bogнар, chair of the Music Department at Valparaiso University will be the pianist. Mark your calendars. We haven't been able to gather together for this liturgy since December, 2019.



ADVENT EVENING SUPPERS

We will be having Advent Suppers again this year, at 6:15 pm, prior to the 7:00 pm services. A main dish, drinks, and tableware will be provided by Small Groups. Please bring a side or dessert if you can. Hope to see you there for good food and fellowship.



Faith Lutheran
Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



ADVENT SUPPER MUSIC

Plan to come and enjoy some special music during our Advent dinners this year. On December 1, 8 and 15 (Wednesdays) we will have live performances/background music from our members and guests. December 8 will feature the Strolling Strings group from Thomas Jefferson Middle School, directed by Sherri Nord. Other performers are still being booked. If you would like to share your music with us, please contact Sherri Nord through the church office (462-7684) so she can schedule you in!



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Saints Day w/Remembrance ,November 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 14, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Christ the King, November 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The First Wednesday in Advent, December 1, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Second Sunday in Advent, December 5, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Second Wednesday in Advent, December 8, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Third Sunday in Advent, December 12, 9:00am Children's Christmas Service
The Third Wednesday in Advent, December 15, 7:00pm Evening Prayer
The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19, 9:00am Holy Communion
Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:00pm Service of Lessons and Carols
The Nativity of Our Lord, December 25, 9:30am Holy Communion
The First Sunday after Christmas, December 26, 9:00am Holy Communion

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

