

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

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WWW.FAITHLUTHERAN.ORG

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



The theme for this year's spiritual Growth Campaign is Bearing Fruit for Jesus. Once again we will be seeking to learn and grow together by all using the same material during the following:

- **A 3 week sermon series**—Sundays, September 16-30.
- **Small group bible studies**—All members are encouraged to join a group for these 3 bible study sessions. Groups will meet at a variety of times during the week, including bible study hour on Sunday.)
- **Daily devotions**—these devotions will be handed out on Sept. 9 for use starting the week prior to the first sermon in the series.

The following is an introduction to what God's Word says about bearing fruit

Jesus said: *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"*. (John 15: 4-5). Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. It is interesting to note that, in this passage above, Jesus did not say, "You should bear fruit". He stated that when we abide in Him, it follows naturally that we will bear fruit.

Paul explained to the Galatians what that fruit is: *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control."* *"Since we live by the Spirit,"* Paul exhorted, *"let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us. We do not bear fruit as a result of our own efforts, but we do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"conceited, provoking and envying each other"*.

Just as fruit needs light for its growth and maturation, so do Christians need to have their lives illumined by Christ. They then are able to produce spiritual fruit and shed that light on the world around them. Ephesians 5:11 cautions us to, *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* but to *"Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8-9).

We discover God's will through His word and through prayer. As Paul prayed for the Colossians, we, too, can ask God *"to fill [us] with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding... in order that [we] may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work..."* (Colossians 1:9-10).

God has plans and uses for our lives. When we abide in Christ, we will be fruitful. We will discover and follow His plan, and we will use the gifts He has given us in ministry to the people of the world. I hope you will all join us during this spiritual growth campaign as we seek to grow together in our relationship to Christ and in the fruitfulness that comes through Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoeck



United Way Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies The Care Committee at Faith is once again collecting stuffed animals to donate to the United Way Reading Buddies program. The stuffed animals should be new and 9-12" high. These toys are given to 1st and 2nd grade students across NW Indiana for them to read aloud to, improving motivation to read and literacy skills. Please help us in collecting for this valuable ministry! You may leave donations in the Narthex.

CHOIR SCHEDULE - OCTOBER

October 14: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

October 21: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

October 28: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

**November 4: Sing,
All Saints Sunday
9:00am**



"SURRENDER"

Michael Stephen Rivers will be performing a free concert of original and traditional Gospel music on September 23, 4:00pm, at Faith Lutheran Church in the Gathering Space. This will be Michael's third concert at Faith. Put this on your calendar and plan to attend. His style is full of God's love and grace, and always includes audience participation. A great event to invite family, friends, and neighbors.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School resumed on August 26 with a Backpack blessing to kick off the year.

Sunday, September 9 is our Grandparents Day celebration. Grandparents or other special people are invited to join their grandchildren during class that day.

The Fall Quarter Service Project will be 500 Turkeys. From August 26 through November 18 the children will be collecting money, food and clothing to help area families in need.



THURSDAY PRAYER AND PRAISE

Begins September 27.

5:30 Supper

6:15 Worship.

The theme for this year is "When in Rome—Authentic Living Together".

PLEASE JOIN US!

PRAISE CONCERT

Our Prayer and Praise worship services will kick off with a concert by contemporary Christian artist Jennie Wellsand on Thursday, **September 20 at 7:00pm**. There will be a dessert reception after the concert. Jennie Wellsand is a worship leader from Valparaiso. She has recorded several albums and travels around the world encouraging people to sing loudly in worship to their Creator & King.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Will we join in the Pentecost dance?"

Scattered throughout the book of Acts are bits and pieces of a marvelous story of a man named Barnabas. We first read of him in Acts 4:36-37 as he contributes money for the use of the apostles in Jerusalem. It is there that the meaning of his name is revealed – Son of encouragement. As time passes, he becomes more heavily involved in the work of the kingdom and eventually joins with Paul on his first missionary journey. A young man, John Mark, who we think is a kinsman of Barnabas, also joins the group. But part way through the trip, John Mark leaves, or possibly, deserts the group and returns to Jerusalem. The author of Acts never tells why.

But the repercussions of John Mark's departure are the most fascinating part of the story of Barnabas. For at the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey, he and Barnabas have a major disagreement over John Mark. Paul wants nothing to do with the young man, but Barnabas wants to give John Mark another chance. As Acts 15:38 records, "And there arose a sharp contention, so that they separated from each other; Barnabas took Mark . . . but Paul chose Silas."

However, the story doesn't end here. As Paul spends the last months of his life in a Roman prison, he writes to Timothy out of extreme loneliness and despair, "Get Mark and bring him with you; for he is very useful in serving me."

We have no hint as to what happened with Barnabas and John Mark in those intervening years. In fact there are only a few other references to Barnabas in the scriptures. But this son of encouragement, by his belief that Mark could grow in the faith, gifts Paul with someone who could stand with him during his time in prison.

How many of us can say that we have a Barnabas in our lives? Do we have someone who will give us another chance to redeem ourselves when we have failed? Do we have someone who will look past our faults and see the child of God that we are? Do we have someone who will even defy the views of others concerning us and reach out to encourage us?

Or even more important, how many of us can say that we are Barnabas to someone else?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TAMARA HALL	SEPT. 1
JACOB GROSSNICKLE	SEPT. 8
ADISON FOXX	SEPT. 9
DOROTHY KEHE	SEPT. 10
BRUCE LINDNER	SEPT. 10
AARON PORTER	SEPT. 12
PASTOR SCHOECH	SEPT. 13
KAREN ALBERTSON	SEPT. 16
JOHN FRANK	SEPT. 21
BRUCE KEHE	SEPT. 21
ILONA ALLWARDT	SEPT. 22
CARLENE SCHULTZ	SEPT. 26
ANNETTE FRANK	SEPT. 30
NANCY KICKBUSH	SEPT. 30



HELP KEEP THE CHILDREN IN OUR FAITH FAMILY SAFE!

Our playground would be much safer with the addition of a fence. For \$20 you may purchase 1 foot of fence (cost includes all gates, posts, hardware and installation.)

Our VCA preschool/daycare has made a monetary contribution towards the goal of 300 feet of fencing . Any further help from our congregation will be greatly appreciated!

Any extra funds will go to future playground improvements and maintenance.

For more information please speak to Pastor Schoech.



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Church**

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office@faithmemorial.net



**FAITH WOMENS
LUNCH**

Please join us for lunch at
Pesto's Restaurant on
Wednesday, September 5 at
11:30am.

All Faith ladies and their
families and friends are
welcome. There is a sign
up sheet in the Narthex.

**LADIES
LUNCH**

FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 2, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 9, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 16, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 23, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, September 27, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 30, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 4, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, October 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 11, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, October 14, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 18, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, October 21, 9:00am Holy Communion

