

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

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHLUTHERAN.ORG

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



Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey *When one story points to another*

Romans 5:14-16 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a **type** of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

So far this year we have been traveling through *The Story* in the Old Testament. Lent is its own kind of journey. Traditionally, during the church year, Lent is the time that we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem. However, this year during Lent, we will be starting the transition a little earlier as Israel returns from its Exile in Babylon, still in need of a Savior. When that Savior arrives, many will miss the past events and prophesies, as well as Jesus' own message pointing down the path toward the events to take place in Jerusalem. Yet, this will not stop Jesus from traveling the path laid out for Him by the Father, to face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, but praise be to God it also leads to Easter and beyond!

This year our overall theme for Wednesday night worship and one of our Sunday Bible classes will be ***"Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey."*** While we may not be experiencing exile in the same way the Israelites did, the land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered, without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of events that take place between the journey's beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that, not unlike the words of the prophets, many of the people and events of the past (or "types" as Paul calls them), serve to point ahead to Christ and things to come. Also, do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey, but with eyes fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!

Special notes regarding Holy Week this Lenten Season:

Several things will be a little different during Holy Week for this year. Rather than the typical passion reading on the Sunday prior to Easter we will be focusing more on Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entry. The passion story will be played out throughout the week, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These services will also include important elements of *The Story*. I encourage you to attend as many of these services as possible, as we experience the story of the passion and our Lord's loving sacrifice for us, together.

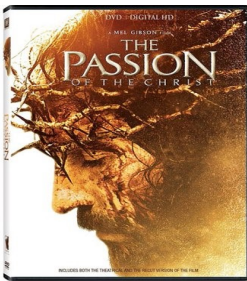
In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoch



Bowling at Innans. A good time was had by all!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VIEWING OF THE MOVIE "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST". We will gather to watch it on Palm Sunday, April 5, (here at church) in the Gathering Space (time still to be decided). This movie is rated R so use discretion if bringing children. See Pastor Schoech for questions.



LENTEN SUPPERS

Lenten suppers will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the Wednesdays during Lent beginning March 4 and continuing on March 11, 18, 25 and April 1. The suppers will begin at 6:00pm and will precede Evening Prayer Services at 7:00pm.

Main dishes will be supplied by the Faith Lutheran small groups. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert to share if you so choose.



Ron Barger	March 11
Michelle Grossnickle	March 20
Joy Martinsen	March 20
Laura Allwardt	March 21
Carolyn Klodzen	March 24
Lisa Montania	March 24
Dora West	March 25
Kathy Lund	March 26
Daisy Fryman	March 28
Cora Grossnickle	March 29

If we have left out your birthday please call the office at 462-7684.

The confirmation class will be attending the Stepping Stones Retreat at Camp Luther Haven in March. Please pray for the safe travel and the Spirit's blessings on their growth and activities there.

EGG STUFFERS NEEDED!

Prior to Easter we will be providing plastic eggs and instructions for members to stuff these eggs and return them for both our Sunday School and our Pre-School *Easter Egg Hunts*. If you are interested in participating, watch and listen for further information in our church bulletin and announcements.

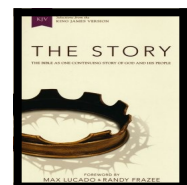


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

HOLY WEEK:

APRIL 5-12

THE STORY



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"I Am the Good Shepherd"
John 10:11

Decisions are part of life. The weather is bitter cold. The bed is warm. Do we really have to get up? What kind of pizza do we want for supper? The inside of the house needs a new coat of paint. What color? Should we take the new job or stay with the familiar? While most decisions are not difficult, some require much thought, or a weighing of pros and cons, or even the advice of professionals.

We don't often think of Jesus as one who had to make decisions. The stories in the Gospels can give us the impression that Jesus always knew what to say and what to do. He always had the right response to questions from his disciples or the religious leaders who tried to trick him. Jesus knew the right path in life and took it. And yet, he did have a huge decision to make – a life threatening decision.

In the same way that God has given us free will to make our own decisions, God gave the same free will to his son. Jesus had the choice of going to the cross or not. Jesus had the choice of calling legions of angels as he faced the soldiers in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had the choice of ignoring his father's will and going his own way. Jesus had the choice to stay on the cross or step down.

But instead, our Good Shepherd chose us, his sheep, to save from an eternity in hell. Our Shepherd took on our broken relationship with God and chose to heal it. Our Shepherd gave his own life to reconcile all of creation with the Creator of the universe. Our Shepherd chose to die for you and me that we might live forever with him.

"When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem."
Luke 9:51

CUB PACK 986 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Enjoy a Pancake Breakfast while supporting our Cub Scouts on Sunday, March 8, either before or after 9:00am church services. Cubs will be serving pancakes in the Fellowship Hall from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Tickets are available at the door. *(photo below is of Cubs selling advance tickets here at church on February 23)*



Please join the ladies of Faith Lutheran for lunch on Wednesday, March 4 at 11:30am at Round the Clock Restaurant, Valparaiso. Bring a friend! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or call the office to reserve a spot: 462-7684.



Please join us!



Wednesday Evening Prayer at 7:00pm on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1.

Faith Lutheran Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1 (rehearsal)
11:35am-12:05pm re

Sunday, March 8 (rehearsal)
11:35am-12:05pm

Sunday, March 15
Sing during 9:00am service

Sunday, March 22 (rehearsal)
11:35am-12:05pm

Sunday, March 29 (rehearsal)
11:35am-12:05pm

Sunday, April 5 (rehearsal)
11:35am-12:05pm

Sunday, April 12
Sing during Easter Services at
8:00 and 10:45am.



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 9:00am Holy Communion

The First Wednesday in Lent, March 4, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Second Wednesday in Lent, March 11, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Third Sunday in Lent, March 15, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 18, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, March 25, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, April 1, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

Palm Sunday, April 5, 9:00am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:00pm Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 10, 3:00 & 7:00pm, *The Hour of Darkness*

The Resurrection of Our Lord, April 12, 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion

