

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*

## “THY WILL BE DONE”

**Mark 14:32-36** *And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

We all struggle at times with the will of God, not only to understand it, but to accept and embrace it. Hungering for things we want but don't have and in some cases that we know we shouldn't, wrestling with who we are and where we are headed, grieving over the loss of people we love and things we care about, all these things can leave us questioning, and in some cases pushing against, God's will. However, while we may not always understand His will, the Bible reminds us that God's will is indeed good and that His mercy and promises are indeed for us.

Hard as it is to fathom, our Lord knows our struggle. The night before he went to the cross for our salvation, our Lord literally sweat blood knowing what was to come, and yet trusting in His Father's will, Jesus prayed to his Father. "Not as I will, but as you will." That is our prayer as well this Lent, as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week.

### Wednesday Lenten Services:

For our Wednesday Lenten services this year, each sermon in our series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. These sermons will illustrate this by looking at several different Biblical characters. To help us with this, two special things will take place. First, some of these sermons will likely be acted out in character or in the form of a monologue. Second, four pastors from the Valparaiso and Gary circuits, including myself, will be rotating churches during several Wednesdays in Lent so that you are able to hear each of us preach a different sermon we have prepared.

I look forward to seeing how God uses this mix of styles, individuals, and new interactions as a way to grow each of us this Lenten season, even as we seek to embrace Christ's words, "Thy will be done."

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoech*

Pastor Eric Schoech



## ROUND ROBIN SERMONS WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

As detailed in Pastor Schoech's article on page 1 of this newsletter, four Pastors, (including Pastor Schoech), from the Valparaiso and Gary circuits will rotate between their congregations and preach on the theme "Thy Will Be Done". Be sure and join us for Evening Prayer services each Wednesday during Lent: February 21 and 28, March 7, 14 and 21 at 7:00pm. We will gather for a supper provided by one of our small groups, each week at 6:00.

*Thy  
will  
be done*



Easter is early this year (April 1,) This means that Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent are also almost upon us. Our Ash Wednesday *Holy Communion Service with Imposition of Ashes*, will be on February 14 at 7:00pm. Please note! There is no supper preceding this service. The suppers will begin the next Wednesday, (the first Wednesday in Lent), February 21.

## LENTEN COMMUNITY SUPPERS

With the addition of our Prayer and Praise Contemporary Worship series (see below) this year, we have additional opportunities for meals and fellowship. We will again host our Lenten Community Suppers each Wednesday night during Lent at 6:00pm followed by Evening Prayer services at 7:00pm. On Thursdays we will have a pre-worship supper at 5:15 followed by contemporary worship at 6:15. Please join us! Family and friends are always welcome!



## 34TH ANNUAL VALENTINE PARTY!

*Hosted by the Grape Cluster*

When: Saturday, February 10  
Where:: Bruce and Marilyn Linder's  
(459 E. 900 N. Valpo)  
Time: beginning at 7:30pm

Dress will be casual—munchies and beverages provided by the cluster. High school age or older are welcome, come alone or, preferably, bring a friend!



*Directions from Faith: Turn right (east) on Highway 6, go about 4 miles past Anderson Winery and turn left (north) on 500E. Go one mile, when road ends turn left (west) on 900 N. Go 4 miles to home on north side of road. Gray house and one last clue—Christmas lights will be on!*



**Thursday Prayer and Praise  
"Beginnings" series  
continues every Thursday even-  
ing at 6:15pm**

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



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

### "Lent"

Lent has always been a struggle for me. As a child, attending a parochial school, Lent meant trying to squeeze in Wednesday night services with stacks of homework. (The teachers always recorded your attendance or lack thereof at any worship service.) The hymns and the music were dark and depressing. The phrase "poor miserable sinners" was everywhere.

Since grade school, Lent is still the part of the church year that gives me the greatest difficulty. It seems to go on forever – are 40 days really necessary (I know it is one day per year that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness). But really?! Do we really need 40 days to contemplate our broken relationship with God and to keep confessing our sins?

Author Marva Dawn comments, "In these postmodern times, sin and failure are almost universally unacknowledged, though everyone experiences or is aware of disillusionment and despair." It appears that we no longer want to be confronted by our mistakes and failures. Taking responsibility for who we are is much harder than pointing the finger at someone else. The words "I am sorry" do not come as easily from our lips as the words "You hurt me".

If it is hard for us to take responsibility for the small things we do that hurt others, how much harder it is to take responsibility for Jesus dying on a cross. None of us likes being confronted with failure. We don't want to be reminded of broken relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. We don't want to remember when we have cheated or gossiped or abused, and the list could go on. We don't want to know that a man is hanging on a cross because of us.

Lent won't be any easier for me this year. In fact, I think it just might be harder. When I stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, I will know why that man is dying. But when I stand at an empty tomb on Easter, I will also know that all I have done and ever will do has been forgiven and forgotten in the glory of that Easter sunrise.



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FAITH MEMBERS CELEBRATING THIS MONTH!**

<b>Constance Underwood</b>	<b>February 5</b>
<b>Alexis Brandt</b>	<b>February 6</b>
<b>Patsy Berndt</b>	<b>February 7</b>
<b>Anna Price</b>	<b>February 7</b>
<b>Deb Porter</b>	<b>February 12</b>
<b>Beth Underwood</b>	<b>February 13</b>
<b>Carroll Morris</b>	<b>February 15</b>
<b>Kenny Frank</b>	<b>February 22</b>

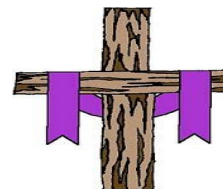
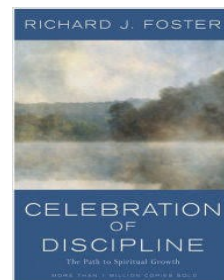
**Due to office error, Charlene and Cecil Leffert's birthdays were inadvertently left out of the preceding newsletters. Happy belated birthday to both— Charlene on November 28 and Cecil on December 10. (We don't want to leave anyone else out! If we do, please call the office at (219) 462-7684 or sign up on the calendar in the Narthex.)**

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE CLASS BEGINS FIRST SUNDAY IN MARCH

On the first Sunday in Lent we will begin a new Bible Class (at 10:30 during Education Hour).

We will be reading "Celebration of Discipline—*The Path to Spiritual Growth*", by Richard J. Foster.

Mark Price will lead us in looking at various spiritual exercises modeled by Christ for growing in our faith. Questions? Please see Mark Price.



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**SMALL GROUPS**

Lent begins early this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentines Day (February 14). Our small study groups usually continue to meet during Lent. Some groups, however, take a hiatus at this time. If you have questions about whether or not your group will be meeting during Lent please call Marilyn Lindner for Mark Makers, Donna Cawby for Sewing Seeds of Love and Deb Porter for Women Wanting Wisdom. Or call the office at (219) 462-7684.

**FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Prayer and Praise Service, February 1, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 4, 9:00am, Holy Communion  
Prayer and Praise Service, February 8, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
The Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11, 9:00am, Holy Communion  
Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7:00pm, Holy Communion  
Prayer and Praise Service, February 15, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
The First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 9:00am, Holy Communion  
The First Wednesday in Lent, February 21, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
Prayer and Praise Service, February 22, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
The Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 9:00am, Morning Prayer  
The Second Wednesday in Lent, February 28, 7:00pm, Evening Prayer

