

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 with-
in and throughout our community*



Checking In

Matthew 17:14-20 ¹⁴ And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, ¹⁵ said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Throughout scripture we see the disciples checking in with Jesus. Sometimes, like in Matthew 17 this checking in is done with frustration and confusion, especially when things have not been working the way they would have liked or may have expected. Other times we have instances, like in Luke 10, where the seventy-two were sent out and *'returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"* To which Jesus replied, *I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*" These kind of check-ins are often done with great eagerness and excitement. Still, notice that whether we are excited and think we are on the right track, or disappointed and wondering what is going wrong, Jesus always has something to offer and teach us.

Check-ins are an important part of any relationship. Teachers and students, parents and children, spouses, friends, co-workers, congregation members, and especially us and God, we all need to check in for our relationships to be healthy. We even need to check-in with ourselves once in a while. This allows us to do many things including strengthening communication, celebrating and building on our strengths and victories, addressing demons and blind spots in our lives, making course corrections and growing in our weak areas, and the list goes on.

It can be tempting to make excuses for not checking-in. I'm too busy. Things seem to be going fine. If it isn't broke, why do anything? I'm not sure I want to know if something is wrong. I know something is wrong, but what if I don't have the energy or ability to fix it? That person or conversation makes me uncomfortable. I don't want to deal with this right now, maybe later. I already checked-in in the past, do I really need to do it again? Any one of these lines of thinking can be detrimental not only to our relationships, but to our personal growth. They can also be toxic to us as a body of believers.

So how do we check-in? Bible Study, worship, and prayer are all ways we check-in with our Lord and seek his guidance. Regular communication, spending quality time together, and being willing and intentional about having the difficult conversations are some ways we check-in with each other. Finally, as a church, it is also important that we pause, check-in, and hear God's guidance both through His Word and through each other. This can come in several ways including some of the various tools God has provided to His people. One of these tools includes the ongoing Natural Church Development process that we have been using here at Faith. In the months ahead, our plan is to do some further follow-up to the survey we did a few years ago to look at where we are now compared to then. This will likely involve some further surveying of a sample of people active in certain ministry areas, group discussions with interested members from the entire congregation, and individual/family visits from the Pastor or NCD team as they are able to arrange over the next year. Our desire is simply for people to share how they are doing and their thoughts on the ministries of this church and their part in them. We look forward to talking to you as we seek to welcome, gather, and grow as God's Children in His kingdom.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schreck

and the Natural Church Development Team.

On Sunday, May 20th, the Board of Directors and congregation presented Becky with a special necklace and gift certificate in appreciation of all that she has done for the congregation.

Thank You

AND A NOTE FROM BECKY.....

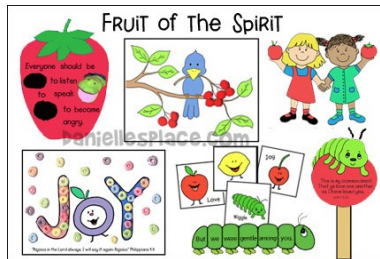
Many, Many thanks to the congregation for the lovely necklace and gift card! This came as a total surprise. To those of you who kept the secret – you did well. For all of the years that we have worked together and for the remaining years that God will grant us, I am so grateful to be part of this congregation and to work side by side for the spread of the Gospel.

- Becky

EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR FAITH FAMILY

Our church was recently approached by an established Christian preschool/daycare that is looking for a new home. We are still in the initial stages of conversation and evaluation. However, this could be an exciting opportunity for their ministry and ours. It has long been a dream and prayer of many in this church to have such a ministry taking place here. It was previously determined that starting a **new** preschool at our location would not be viable at this time. However, partnering with an **established** preschool at our location might have some real potential.

Please, keep our church leadership, this preschool/daycare, and this process in prayer, as we seek to discern God's leading and take action accordingly.



ROCKS STILL NEEDED!

Mark Makers is still in need of rocks that are a bit smaller than a basketball and larger to about 18" across. They plan to write Bible verses on them and place them along the Meditation Trail behind the church. Please leave them near the "Thanks for the Rocks" marker on the ground near the air conditioners located at the north corner of the church near the parking lot. If you know of a farmer who has a pile of rocks from clearing his fields please see Marilyn Lindner.



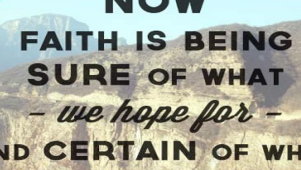
**American
Red Cross**

**A Blood Drive will be held here at Faith
Sunday, June 10 from 8:00-2:00.**

**The need is great—please
mark your calendar and give
if you are able.**



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.[™]

A scenic view of a mountain valley with a semi-transparent text box overlay. The text box is a light blue circle containing the text:

NOW
FAITH IS BEING
SURE OF WHAT
- we hope for -
AND CERTAIN OF WHAT
WE DO NOT SEE.

Hebrews 11:1

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Will we join in the Pentecost dance?"

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! What a glorious, marvelous day! Can you see it? Men with flames of fire dancing on their heads. Can you feel it? The stirring of the air, and beards and robes begin to dance in the wind. Can you hear them? A dance of sounds from every language. Twelve men dancing to fire, wind, sound.

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! Men dance into the courtyards and streets. Twelve men, all drunk on the breath of God.

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! Men preach of a God who danced a marathon dance with death and won. Men preach of a Spirit who dances into the lives of all people with gifts of love, joy, peace, patience.

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! Men, women, children, young, old, yellow, white, black, red, rich, poor. All dance to the waters on this day. Three thousand in the waters who emerge dancing with the Spirit. Three thousand dance into the courtyards and streets to preach of a dancing God.

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! A day to dance to the rhythm of fire, wind, sound. A day to let the Spirit lead us in the dance. A day to let the Spirit teach us steps to a new dance. Not a dance of the flesh, of sin, of judgment, of death. But a dance of gifts of life and love, of gentleness and peace.

Pentecost. What a day for a dance! To dance in the courtyards and streets. To invite all we meet to join in the dance. To share with them the rhythm of fire, wind, sound. To share with them the rich gifts of the Spirit.

Pentecost. The Spirit comes to us. Will we accept the invitation to join in the dance?



Ladies' LUNCHEON

FAITH WOMEN'S LUNCH

Please join us for lunch at Pestos Restaurant, on Wednesday, June 6 at 11:30. Pestos is on Calumet Ave. across the street from ACE Hardware in Valpo. Please join us for the food and conversation! Sign up in the Narthex by June 3 or call the office at 462-7684 to reserve a spot!



Happy Birthday to our members celebrating in June!

Marj 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

If you know of someone who should be added to our birthday list please let the office know or sign up on the calendar in the Narthex.

Faith Lutheran Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICES

The VU student musicians who were assisting us with our contemporary worship services on Thursday evenings have left for their summer break.

For this reason we will suspend our Thursday Prayer and Praise Services for the summer and resume again when students come back in the fall.

Thanks for a great first year!



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 3, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 10, 9:00am Service of Word & Prayer
The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
St. Mary Magdalene, July 22, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, July 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

*"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)