

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*



## Rally Point

**Psalm 20:1-9** *May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! <sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! <sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah <sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! <sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions! <sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. <sup>7</sup> Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but*

*we trust in the name of the LORD our God. <sup>8</sup> They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. <sup>9</sup> O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call.*

A few years ago our church began having what we call Rally Day. As we prepare for Rally day again this year, I got to thinking, what is Rally day about? For that matter what does it mean to rally?

In military situations, leaders throughout history have often used what were called rally points. Rally points served as a meeting places for troops along the way in getting them from point A to point B. They also served as central places to regroup when things went wrong. In the chaos of battle, a rally point might be something as simple (yet dangerous), as a leader grabbing a flag and charging out ahead of his troops for a spot on a certain hill in hopes of bringing them safely through.

In other slightly less militaristic situations people generally rally around some kind of cause or individual. Many of us probably went to at least a few pep rallies in school where people gathered to support their team. We have also seen a great number of people of late gathered for a variety of political rallies supporting candidates, causes, or particular issues. These kinds of rallies often produce some fair weather fans, those who are there because their friends are there, or those who are there because it is something they feel they are required to or ought to do. You can often tell who these individuals are just by looking at their body language. Looking around, giving half-hearted cheers, you can tell their hearts are not really in it. However, for all these types of fans and participants, there is also that group of clearly devoted individuals. Some are loud and boisterous, painted in their team's colors, or waving their flags, signs, or banners emphatically. Others may be subdued while looking on with intense interest. Either way you can tell by their behavior that they have a great deal of passion, energy, and commitment to the reason that they are there. They may not always be charging up a hill in the face of obvious or withering attacks, but they are clearly rallying to something.

So what does it mean to rally? It all comes down to a matter of focus and knowing those things that help us to focus. Who or what are we rallying behind as a church and the people of God? Well, hopefully that person is Christ. After all, our Lord certainly took the banner of salvation and charged the hill of Calvary for us. At the foot of the cross of Christ God has set a rally point for us like no other.

Unfortunately, it is easy for us to get distracted, to get away from those things that focus us on Christ. The chaos and the battles of life and our own sinful desires often leave us half-heartedly attending to God, while most of our attention is focused on other things. However, while some put their trust in the things of this world like "*chariots and horses*", we are called to put our *trust in the name of the LORD our God*. Christ is the one who saves us and answers when we call on His name. Christ is the one who will get us from point A to point B of the great plan He has prepared for us. Christ is the one who helps us regroup when things go wrong, and the one who causes us to shout for joy at the work of His redeeming hand.

So what then is Rally Day? It is another opportunity to rally around Christ and celebrate all of the ways that God is and will be at work among us. It is time to renew our passion, energy and commitment to being connected to Christ and each other through worship, study of God's Word, prayer ministry, and service to others through small groups, missions, community involvement, helping the new daycare and preschool in our midst (the VCA), and so much more. No, none of us can (or should) be involved in everything, but we can be involved in some. By being aware of the variety of things going on at our church we will all be better able to rally around our Lord, encourage one another, and help new people connect to and grow in the Lord. To that end, I hope to see you this Rally Day - Aug. 12, at the Church Picnic - Aug. 19, and in a variety of the various ministries I just mentioned throughout the year, as we seek to rally around Christ and the mission He has placed before us. Let's all rally!

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Eric Schoech*



## Valparaiso Christian Academy

has just moved locations. We would like to invite the community to take a tour of our new home.

We have open Enrollment in all classrooms 6 weeks to 5. Come meet our teachers and see if this could be the place for your child!

Information packets will be available to those interested in enrolling.

We will be having a Bounce house & Face painting and of course VCA's new playground 😊

Saturday July 28, 2018 from 10am -1pm  
753 N. Calumet Valparaiso IN 46383



Sunday, August 12, is Rally Day. There will be no Education Hour on this Sunday. Instead, after services, Ministry Team and Small Group Leaders will present information to members of the congregation on the upcoming year. If you are interested in participating in a small group or volunteering to help out with one of our other ministries, there will be information to pick up, as well as people available to answer any questions. Please join us!

On Sunday, August 12 Pastor Schoech will bless VCA (Valparaiso Christian Academy) as they prepare to begin their school year on August 13. Faith's Sunday School teachers will be installed as well. Sunday School at Faith Lutheran will begin on August 26. On this day all school-age children are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church to participate in a Backpack Blessing to start the year off.



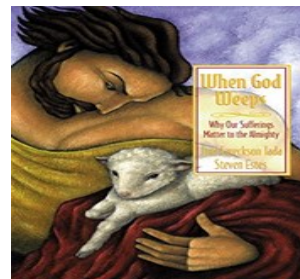
**Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 19 beginning at 2:00. Burgers and hot dogs, buns, water, soft drinks and tableware will be provided. Activities will include games, a bouncy house, horse-pulled cart rides and a huge bubble-making opportunity!**

**Please join us and bring family and friends! A special invitation goes out to Valparaiso Christian Academy families. What a great opportunity to get acquainted!**



## WHEN GOD WEEPS

A new adult bible class begins on Sunday, August 26, 10:30am. It will run for six Sundays and be led by Becky Graef. The title is "When God Weeps". The focus is on God's work in our lives during times of suffering. Student books are \$5 and will be available at the first class.



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

### *“Will we join in the Pentecost dance?”*

Nineteen years ago this summer, this congregation was deep in a remodel/renovation of the sanctuary. We worshipped in the basement with the piano (not the baby grand – we hadn’t yet been gifted with that donation). Upstairs, the orange shag carpet was gone, the tinted south windows were being changed for clear, pews had been repositioned, the altar was relocated, the cross that had always been dwarfed by the grapes and wheat was now the prominent focus, etc., etc. It was quite the summer and quite the transformation.

But while this was physically happening, people were meeting and planning for an even larger transformation in 2000. All was being set for the addition of an education wing at the north end of the building. The Sunday School was growing, as was Vacation Bible School. More space was needed than what the Fellowship Hall (basement) could offer. Along with that plan, there was an even larger dream – a preschool and/or daycare and/or after school program to be added to the ministry of the congregation. Subdivisions were being developed west on Highway 6, along with plans for more growth north on Highway 49. Faith would no longer be considered the church north of Valpo with no places to do ministry. The fields were growing and would soon be white for harvest.

On July 2, 2018, I got to work about 9:30 am after a frustrating drive-thru at the bank. Fuming, I walked in the building only to hear little voices. The Valparaiso Christian Academy was officially in the building and daycare had begun. The dream and hope and vision of nineteen years prior had finally happened. I stood in my office and shed tears of joy. We never thought this would happen. Beginning our own preschool was financially impossible for us. But here was a school that needed a home and we have one.

Having a school in our building is going to be an adjustment for the school and for us. Much like when we move into a new home and community, it will take time to sort out all the needs. For many members, the change won’t even be noticed. For others, like the Sunday School, there will be many adjustments, especially when learning how to share space. Deb Lamb (church secretary) and I are thrilled to have others in the building. At times, the complex can be scary when you are the only one present. The school will bring more adults and heightened security. And, of course, the best is the little ones who are being cared for and being taught about Jesus’ love for them.

In keeping with the theme of this corner of the newsletter for this Pentecost season, the school will give us opportunities to join in the Pentecost dance. Opportunities will be presented to aid the school and the families and to spread the news of the school to the community. We may be asked to help with snacks or donations of art supplies. Maybe our physical attendance will be needed at joint fun events. We may be asked to give up an evening out at a restaurant and donate that money to the school. This is the chance to decide if we are willing to live by our name “Faith” and trust that God will lead us on this new path of ministry. We need to decide if we are willing to respond to the Spirit’s call through our baptism to spread the Gospel. The fields are white for harvest.



## BIRTHDAYS

<b>Alicia Cooper Frank</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>Edith Berndt</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Barb Kehe</b>	<b>August 4</b>
<b>Mary Dunlap</b>	<b>August 5</b>
<b>Karen Stingely</b>	<b>August 9</b>
<b>Myrna Chambers</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>Marcy Hassel</b>	<b>August 12</b>

<b>Kathy Kreps</b>	<b>August 13</b>
<b>Melodie Nord</b>	<b>August 22</b>
<b>Kent Eichstaedt</b>	<b>August 24</b>
<b>Patricia Nicholson</b>	<b>August 25</b>
<b>Jackie Allwardt</b>	<b>August 26</b>
<b>Dorothea Price</b>	<b>August 29</b>
<b>Elizabeth West</b>	<b>August 31</b>

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Email:  
office@faithmemorial.net



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**August 5– Ministry Team Meeting (11:45am at church)**

**August 12– VCA Blessing, Installation of Sunday School teachers, Rally Day**

**August 19–Picnic (2:00pm)**

**August 26– Sunday School starts, Backpack Blessing**

**September 9–Sunday School Grandparents' Day**

**September 20– (tentative) Prayer & Praise services resume**

**September 22 (tentative) Faith Game Night**

**September 23– Michael Rivers Concert-4:00pm**

### FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 5, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 12, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 19, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 26, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
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  
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, September 20, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
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

