

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*



## A Light at the End of the Tunnel

**Matthew 28:1-10** *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to*

*Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."* <sup>8</sup> *So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

As many of us are studying The Book of Revelation during Lent and into Easter this year, one topic that comes up involves the concept of visions. I think one of the reasons that visions fascinate so many of us is that some visions can give answers. Some visions can even give glimpses of the future. However, many visions can also leave us with a lot of questions.

I believe one of those questions, that many hope to answer is, "is there a light at the end of the tunnel?" Throughout my life I have come across many people who get very excited every time they hear a story about a near death experience. "What was it like on the other side?" they ask. "Did you see a bright light?" "Was there anyone there that I know"?, they wonder.

While I can't evaluate the visions people describe, beyond what scripture tells me, I can say that I think much of our fascination with what people have seen at the end of their tunnels has to do with our own tunnels we are facing. What is waiting for us on the other side of our own life events, challenges, struggles, illnesses, and yes even our own death? Few of us like the unknown or even the things we are not sure about. So we wonder, "What will it be like when, or if, we get out of the tunnels we are experiencing? What is on the other side?"

Praise be to God, that thanks to Easter, we already have some answers to that question in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Easter morning revealed that Jesus was no longer in the tunnel or more specifically the tomb. The stone had been rolled away. Where before there was darkness and death, the Light has now shined. The tunnel of this broken world could not hold our Lord. Jesus has faced suffering and death, and come out the other side.

So what does this mean for us? Well, thanks to Easter and God's Word including the Book of Revelation, we have a vision of what is on the other side for us, or more accurately, who is on the other side. Through His life, death, and resurrection our Lord has prepared a place for us and for all believers with Him in paradise. We may not know a lot of the details, but if we are going to spend eternity living in relationship with the source of all that is good, it will certainly be, well, good! Moreover, we don't have to wait till the end of the tunnel to experience the Lord and his light. Not only has he shared our tunnel experiences by walking this earth in the time leading up to his death and resurrection, our Lord walks with us in our own tunnels even now. In your joys, your pains, and all those times that lead you to ask is there a light at the end of the tunnel, Jesus's resounding answer is, "Yes, and I am walking with you right now!"

Brothers and sisters, whatever parts of life's tunnels you may be walking today, no matter how dark they may be, may this Easter season remind you that there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel. He has risen from the dead, and He will raise you up as well, even as He stands before you and walks beside you today. So go your way rejoicing and share the light!

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoech*

Pastor Eric Schoech



Carol Ballard	April 2
Anne Lyons	April 13
Evan Snowden	April 14
Roxanne Gottleber	April 19
Jane Szoke	April 22
Sean Allwardt	April 27
Heather Brant	April 28
Dean Gengnagel	April 29
Ray Kickbush	April 29

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES VOLUNTEERS

We are blessed to have several different kinds of ministries working together in our building including the Val-paraiso Christian Academy.

If you love working and interacting with children, this could be a perfect ministry for you.

Each volunteer is required to submit to a background check before working with the children. This is an easy process and there are informational sheets in the Narthex outlining the steps to take.

## CARD MINISTRY

We pray during worship on Sunday for folks who are ill or experiencing other challenges or stresses in their lives. Let's send them a card on Monday or soon after that. These cards could be signed by the sender or a number of people in the congregation right after service. Please select a card and assist the Mark Makers small group at Faith Lutheran in getting cards out to more people in the congregation and community.

Thanks for caring and sharing in this way.



## Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief knows that investing in agriculture is one of the most effective ways to reduce global poverty and instability.

Farming is the single largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households in the world. For the rural poor, farming affects all aspects of life.

When families grow enough food for themselves and to sell for income, they are able to build self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for themselves and future generations.

Through decades of experience, we've learned how to help farmers get the most out of their hard work, so they can support their families.

We've taken these lessons and developed partnerships with communities around the world that help farmers access more money to improve their crops, learn new techniques and tools to increase their yield and attract better buyers who will pay more for their products. All this adds up to more food and money for farmers to support a healthy family and a thriving economy.—*from Lutheran World Relief Website*

To learn more visit [lwr.org](http://lwr.org)

## EASTER BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

Please join us for our Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall between services (8:00 and 10:45am) on April 21. After breakfast an Easter Egg Hunt will be held for the Sunday School children. All are invited!

For questions or to volunteer to help out, please speak to Loretta Frank (breakfast) or Sherri Nord and Jackie Allwardt (Egg Hunt)



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*So . . . now what?*

Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

So . . . now what do we do?

Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Joanna, Thomas – and all the rest of the followers of Jesus must have been thinking the same thing. They had followed Jesus for three years. They had witnessed healings, people raised from the dead, food for thousands, and had heard wondrous words of a new covenant with God. And now, Jesus is alive after a terrible death. What do you do now?

For them and for us, this time period known as the Easter Season is the bridge between the days of living with Jesus and the days of putting into action the teachings of Jesus. During this time, the disciples heard some new words: Go and tell; Spread the Gospel; Feed my sheep. We, too, hear these words. With the disciples, we remember that there are other sheep that do not know the love of God. We cannot lock ourselves into our private lives, just as the disciples attempted, out of fear, to lock themselves into a room. We hear the same words: Go and tell; Spread the Gospel; Feed my sheep. The Easter words – Christ is risen – cannot and should not stop on Easter Sunday.

During this Easter Season, reflect upon the life of Jesus. Think back to Advent and Christmas. Hear again the words of angels – a Savior is born for you! Watch a man heal lepers and bring Lazarus to life. Sit at his feet and listen to words about a God who loves sinners. Grieve at the foot of a cross. Gaze in fear and trembling at an empty tomb. Shout that Jesus Christ is risen!

But let's not stop there. We need to prepare ourselves for the work that is to come with the gift of the Spirit on Pentecost. Those same words that the disciples heard before Jesus' ascension into heaven will be words that we will hear. Go and tell! Spread the Gospel! Feed my sheep!

There is much work to be done and no time to waste.

### TO FAITH MEMBERS FROM EVELYN BRADSHAW:

*A heartfelt thank you to everyone who  
attended my birthday party last month  
and all who have helped me in so many  
ways. God Bless you!*



### PRAYER AND PRAISE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME ON APRIL 25.

A community supper will be held at 5:30 with services at 6:15pm.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD & FUN!

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 7

5:00-9:00

WHERE: HERE AT CHURCH!

Bring your favorite card, board or collectible games. Bring your friends!

Some snacks and beverages will be provided. Additional food welcome, but not required. Call for more info: (219) 242-9139

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Church**

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Email:  
office@faithmemorial.net



**2019 MEMBER  
DIRECTORIES**

Be sure to pick up a  
copy of the 2019  
Church Directory availa-  
ble now in the Narthex.

If you are unable to get  
to church call the office  
at (219) 462-7684 and  
we will send you a copy!



**FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent, April 3, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 7, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Fifth Wednesday in Lent, April 10, 7:00pm Evening Prayer  
The Sunday of the Passion, April 14, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm Holy Communion  
Good Friday, April 19, Liturgy of the Cross, 3:00pm  
Good Friday, April 19, Tenebrae, 7:00pm  
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 21, 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion  
Prayer & Praise, Thursday, April 25, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship  
The Second Sunday of Easter, April 28, 9:00am Morning Prayer  
The Third Sunday of Easter, May 5, 9:00am Holy Communion  
The Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 6, 9:00am Morning Prayer

