

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*



Rest for the Weary

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

At the moment I am writing this article, I'm tired. Are you? If there is one thing I hear and see in people all over the place, it is tiredness. This tiredness comes in many forms.

Maybe you are emotionally tired. You have invested your self in others, but they have not responded to you in the same way or the way you would like. Perhaps you and a family member have had a falling out, or you have tried repeatedly to work something out only to cycle back around again to the same hurtful problems and behaviors.

Maybe you are tired of the battles. You try to make a positive difference in the world, but for every two steps forward you find yourself taking one step back. You try to get your finances together, only to have one more unexpected bill. You try to speak the truth in love, only to be ignored.

Maybe you are just plain physically tired. Long hours, lack of sleep, illness, you name it, you are just worn down. Maybe other things in your life, your work, or the world in general just have you throwing up your hands and saying, "I'm tired of it all!"

If you are not there now, I think most of us can say we have been at some point in our lives. These times can be downright scary. They can make us angry. They can even cause us to focus a sort of hate at our own lives or people around us.

You may have noticed on the board outside my office a quote from the *Star Wars* character Yoda, that warns, "Fear is the path of the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." While Yoda may be a fictional character, I think his statement rings true. When we are physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually exhausted, this can then lead to a great deal of internal and external suffering. This causes us to become even more tired, leading us to lose sight of what is going on, to make bad or rash decisions, and to continue down the dangerous path described by Yoda.

Fortunately, as you may have also noticed on the board outside my office, this path described by Yoda does not have to end there. The Apostle Paul points out, God can take our tiredness and even suffering and turn it into something incredible. Paul writes, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (Romans 5:1-5).

As we grow tired from all the battles of this life and all the other things that wear at us, it is important that we pause a moment to find our peace and rest in the Lord. Our hope and our ability to persevere rest firmly in Him. It is faith in Him that allows us to see the finish line and to stay the course when things get difficult. It is His love that allows us to bear one another burdens and to bear with each other in all things, even when we feel emotionally exhausted. It is His Spirit that picks us up, shapes our character, helps us put one foot in front of the other, and intercedes on our behalf when we are throwing our hands up to God and simply don't know what to do. And so brothers and sisters, whatever we face, let us take the yoke of the Lord upon us and learn from Him, trusting in His grace and mercy, and supporting one another in faith and love.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoech

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For more on this topic I encourage you to read:

Staying the Course When You Are Tired of the Battle, at:

<https://unlockingthebible.org/2015/11/staying-the-course-when-youre-tired-of-the-battle/>



Faith Lutheran ladies meet for lunch every 3 months at a restaurant of their choice. They would love to have you join them! The next luncheon will be held on Wednesday, September 4. All women of Faith Lutheran and their family and friends are cordially invited!.

BLOOD DRIVE AT FAITH

We will host another Red Cross Blood Drive here at church on Sunday, July 7, 10:30am-3:00pm.

The need for blood is great, please give if you are able!



The Twenty-Third Psalm

Psalm 23, one of the best-known psalms, will be the focus of a sermon series in July and August. Every Sunday it will be spoken by the congregation in a different translation.

Plan to attend as often as you can to reflect on this well-loved psalm.



Loretta Frank	July 2
Hannah Grossnickle	July 4
Paul Nord	July 5
Gail Hoover	July 5
Peyton Marton	July 8
Nathaniel Koehneke	July 13
Mark Price	July 14
Mike Porter	July 14
Mackenzie Brandt	July 14
Alice Bernard	July 23
David (Mike) Blouir	July 24
Dayla Fryman	July 24
Elizabeth Dunlap	July 29
Cheyenne Nicholson	July 30

July ★★



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!
Psalm 27:14*

It is a Monday afternoon and I am at church. Supper is in the frig in the parlor, as there is a board of directors' meeting this evening. While I have my normal tasks for Mondays, I am, in a sense, waiting for the meeting. I wonder how much time in my 65 years has been spent waiting.

Waiting for red lights, stop signs, school buses. Waiting at the deli, the pharmacy, the bank drive through. Waiting for the movie to begin, the meat loaf to cook, the dishwasher to finish. Waiting for a friend to call, a letter to come, the car repair bill. Waiting for medical test results, the end of surgery, the casket to be lowered in the ground. I suspect that much of our life is spent in waiting for something or someone.

Psalm 27 appears to be written by an author whose day began well, but then took a very different path. At the beginning, there is such confidence and strong faith in the Lord. The author has seen God's actions and salvation. But a loss of trust begins to creep in at verse 7 and finally erupts into a cry for God to not turn away, to not forsake the author as father and mother have.

How many of us have had the same experience as the author? The day begins as usual, but then seems to move completely out of our control. When we thought we would just be doing the normal waiting for stop lights and meat loaf, instead we are at the hospital with a family member. We said our morning prayer of trust in the Lord for the day, but now faith is shaken. God seems distant. The enemies of disease and struggles and trials are far more present than God's mighty arms.

I think of all those in the Bible who waited – waited by faith. Abraham and Sarah who finally had a son long after their child-bearing years. Joseph who waited in a prison cell. Peter who waited in despair over his denial of Jesus. Anna, advanced in years, waiting for the Messiah. Moses and the Israelites waiting for forty years for the Promised Land. I have no doubt that at times their faith wavered. We are in good company.

But the author of the psalm doesn't leave us in distress. "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord!" By faith, we wait.

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem, Simeon, waiting for the consolation of Israel.
Luke 2:25*



Two new GriefShare groups have been scheduled to begin in August. The days/times offered are Thursday mornings at 10:0am beginning August 1 and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm beginning August 6. The groups will meet each week for 13 weeks. If you or someone you know might benefit from this ministry, please call the office at (219) 462-7684 to reserve a spot. For questions please speak to Becky Graef.



**Faith Lutheran
Church**

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



**Our Annual
Church Pic-
nic, Sunday
School Kickoff
and Rally Day
are currently
being planned.
Watch this
newsletter
next month for
dates and
more details.**

**Enjoy your
summer!**

FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, July 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 14, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 28, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, August 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 18, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 9:00am Morning Prayer

