

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
753 N. CALUMET AVE.  
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHVALPO.ORG

*Embraced by God through Jesus Christ our Lord, we share this gospel of hope and healing within and throughout our community*

with-

*in and throughout our community*



## Another Trip Around the Son!

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5 ESV)*

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."<sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."<sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.<sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.<sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. (John. 8:12-16 ESV)*

I wonder how many years the wise men waited in anticipation for Jesus. I wonder how long their trip to meet the savior of the world and the preparations preceding this trip took. How about the years that followed their meeting God in the flesh? Did any of them live long enough to hear about Jesus' crucifixion, His rising from the dead, the meaning of these events, or the impact these events would have on the world?

We don't know a lot about the wise men. We don't even necessarily know how many of them arrived to meet Jesus, most likely around a year after His birth. What we do know is that they were following far more than a star or waiting simply for a specific date the calendar. All of the events of Christmas, all of the events of the Old and New Testament of scripture, indeed the very existence of the world and our salvation revolves around the Son of God. He gives life, and hope and meaning to it all. The same is true for us.

Often, we get fixated on certain points on the calendar. We treat New Years as the time for making changes in our lives, Christmas as the date for celebrating the birth of our Savior, Easter as the date for celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. The rest of the year most of our anticipation tends to center around other dates: when we will graduate, get married, have children, retire, etc. With each trip around the sun, the dates we are waiting for and anniversaries we look back on pile up. Some are joyful. Some are painful or filled with a variety of other emotions. Some things can even get a little repetitive. Yet while these fixed points may serve as important reminders for celebration and contemplation, it is not just isolated events, but our every moment that revolves around the Son. You don't only check in with your spouse on your anniversary, or work on your marriage for a few days at the start of each new year. The skills you have been given and worked on don't only matter at graduation or the last day on the job. At least, I hope not.

Every day is a day for learning and growth. Every day, no matter how difficult, is a day for rejoicing, when Christ and what he has done for us is at the center of it. Jesus is the difference between day and night, light and darkness, life and death. He shines a light on our Heavenly Father, and the Heavenly Father shines a light upon Jesus, so that we can have an everlasting relationship with God. As we continue to live each day revolving around the Son, Jesus also shines a light on our path ahead and on us. As we reflect the Lord's light, God's Word reminds each of us, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 5:14-16 ESV)

Whatever your journey has been up until now, whatever your journey ahead may be, and whatever part of God's plan you may have the privilege of Him revealing to you in the months ahead, I pray the Light of Christ fill your every moment, as you revolve around the Son.

In Christ,

*Pastor Eric Schoeck*



**Karen Martinsen**     *January 3*  
**Jon Dunlap**         *January 13*  
**Ken Kehe**             *January 25*

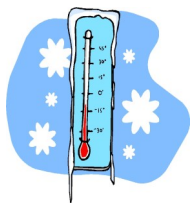
*Please call the office at (219) 462-7684 to add a birthday to our list.*



What is Advent without Advent suppers? Thanks to all who joined in for our suppers prior to Evening Prayer.

**IT IS WINTER IN INDIANA ..**

**We all know what Indiana winters can be like! If church needs to be cancelled on a Sunday morning due to inclement weather we will post the announcement on our website and we will send an email to everyone on our email list.**



**If you are not currently on our email list but would like to be please send your address to Deb in the office at: [office@faithmemorial.net](mailto:office@faithmemorial.net).**

**If you do not receive email and do not have access to our website from your phone or computer please speak to Pastor Schoech to make arrangements so you can stay informed.**

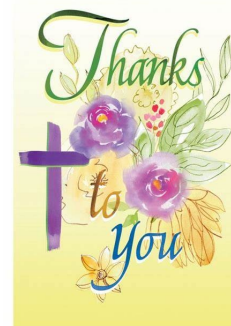
Thank you to everyone who helped with the greening and decorating of our Narthex and sanctuary. Thanks too, to those who purchased poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and altar. Everything looked beautiful!



**SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE**

Thanks to all who made purchases at our Holiday sale. We made \$499.38! Best sale to date. This will help us with mailings, supplies and material. We will also be sending a donation to *Orphan Grain Train* in Donna Cawby's memory to purchase quilting kits. Donna is the founder of our group.

We hope all of you had a blessed Christmas!



**DISCIPLES OF LIGHT**

We are a small group for busy adults and families who want to make time for bible study. Our next meeting will be Friday, January 10. We are watching and discussing *"The Chosen"*, (Season 2). We will have dinner at 5:00 and the movie will start at 6:00.

Everyone is welcome! Please join us... we meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at church.



Greening up for Christmas time!  
 Fun, food and fellowship at Faith.  
 Our Children's Christmas Program held on December 8, was followed by our annual Christmas Greening which included crafts, carols and lunch.



A big thank you to Sean Allwardt, Dave Allwardt and Ken Kehe for the railing on the new steps at the VCA entrance!

**BREW CREW AND MICRO BREW GROUPS**

All are welcome to join!  
 Brew Crew will meet on Wednesday, January 8 and January 22 at 6:00pm at church.  
 Micro Brew will meet on Mondays, January 13 and January 27 at 2:00pm at church.

We hope to see you!



Faith Lutheran  
Church

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Email:  
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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Second Sunday after Christmas Day, January 5, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Baptism of Our Lord, January 12, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 19, 9:00am Word & Prayer  
Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 26, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 2, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 9, 9:00am Word & Prayer  
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 16, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 23, 9:00am Word & Prayer  
Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 2, 9:00am Holy Communion  
Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm Holy Communion

