

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Reforming the Clay

Jeremiah 18:1-6 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

As I thought about the word reformation in preparation for this article, the image that came to mind was that of a potter and his clay. If you watch a potter working at a spinning wheel, what you will see is a careful and ongoing process. As the clay is being shaped and molded into a vessel, the wheel constantly turns, bringing the clay against the potter's hand. Sometimes during the process it looks remarkably beautiful and fluid. However, there are also times when an imperfection in the clay spoils it in the potter's hand. When this happens, the potter then crumbles it up, and continues anew the process of shaping the clay into a vessel that pleases him.

In both the Book of Jeremiah and Paul's letter to the Romans, God reminds us that when it comes to this world, God is the Potter and we are the clay. Every man, every nation, and yes, even the church, is constantly in a state of being molded and reformed. At times things will appear to be going fluidly and smoothly. There may be days, months, or even years when most things appear to be progressing well in us and around us. Other times in our lives and in course of human history we will see moments when the reshaping process requires a significant change, and God is taking more drastic measures as he continues to reshape and renew us. The Reformation, which we celebrate this month, is one example of this. Perhaps, you also, can think of a few clear moments of drastic reformation in your own life. These major events can be very important. Still, it is also important to remember that as long as we live, reformation remains an ongoing and often gradual process. The wheel is constantly spinning, and the hands of God are constantly at work seeking to form us and reshape us according to his perfect desire and plan for us. We may experience a time or two where we are not too sure we like all the spinning, or the ways in which God's hands seem to be exerting pressure and direction, but this is why we are called to trust that God's designs and ability to bring about something wonderful, are far greater than our own. After all He is the master potter, and we are the clay.

"He is the potter, and we are the clay." This is more than just a statement of who is in charge. It is a statement of love and passion. After all, who has greater love and passion for their creation than their creator? As evidence of this, look and see how the master artist has poured himself into his work. See how the potter's hands bear the marks of his craft and his love. See how it is the blood of the Potter himself that moistens the clay and through which these vessels of clay are shaped into what God wants them to be, through the power of His very Spirit.

As Ray C. Stedman puts it in the *Potter and the Clay*, "When we are in the Potter's hands, feeling his pressures, feeling the molding of his fingers, we can relax and trust him, for we know that this Potter has suffered with us and knows how we feel, but is determined to make us into a vessel 'meet for the master's use' (2 Timothy 2:21 KJV). What a tremendous lesson, what a beautiful lesson Jeremiah learned at the potter's house -- one which I hope will guide us and guard us under the pressures which are coming into our lives these days. Remember that the Potter has a purpose in mind, and the skill and ability to fulfill it, no matter how many times he may have to make the vessel over again."

I pray that as God continues His process of reformation and renewal in the world, here at Faith, and in each one of our lives, that we will continually be filled with His Spirit of patience, trust, and peace, for we truly are in the potter's loving hands.

In Christ,
Pastor Eric Schoech



Researchers and counselors affirm it, and the Bible has been saying it for ages. Cracking the communication code between husband and wife involves understanding one thing: that unconditional respect is as powerful for him as unconditional love is for her. It's the secret to marriage that every couple seeks—and they are discovering it at *Love and Respect* conferences all over the country.

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs is an internationally -known public speaker on the topic of male-female relationships. Based on over three decades of counseling as well as scientific and biblical research, Dr. Eggerichs and his wife Sarah developed the Love and Respect Conference which they present to live audiences around the country. This dynamic and life-changing conference is impacting the world, resulting in the healing and restoration of countless relationships. Dr. Eggerichs has authored several books, including the national bestseller **"Love & Respect"**, which is a Platinum and Book of the Year award winner, selling over 1.6 million copies.

Faith Memorial Lutheran Church will host a small group on Sundays, beginning October 4, during the 10:30am Education Hour. This is not just aimed at marriages but rather relationships in general. In this small group you'll learn how to:

- stop the **Crazy Cycle** of conflict
- initiate the **Energizing Cycle** of change
- enjoy the **Rewarded Cycle** of new passion

If you're ready to enjoy marriage as God intended, plan now to attend this small group.

This group will be facilitated by Paul and Michelle Grossnickle, who are in their 33rd year of marriage.

For more information, visit the Love and Respect website: www.loveandrespect.com



LC-MS NEWS

For over a century, Lutheran Social Services of Indiana (LSSI) has been reaching out to the community, meeting needs with Christ's love. Their roots in the community run deep, dating back to 1901, when nearly every week Pastor Philip Wambsganss provided homes for infants left on the steps of Emmaus Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

When he held those abandoned infants in front of his congregation and asked, "Who will take this child home?" he had no intention of founding a social-service agency. He was just fulfilling the commandments to "love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and love your neighbor as yourself." And yet, with this simple start, LSSI was born. Under the title of Lutheran Children's Friend Society of Indiana and Ohio, Pastor Wambsganss began placing children with families in the Lutheran community. In 1951, the organization merged with the Lutheran Social Service League, a vibrant and active organization created to meet the financial needs of Lutheran families, to create Lutheran Social Services of Indiana.

Today, with the support of volunteers, donors, and a dedicated staff, LSSI still helps individuals, children, and families meet the special needs and challenges in their lives. They continue to provide adoption services, but they also reach out to families through pregnancy services, teen education and advocacy, child care, and more. Their Mission: Lutheran Social Services of Indiana expresses the love of Jesus Christ for all people for services that empower individuals and families to move toward social, emotional and spiritual wholeness.

Visit their website at www.lssin.org

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Love Your Enemies"

Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:43-48

Because of the heat, he was sitting in the shade of his tent door. As he watched the horizon, three men stood in front of him. As was the custom of his culture, he bowed in greeting and asked if he might give them water and food before they continued their journey. They agreed and sat down in the shade of a tree. Water was brought for their feet and fresh meat for their meal. When they were rested and refreshed, he walked with them for a short distance as they returned to their journey.

Two of the travelers continued on, while one, the Lord, remained with Abraham. The Lord tells Abraham that the two cities they can see, Sodom and Gomorrah, are going to be destroyed because of their wickedness. At this point, the story takes a surprising turn. Abraham begins to plead and bargain with the Lord to save the cities. Lot (Abraham's nephew) and family live in Sodom. So as Abraham begins his bargaining with God, he is also trying to save his nephew. But what we often don't think about is that Abraham is also pleading for everyone in the cities. He is hoping that because of a few righteous people that he can ask God to not destroy even the wicked. Abraham is showing not only love for his nephew, but also love for people who are his enemies.

This teaching of Christ to love our enemies describes essential Christianity in action. Being a Christian not only means being in a relationship with God, it also means being in relationship with others – even when the others are people we do not like. Love for enemies is not the same as love for family or friends. In the case of the latter, we usually can't help but love them. The love often happens naturally and easily, and sometimes, like the love between spouses, loves comes unexpectedly. But for our enemies, the love that we have for them is something that we have to will to happen. We have to choose to love them. We have to make a conscious decision to love the person who has hurt us.

Love like this only comes from Christ who enables us to conquer our bitterness and anger toward those who have hurt us or others. Love like this also asks us to do something for our enemy. We are asked to pray for them. The best way of bringing about love for another is to pray for that person. When we draw Christ into this task through our prayers, the love that Christ has for his enemies will fill our hearts.

"The restoration of the church will surely come from a life of uncompromising adherence to the Sermon on the Mount in imitation of Christ". Dietrich Bonhoeffer

FALL CHOIR SCHEDULE

**If you would like to sing in the Choir, please speak to Becky Graef.
The fall schedule is as follows:**

Rehearsals:	Sundays, Oct. 4, 11, 18	11:35am-12:05pm	in the sanctuary
Sing:	Reformation, Oct. 25	9:00am	
Rehearsals:	Sundays, Nov. 8, 15, 22	11:35am-12:05pm;	in the sanctuary
Sing:	First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29	9:00am	
Rehearsals:	Wed, Dec. 2, 9, 16	7:45-8:45pm;	in the sanctuary
Rehearsal:	Wed. Dec. 23	7:00-8:00pm	in the sanctuary
Sing:	Christmas Eve	7:00pm	
	Christmas Day	9:30am	

"THE FIRST ROSA"

You are cordially invited to attend a special pre-release of the film, *"The First Rosa"* on Friday, October 9 (7:00pm EST) at Sihler Auditorium on the campus of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne.

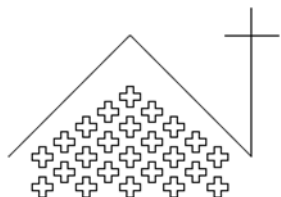
Rosa Young played an instrumental role in the founding and development of 30 Lutheran elementary schools and 35 Lutheran congregations throughout Alabama. Her legacy is unparalleled as a compassionate teacher, confessor and church planter for Christ and His Church.

Admission is free but seating is limited. To register call 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) by October 5. This film will be released to LCMS congregations and schools in early 2016. For more information visit lcms.org/thefirstrosa.

**Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church**

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**OCTOBER MEETINGS
FINANCE COMMITTEE &
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monday, Oct. 5, 6:30 &
7:00pm**

**MARK MAKERS
Wednesday, October 7
6:30pm**

**SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE
(NEW DAY)
Thursday, October 1
9:00am and
Thursday, Oct. 15
9:00am.**

**WOMEN WANTING
WISDOM
Wednesday, Oct. 21
6:30pm (at home of
Marilyn Lindner)
For more information call
the church office at 462-
7684.**

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 11, 9:00am Holy Communion
w/Confirmation

St. Luke, Evangelist, October 18, 9:00am Holy communion
Reformation Sunday, October 25, 9:00am Holy Communion

All Saint's Day, November 1, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 8, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 9:00am Holy Communion
Christ the King, November 22, 9:00am Holy Communion
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 25, 7:00pm Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 9:00am Holy Communion

