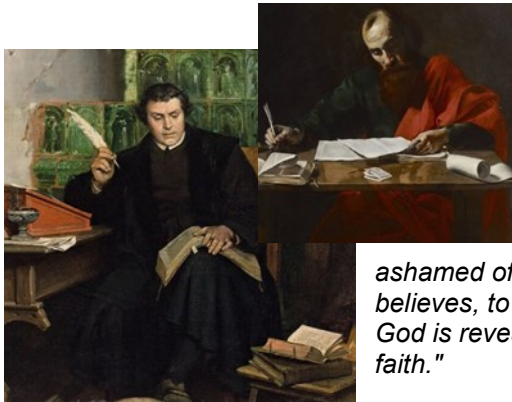


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
753 N. CALUMET AVE.
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(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



When in Rome: Luther, Paul, & the Gospel

Romans 1:14-17 *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

In 1511, Luther went to Rome with high hopes and expectations. What he found was something else. Loose morals, decadent living, and a lack of interest in spiritual things seemed to permeate the city. Everything was for sale, including forgiveness. Even those who considered themselves a devout part of the church, including many of its leaders, seemed to have little understanding or time for the things of God, like scripture. It did not take long for Luther's attitude towards the city to turn from one of reverence to one of disgust. It has been suggested that this led to Luther regularly quoting an old Italian saying that said, "If there is a hell, Rome is built over it."

This was not the only time Luther would discover that he had misplaced his hope. Much like he had put his hope in Rome and its leaders, only to be disappointed, Luther had also tried to put his hope in his own works and his ability to fulfill his perception of God's Law, only to be disappointed by his own moral failures. It is somewhat ironic then that it was partially God's Word in Paul's Letter to the Romans which would lift Luther out of his fear and disappointment and point him to a right understanding of both the Law and the Gospel. Luther would later write in his *Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans*, that:

This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes...

We find in this letter, then, the richest possible teaching about what a Christian should know: the meaning of law, Gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, justice, Christ, God, good works, love, hope and the cross. We learn how we are to act toward everyone, toward the virtuous and sinful, toward the strong and the weak, friend and foe, and toward ourselves. Paul bases everything firmly on Scripture and proves his points with examples from his own experience and from the Prophets, so that nothing more could be desired. Therefore it seems that St. Paul, in writing this letter, wanted to compose a summary of the whole of Christian and evangelical teaching which would also be an introduction to the whole Old Testament. Without doubt, whoever takes this letter to heart possesses the light and power of the Old Testament. Therefore each and every Christian should make this letter the habitual and constant object of his study. God grant us his grace to do so. Amen.

What Luther learned in the Book of Romans shaped the reformation and the way Luther viewed the Christian life and our relationships with God and one another. It is worth noting that the struggles Luther faced also reflected many of Paul's. A church in which many had lost sight of the Truth; a population absorbed in their own mixture of poverty, decadence, sensuality, and self-interest; a world in which many tried to rely on their own strength or the strength of symbols and idols, only to be disappointed: these were the marks of both Luther's and Paul's day, and they are also the marks of our day as well. No wonder that Luther's recommendation of the book of Romans still resonates. We too need to be reminded of the importance and power of the gospel. We too need to be reminded of the power of God's righteousness to work faith in our hearts, cover our sins, and help us to live by that faith.

As we once again approach the Reformation I encourage all of you to take some time to study and digest the book of Romans for yourself. I also invite you to join us for *Thursday Prayer and Praise* as we walk through Romans based on the theme: *When in Rome: Authentic Life Together*. I hope to see you there —and bring a friend!

In Christ,

Pastor Eric Schoeck

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Please look at the baptism birthday sheets in the Narthex to see if we already have your baptism date. If we don't, kindly add the month and year of your baptism.

Questions? Ask Jan Dixon, Dorothy Kehe or Linda Berner.



CHOIR SCHEDULE-- OCTOBER

October 14: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

October 21: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

October 28: rehearsal, 11:35am-12:05pm

November 4: Sing,
All Saints Sunday
9:00am



REFORMATION POTLUCK

On Reformation Sunday (October 28) we will continue our tradition of a Reformation Potluck at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Please plan to join us! Watch the Sunday bulletin announcements for more information.



MANY THANKS!

Thank you to our Sewing Seeds of Love group who have donated to the church:

\$500 to the basement window replacement project

And

\$500 for the playground fence

Your hard work is truly appreciated!

(Sewing Seeds of Love meets here at church on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00am).



A THANK YOU NOTE FROM PASTOR SCHOECH.....

Many thanks to everyone for the birthday cards and wishes. They were very much appreciated!



CARE COMMITTEE



During the months of October and November the Care Committee will be collecting new or gently used coats and boots for our friends in the Porter County area who are in need. There will be a place in the Narthex to leave your donations. Please help us keep some people warm and dry this winter.



THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"Will we join in the Pentecost dance?"

Have you ever heard the phrase "Bible thumpers"? The phrase is often used in derision to describe people who practice a style of evangelism that seems to advocate a forced feeding of the Gospel. Throughout the centuries, many people have been turned away from God by this style of witnessing. But in Acts 8:26-40, there is a marvelous example of how evangelism can happen.

Philip, one of the apostles, responds to God's call to take a road south out of Jerusalem. While on this road, he meets an Ethiopian who is reading a selection from the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit tells Philip to go up to the chariot, and Philip approaches the man with a simple question, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Conversation follows between the two men, and it ends with the Ethiopian being baptized. At that moment, they are parted from each other, never to see the other again.

This story is not long and so some of its simple teachings about evangelism are often missed. Listen to these teachings about sharing the Gospel:

- Philip hears the Lord's call and responds.
- Philip asks a simple question that opens the door for discussion.
- Philip waits to be invited into the chariot.
- Philip baptizes the Ethiopian at his request.
- Philip leaves, not ever seeing any further results of his witness.

Do we respond when the Lord calls us to witness, or do we find excuses to not speak about our Savior? Do we ask simple questions and give simple answers, or do we flaunt our theological knowledge with big words and deep doctrinal teachings? Do we wait to be invited into the person's space, or do we thrust ourselves into their lives? Do we let the person ask for what they need, or do we try to force church involvement or baptism or stewardship? Do we willingly leave the scene, or are we hesitant to trust that the Spirit can continue to work without us?

October **BIRTHDAYS**

Tom Nimitz	October 2
Ryan Gengnagel	October 3
Tyrell Nicholson	October 4
Francisco Coronado	October 4
Myra Zasada	October 7
Andrea Frank	October 9
Karie Koehneke	October 10
Lucy Fryman	October 12
Gerald Roesler	October 12
Arpad Marton	October 15
Jim Dixon	October 16
Jan Dixon	October 20
Ben Fryman	October 21
Gene Koroncz	October 22
Darlene Eichstaedt	October 22
Paulette Blouir	October 23
Fred Schultz	October 26

THURSDAY PRAYER AND PRAISE

Contemporary Worship Service

Continues every week with supper at 5:30 and service at 6:15.



PLEASE MAKE NOTE....

Due to very limited attendance for the past several years, we are discontinuing our Thanksgiving Eve service. For questions please see Pastor Schoech.

Faith Lutheran Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



EMAIL UPDATES

Illnesses, births, deaths and other life-changing events—we often have little or no warning. In order to get this type of information out to members as quickly and efficiently as possible, we are implementing a mass communication email hotline. In the past we have relied on the prayer chain email list to share this information, but we would like to create a list that is separate from our prayer chain. We are also working on an updated member directory as cell phone numbers and email addresses tend to change often. If your contact information has changed since we published our last directory, please update it on the form at the welcome center, leave on Deb's desk or call the office (219) 462-7684.

FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 4, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, October 7, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 11, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, October 14, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 18, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, October 21, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, October 25, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
Reformation Sunday, October 28, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, November 1, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 4, 9:00am Holy Communion
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, November 8, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, November 11, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Prayer and Praise, Thursday, November 15, 6:15pm Contemporary Worship

