

FAITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

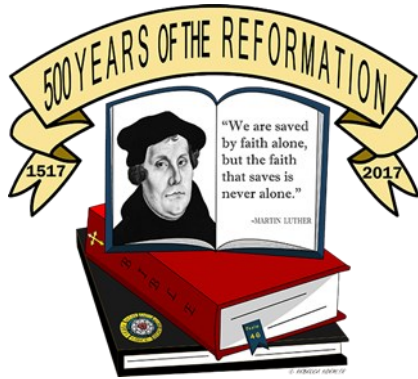
753 N. CALUMET AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

(219) 462-7684

WWW.FAITHMEMORIAL.NET

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



Celebrating the Reformation

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

The Word of God is living and powerful, impacting every aspect of our world. One place we can clearly see this is in the Reformation and its effects that continue to this day. A special thanks to Richard Baepler for the following article that outlines many of the aspects of the Reformation which we are able to thank God for during this 500 year anniversary of the Reformation.

Pastor Eric Schoeck

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

In 2017 there will be a world-wide 500th anniversary celebration of the Protestant Reformation of the Christian church. October 31, the day when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses concerning indulgences, is widely accepted as the date of the great spark which set off the energies of the Reformation in such a way as to change the world and its culture. Such a commemoration is designed to reinvigorate and renew the identity of Protestants, including especially Lutherans. Its purpose is to combat forgetfulness of who we are, so that the full energies of this movement can come to bear on the realities of modern life.

In Germany, the land in which the Reformation began, since Luther is so important for the entire culture of Germany, the commemoration is taking an entire decade, the Luther Decade.

2008 commemorated the events of Luther becoming a professor at the University of Wittenberg and the ensuing well-known story of his battle against Indulgences and refusal to back down, precipitating the Reformation. Each of the ten years of the Luther Decade have taken up themes marked by many conferences, exhibitions and other public events in which Lutheran congregations have joined.

2009, Reformation and Confession, focused on the appearance of confessional statements which stated publicly the teaching of various branches of the Christian Church, most notably the Lutheran, Reformed and Roman Catholic. 2010, Reformation and Education, emphasized the revolution in education which came with the Protestant emphasis on the importance of ordinary people and everyday life. 2011, Reformation and freedom, traced the path from Luther's essay on Christian freedom to its political expression especially within the English Reformation. 2012, Reformation and Music, shows how the Reformation created the great European tradition of music which was also the background of music in America.

2013, Reformation and Tolerance, confronts religious intolerance, one of the byproducts of the Reformation, and the effort to overcome it. 2014, Reformation and Politics, studies the move in Germany from people being subjects of Princes, to citizens of their nations, and the ways in which the Reformation, especially among the Reformed branches of Protestantism, contributed to the development of modern democracy. 2015, Reformation - Art and the Bible, celebrated the 500th anniversary of the life of Lucas Cranach, the artist whose woodcuts illuminated the biblical stories in the move to popularize the Bible, leading to a general consideration of art in religion. 2016, Reformation and the New World, discusses the impact of the Reformation on the Americas. 2017, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is celebrated with an array of concerts, conferences, and symposia.

To balance the German emphasis in the Luther Decade project, a group of Christians in the Netherlands has established another project, Refo500, which is international in scope with more than a hundred partners. It emphasizes seven themes: 1) Education and Learning 2) Confession and Conflict 3) Money and Power 4) Doctrine and Church 5) Living and Dying 6) Art and Culture 7) Freedom and Preaching. The goal of Refo500 is to reach a wide audience by giving broad attention to the meaning of the Reformation for today.

There are many more projects which aim to make the Reformation celebration a meaningful event, hoping for much more than only a celebratory worship service in 2017. Valparaiso University has a major committee making plans for this year. The University Chorale is the only American college choir invited to participate in the chief celebration next year in Wittenberg itself, a notable event. Large screens will be placed at several places on campus to give people a chance to witness the events.

We Care Because He Cares

Hilltop Neighborhood House

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation we were able to collect many playground toys and a cash donation of \$120 for Hilltop Neighborhood House for the *United Way Day of Caring*.

In 2015 Hilltop provided \$235,000 in childcare scholarships to low-income families in Porter County and provided top quality child care to 118 children with their accredited child development program. "Scholarships" or subsidies were given to 84% of the children enrolled in their programs. Their Food Pantry serves over 600 individuals every month. Additionally, in 2015, 62 children participated in their free school-aged summer program and afterschool program (Walt's Place).

Thank you for giving your support to this valuable community resource.



CITRUS FRUIT SALE TO BENEFIT LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Porter County Lutherans For Life is sponsoring a sale of fresh Florida Indian River Groves navel oranges, grapefruit, tangelos and half-and-half oranges and grapefruit from October 9 through Nov. 6.

Fruit delivery is in early December, ideal for Christmas gifts for neighbors and co-workers. Cost of a 10 pound box of fruit is \$23; a 20 pound box is \$29. Boxes containing a dozen of each of 3 different kinds of fruit are also available for \$39.

Proceeds from the sale will assist PCLFL in sponsoring a fair booth, providing fetal models to Lutheran schools and distributing literature with the message that all human life is precious to God from birth to natural death. See Michelle Grossnickle or call her at (219) 242-3579 to place your order. Payment is due when your order is placed. Checks may be made payable to Porter County Lutherans for Life.



SMALL GROUPS are now starting up for the fall. If you are not currently a member of a Small Group, and would like to join one or learn more about them, please contact Marilyn Lindner, Paul Nord, or Paul Grossnickle.

If you would like to sing with the Choir for worship on October 23, plan to attend the rehearsals on October 2, 9, and 16, 11:35am-12:05pm.



God  makes everything beautiful
in its time. -Ecclesiastes 3:11
Happy Fall!

THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACONESS

"I've lost my way . . ."

Have you ever lost your way? I've lost my keys, the remote control for the TV, and even my car in the grocery store parking lot, but I don't think I've ever lost my way. I don't know when I learned to read maps, but I do remember when reading the map became my job instead of my mother's. Finding my way around new places has never been a problem. Even when I lived in the middle of Kansas, I could negotiate those country roads just fine. But there have been times in my life when I couldn't find my way to God. Times when it seemed that I had no sense of where God was and when I even wondered if God had ever been in my life at all.

There are many in the world right now who say that we live in exceptionally trying times. These times are probably no more trying than any others in the history of the world, but when we are living in them, it can seem like we spend most of our time trying to find our way. In a single day, we hear of terrorist attacks, new viruses, threats of wars, natural disasters, murders and whatever else the news media reports. How do we find our way in a world like this?

And what about our personal lives? In any given day, we may face the car running out of gas, a child with drugs, a lost job, health problems, and even those simple irritants like lost keys and a rain storm with no umbrella. We crawl in bed at night and not only wonder what the way is through all of this, but do we even have a destination.

In the midst of our struggle to find a way, we often carry the guilt that we should know the way. As Christians, we are burdened with thinking that we should know the way and that we should be able to show others the way. The journey of our lives should be clearly before us, and no matter what obstacle appears we should know how to go around it. But this isn't how life works. More often the obstacles are so large and so many in number that the way is obscured and even God feels lost to us.

Dietrich Bohoeffer, a Lutheran theologian who was martyred by the Nazi regime, knew that the way through life and to God is often dark and treacherous. In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, he assures the reader that "God knows your present life and finds his way to you even in the most tense and tedious days, if you can no longer find your way to him". Even when we cannot find God, God will find us. The way may not be any less treacherous or any brighter, but there will be the One who will constantly seek us out and who will light the path ahead.

Sat. Oct. 29 2-5pm.



Game "Night" will be held at church during the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 29 from 2-5. Bring games. Bring friends. Bring snacks as desired!



What: This will be a fund-raiser for the boiler and windows of the church, and for Sewing Group supplies.

When: Sunday, November 13, 2016 (starting after worship in the Gathering Space.)

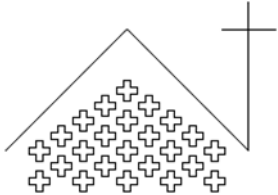
All members are encouraged to share their talents and services by providing items or services for the sale as well as purchasing gift items such as:

- Hand-crafted gift items
- Home baked goodies
- Certificates for services to be rendered later.

Faith Memorial
Lutheran Church

753 N. Calumet Ave.
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Email:
office@faithmemorial.net



A GriefShare Workshop is currently being held at Faith Memorial on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. If you know of someone who might benefit from this support group please let them know about this program. For details please contact Becky Graef at the church.

GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" workshops will be held Thursday, November 9, 6:30-8:30pm AND Sunday, November 13 from 2:00-4:00pm. Cost for these workshops is \$5.00 to cover the study materials. Walk-ins are welcome.

FAITH MEMORIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, October 2, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 9, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, October 16, 9:00am Holy Communion
St. James of Jerusalem, October 23, 9:00am Holy Communion
Reformation, October 30, 9:00am Holy Communion
All Saints' Day, November 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer
Christ the King, November 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 23, 7:00pm Holy Communion
The First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The First Wednesday in Advent, Wednesday, November 30, 7:00pm Evening Prayer

"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." —Jesus Christ, John 6:40