

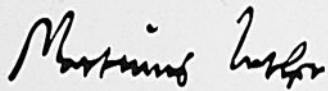
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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VALPARAISO, IN 46383

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Redeemed in Christ, and growing in grace, we care because God cares!

HERE I STAND,
I CAN DO NO OTHER.
SO HELP ME GOD.
AMEN



What Will you give your life for?

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved-- and that by God. (Phil. 1:21-28 NIV)

What do you value most? Have you ever asked yourself the question, "Is this something I am willing to die for?"

There is certainly something that grabs our attention when a person, confronted with suffering and death, still willingly dies for their beliefs. The price such martyrs pay often stands as a strong testimony of their commitment to someone or something that they considered to be important. Their deaths can even lead others, including those who killed them, to consider more closely what these martyrs stood for.

Yet, as impactful as a martyr's death might be, I think perhaps a greater question for all of us is not so much, "what would you die for," but "For what will you give your life? It is possible, you could be tortured and executed tomorrow no matter what your beliefs. You might be shot down at any given moment or age for whatever reason. You could die any number of seemingly meaningful or senseless ways between now and when Jesus returns. Yet, whatever happens, one fact remains consistent for us all. We all have a limited amount of time on this earth. So, how will you spend the life you have been given?

One day a man named Martin Luther stood trial before his opponents for what He had written about the Truth and the love of God. It was no secret that many in the room wanted to see Luther dead or silenced. In response to their demands that he submit himself to their will and recant what Luther had discovered to be the truth and will of God, Luther is reported as saying,

"Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. So help me God. Amen."

Or as Luther's collected works, issued later under his supervision, would give the closing words, "**Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.**"

While Luther was not martyred following these words, many people view this as the moment on which much of the reformation and Christianity as we know it today turns. Still, a great deal happened in the life of Luther both before and after this moment. Luther would have great highs and lows in life. Luther would face considerable suffering and persecution. Several people he knew would die for the sake of the gospel. Some of his own children would die of illnesses. Luther's own health would be poor at times, and his work would be filled with conflicts and challenges. Luther mourned as he watched the church, nations, and individuals divided based on his work and how they responded to God's Word. All of this no doubt took its toll. Yet, Luther remained blessed to be able to live out his days, growing in the Lord and proclaiming, the Truth is found through the Word of God Alone, and that we are saved by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone. Unlike many others before or after him, Luther was not killed for his faith, but he did give his life to the Lord and the sharing of the gospel.

So what will you give your life to? Will it be earthly popularity, power, possessions, or something greater? Whose will will you follow? Will you try to determine your own reality... or will you put your trust in the one that created the heavens and the earth truly? Will you try to piece together your own version of what you call truth or will you give ear to the one who determines the boundaries of truth itself, and listen to His voice? There are an awful lot of influencers out there trying to gain a following or promote some kind of change. However, I believe that if Luther himself were standing here before us today he would say don't just follow me, follow the one who can truly change things for the better and reform us into something good. That one is Jesus Christ alone.

Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus gave his life for you and gave life to you. He alone is worth not only dying for but also living for! Standing firm in Christ, we can be confident that whatever time we have been given will be blessed with the knowledge that no matter what happens to us in life, we already know that by the grace of God we will one day live in the presence of His goodness forever. So let us give out lives to the Glory of God, as He reforms the life He has given to us into the image of His Son.



Ryan Gengnagel	October 3
Tyrell Nicholson	October 4
Myra Zasada	October 7
Andrea Frank	October 9
Karie Koehneke	October 10
Lucy Fryman	October 12
Arpad Marton	October 15
Jim Dixon	October 16
Jan Dixon	October 20
Ben Fryman	October 21
Gene Koroncz	October 22
Paulette Blouir	October 23
Diane Driver	October 26
Mike Dunlap	October 29



Sunday School students, Laura and Peyton from Jackie Allwart's class participated in painting the basketball pole and the backboard in the parking lot.



SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Some of our sewers made shorts second two weeks of our lessons! (see pics above)

The ladies are back to sewing quilts. We are also getting ready for our annual Holiday sale. Check out what we have, items will be displayed in the Narthex the end of October. Your participation helps with postage and supplies. We are also knitting up a storm so we can give scarf, hats and gloves to the homeless shelter for the colder weather. We care because God cares.



Our Sunday School students hosted Grandparent's Day during Sunday School on September 7.



PLEASE JOIN
VALPARAISO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
FOR OUR ANNUAL

FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 24TH AT 6PM

TRUNK OR TREAT | SILENT AUCTION

GAMES & PRIZES
CONCESSIONS
BASKET RAFFLE
50/50 RAFFLE

COSTUME CONTEST
FACE PAINTING
COOKIE DECORATING
BALLOON ARTIST

753 N CALUMET AVE - VALPARAISO, IN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

DISCIPLES OF LIGHT

The Disciples of Light bible study group will resume meeting on Friday, October 10 at 5:00pm at church.

Watch for details in our weekly announcements or if you have questions about the group contact Kari Koehneke through the church office (219) 462-7684 or email office@faithmemorial.net.



Mark your calendars...

Our annual Voter's Meeting is always held on the second Sunday of November. This year that date is November 9.

Board officers and the 2026 budget will be voted upon at this meeting. Copies of the budget will be available in the Narthex several weeks prior to the meeting.



Are you 50 or older? Looking for ways to stay healthy? Want to meet new people?

The WISE program is for you and it's free!

Faith Memorial will be hosting this program on January 13, 20, and February 3, 10 and 17 (Tuesdays from 1-3) in the Narthex at church.



The WISE educational program includes six lessons that cover a wide range of topics about health and wellness for older adults. Join us for this fun and engaging program. If you missed it the first time it was offered here is your chance to join in!

To register, contact Angela Wehner at (219) 706-1044 or email aweigner@porterstarke.org. Or if you have questions please speak with Amy Tilley.

**Faith Lutheran
Church**

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Email:
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FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 5, 9:00am Holy Communion

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 12, 9:00am Morning Prayer

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 19, 9:00am Holy Communion

Reformation Day, October 26, 9:00am Holy Communion

All Saints Day, November 2, 9:00am Holy Communion

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost, November 9, 9:00am Morning Prayer

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost, November 16, 9:00am Holy Communion

Christ the King, November 23, 9:00am Holy Communion

First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 9:00am Holy Communion

