

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 within and throughout our community



Ongoing Reformation

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

18 Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored. 19 As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man. 20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man. 21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise. 22 Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him. -Proverbs 27:17-22

“This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle, but everything is being cleansed.” – Martin Luther

Proverbs 27 might sound like an odd passage to use in relation to the celebration of reformation we do in October. Usually, the Reformation themes center on the fact that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Alone, and that it is by the power of God’s Word alone at work in our lives that we are able to know or live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. All of this is true. God’s work through those like Luther and his fellow Reformers helped to remind us of that.

Salvation through Christ allows us to look forward to a perfect eternity spent with God. It changes us. Yet, what does that fully visible change look like today, as we continue to struggle with our sin and the world around us? It looks like ongoing reformation!

Some take the idea of ongoing reformation to imply that God’s message is somehow constantly evolving, changing to meet the desires and “needs” of a group of people or a particular charismatic leader. Their approach often looks like some of those in the past who decided the best approach to reformation was to: Form your mobs and armies, burn the churches and/or those you disagree with, and make the scriptures say whatever suits your own sinful purposes. All of which you may or may not have convinced yourself is the godly thing to do.

In contrast, Luther recognized that in true Christ-centered, Spirit-filled reformation, God is not the one changing. We are. It is also worth noting that because of this, when Luther shook the world by seeking to bring people back to a fuller understanding of Salvation and what God’s Word says and does in our lives, Luther himself was also constantly being reformed as a part of this process. The Luther who wrote and published the 95 Theses for discussion, was a rather different man and theologian from what he was prior and from what he would later become as God’s Word molded and shaped him. Luther’s work which fills over a bookcase in my office, shows that shaping and reforming that took place, as Luther applied God’s word and the ramifications for himself, his family, and those they interacted with, society at large and people’s various roles within it, and numerous aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. All of which are in an ongoing state of struggle and growth for as long as we are in this world.

Proverbs makes it clear that being reformed according to God’s perfect will, while desirable, is not always comfortable. Rubbing up against those around us, friend and enemy alike, can produce character, but can be like metal grinding on metal. Looking in a mirror, whether kind or clouded, one can be tough. Our sinful nature hungers for things different, that of the Spirit of God within us, which hungers for that toward which we strive to be and which is to come. The testing of one’s mettle can get hot, but the God who we seek to praise with our entire being is worthy of such worship and more! When God seeks to add or remove things from our lives we have to ask ourselves, are we willing to be reformed? When Christ said, “It is finished,” the place in heaven for all who put their trust in Him was sealed. Still, for the one who puts their trust in the Lord and says, “Thy will be done,” the reformation of their life here on earth has just begun. Such reformation may not be easy, but it is worth it. I wonder, where on the wheel above has God been promoting or reforming you the most right now? Take a moment to pray about it. If you want to share, I’d be happy to do the same.

Pastor Eric Schreck



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

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

On the second Sunday of each month, we will be encouraging church members to gather for food either here at church or at a local restaurant. Sometimes this will be paired with an activity of some kind. Here are the planned gatherings for the next few months:



October: Brats and pretzels (possible gameday w/boardgames and NFL football games being shown)

November: TBD

December: Snacks and church greening

GOD'S HOUSE NEEDS SOME DEEP CLEANING

Let's gather on Saturday, October 5 at 9:30am to clean pew upholstery, vacuum and dust floors and other surfaces plus do some window cleaning. If you have a canister type vacuum or a run/upholstery shampooer please let Sue Schoech know what machines you can bring that day. Thank you!

PLEASE JOIN
VALPARAISO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
FOR OUR



OCTOBER 25TH AT 6PM

TRUNK OR TREAT | SILENT AUCTION

GAMES & PRIZES	COSTUME CONTEST
CONCESSIONS	FACE PAINTING
BASKET RAFFLE	COOKIE DECORATING
50/50 RAFFLE	BALLOON ARTIST

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

BREW CREW OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 7:	5:00pm	Micro Brew (at church)
October 14:	6:00pm	Brew Crew (at church)
October 21:	5:00pm	Micro Brew (at church)
October 28:	6:00pm	Brew Crew (at church)

Everyone is welcome! Please join us.

HOLIDAY PIE SALE

The VCA will hold their annual pie sale (with pies from Marilyn's Bakery) October 18- November 4.



Pies are \$20 and are perfect for hostess gifts, or for the holiday party when you don't have time to bake! They are frozen, so can be stored and used when you are ready.

They will be delivered here to church on Friday, November 15 and can be picked up on that day — just in time for the holiday season.

Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

As many cars as possible are needed for Trunk or Treat. Plan on candy for 150-200 kids. If you plan to participate please RSVP to the VCA, or there is a sign up in the Narthex.



The Sunday School's **Fall Service Project**, "**School Kits for Kids in Need**" is in full swing. You can help out by donating school supplies for this Orphan Grain Train project. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

The **Winter Project** will be "**Donate to Porter County Animal Shelter**". The kids will ask church members to donate supplies to the shelter. The children will then make toys for the animals and deliver the toys and supplies to the shelter for a fellowship day.

Additionally they will be decorating flower pots, planting a flower in the pot, making some cookies and visiting with homebound members to provide them some love and company.

In the **Spring** our kids will be "**Helping Hilltop House**". They will ask church members, along with their families to bring in items to restock the food pantry after the holidays and the older children will volunteer to work at the soup kitchen or pantry.

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY—PLEASE MAKE NOTE!

On Sunday, November 10 at 11:30am we will hold our annual Voter's Meeting.

New Board members will be presented, and the 2025 budget will be presented and voted on. Copies of the budget will be available in the Narthex prior to Voter's Assembly. Please plan to attend!



SEWING SEEDS OF LOVE

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 at 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.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

October 5	Church Cleaning (9:30am)
October 6	Remembrance book in Narthex
October 13	Second Sunday Lunch
October 18	VCA Pie Sale begins
October 25	Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat
October 27	Sewing Seeds Holiday Sale is on!
November 3	Sunday School Harvest Festival
November 10	Voter's Assembly
	Second Sunday Lunch
November 26	VCA Thanksgiving Family Feast
November 28	Thanksgiving Day
December 1	First Sunday in Advent
December 8	Greening of the Church
	Children's Christmas Program
December 4, 11, 18	Advent Suppers (6:15pm)
December 4, 11, 18	Advent Evening Prayer
December 22	Happy Birthday Jesus! (During

WATCH FOR OUR SEWING GROUP'S **HOLIDAY SALE** ITEMS! THEY WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE NARTHEX AT THE END OF OCTOBER.



HANDMADE ITEMS ARE PRETTY HARD TO COME BY THESE DAYS! BE SURE AND CHECK THESE OUT FOR THE SPECIAL PEOPLE ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!

Faith Lutheran
Church

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



FAITH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost, October 6, 9:00am Holy Communion
The 21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 13, 9:00am Morning Prayer
The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, October 20, 9:00am Holy Communion
Reformation Day, October 27, 9:00am Morning Prayer
All Saints' Day, November 3, 9:00am Holy Communion (*with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed*)
The 25th Sunday after Pentecost, November 10, 9:00am Word and Prayer
The 26th Sunday after Pentecost, November 17, 9:00am Holy Communion
Christ the King, November 24, 9:00am Holy Communion



This is the *Day*
that the Lord has made,
let us *Rejoice*
and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

