

With Luther Through the Year 2018

Last year, 2017, was the big 500-year-anniversary of the Reformation. We offered a number of special events and a festive worship service. In discussions and conversations that I had with members and other participants, I noticed that there is a desire to know and learn more about Martin Luther, the time in which he lived, his theological views, and aspects of the Lutheran church.

That's why I would like to hold one **Luther-related forum / Stammtisch** each month.

To get started, I would like to have the first session on Saturday, **January 27**, at **3 PM**, and the second meeting on Saturday, **February 24**, at **3PM**. Each time **at the church**.

I think it is helpful that we gather at a specifically designated day and time of day (evening hours or daytime hours on a workday may keep people from attending). That's why I would like to suggest the fourth Saturday of a month (there may be the occasional month when we have to switch to an alternate Saturday) at 3 PM. At our initial class, we can certainly talk about a better time to create our final schedule. At the end of each class, I intend to hand out material in preparation for the upcoming session. You can also inquire about the material by contacting me (phone: 204.792.3346, e-mail: pastormeinhardt@mymts.net) or calling the church office (204.775.6477).

Here is a tentative outline:

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
01/27/18 at 3PM	Luther's 95 Theses	We will read the document with which “it” (the Reformation) all began.
02/24/18 at 3PM	Life and Theology	Luther died on February 18, 1546. We will look at his achievements during his life. Hopefully with some slides that show (several of today's) Luther-sites.
March, TBD	'Invocavit' sermons	At the beginning of Lent 1522 Luther returned from the Wartburg Castle to Wittenberg. In a series of sermons, he addressed several Christian core values.
April, TBD	The Diet of Worms	Luther was asked to recant his theological views at the Diet of Worms in 1521. What did he say?
May, TBD	The Freedom of a Christian	Luther's view on freedom. A central document from the year 1520. A look at Luther's name.
June, TBD	The Augsburg Confession	Melanchthon presented this document at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. What is it? What does it say?
July, TBD	Luther on Education	While the children are on vacation, we may use the time to take a look at a Lutheran view on education. A fresh look at the Catechisms may be in place.
August, TBD	Luther and Mary	Luther has some interesting and intriguing things to say about Mary, Jesus' mother.
September, TBD	Luther on Translating	Luther translated the Bible into German. In 1529, he shared his insights on the task of translation.
October, TBD	Reformation-Month	A welcome opportunity to take a look at the story and history of Lutherans worldwide.
November, TBD	Luther, the musician	A look on preaching the Gospel through music.
December, TBD	Christmas	A reading, in selection, of Luther's Christmas sermons.