Luther Memorial Newsletter for September, 2017
Good Works

I could use only one word to describe Luther Memorial Lutheran Church right now. *Active!* Before winter arrives, a new flat roof will replace the old one, new doors will be installed, and windows will be replaced. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study begin September 10th and the growing number of children in church is inspiring. Fundraisers are being organized and the church council is formalizing a one-year strategic plan for the future of the church. These are all good works. As Lutherans, how are we to view the good works we do?

While Scripture makes it clear we cannot win salvation by our works, we do not abandon them all together. We do good works because our faith is *active*. Martin Luther once said, "O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly." We are motivated by the Gospel to actively help our neighbor. We take the goodness and mercy we first received from God and then bestow it on our friends, co-workers, and family. Christians have been raised up and and brought out of the slavery of sin to live in the light of Christ to love God and neighbor.

Luther Memorial is not replacing the flat roof and installing new doors because it will earn us special points with God. Rather, we joyfully work and continue to replace parts of the building because we want our Christian neighbor to be in a dry and safe church! We are also showing the community around us we care about this place where God is located in Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins. God's Word is living and active, which means Christians are *active* as well (Heb. 4:12). St. Paul talks about active faith in Romans 6:11, "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." We continue do good works, not to win favor with God, but because we are alive in Christ. The members of Luther Memorial are active because our faith is *active*. Praise be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Adam Barkley