

The Rev. Dr. Richard (Rick) Meier a faithful pastor of this church for 50 years

Rick Meier was born on July 30, 1946, in Ottumwa, IA. He married Helen Johnston on May 30, 1970. They became the parents of four children, triplets (Richard, Jr., Jennifer & Rebecca) and a son, Carlos. Rick & Helen are also proud grandparents to Claire, 16; Christian, 14; Joshua, 12; twins Alexandra & Galya, 6; and Andres, 5.

Rick received his undergraduate degree from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL in 1968, his Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago in 1972, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN in 1983.

Rick was ordained on June 4, 1972, at the Illinois Synod, LCA Assembly at Springfield, IL and served the following congregations after his internship at Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, CA:

- Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN (1972-1979)
- Missionary, Cruz del Sur, Bariloche, Argentina (1980-1987)
- St. Luke Lutheran Church, Hialeah, FL (1988-1994)
- Alpine Lutheran Church, Rockford, IL (1995-2012)

While serving in ministry, Pastor Meier had the opportunity to mentor/supervise some twenty-five seminary students/interns.

Pastor Meier retired on December 31, 2012, but continued to serve in the Northern Illinois Synod as an interim pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, S. Beloit, IL/WI for another eight years. He continues to serve on the synod's World Hunger Sub-Committee & the Global Mission Committee.

In retirement, Rick enjoys playing golf, numismatics (coin collecting), domestic and international travel, and visiting family spread out across the country! He and his wife Helen live in Rockford, IL and attend worship primarily at Alpine Lutheran Church.

In reflecting on his years in ministry, Pastor Meier offers us these words, *"I give thanks to God for the blessing of a fulfilling 50-year career in ministry. It has taken me around the country and the world. I've been blessed to serve Christ's Church and people from many walks of life, and those whom I have touched have returned the blessing in countless ways. My hope and prayer are that others who hear God's call will share this same positive experience."*

