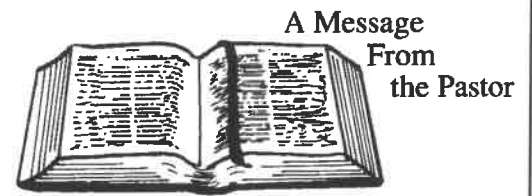




'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



Luther, the Reformation and Grace

For this October 2017 newsletter, I offer to you my sermon of August 13, 2017, abbreviated.

This year of 2017...not just Lutherans, but Christians around the world are celebrating the: 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION. But especially as Lutherans, we should know about Martin Luther, who began the Reformation...and about the central doctrine of: "salvation only by faith, through God's grace.

On November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony, Germany, a boy was born to Hans and Margarete, who was named: MARTIN LUDER. – Yes, "Martin LUDER"...so maybe we should be called: "LUDER-ENS". Hans Luder was a "Supervisor" in the local copper-refining business; and became a Town Official in nearby Mansfeld, where the family moved shortly after Martin's birth. Martin had: eight siblings; yet only one of Luther's brothers and only three of his sisters survived to adulthood.

Martin began grammar school in the year 1488 at age five. – To put this in "time-perspective" ... WE learned in grammar school that four years later: In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. In 1497 Martin was sent to nearby Magdeburg to attend a school operated by a Lay Monastic order. And then in 1501 he studied at the University of Erfurt, at the time one of the most distinguished universities in Germany. There he was schooled in the Liberal Arts, receiving his degree in 1502; and three years later he was awarded a Master's Degree. Sometime during these years Martin opted to change his last name to the more academic, Latin version..."Luther".

Luther's father, who paid for all his schooling, persuaded Martin to continue his education and receive a Law Degree. However, while walking back to law school in 1505, Luther encountered a frightening thunderstorm. During the storm he cried out in fear: "Help me, St. Ann! And I will become a monk." He survived the storm and kept his vow. Forgoing pursuing a law degree, he joined an Augustinian Monastery beginning a spiritual journey he could have never planned for. As a schoolboy, Luther preferred music to any other subject, and he became proficient at playing the lute (a version of a guitar). He gave away his lute when he entered the monastic cloister at age 21.

Luther, as a priest celebrated his first Mass in 1507. But he was so terrified of the presence of Christ in the Sacrament that he tried to run from the altar. And he trembled so much he nearly dropped the bread and cup. Luther recognized the holiness of God. As he also realized his own worthlessness before God, as the sinner he and all people were. He could not reconcile this, with God's relationship with him. And so God became for Luther a: 'God to be feared'. Luther attempted to approach God...through works of extreme humility and penance.

One late night, during the middle of winter, Luther was found outside, nearly frozen to death as he prayed. He abused his heart and mind...and even beat his own body with a whip, seeking somehow to obtain the approval of God. He was sent as part of a delegation of priests to the Holy City of Rome. As on a pilgrimage, Luther viewed all the relics of the saints, prayed and meditated; and even climbed the holy stairs on bloody knees. None of it helped Luther's struggle with God. In fact, Luther returned to Germany disillusioned by the wealth of the church in Rome, and its lack of true spirituality.

Luther was residing in the Monastery in Wittenberg, having completed his doctrinal studies at the University of Wittenberg, and was now serving there as professor, as well as the priest of the All Saints Church, also known as the Castle Church in Wittenburg. When in his frequent study of the Bible, the Holy Spirit led him to see the true meaning of St. Paul's words in Romans 1:17: "The righteous shall live by FAITH." – FAITH...not WORKS is the way to God! And then from the words of St. Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9, Luther beheld what the LOVING GOD had done for him: "For by GRACE are you SAVED, through FAITH, it is not of yourself, it is a GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, so that no one can boast."

Here...Finally...was the revelation Luther had been seeking. Here was God's Peace to soothe Luther's tortured soul. Salvation is ours from a God, who gives us HIS LOVE, even though WE DON'T DESERVE TO RECEIVE HIS LOVE. And this GRACE OF GOD, is given to us as a LOVING GIFT...through our FAITH in JESUS as our Savior and Lord...NOT...THROUGH ANY WORKS that we can do. This revelation changed LUTHER'S LIFE! And now Luther was determined to bring this revelation of: "Salvation by Grace through Faith", to change the life of all.

Shortly after this "LIFE CHANGING MOMENT"...Luther was faced with a "direct challenge" to this clear "Bible Doctrine". It was the year 1517, and Pope Leo X had sent to the German States a Dominican priest named, Johann Tetzel as Papal Representative to raise money from the Catholic believers to pay for the new grand Basilica Church of St. Peter in Rome. The way in which this money would be raised was through the sale of: "INDULGENCES"...a document which allowed a person to 'BUY' themselves forgiveness and entry into heaven.

Luther was outraged at this new doctrine! Where was the need for living a good Christian life? Where was the need for FAITH? Where was the need for a Savior from SIN...if this Papal Document would forgive all sin and grant you heavenly salvation? Prompted by this situation, on October 31, 1517, Luther posted his 95 THESIS on the door of his Wittenberg church...the act which began the REFORMATION. Written in Latin, to be read by area priests coming to worship on All Saints Day; these 95 THESIS, along with a copy of them delivered to Tetzel's superior, Archbishop Albert, was a plea to stop the sale of these Indulgences, and to gather an assembly to discuss them.

Most Lutherans, having never read Luther's 95 THESIS, may be surprised that they are but: "debate points" challenging this Papal Indulgence as being in conflict with the accepted doctrines of the Catholic Church and an attack against the Pope's wealth and abuse of power. For you see ...Luther wanted to "REFORM" the CHURCH...he never considered FORMING a NEW CHURCH.

Briefly...these are the events that happened next: Luther's 95 THESIS are translated into German and widely distributed to the people. Luther appears before the Cardinal in Augsburg in October 1518 and refuses to recant his beliefs. Rome becomes more concerned about Luther and the turmoil he is causing. In 1520 Pope Leo X issues a document giving Luther sixty days to recant or be excommunicated from the Church; Luther later publicly burns this Papal document. Now excommunicated, Luther is called to appear before Charles V, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, in Worms, Germany in April 1521. Before this assembly Luther refuses to recant his beliefs and famously states: "Here I Stand". The Emperor declares Luther to be a Public Outlaw and a Criminal..."a dead man walking", able to be killed by anyone, without penalty.

Some 100 years earlier, a Catholic priest named John Hus, of Bohemia, who held many of the same beliefs as Luther, found himself in a similar situation...and was burned alive at the stake. Luther escaped this fate, as his political supporter Frederick the Wise of Saxony, kidnapped him on his return from Worms and hid Luther at the Wartburg Castle for nearly a year; living in disguise as Knight George. It was during this time that Luther wrote various publications, as well as translating the Bible into German. It was the volume of Luther's publications and the ability to distribute them widely to the people by way of the printing press, that fueled the Reformation.

Other Reformers like Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin in Switzerland, spread the Reformation. From their movement of the Reformation would come a number of churches which are today known as: "Reformed" or "Protestant". The "Lutheran Church" is not a "Protestant" church.

The early followers of Luther became known as: "Lutherans". And despite Luther's Strong PROTEST using some of the very "colorful language" he frequently used, the movement he began became known as the: "LUTHERAN CHURCH". By the end of his life, Martin Luther wrote over 60,000 pages of material. During this time 1/3 of all German printed publications were from Luther. Yet in humility he hoped that: "All my books would disappear and the Holy Scriptures alone be read"

Among the publications about Luther is one called: "The Table Talks"; written by students of Luther, as they sat with him around the dinner table, often enjoying a few...or quite a few: beers. As an additional glimpse into Luther the man, here are some sayings attributed to him: "One should praise women, whether it be true or false. - Whoever sticks his nose in every corner will get it stuck. - The Devil is easy to invite as a guest, but hard to get rid of. - If God has no sense of humor, I don't want to go to Heaven. - One should not dispute with quarrelers. They won't be bettered thereby, but become all the more furious. They are not seeking truth, but glory and triumph. - If I knew the world would perish tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today."

"When we get old, we start to argue, want to be clever and we are the biggest fools. - There is no lovelier thing than a woman's love, for those who are granted it. - A lie is like a snowball; the longer it goes on, the bigger it gets. - Parents shouldn't give up doing what is best for their children, even when their children are ungrateful. - No sin is alone, but rather one always pulls the others after it. - Reason is the biggest obstacle to belief. - The world praises what it should disgrace and disgraces what it should praise. - The rich want to have the advantage; you should not eat cherries with them because they will throw the pits at you. - One should work as if one will live eternally, and have the spirit of one who will die within the hour. - And Finally...pure Luther: "Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! So, let us drink beer!"

Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546 at age 63, in Eisleben, where he was born. God used this man to Reform His church. Luther introduced congregational singing into worship; brought God's Word to the people to be read in their own language; elevated the importance of marriage and Family Life for the Christian and the Clergy; highlighted the doctrine of Gospel verses Law; emphasized the nature of a Loving God; and most of all...brought again to us the precious truth of: Salvation only by Grace through Faith.

A hallmark of the Lutheran Church is the assurance that our sins are forgiven by a God who loves us; even though we don't deserve His love. So much does God love us that He gave us His only Son Jesus, to live, die and rise again...for us to have life and life forever with Him. So salvation is ours NOT because of what WE have done for God...or by what OUR HANDS have done in life. But because of what GOD has done FOR US, by the nail pierced HANDS of JESUS, in His DEATH on the Cross. And all of the loving blessings of life NOW...and all of the blessings of Heaven TO COME are ours only...through FAITH, in the GRACE of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

"For by GRACE are you SAVED, through FAITH, it is not of yourself, it is a GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, so that no one can boast." - "Luther, the Reformation and Grace"...and our praise and thanks to God, through Jesus...for each, and for all of them.

Blessings,



Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

This October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, beginning the Reformation.



To help celebrate this occasion St John will offer three different events.

**Sunday, October 1 – 3:00 pm: A MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION
OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE REFORMATION**

Hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Des Plaines.
Good Shepherd, Immanuel Lutheran Des Plaines and
St John's Pastors and Choirs will jointly participate.
Your Pastor will create the service and our Jim Vhyanek
will be in charge of all aspects of the choral music.

AND... Following this service, Good Shepherd will be conducting an **OKTOBERFEST**
on their grounds by Lake Opeka.

Good Shepherd will be providing bratwurst, hot dogs, sweet kraut, German potato salad, chips & pretzels, and beverages.

If you would like to . . . you can bring a dish of something to share. It would be very much appreciated.

ALSO... Saturday, October 28, 2017 - Reformation 500 Celebration Day

Families, congregations and schools will join in a day-long festival on the Concordia University Chicago campus River Forest, Illinois, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This event is jointly sponsored by Concordia University and the LCMS Northern Illinois District.

A renaissance-faire atmosphere will provide educational, dramatic and spiritual activities for children of all ages. Adult seminars will engage important topics related to Lutheran history, education, missions and family life.

The day concludes with an afternoon festival Reformation worship service featuring a region-wide children's choir. – Free parking available. For more information go to www.cuchicago.edu/reformation



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . **open question forum with refreshments and sweets - every week.**

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

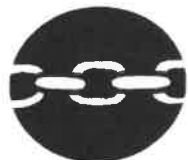
All children in Preschool and up are invited to join us for **Sunday School for ALL AGES** on **Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the lower level of the school building.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . .

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (or confirm your "standing order") please contact **Ellen Gehrke** at (847) 220-1709 NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!



ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$15! Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



Prayer Chain

If you would like a prayer for a need for yourself or someone you know . . . allow members of your St. John Family to offer prayer for this need. Primary contact people for the Prayer Chain are Darlene Bergstrom (847-259-0084) or Pastor (847-593-7670, ext. 1). Please call and give them your prayer request.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we will now be wishing a "Happy Anniversary" to these couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . **"Happy Anniversary"**:

Steve & Valerie Rainbolt	October 4
Curt & Audrey Gerlitz	October 6
Arnie & Marilyn Johansen	October 7
Chuck & Loan Glen	October 10
Ed & Carol Pfungsten	October 12
Timothy & Lynn Koeppen	October 12
Chuck & Roda Schrum	October 14
Al & Liz Schmidt	October 15
Christopher & Julie Klatka	October 17
Darryl & Rose Schellin	October 20
Mark & Rebecca Ruwe	October 28

CEMETERY FALL CLEANUP

On **Saturday, October 28 from 9 AM - 1 PM**, please join in with the Cemetery Committee in putting our St. John Cemetery to rest for the winter season. ***There will be no Rain Date.*** Minor brush and tree trimming, the staking out of plot locations and other misc. work projects will be undertaken that morning. ***YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!***



Refreshments will be served . . . please join us for some Christian fellowship and the serving of our Dear Lord and Savior. If you are unable to help with the outside work, we still need people in the lower level kitchen to make coffee, serve and clean up afterwards. ***Even a little of your time and help would be appreciated!***

CHICAGOLAND RADIO CONTROL MODELERS 35TH ANNUAL SWAP-N-SHOP / AUCTION

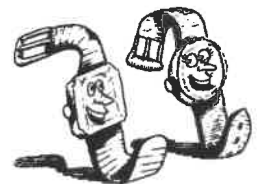
On **Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9 AM - 1 PM** St. John will host the **Chicagoland Radio Control Modelers 35th Annual Swap-N-Shop / Auction** which features radio control models and accessories (airplanes and cars).

The Swap Meet starts at 9 AM, but the **Auction itself starts at 12 PM**. There will also be raffles, food, and refreshments. (This is a **great** family-oriented club and a **wonderful** hobby!)

ALL ARE WELCOME AND INVITED!! BRING A FRIEND, CHILD OR GRANDCHILD WITH YOU!!!

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

Be sure to set your clocks **BACK 1 hour** on **Saturday evening, November 4, 2017** before you go to bed so you won't be too early for church on Sunday morning!!



It's that time again!

VOTER'S MEETING . . .



The next Voters' Meeting will be on **Monday, November 27 at 7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

The Agenda for this Voters' Meeting will be:

1. Board and Committee Reports
2. 2018 Church "Spending Guide"

FELLOWSHIP CLUB MEETING

The next Fellowship Club Meeting will be **Tuesday, November 28 at 7:30 PM** in the lower level of the school building.



SPAGHETTI DINNER: DESSERTS, SERVERS, DOOR PRIZES

On Friday, November 10 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM is our St. John Spaghetti Dinner.

We are asking for donations of **DESSERTS** (cakes, pies, muffins, cookies, etc.) for the dinner. Please drop off your desserts either on: **THURSDAY** to the Church Office (during office hours) **or** on **FRIDAY** in the lower level kitchen **before 4:30 PM!!** (*This gives the Dessert Servers the time to cut any desserts for the Dessert Table*).

PLEASE BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR DESSERT WITH: THE NAME OF YOUR DESSERT AND IF IT DOES OR DOES NOT HAVE NUTS IN IT (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY).

We are also in desperate need of **SERVERS**. Most of the tables are served within the first hour: **5:30 - 6:30 PM**. Please call Debbie Hug (847-296-7221) and let her know when you are available to serve. ***We really appreciate your help!***

We need a few **DOOR PRIZES**. If you wish to donate one, please call Ed Pfingsten (847-259-0192).



ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is currently looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to a rotating team committed to serve 2 months a year to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . To the honor and glory of God

It is always a privilege to remember a loved one or a special event in our life as a blessing from our Lord and give Him honor and glory.

Think about all the occasions YOU could place flowers on the altar of your Lord. We are always appreciative of your flower donation. Let's continue to have flowers on our altar every Sunday.

If you would like to donate flowers . . . please contact **ELLEN GEHRKE at (847) 220-1709.**

P.A.B. (Pay A Bill)

P.A.B. enables interested St. John Families to directly aid the ministries of their church by paying a current bill. This is designed as an opportunity for an "**Over-and-Above**" gift, beyond the Sunday offering envelope.

Pay-A-Bill as of 8/31/17: \$1,902.86

Please take note of the slips of paper posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each slip contains the source of a bill and the amount. If you wish to pay that bill, please remove the slip of paper and a small envelope, enclose your check (**make checks payable to "St. John Lutheran Church"**), and place it in the offering plate. **THANK YOU!**



& RAFFLE!!

A LITTLE BIT OF ITALY IS COMING.....

**Community-wide Spaghetti Dinner
BRING YOUR RELATIVES, YOUR FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS
Stay - or Get your Dinner to Go!**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (School Building - lower level)
1101 Linneman Road, Mount Prospect IL 60056**

Friday, November 10, 2017 - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

MENU

**SPAGHETTI with choice of MEAT SAUCE or GARLIC with OLIVE OIL
BREAD - SALAD - DESSERT - BEVERAGE**

MEAL TICKET DONATION

ADULT @ \$10.00 / CHILD - age 4-10 @ \$5.00 / CHILD - under age 4 is FREE

THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE AT THIS DINNER!!

4 WINNERS: 1 - \$100 PRIZE & 3 - \$50 PRIZES

Raffle Ticket Donation: \$2 per ticket OR \$5 for three tickets

Door prizes will also be raffled to those present



Leo Neggers	October 1	Junet Graves	October 17
Terilynn Adams	October 2	Jim Hammer	October 18
Larry Brockie Sr.	October 5	Anna Weissgerber	October 19
Jan Anderko	October 7	Celeste Graves	October 21
Eileen Christensen	October 9	Stephanie Hetrea	October 22
Kathy Fiorito	October 10	Audrey Gerlitz	October 29
Cathy Schubkegel	October 13	Julieth Nagunwa	October 29
Ron Fiorito Jr.	October 15	William Vander Laan	October 31
Betty Kijak	October 16		

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!

May God Bless You on your Birthday

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017



OCT: Betty Roediger & Ursel Schmidt
NOV: Jerry Guanci

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>		<u>READERS</u>
Oct. 1	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	El-Roy Schoo		Curt Gerlitz
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Trudy Klein		Phyllis Betts & Stasia White
Oct. 8*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Ron Leaf	Arnie Johansen	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Jon Graves	Kathy Graves	Jon Graves & Kathy Graves
Oct. 15	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Debbie Hug		Sara Roediger
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Jon Tertel		Jon Tertel & Tracy Galla
Oct. 22*	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	Sara Roediger	Betty Roediger	Betty Roediger
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Heidi Tabib	Raouf Tabib	Youssef Tabib & Heidi Tabib
Oct. 29	8:00 AM	Curt Gerlitz	Ron Leaf	Arnie Johansen	Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Ron Busse		Art Schiemann & Jon Tertel
Nov. 5	8:00 AM	Fred Hug	Arnie Johansen		Pastor Gavin
	10:30 AM	Marius Hetrea	Trudy Klein		Phyllis Betts & Jon Graves
Nov. 12*	8:00 AM	George Jensen	Ron Leaf	Arnie Johansen	Ron Leaf
	10:30 AM	Youssef Tabib	Raouf Tabib	Heidi Tabib	Youssef Tabib & Kathy Graves
Nov. 19	8:00 AM	Ron Leaf	Wayne Limpinsel		Alice Mueller
	10:30 AM	Jon Tertel	Andrew Tertel		Jon Tertel & Art Schiemann
Nov. 23*	9:00 AM	George Jensen	Ron Busse	Arnie Johansen	

Thanksgiving Day Service

(* Communion)

ELDER FOR THE MONTH:

OCT: Ron Leaf
NOV: Ron Leaf

NOTE: If you are unable to serve your Lord at a scheduled worship service, your own replacement must be secured.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*