

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 68 – Number 10
October 2024 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

October 2024

“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”

--- Romans 4: 7 & 8, Psalm 32: 1 & 2

October is the month in which we celebrate the Lutheran Reformation. Sunday, October 27th, will be that Sunday, the Sunday in which we remember the theological movement that brought once again to the forefront the ancient writings of Paul from the book of Romans; that we are “justified by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.” Above, we can see that the Bible verse says that our transgressions are forgiven, sins covered, and that those forgiven will never have their sins counted against them. Note though, that Paul, as he is writing the book of Romans, is quoting the Psalms. Paul reminds us that this promise from God is something that can be counted on, from of old, except now, it is Jesus Christ who carries our sins and does away with them. We are no longer captives to the Law when we put our faith in the Savior.

The Reformation is a critical moment in the history of the Christian church. For 1,500 years the Church had zigged and zagged through the travails of human experience, being shaped and

expounded upon as the years passed by. Unfortunately, human nature takes over even in the best of endeavors, and we see throughout history people bending matters that started with the best of intentions but ended up warped and twisted through generations of selfishness and greed. Martin Luther gazed upon a church in the early 1500's that was not immune to such things. He witnessed rampant abuse, ignorance (that's why the Small Catechism was written, to remedy the people's ignorance), and chicanery that left the average person victimized and empty instead of assured and fulfilled. What a far cry from the verses printed above! The irony of so much suffering in the world is that God is trying to remedy suffering and fill us with assurance, but we find humanity itself getting in the way!

How do we curb those tendencies in ourselves, the tendencies of selfishness, ignorance, and desire even as we look upon others and decry their dismal situations? Jesus addresses that many times over as he shares parables and stories with his disciples, and thus, with us. Do we find ourselves noticing the wood splinter in our brother's or sister's eye as we ignore, or cannot see, the log or plank in our own? It is easy to point the finger and accuse, but it is hard to see that the same Christ who went to the cross and died, went to the cross and died for all of us. When we look again at the passages printed above, both from the New and Old Testament, hopefully we can see the blessings of God's love meant for us, as well as for all people. Being justified by grace (God's undeserved love), through faith (itself a gift from God), in Jesus Christ is what the Reformation is all about.

Still Reforming!

A LOT can happen in 507 years! That's how long it's been since Martin Luther started what's known as the Protestant Reformation which broke us away from the Roman Catholic church! The old saying "*The more things change, the more they're the same*" still holds true in parts of this history. Catholic priests still can't marry; Catholic women still can't be ordained; and communion is not made available those "outside the bounds" of "the church".

As Lutherans, we've seen our denomination grow and flourish and (fortunately), evolve through the ages. Today, we are part of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. One of our very own members is currently running for Vice President of the United States! There are several other smaller Lutheran denominations that have splintered off over the centuries, but we remain the largest. We have been ordaining women as Pastors since 1970, and we can be proud to say that one of those women pastors was baptized, confirmed, and raised in our very congregation! The ELCA also practices open communion, unlike some churches that feel the pastor has the job of determining who is and who isn't "worthy" of the sacrament. We let God figure that out!

As Pastor Hofer reminded us in his sermon on September 15th, the ELCA is an ACTIVE denomination. Good things don't just happen on their own; it's up to US to do God's work. That's why the "tag line" of the ELCA is "**God's Work, Our Hands**". There's lots to be done, locally and globally, and it's up to us to provide the resources of time, talents, and money. Supporting the ELCA as part of our church offerings helps support things like Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Hunger Appeal, and locally, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

As we celebrate the Reformation on Sunday October 27th, Let's WEAR RED to show our support and be proud of who we are as Lutherans in central Illinois.

PET BLESSING

We've heard a lot of goofy things about pets recently, but one thing is true: Our pets are beautiful parts of God's creation, and once a year, it's good to take time to thank God for the love and devotion they bring into our lives.

So, we will once again host our annual Pet Blessing service on Saturday, October 19th at 3 pm in the shelter. Over the years, we've had a host of pets (and owners) attend, including dogs, cats, and birds.

It's best (and safest for all) if dogs attend the service LEASHED and cats come in a safe carrier. Other pets? You'll have to figure out what works.

The blessing service is a short and meaningful time to concentrate on these loving creatures of God. Pastor Jones always gives a warm and meaningful sermonette, and all the pets are invited to "come forward" for a blessing at the end. Usually, a representative from one of the pet adoption agencies attends and provides

information about their services.

Donations to their efforts are welcomed.



Looking ahead...

- ✦ October 19th 3 pm: Pet Blessing
- ✦ October 27th: Reformation Sunday—WEAR RED if you have it!
- ✦ November 3rd: All Saint's Sunday. We light candles to honor those who have gone before us. Also—Daylight Saving Time ENDS....turn your clocks BACK 1 hour or you'll be an hour EARLY for church!
- ✦ Wednesday November 27th: Community Thanksgiving Eve Service...watch next month for details
- ✦ December 1st: ADVENT starts!

Until Next Month...

For many people, pets are not just something we own, they are very important members of our families. Our Pet Blessing is fashioned after the thoughts of St. Francis of Assisi, who is often pictured in familiar garden statues. The Bible has many verses honoring animals, such as:

"A righteous person cares about the life of his animals, but the compassion of wicked people is nothing but cruelty."

Proverbs 12:10 (God's Word translation)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

3 years old-K
1st-3rd grade
4th grade
Middle School

Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith
Becky & Shannon Sanders
Patti Riley
Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, September 15th and throughout the fall months, our lessons will follow the Year B Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermons.

October 6th
October 13th
October 20th
October 27th
November 3rd
November 10th
November 17th
November 24th

Adam & Eve
A Rich Man's Questions
James & John
Bartimaeus Sees
A Message from God
The Widow's Offering
Be Ready
Christ the King

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer
christian.reichert@att.net
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of June 20, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Jane Look	Heartis Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	The Loft 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Name that Tune-Taste that Wine Wine Tasting and Musical Fun - For LSSI:

Enjoy a Wine Tasting for adults (age 21 and above) at Mackinaw Valley Winery, at 2pm on Sunday, November 10, 2024. You'll taste how Award-Winning Mackinaw Valley Vineyard wines and play some musical games like "Name that Tune" and maybe even try to "stump the piano player" with some NEW tune ideas. Door prizes, fun and fellowship, and a light supper follow. Also, a Silent Auction and Raffle of donated items. Relax with live piano music by Don Bauer. Enjoy the picturesque scenery and explore the winery and vineyards. Additional Wines, Cheeses and Gourmet Chocolates may be purchased. Tickets are \$30 per person (write your checks payable to Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria) Proceeds will go to the LSSI Children's Community Services program. ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED! To get yours, mail a check and your Email address to: Pepper Bauer, 5220 S. Cameron Lane, Mapleton IL. 61547. We will send you an Email receipt, and your tickets, or hold your tickets for you at the door. We need your reservations by October 15. Questions? Call Pepper at Home, (309) 697-5762, Call (309) 657-5726, or Email: pepperbauer@att.net

Adult Bible Study: As a group, the Wednesday night Bible study has decided to study the Book of Mark. The October gatherings are the 9th and 23rd. Each meeting will depend on how far we got the last time. It's still held on every other Wednesday from 6-7pm in the conference room. Please feel free to call or text me. (309) 645-9009
Jane Rosenbohm

Sign-Up Sheet: There is now a Greeter sign-up sheet located at the back of the church. Please consider signing up to be a greeter at a service.

Help Needed: The Jottings ladies are in need of some help. They meet one morning a month, in the conference room, to fold the Jottings (Newsletter) to get it ready to be mailed out. It is usually the last Wednesday of the month around 8:30am. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Grafelman (309) 370-6561 or you can call the office (309) 697-1440.

Help: Sewing ladies need help. Can you tie a knot, iron, and any other help you can give us, like putting squares together for a top. We meet about 8:30am on Thursday mornings. We would enjoy your company.

COMING SOON...

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 19, 2024

3:00 pm, in the picnic shelter

Pastor Michael Jones, officiating

Pets are one of the special blessings from our loving God. We invite you **AND YOUR PETS** to come to this special, short outdoor service for a chance to thank God for the love we get from our pets and ask God to bless them.

Pastor will lead us,
be invited to receive
at the end of the



and your pet will
a Pastoral blessing
service.

If your pet does not
has passed on to the
you're invited to bring a picture of them and honor their

like "crowds" or
pet-park in heaven,

memory.

Please keep your pets safely leashed or crated.

Readers:

Oct. 6	Alice Lopez
Oct. 13	Jane Rosenbohm
Oct. 20	Sally McGrew
Oct. 27	Deb Sammis

Ushers:

Oct. 6	8:00	Sheryl Bruninga
	10:30	Josh Harken
Oct. 13	8:00	Pepper Bauer
	10:30	Shirley Schmitt
Oct. 20	8:00	Lonnie Catterall & Marla Kumpf
	10:30	Denny & Elvessa Severt
Oct. 27	8:00	Teri Sammis
	10:30	Pat McGrew

Greeters:

Oct. 6	8:00	Open
	10:30	Kelly Harken & Family
Oct. 13	8:00	Betty Lyons & Brody
	10:30	Open
Oct. 20	8:00	Bonnie Phelps
	10:30	Cara Severt
Oct. 27	8:00	Dave Sammis
	10:30	Sally McGrew

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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, October 16th at 12:00 noon.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 8:30am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.

Choir Rehearsal is on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Bring your voices!

Confirmation starts back up this month, Sunday October 20th from 6-8pm. It will be every other Sunday.