

**The St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Volume 48 — Number 10**  
**October 2022 Jottings**

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



**Pastor Michael's Musings**

**October 2022**

“If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”  
--- Luke 22: 67 – 71

October is the month when we celebrate the Reformation. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517 is when Martin Luther nailed the “notorious” 95 Thesis to the door of the Schlosskirche in Wittenburg, Germany setting off the powder-keg that would change the Christian church forever.

At the heart of it all was the question that Jesus poses above in the writing from the book of Luke. “Are you then the Son of God?” The angry council of elders is trying to decide what to do with Jesus in the court of law. And Jesus answers, “You are right in saying that I am.” The rest is history, and we know how it all turns out. (If not, read the rest of the book of Luke; all the Gospels for that matter.) Jesus wants the people to say it, to declare him the Christ. All through scripture when people go to pin Jesus down by getting him to admit his divinity and godhood, his very role as the Christ and the savior, he is cagey in that he usually swings the question back on them, “Well, who do YOU say that I am?” This is not by accident, and we can assume that Jesus knows he is indeed the Christ. So, what’s it all about? At its heart and core, shrouded in all its fineries and conundrums, what was the Reformation about? It was about getting US to say it. It was about getting US to see in our hearts and minds that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus sums it up wonderfully, above,

when he says, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer.” This is a great answer because Jesus is pointing out that there are two problems in humanity when it comes to believing and then acting on anything. The first problem is the problem of simply knowing. We like to talk about education because it is safe, simple and hard to argue with. If someone flat-out does not know something, they cannot very well think about it or act on it. But the second half of what Jesus says is even more penetrating. By saying, “...if I asked you, you would not answer.” Jesus is pointing out that the council, and we as well, also have problems with our will. If Jesus asks, “Well, what do you guys think? Do you believe I am the Christ?” he knows that he will get all sorts of permutations and clarifications that at the end of the day simply mean, NO. Jesus has done quite a few miracles by now in the book of Luke so there’s little excuse to hide behind ignorance of who he is. He’s healed the crippled, he’s restored sight to the blind, he’s cast out demons, etc. All of those things should be proof enough, but still, the human mind that does not want to believe will not believe. Jesus knows this, and so he insists that the people declare for themselves who he is.

Not wanting to believe, and then what to do about it, was at the heart and core of the Reformation in which so many theological points and human lives were upset, settled, discussed, clarified, altered and redeemed. The pure Word of God was strangled and suffocated by 1,500 years of tradition and human “intervention” that at first may have started out with good intentions. As we know, over time, human beings have a tendency to gradually bend and mold laws, rules and dictates that initially promote “good intentions” into self-serving, ineffective and hollow shackles that actually undo what they were originally intended to do. That is why we must ask ourselves the question of Jesus, “Are you then the Son of God?” and feel its truth in our hearts. The answer to that question will make sure that we are on track with all the other questions that life will present us as we follow the great two commandments; Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself. These commandments are core and crucial realities of the Christian faith. They are not watered down with human exceptions. That’s why they can be challenging to live by.

As we celebrate the Lutheran Reformation this month let’s look to the central message it gifts us with; we are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Saved by his almighty power, shown through his humility on the cross, we can answer the tough questions of life. And when the tough questions can be answered, the rest fall into place.

## Are Lutherans “too Catholic”?

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I played a wedding at our church recently, and as guests started to arrive, I overheard a conversation wafting up from below the balcony as someone who obviously had never been in our church said “It looks CATHOLIC!” Someone replied that we were very similar. So, since October is the month of REFORMATION, I thought I’d spend some time addressing that comment. Just HOW CATHOLIC are we? Well, except for a few phrases, our liturgy is identical to the Catholic Mass. We both follow a three-year lectionary of assigned scriptures, we recite the ancient Apostle’s and Nicene Creeds which were written by Catholic theologians over 1000 years before Martin Luther was born. We both pray the “Lord’s Prayer” at every service, we both serve communion at every service and recognize it as a sacrament, we both baptize people of all ages, we both are encouraged to make the sign of the cross at times in the service as a reminder of our baptism, and we both “share the peace” during the service, so in many respects, in terms of HOW we worship, we are still “very Catholic”. Martin Luther never intended to start his own church, but rather, he’d hoped to point out and “reform” many of the theological issues he found between what the Bible said and what the church was teaching in the 15th century.

The wedding visitor I overheard was commenting on the LOOK of our church, as she had not yet experienced the service. So, in terms of looks, how Catholic are we? Well, we both consider the worship space to be holy, a special place designed beautifully in honor of the Lord. We both include crosses in our decoration and architecture. Some crosses are “empty”, and some depict Christ on the cross. Those are called Crucifixes, and are more common in Catholic churches, BUT, look at our altar! The gold cross in the center is actually a crucifix. We both light candles (did you know the two on the Altar are called “sacrament candles”, which are only supposed to be lit for a communion service, which is EVERY week in Catholic and most Lutheran churches)? Many Catholic and Lutheran churches (including ours) have an “eternity candle” representing Christ as the everlasting light.

Catholic churches often include pictures and/or statues of various saints. What would Luther say about this? Well, for one thing, he taught that we are NOT to pray to any saints, yet he also said that WE are saints! What about artwork then? Luther said that besides the Bible, *“there is no more useful book for Christendom than that of the lives of the saints, for in these stories, one is greatly pleased to find how they sincerely believed God’s word, confessed it with their lips, praised it by their living, and honored and confirmed it by their suffering and dying.”* So, if a church has art or sculpture depicting a saint, it is not something to be worshipped or prayed-to, but rather, to remind us of how their lives can serve as examples to us today. One of the most popular “saints” frequently chosen for this is St. Francis. Often seen in garden scenes, he reminds us to live peacefully with all creation. Our annual Pet Blessing is a service created in honor of his love of all creation.

Obviously, although we share many things with our Catholic brothers and sisters, there are still many things theologically that separate us, although perhaps fewer than in Luther’s time. So, are Lutherans “TOO CATHOLIC”? I say NO, perhaps Catholics aren’t “Lutheran enough”, eh? In any case, we are saved by GRACE! Thanks be to God.

## Coming SOON...

**Wine and Cocktails for LSSI:** Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria will hold their annual fund-raiser event for LSSI on Sunday, October 16th, starting at 2 pm at Mackinaw Valley Winery. Enjoy a wine and cocktails tasting, some fun games, a grilled supper, and live music by the popular Greg Williams. Tickets are \$30...see Pepper Bauer.

**Hymns and Beer:** Salem Lutheran Church will once again host their popular Hymns and Beer hymn-sing at the German American Lindenhof on Harker Avenue on Sunday, November 6th, starting at 2 pm. Put your favorite hymn numbers in the basket, and we will draw them randomly and sing our hearts out. Don Bauer will be at the piano, and the event is FREE. The German American Society will provide a cash bar. Come, enjoy, and SING. Hymnals provided.

### Until Next Month...

As Reformation approaches (wear RED) and we take time to remember lessons from the Bible and our confirmations, remember that we are all SAINTS in God’s eyes:

*“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 1:2-3 (NRSV)

*Soli Deo Gloria* (To God alone be the Glory)

*Donald L. Bauer* Director of Music

# **Look what is happening in Sunday School.**

**Beginning Sunday, September 18th, the time for Sunday School will return to 9:15 a.m.**

## **There are currently three classrooms:**

<b>3 years old-PreK</b>	<b>Kathy Ellis</b>
<b>Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	<b>Becky &amp; Shannon Sanders</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>Fred Rosenbohm</b>

Starting Sunday, September 18th and throughout the fall months, our lessons will follow the Year C Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

<b>October 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>A Seed of Faith</b>
<b>October 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ten Men Healed</b>
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jacob Wrestles</b>
<b>October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>The Pharisee and the Tax Collector</b>
<b>October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Zacchaeus</b>
<b>November 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Sadducees' Question</b>
<b>November 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>God's Love is Forever</b>
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Day Jesus Died</b>

**Middle School aged children are learning about the Twelve Disciples and how their lives are relevant to them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. 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 September 16, 2022)

Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Thelma Hartseil	Snyder Village 404 Flag Metamora, Il. 61548
Anna Bontz	Autumn Accolade 13516 Townline Rd. Room 314 Green Valley, Il. 61534	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Judy Kaufman	River Crossing 900 Centennial Dr. Room 201 E. Peoria, Il. 61611
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Scott Pflederer	Pekin Manor 1520 El Camino Dr. Room 601 Pekin, Il. 61554
		Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Celebration of Life:** There will be a Celebration of Life for Sylvia Corrie on Sunday, October 2nd from 1-4pm at Legion in Bartonville. Food and drink are provided. Everyone is welcome.

**Pet Blessing:** Pastor will hold a short Pet Blessing service in the shelter at 3pm on Sunday, October 9th. All pets and their people are welcome! Please keep your pet leashed or in a carrier so things can proceed smoothly.

**Thank You:** Thank you to the Leisure Group, Altar Guild and individuals who donated flowers for our fall decorations.

The Garden Group

**Good News:** Scribble pads for use are now available in each pew rack. They are in the very back of the racks behind the envelopes. Using these pads will be fun for the children and saves the offering envelopes which is an expense for the church. Please enjoy the scribble pads which have been lovingly made for whoever has need.

Thank you!

**Greeters Sign-Up:** Inside church services will resume on September 18, and public health restrictions concerning COVID are easing; so we can resume having greeters before each service. Please sign up on sheet at back of sanctuary. Any questions, please call Elvessa at 309-338-3818.

Thank you, Elvessa

**Adult Bible Study:** For the month of October, we will meet on the 5th and the 19th from 6-7pm. We will be studying the book of Acts. Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Acts: Christ's Church in the World will be our study guide. If you have any questions please contact me Jane Rosenbohm at (309) 645-9009.

**Attention Sewing Group:** The sewing group meets at St. John on Thursday mornings at 9:00am. If anyone is interested in joining them to help make quilts, whether it be cutting material to putting it together, they can always use the help. If you are unable to come to the church, there are always things that you can do to help at home as well. Please join this wonderful ministry as they send the quilts overseas to help out where needed.

Thank you

## **Usher Schedule for October:**

<b>Oct 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Bonnie Phelps</b> <b>10:30am - Elvessa Severt</b>
<b>Oct 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - John Grafelman</b> <b>10:30am - Andy Look</b>
<b>Oct 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - open</b> <b>10:30am - open</b>
<b>Oct 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Roger Shafer</b> <b>10:30am - Jodi Miller</b>
<b>Oct 30<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Tim &amp; LaVonne Sammis</b> <b>10:30am - Carol Alwood</b>

## **Readers Schedule for October:**

<b>Oct 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - JoAnn Lambie</b> <b>10:30am - JoAnn Lambie</b>
<b>Oct 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Jim Rindfleisch</b> <b>10:30am - Jim Rindfleisch</b>
<b>Oct 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Jim Schultz</b> <b>10:30am - Jim Schultz</b>
<b>Oct 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - JoAnn Lambie</b> <b>10:30am - JoAnn Lambie</b>
<b>Oct 30<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00am - Eric Lambie</b> <b>10:30am - Eric Lambie</b>

Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria Present:

## Wine and Cocktails

### Wine and Cocktail Tasting For LSSI!

Enjoy a **Wine and Cocktail tasting** for adults (age 21 and above) at **Mackinaw Valley Winery, at 2 pm on Sunday, October 16th, 2022.**

You'll enjoy Award-Winning Mackinaw Valley Vineyard wines and ready-to-drink cocktails, along with "palate-cleansing" snacks for a fun and tasty sensory experience, AND a chance to participate in some "cocktail related" challenges.

Door Prizes, fun and fellowship and a light supper follow (Grilled by the Mackinaw Lions Club), and a Silent Auction and Raffle of donated items. Relax with live music by the popular Greg Williams on guitar and voice.

Enjoy the picturesque scenery and explore the winery and vineyards. Additional Wines, Hand-Made Chocolates from "The Chocolatier", Ropp Cheeses and Donnie B's Gourmet Popcorn will be available for purchase.

**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.

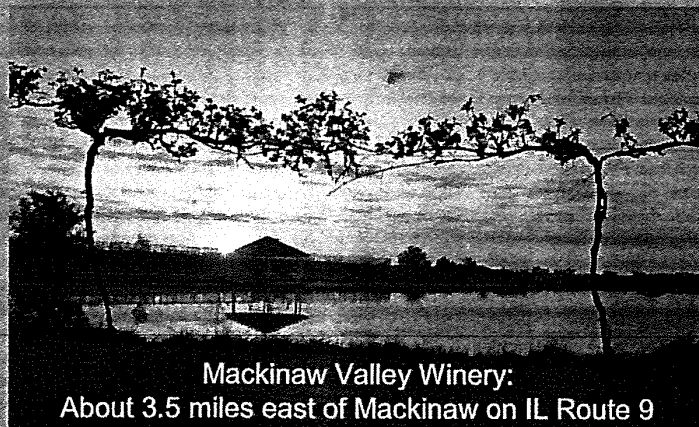
### **ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED!**

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 hold tickets for you at the door.

Questions? Call Pepper at (309) 697-5762 or Email: [pepperbauer@att.net](mailto:pepperbauer@att.net)



**Mackinaw Valley Winery:**  
About 3.5 miles east of Mackinaw on IL Route 9

St. John Lutheran Church  
6614 W. Smithville Rd.  
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436  
(309) 697-1440



Current Resident or:

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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**

Services are now back inside at 8:00am and 10:30am

Sunday School starts at 9:15am

Communion every Sunday

Pet Blessing is Sunday, October 9th at 3:00pm.