



# *The Good Shepherd News*

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October 2017

## A Word from the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October 31st of this year marks an incredible anniversary: The 500th year anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation! Let me tell you all about it . . .



Sometime during the evening of All Hallows Eve Dr. Martin Luther, a professor at the University of Wittenberg and a parish priest, posted 95 theses (points of debate) on the door of the Castle Church. His notice was written in Latin, the language of university study, and he intended to have a scholarly debate about church related issues, mostly concerning the practice of selling indulgences. While his notice was posted in a public place, he had no intention of offering his ideas to the general public. This was to be an event for himself and his fellow scholars.

Sometime during the night his posting was removed, translated into German, and within two weeks being published in all parts of Germany. The Reformation was born!

Let me offer three quick observations about Dr. Luther, his theses, and the Lutheran Reformation in general.

One, Dr. Luther was not a prophet. He was not a holy man somehow elevated to the level of Moses or Jeremiah or the Apostle Paul. He was a university professor, whose area of expertise happened to be the Psalms, and a parish priest. Like many people of his day he had serious problems with the political overreach of the Church in the West that we today know as the Roman Catholic Church.

Two, Dr. Luther never left the Catholic church, nor did he or any of his immediate supporters intend to form a new sect or denomination. Rather, Dr. Luther was excommunicated. He was pained for most of his life that his beloved church would not accept the criticisms offered by faithful members.



## *Reformation 500*

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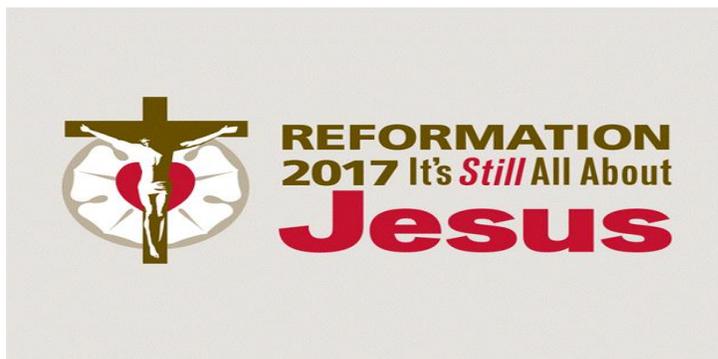
(Continue on pg 2)

This fact means two things. One, we who bear the name "Lutheran" (Continue from pg 1) do not believe by any means that we are the only true church or the only people going to heaven. Salvation knows no denominational lines. Two, we consider all of church history, especially those periods prior to the Lutheran Reformation, to be a part of our history. We celebrate Athanasius, Augustine, and the like. One of the things that I love about being a Lutheran minister is the fact that I am in touch with the whole of Church history. The fathers of the early church are my fathers too. This is why we continue to use the mass form of worship, with appropriate refinements. We never left the church!

Finally, what we celebrate today is not the breaking away from the old, or the formation of the new. What God did in the Lutheran Reformation was to center the Western Church, as well as all of Christendom, on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The problem that Dr. Luther had with indulgences was the idea that human beings could somehow buy a place in heaven. The reality of Holy Scripture is that heaven is a free gift that comes from faith in the Son of God.

This is Dr. Luther's legacy. This is what we celebrate. For 500 years we've had Dr. Luther and the supporters to help remind us of what God has done for us in Christ. Let's rejoice!



In His Love,

**BRUCE ALBERTS**

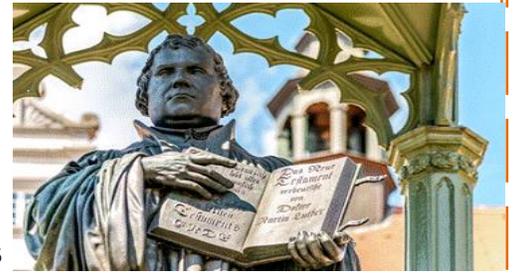
### Thrivent News:

As we approach the end of the year, think about forming a **Thrivent Action Team** to take advantage of the opportunities that Thrivent gives us. Each **Action Team** receives a gift card of \$250 to spend on a fund-raiser or service project. The applications are easy to fill out on-line, and the money comes from Thrivent's pocket, not yours! Some ideas for Good Shepherd include – Food Bank, Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets, landscaping funds for the church or the school, curriculum funds for the Early Learning Center teachers, funds for Oktoberfest, Children's Church, LWML, the 500 Year Celebration of the church, or any others ideas you might have. Those who have Thrivent accounts are eligible to have one or two Action Plans per calendar year, so don't let 2017 go by without receiving yours! Call Jackie Elmore at 321.269.4551 or Carol Steller at 321.225.4242 for information and/or help in applying.





## FROM YOUR HISTORIAN



The missing notebook and other printed items have just now resurfaced, having spent a week in Orlando recently. Their return and review lead to even more exciting information about the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation, and it might take most of the year just to fill you in on the important facts! Just this morning a timeline of everything he did fell from a loose sleeved page in the "coffee table" book (IN MARTIN LUTHER'S FOOTSTEPS) found at an Orlando estate sale some time ago and handed to my daughter by her companion who said, "Your mother might be interested in this!" The special page is already printed for Pastor Bruce and President Tom. The actual book is super gorgeous, full of printed information and many beautiful photographs. Another special page listing information about authors and photo sources was also printed. Could these people be Lutheran? We know they are German!

Another wonderful book (which I plan to read totally in October) is "THE LEGACY OF LUTHER." One of its co-authors is Dr.R.C.Sproul, a Presbyterian pastor in Sanford, Florida, as well as founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries, chancellor of Reformation Bible College and author of over 100 books. His daily devotion/learning program is found on local station WPIO most weekdays shortly after noon. He could well be Luther's biggest fan and interprets his beliefs understandably not only in his radio program but in the "LEGACY" book in which each chapter is a study in itself and can be absorbed in any order. I'm especially interested in two chapters: "The Family Man: Luther at Home" and "A New Song Begun; Luther and Music." Luther's beliefs (doctrine) are explored thoroughly, each given its own chapter in language easily understood. Incidentally the late Pastor Heiserman utilized Sproul's teaching in his midweek Bible studies at Good Shepherd. One of the footnotes (on page 112, no.34) credits our LCMS hymnal, No. 655. Luther wrote a lot of hymns in German, of course, but eventually translated into English, which proved his discoveries from God's Holy Word as he passed them to people in easily memorized fashion (when set to a tune). Maybe it's time to consult our hymnal's indexes!

One more brief Reformation stop is at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, same German town as most of Luther's teaching and preaching career. Although the building didn't exist in Luther's time, no one is going to argue about it. The LCMS (only Lutheran synod from the U.S.) joined with some German Lutherans in "The Wittenberg Project" (buying the school, then totally gutting it out and rebuilding the interior with various rooms for teaching and worshiping as well as nine motel rooms with baths and a branch of Concordia Publishing House!). Although its Reformation Year purpose is obvious, it is planned to use it, hopefully to encourage meeting and study of Christian mission work and maybe inject Wittenberg with a renewing belief in Jesus Christ. The LCMS President (Dr. Matthew Harrison) headed up the project. LCMS did not pay for its part in the project, funds being raised from volunteer donations. As completion was about to happen, funds ran a bit low, and St. Louis folks started making phone calls to donors (and a special souvenir gift was offered.) It worked.

This is an exciting time in the Christian church. Luther's words on the flyleaf of "The Legacy of Martin Luther" are: "I did nothing; the Word did everything."  
Thanks for reading this bit of Lutheran history during the 500th Reformation Anniversary year!  
Aren't you glad you're a Lutheran!! Your Historian.



## Helpful Health Hints By The Congregation Nurse



Do you know how to identify a child who is being abused? Do you think that the only way to abuse a child is by beating them and leaving bruises? This month I would like to share some facts about child abuse that might be of benefit to you or a child you could know.

As difficult as it might be to imagine there are nearly 3 million reports of child abuse each year in the United States. The only way we can hope to put an end to these numbers is to increase awareness of this problem.

Child abuse can occur in more ways than a physical beating. The deepest scars are often left by emotional abuse or neglect. Unfortunately this type of abuse is harder to detect. It is also important to realize that just because a child shows one sign of abuse doesn't mean abuse is occurring, but if a pattern of abuse is there it is likely that child is in need of help.

### Warning signs of physical abuse

- Unexplained injuries, occurring frequently
- Often wears clothing that covers up skin, even in warm weather
- Seems afraid to go home
- Startles easily, doesn't like being touched

### Warning signs of emotional abuse

- Seems afraid of doing something wrong
- Acts older than age, or younger than age
- Withdraws from peers and adults

### Warning signs of sexual abuse

- Withdrawn, anxious or depressed
- Preoccupied with body
- Fear of bedtime, nightmares, bed wetting (at an older age) Warning signs of neglect
- Illnesses and injuries that go untreated
- Often late or absent from school
- Frequently left alone or unsupervised at home
- Consistently has bad hygiene, dirty clothing
- Allowed to play in dangerous environments, no curfew

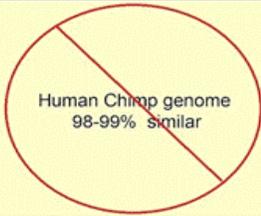


If you suspect that a child is being abused there are ways to help. Crosswinds Youth Services, the Haven for children, or 2-1-1 Brevard, the Women's Center.

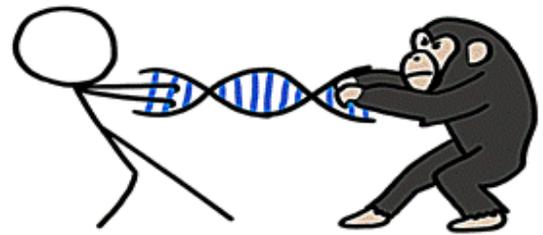
If a child you know should approach you for help be calm, listen to them, and reassure them that you can get help, then contact one of the above.

Barbara

## Creation/Evolution



DNA is the claiming point for both evolutionists and creationists. Both sides claim DNA proves their point but evolutionists just had a crushing blow to their point of view being the correct one. They claim DNA shows humans and apes share 96% of their DNA. Creationists point out that when all the DNA is compared it is more like 60 to 70%. Evolutionists pressed on saying no, 96%. It turns out that the very DNA they are claiming to be proof of evolution proves creation instead! Let me explain. The DNA they are saying represents evolution turns out to be on different chromosomes, humans vs apes. Chromosomes group all the information in all your DNA into very specific chromosomes. This discovery not only confirms creation but brings the percentage of DNA shared down to 0%! Each chromosome is like an information packed book. With 28 making up a human. The information is in different books (chromosomes) humans versus apes. Imagine the information to construct a leg being #7 but on #8 on the other. Deep study is proving no evolution, just an amazing Creator!



Joseph Laberge

## Handyman Services



As might be expected our handyman service were humming along fine until Irma. Helping many get prepared and now recovering from the disaster has taken up much more time than just 9-12 on Monday's. We hope and pray all came through with little damage but now it is time to get back on schedule. It might be a few weeks as our main goal is to recover the church buildings and property. On Tuesday right after the storm, the church roads were impassable. Tons of debris, branches and trees covered almost every inch of the property. Power was lost for days. Food in the freezers and refrigerators lost. Internet and all phone lines down. By Thursday the roads were passable and by Friday September 15 power was back. On Monday September 18 a number of church members showed up and mountains of debris were brought to the curbs. Many piles are waiting for disposal. All the buildings suffered little damage.

I want to thank all that showed up to help as there are many more weeks of work left to fully recover; any and all help is welcome. Handyman services will continue so please don't be afraid to call. Call me at my home 321-268-3465, leave a message or call the church 321-267-4323. I will do my best to accommodate all church members.



Joseph Laberge

From the Elder's Corner:

This month we continue our study of church liturgy with the KYRIE:

## Kyrie

In this world of sin and death, Christians have plenty of opportunities to join in the brief, yet all-encompassing prayer of the Kyrie: "Lord, have mercy."

All around us we see the results of hatred, envy, lust, and greed. Surely, the world is in need of God's mercy. It's no wonder that the church, in her worship, pleads before God on behalf of the whole world. It's a prayer that no one else is going pray.

Yet, when we cry out, "Lord, have mercy," there is confidence in our voices because we know that God is indeed merciful. He desires to bring relief to the suffering that is all around us.

Our prayer may not always bring an immediate response — at least, not the response that we are seeking — but even then, we commend ourselves and the whole world to a merciful God.

Like the confession of sins, however, our cry for mercy will be silenced in heaven. There we will see the results of God's mercy, as before the throne and in front of the Lamb will stand all the redeemed — not one of them worthy of the honor.

I find it ironic that we're studying the Kyrie this month – Lord, Have Mercy! God has once again demonstrated His mercy as we dealt with Hurricane Irma. While some experienced great destruction, most of us fared very well. We pray for God's blessings on the recovery efforts of those who were hardest hit, especially in the Florida Keys and the Caribbean Islands.

We also pray for God's blessings on all who helped with the immediate recovery efforts. Once again we are reminded that God's mercies are ever present.

'Til next month, God's peace to all,

Dick Steller

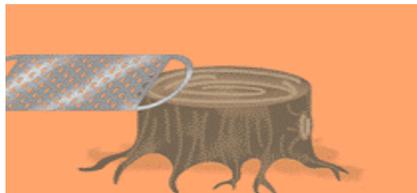


### Check The Ingredients

There was an article in the paper where some people had a law suit that alleges labels saying "100% grated Parmesan" are deceptive because the products include non-cheese ingredients.

The judge dismissed the case saying the full ingredients are listed on the products and make clear "cellulose", a filler made from wood pulp, is mixed in the parmesan. So 100% of anything doesn't mean other things are not added. So you may be getting "cellulose" when you sprinkle cheese on your food. Just a thought.

Jackie Elmore



Our next Lunch Bunch Will Be Meeting at Sonny's BBQ on hwy 50, on Thursday October 26th @ 11:30. Come And Join Us For Good Food and Fellowship. All is welcome. Any questions. Call the Gulliksons at 267-0777. Please see the signup sheet on the board in the Narthex or on the table in the back of Shepherd's Hall to sign up.



**October 29, 2017 - 11:00 AM  
OCTOBERFEST**

Come join us for a Fall celebration! Church, family and friends. Everybody is welcome! There is a sign-up sheet to make and bring your favorite German/side dish.

Brats and Dogs will be furnished

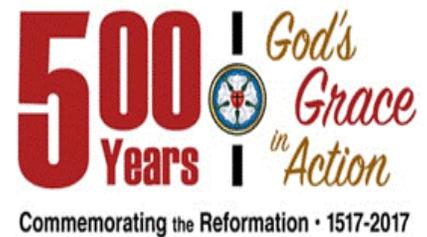
The day starts with 1 service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and ends with a great meal and wonderful friendship's in Shepherd's Hall.



Mark your calendar and plan to be there. A great time will sure be had by all! Don't worry if you cannot make a dish. We will make sure there is plenty of food for all.

**Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Website Established**

The LCMS has established a special website – [Lutheranreformation.org](http://Lutheranreformation.org) – for this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Reformation. Available on this site are:



- Calendar of Reformation celebration events throughout the LCMS
- Reformation timeline;
- Reformation Celebration Congregation Kit;
- Resources, including bulletin inserts; Luther quotes; one-session Bible study: It's Still All about Jesus; children's and Spanish materials

**October Birthdays**



- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vivian Hirschert    |                                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Charles Collins    | 19 <sup>th</sup> Elaine Eichen |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Saydey Hall        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Jana Walker   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Ginger Dixon       | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dick Steller  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Lorae Bremer       | 25 <sup>th</sup> Carol Rector  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Carol McDougal     | 25 <sup>th</sup> Anne Dobbins  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Mary Karrick       | 26 <sup>th</sup> Linda Francis |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Michael Fredericks | 30 <sup>th</sup> Al Bremer     |

**October Anniversaries**



- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sam & Bev Torbert              |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Joe & Helen Laberge            |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Brad & Riva McCain             |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Pastor Bruce & Suzanne Alberts |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Clain & Jana Walker            |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Charles & Carolyn Tuck         |

We join in thanking God for His blessings in the past. We ask Him to keep you in His Grace and love in the future. If your birthday or anniversary was not listed correctly, please contact the office.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER



### FINANCES FOR AUGUST 2015 (\$)

### ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

AUGUST 2016

AUGUST 2017

WORSHIP SERVICE TOTALS (AVERAGE)

91

91



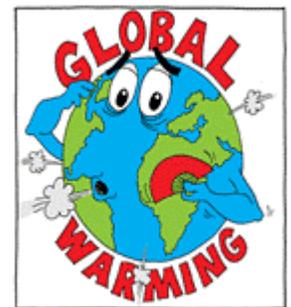
### Has To Be Global Warming

The recent crazy weather has many claiming it has to be man-caused global warming whipping up so many extreme weather events. Super storm Sandy, Hurricane Irma, devastating West



Coast fires, 9.2 and 8.2 Earthquakes around the globe along with tsunami's and massive destruction and loss of life. CO2 increases caused by humans burning millions of tons of fossil fuels is responsible for all this craziness! Then we look at the most recent data and we might not be to blame after all. For 18 years now there has been little change in worldwide temperature. For 2016 and 2017 Greenland has reported their summers have been the coldest in 40+ years. Ice formation increased faster than almost all of history, Polar Bear population is exploding because of so much ice. This summer an Artic Exposition was canceled because of too much ice. Australia just reported record cold and New Zealand reported massive crop losses because of record cold and they reported snow in South Africa.

The truth is we are just babes in knowledge of what the cause is. Solar activity, Earth's Magnetism, Pole shift and about 100 other variables are beginning to unmask themselves as more important than anything man can do. Naturally occurring things put in place in the very beginning by God but we little peon humans think we had anything to do with it. How arrogant is that of us?



Joseph Laberge

November Newsletter Articles will be due no later than Thursday, October 19. A big thank you to all those that contribute to this monthly newsletter. Please email articles to [office@titusvillelutherans.org](mailto:office@titusvillelutherans.org) or leave a hard copy on the desk in the church office.

