

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Oct. / Nov. 2017



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you probably know, this fall is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517, which marks the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. There will be a number of special events to mark this occasion, many of which are included in this newsletter.

For the past year, lots of people have been thinking and talking about Martin Luther and what it means to be a Lutheran today. Here are a few quick things to remember:

Luther did not want to start a new church, but to reform the church of his day. Only after he was kicked out of the church did the Lutheran Church form. We should not celebrate our separation from others, but constantly be in conversation with other Christians to seek unity in faith through the Holy Scriptures.

The Lutherans did not call themselves "Lutheran" from the beginning. This term was intended as an insult by their opponents. Luther's followers called themselves "Evangelicals," from the Greek word for "gospel" or "good news." For us today, the big deal isn't Luther, but the good news of Jesus Christ and His free gift of salvation.

The Lutheran Reformation was a "conservative" reformation, meaning that the reformers didn't start over from scratch with a blank slate. They kept as many of the church teachings and traditions of their day as possible, as long as they didn't contradict Holy Scripture. We should hold on to the traditions and practices that have been handed down to us, but always be evaluating them in light of Scripture.

Martin Luther was a great gift to the church. He made wonderful contributions through his writings, his translating, his hymns, and his example of faith. But first and foremost Luther points us to Jesus, our only hope for forgiveness and life. Luther simply wanted to share with all the world the joy and peace that he found in Jesus, and we should also boldly confess this faith in our words and deeds to those around us.

Blessed Reformation Day!

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

At our October meeting we will be discussing plans for our annual Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 4th 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. We ask that all capable ladies come to help us make this event a day of friendship and fellowship.

We will also need homemade baked goods and Christmas / White Elephant items. No houseware or clothing at this event.

After the meeting we will further celebrate the reformation by sharing confirmation pictures and memories. All ladies of Faith are welcome.

We thank Carol Piergies for accepting the office of secretary.

Ecumenical Discussion

On Monday evening, October 30th at 7:30 PM, LCMS president Matthew Harrison will participate in a discussion with Cardinal Blaise Cupich and Dr. Philip Ryken of Wheaton College on the importance of the Reformation. This conversation may be viewed online at www.cuchicago.edu. St. Paul, Oak Lawn, is also planning to host a viewing party.

New Luther Bible Class

Starting on October 1st, our Sunday morning Bible Class will be using a video based study on Luther's life and legacy. We will talk about the situation in Luther's time that led to the Reformation, and how his insights on the Scriptures are still relevant today.

Art in the Church

The Lutheran Altar Guild Federation's Fall conference will be on Saturday, Oct 14th from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM at Concordia University Chicago. Pr. Jim Roemke from Messiah Lutheran Church in Kenosha will be giving a presentation entitled "Art and Beauty in the Church." Everyone is welcome to attend! Please see Amberleigh Birkholz for more information.

New Evening Prayer Services

Evening is a perfect time to pray as we end the day giving thanks to the Lord and looking for peace and rest from Him. We offer prayer services for the seasons of Advent and Lent, and we are now offering them from October through May. Services will be at 7:00 PM and follow the Order of Vespers. These are not meant as an alternative to Sunday morning Divine Services, but something to attend in addition.

Following the service (at around 7:30 PM) confirmation will be held, and there will also be opportunities to do service projects for the missions we support. In October we will be collecting school supplies and decorating pencil boxes to send to Pr. Jacob Gaugert in Togo, Africa. For November we will be helping the Food Pantry prepare for their Thanksgiving distribution.

Lutheran Church Music

Christ Lutheran Church, 14700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park is hosting a special 500th Anniversary of the Reformation event on Tuesday, Oct. 10th. Renown composer and Lutheran musician Dr. Carl Schalk will make a presentation on his newly published booklet, [A Lutheran Catechism: Understanding Church Music in the Lutheran Tradition](#). His presentation will begin at 10 AM that day and will be followed by a Communion Service and luncheon. Participants will receive complimentary copies of his booklet.

Pre-registration is by calling (708) 349-0431 or by emailing Julie@Christlutheranorland.com

The Word and The Wort

Our joint men's Bible Study with St. Paul Oak Lawn will be reading Man Up! The Quest for Biblical Masculinity together in the coming year. Meetings are tentatively scheduled Sunday evenings, once a month at 7:00 PM. Please see Pastor Birkholz for more information.

Schedule of Oct. / Nov. 2017 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Oct. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 10:00 AM
AA Groups	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM Wed. & Thur. - 7:00 PM Sat. - 8:00 AM
Alanon	Tue. - 7:30 PM

All Saints' Day

Our Commemoration of All Saints' Day this year will be on Sunday, November 5th. We will remember those who have died in the faith in the past year, as well as those whom we continue to mourn. This year we will commemorate the following members of our congregation:

Howard Johnson
Barbara Bohne
Florence Bristow
Robert Young
Gail Henson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Nov. Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
22	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Communion
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class

Reformation Festival

Concordia University Chicago is hosting a Reformation Festival on Saturday, October 28th. There will be activities and presentations for all ages, concluding with a worship service. Cost to attend is \$12 for adults, and \$5 for children 5-12. Lunch is included. Please sign up at church before October 16th if you would like to attend.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

On Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd, we will have a 7:00 PM Divine Service to give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings to us. Please join us for the ultimate thanksgiving feast at our Lord's table.



Oct. / Nov. 2017 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Oct. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 1	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Mary Slepski Ray Bennett
Oct. 8	Mike Kampenga Gene Osmanski Kenilynn Breitbarth Mark Trojanowski
Oct. 15	Alden Ketchum Richard Clark Marilyn Diehl Ray Bennett
Oct. 22	Mike Kampenga Ed Neaves Richard Clark Katie Kampenga
Oct. 29	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Cheyenne Breitbarth Mark Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 1	Ray Benett
Oct. 8	Mike Kampenga
Oct. 15	Katie Kampenga
Oct. 22	Debbie Hochgesang
Oct. 29	Kenilynn Breibarth

October Hymn of the Month

**“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”
(# 834)**

Martin Franzman was one of the few laypeople to ever teach at an LCMS seminary. He was an outstanding poet and student of the English language. Franzman wrote of number of hymns, the best known being “Thy Strong Word.” He wrote “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth” exactly 50 years ago for the 450th anniversary of the Reformation. It vividly pictures Jesus breaking into our world to bring us hope and peace, and a share in His divine life.

Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Nov. 5	Mike Kampenga Alden Ketchum Mary Slepski Ray Bennett
Nov. 12	Ed Neaves Richard Clark Ray Bennett Dora Haynes
Nov. 19	Gene Osmanski Alden Ketchum Marilyn Diehl Katie Kampenga
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 PM Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Gene Osmanski Richard Clark
Nov. 26	Mike Kampenga Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Richard Clark

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Nov. 5	Ed Neaves
Nov. 12	Dora Haynes
Nov. 19	Mark Trojanowski
Nov. 26	Gene Osmanski

November Hymn of the Month

“In God, My Faithful God” (#745)

Virtually nothing is known of the author of this hymn, Sigismund Weingärtner, who wrote this piece around the year 1600. This song displays amazing trust and confidence in the Lord, even in the face of suffering and death. It holds fast to the sure promises of Christ and the joyful hope of eternal life.