



OCTOBER 2017 EPISTLE



REFORMATION Not Just a Sunday

On October 31, 2017, the Church will recognize the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On that day in 1517, the 34 year old monk, Martin Luther, boldly walked through the town square with his 95 theses in hand. He walked in earnest hope of reforming the Roman Catholic Church. Renewed in his own understanding of God's Holy Word, he believed whole heartedly that the Church was being held captive by its misinterpretation and malpractice of the faith to which it had been called. People were tormented by their constant need to confess, buy indulgences, and perform all sorts of works in order to attain salvation for themselves and their deceased loved ones. Appalled at what he witnessed and convicted by a renewed understanding of Paul's theology of grace, Luther gave voice to the voiceless who had been taken advantage of by those in power in the Church. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Much like Christ himself, Luther challenged the status-quo and authority figures of his time. Though it may not have been his full intent, Luther began a revolution that would change the church and the world forever.

Last month, I sat in a room of 43 junior high youth as we began

to teach them about this Reformation and subsequently, the faith in which we all identify as "Lutheran." What does it mean to be Lutheran? Does it merely mean you are of Scandinavian or German descent? Does it mean you have an affinity for Lutefisk and Lefse? Does it mean you simply are because you know nothing different? No. While some of those things may be true, to claim "Lutheran" as our Christian identity means we join the bold ranks of religious, social, and political reformers for the sake of the Gospel. The Gospel means "the good news." Luther's entire purpose for his reforms was not to fragment Christ's church, but to refocus it on its original intent: to share the Good News. John Hoffmeyer, systematic theology professor at United Lutheran Seminary, suggests that perhaps instead of calling this "the Reformation" we ought to call it "The Good News movement." The Good News is that Christ has freed us, named us his heirs, and granted us eternal life. That is indeed Good News. I dare say it is much better news than Lutefisk!

Our celebration of this anniversary should be markedly different than other Reformation Sundays. It is not the past 500 years that we remember and celebrate, but it is the grace of God alone, in action in this world from the time of Christ, to today, and through tomorrow for years yet to come. It is a renewal in our conviction that indeed we are saved by that grace and we are called to share the best gift ever

given to us with the rest of God's beloved world. It is why we are called the *Evangelical* Lutheran Church in America, from *evangelish*, the German form of the Greek, *euangelion*, the good news. We are bearers of the Good News. We celebrate this gift of grace and we pour it out for others to experience as well. **That** is what it means "to be Lutheran."

How are we bearers of God's grace? How are we being called to carry this Good News into our world today? Where do we see Good News already in action in our world? As we celebrate the anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, let us remember just that- that we celebrate a beginning, not an ending. We celebrate that we are a Church marked by its call to constantly live into and point to God's grace in this world. We are a Church challenged to always reform ourselves back to that original purpose. Go into the world in peace and share the Good News! Thanks be to God!
Pastor Annie Ladnier

NEED A PRAYER?



Call Beulah Thompson at
715-778-5542
and our Prayer Chain will go
into action!

**NEW! "REFORMATION
ROOTS" ADULT FAITH
FORMATION BEGINS
OCTOBER 1**

Do you ever wonder why we have so many Christian denominations and if there is really much difference between them? The answers to these questions lie in the dramatic and turbulent times of the Reformation. This high definition series brings to life the stories and struggles that still impact us today. Each video session is 20-30 minutes long and a weekly facilitator will utilize the study guide for further discussion for a total of about 50 min of class time. There are 12 sessions, each meeting on Sundays at 9AM and learners are welcome at any time! Questions? Contact Matt Pommier (Deacons Chair) or check out Select Learning: "Reformation Roots"

**YOUTH GATHERING
FEES DUE
OCT 1**

All current 8-12th grade youth are eligible to attend next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX **June 27-July 1, 2018**. This is a PHENOMENAL week-long experience for the youth of our denomination that only happens every 3 years! Our youth will join 30,000 other teens from across the country to give witness to Christ in worship, service, interactive learning, and fellowship together! Through it, youth grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. They'll explore the theme, "This Changes Everything" while reflecting on Ephesians 2:8 "or by grace you have been saved." We will walk alongside the people of Houston as they recover from Hurricane Harvey, and we will grow in faith together. It is an extraordinary experience you won't want to miss! Cont..

Deposits: **\$150 due OCTOBER 1st**. Additional payments will be spread throughout the year and will not exceed \$400/youth. All youth and adult participants will be required to participate in team building and fundraising prior to the trip! Missed the deadline? Talk to Pr. Annie ASAP so we can add you to the group before the early bird deadline approaches!

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8**

Join us in praise and celebration for 9 new siblings in Christ joining St. John's on Sunday, October 8. We welcome Tom and Ann Beyer as well as Jason and Tracy Stark and their children, Larissa, Ella, Lauryn, Dylan, and Lyndsey! These families have already been engaged in Burgers & Big Questions, Bible Study, Confirmation Ministry, and our service & fellowship events! Make sure to introduce yourselves to these new faces here at St. John's!

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**

On Sunday, October 31st, 11 young people from St. John's will celebrate the Affirmation of their Baptisms (Confirmation Sunday). They are: Michael Bauer, Sam Benson, Wylie Brooke, Pierce Burr, Grace Danielson, Ella Esanbock, Tanner Sands, Nolan Stans, Larissa Stark, Boen Stoiber, ad Jessica Wildner. These young men and women are a blessing to the Church and we are excited to see how God continues to work in their lives as a part of the family of faith! Fellowship hour will be in honor of all the confirmands on this day. Coffee and cake will be served during fellowship hour. Everyone is invited!

**500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REFORMATION CELEBRATION**

Join us on Sunday, October 31 as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation! We'll join in celebration with this year's confirmands as we kick-off this big day! Worship will have all the bells and whistles of Reformation Sunday followed by a church-wide celebration of food, service projects, and interactive learning! We'll have favorite foods from parts of the world that spread the original Lutheran movement, and areas it is expanding today! We'll assist in assembling our Lutheran World Relief school kits and items for our Generosity Pantry. We'll have a viewing of Rick Steve's "Luther and the Reformation" and other learning resources for all ages! Don't miss out!

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is welcome to join us every Monday morning at 10AM in the library at St. John's! We are studying Richard Peace's "Spiritual Autobiography:

Discovering and Sharing Your Spiritual Story." **NEW**

ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME! Pr. Annie still has a copy of the book available or you can order your own copy at your convenience! We will be in this study through October 2! Join us for this insightful and fun study, marking how God has been at work in your life!

**CREATIVE & WELCOMING
PERSON NEEDED**

Looking for 1-2 people to take over the management of our outdoor flower pots and foyer welcoming space. This person(s) would be responsible for seasonal/liturgical changes of our welcoming space planting flowers, Christmas decorations, etc. to welcome people in our church. Please contact Pr. Annie if you are interested.



**St. John's
Lutheran Church
Council Meeting**
August 14, 2017

Belonging to Christ, we are a family of faith, **Encouraging** spiritual growth and **Connecting** others to lasting hope.

Those present: Pastor Annie Ladnier, Phil Hennemann (President), Sara Anderson (Vice President), Barb Esanbock (Secretary), Luann Emerson (Treasurer), Marsha Brunkhorst (Financial Secretary), Dana Benson (Education), Matt Pommier (Deacons), Shelby Crow (Worship), Jen Bill (Social Concerns), Jay Arneson (Trustees)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Phil Hennemann at 6:04 p.m.

Opening Prayer/Devotions: Pastor Annie led us in prayers and scripture reading from Matthew 10.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Luann Emerson, second by Marsha Brunkhorst, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

President's Report: Nothing new to add.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Annie submitted her written report for June and July. Council is invited to attend a retreat at Luther Park on October 14th. We received the \$500 Outreach and Evangelism grant Pastor Annie applied for from the NW Synod for our new project, the Generosity Pantry. We need to start reviewing roles of the Council, bylaws, amendments, etc.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Marsha Brunkhorst, second by Shelby Crow, to accept report as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Line items reviewed included Candles & Flower, Youth Ministry, and Fellowship.

The new copier is in and will be paid for out of Electronics budget. Motion by Jay Arneson, second by Marsha Brunkhorst, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Review of Bills: Bills were reviewed; nothing to discuss.

Committee Reports:

• **Stewardship:** Simply Giving is being replaced by a new program, Giving Plus.

• **Deacons:** Nothing new to report.

• **Trustees:** Phones are no longer holding a charge; Jay will look into replacing. Cracks are being repaired in parking lot. Gordon Hora has retired from the committee. Jay Arneson made a motion to add two new trustees, Bill Emerson and David Butts (if he accepts); second by Shelly Crow. Motion carried.

• **Education:** Nothing new to report.

• **Worship:** Nothing new to report.

• **Social Concerns:** Nothing new to report.

• **Mission Endowment:** Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

• **Updating Membership Rolls:** Nothing new to report.

• **Dam Days:** The Sole Hope booth will be on Saturday the 16th.

• **God's Work: Our**

Hands/Rally Day: Service projects have been decided on; Pastor Annie will make sign-up sheets.

• **Giving Station Update:** Nothing new.

• **Generosity Pantry Grant Approval:** Pastor Annie provided copies of the grant application which was approved. We will look for matching funds from the congregation and Thrivent.

New Business:

• **Employee Review Responsibilities:** Discussion on who conducts employee reviews.

• **New Member Sunday:**

October 1st: Motion by Jay Arneson, second by Sara Anderson, to approve new members Tom and Ann Beyer. Motion carried.

• **Bell Computer Replacement:**

The bell program does not work due to the computer. Discussion on possibility of running bell and projector off of one computer; Jay will look into this. Could possibly pay for out of Memorial Fund.

• **Budget Process:** Council will meet September 30th 9am-Noon at Phil's for brunch. Also need to discuss future repairs, including roof (possibly 8-10 years left), air conditioning and carpet. Also how to pay for; capital campaign, memorials, etc.

• **Office Space:** Discussion on rearranging the front office space to better accommodate everyone.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Jen Bille, second by Jay Arneson, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Blessing: We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Barb Esanbock, Secretary

**BE ON THE
LOOK OUT**

For New Giving Opportunities!

Stay tuned for more information and new and easy ways to live into your call as stewards of God's financial resources and spiritual gifts! We're teaming up with VANCO financial services to add simple online giving and mobile giving options which you manage! We'll be sharing more details soon! If you prefer giving with envelopes via check or cash in the offering plate, no worries! You will still be able to live into your stewardship in those ways too!



LOCAL COMMUNITY SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EVENT

2017 is the fourth year of The Cheese Grater Triathlon and fifth year of the Danbana Dash which combined in 2016. The event was created to honor Corey Blaedorn & Dan Gerbec's memory and raise money for suicide awareness and prevention in our local community. Event will be held Saturday, **October 21, 11AM – 5PM** at the River Falls Legion with a 5K run, basket raffles, silent auction. Registration for the run/walk is from 9-10:30AM and begins at 11AM. For donation opportunities & more information visit www.cheesegratertriathlon.com or call Wanda at (715)307-2565

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR A SAINT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

All Saints Day (November 5th) is a day of remembering and celebrating the Saints – Christians who have come before us and those living among us.

Donate to the Mission Endowment Fund (before October 29th) in memory of a departed saint who brought blessings to your life, and **receive a candle to light** Sunday, November 5th to remember that saint, and glorify Jesus Christ, who by His holy life and death redeemed the lost and made them saints through baptism and faith in Him.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate during worship, dropped off or mailed to the church at PO BOX 336, Spring Valley, WI 54767.

Given in memory of _____

Donated by _____

Donated \$\$ _____
(payable to St. John's Mission Endowment Fund)

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Bible Study/Circle: will be held at the Valley Villas on Thursday, **October 12**, at 2PM. Lynda Johnson and Sylva Anderson will serve as hostesses. Pastor Annie will continue our bible study on the creed.

Quilting: has resumed and meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Bingo: meets at the SVHRC on the first Tuesday of each month at 2PM. Helpers are always welcome.



LAYETTE NEWS

New or gently used garments needed for the layette mission project. Needed are the following: Sleepers or gowns without feet, dark colored hand towels, socks, bath size bars of soap still in wrapper (gentle soap, i.e. ivory, dove) lightweight cotton t-shirts, receiving blankets, jackets, sweaters or sweat shirts with hoods, diaper pins or large safety pins, cloth diapers. We are looking for sizes 6 to 24 months. You may leave items at the church or contact the Layette Coordinator Serena Roen at 778-5788 if you have any questions.

Thank You!

To Karen & Earl Gunderson for the donation to the MEF in memory of Carmen Peterson.

To Sylva Anderson for the donation to the MEF in memory of Carmen Peterson.

To the Estate of Russell Gunvalson for the donation to the MEF.

To Pearl Ducklow for the donation to the General Fund in memory of Myrtle Pechuman.

To Jon & Linda Anderson for the donation to Compassion Intl. in the memory of Myrtle Pechuman.

To Judith Genz for the donation to the Stewardship Committee.

Thank You to my prayer pal for the beautiful card & gift card to Perkins for my birthday. May your kindness be returned to you. God Bless, Mary Hampton.

Thank You St. John's Lutheran Church Members for the beautiful blanket. Your thoughtfulness, good wishes, and prayers will never be forgotten. Thanks again. Jane Whirry.

Thank You All your prayers and kindness mean so much. Thank you All! Shelby Crow.

Thank You all for the beautiful blanket. I love it! Rusty Crow.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>2016</u>
Sept 3	51		69
Sept 10	78	Rally Day	100
Sept 17	88		86
Sept 24	98		94
<u>Giving</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Open Plate</u>	<u>Simply Giving</u>
Sept 3	\$2,185	\$9	\$430
Sept 10	\$2,137	\$26	\$105
Sept 17	\$895	\$61	\$255
Sept 24	\$1,590	\$25	\$105
Needed/week: (2017) 2,772.72			
Total needed to date this month: \$108,136.08			
Total received to date this month: \$90,527.99			
Total budget: (2017) \$144,181.36			

MISSION SCHOOL SUPPLIES KITS

Please remember our Mission Project.
Supplies needed are: 4 - 70 count notebooks (8"x11") NO loose leaf paper, 1 blunt scissors (embedded steel blades), 1 ruler (30cm and inches other side) & 1 pencil sharpener. 5 unsharpened # 2 pencils (secure with rubber band), 5 ball point pens (secure with rubber band), 1 eraser (approx. 2 1/2 inches), 1 box of 16 or 24 count crayons and shipping cost of \$1.40 per kit (we will supply the 14"x17" cloth bag to ship them in). If you'd like to donate these items in honor/memory of a child, friend, or family member...please put their name with the school supplies and we will notate their/your name on a Mission School Kit Thank You poster. Nancy Cleveland, Chairperson.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Pete & Barb Esanbock
- 5 Randy & Shelby Ellefson
- 8 Mark & Jennifer Bille
- 10 James & Ann Green
- 10 Katie & Tom Knegendorf
- 16 Jeff & Kayla Thompson
- 18 Royce & Connie Mann
- 23 Jeff & Amy Cady
- 23 James & Leslie Jackson
- 24 William & Jennifer O'Keefe
- 24 Larry & Linda Traynor

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 Taylor Bile | 20 Jameson Bauer |
| 2 Ruth Hennemann | 20 Christopher Davis |
| 2 Jason Stoiber | 20 Pastor Annie |
| 3 Quintin Anderson | 20 LeRoy Nelson |
| 3 Steve Brorson | 21 Duane Miller |
| 3 John Larson | 23 Claire Anderson |
| 4 Don Gavic | 23 Sara Anderson |
| 7 Betty Breitlinger | 23 Tyler Larson |
| 8 Linda Anderson | 24 Trace Anderson |
| 8 Tyler Mathieson | 25 Jacob Benson |
| 9 Virgil Lueth | 26 Ryan Anderson |
| 10 Rob Wirth | 26 Kemri Schlegel |
| 11 Kaden Lansing | 27 Nathan Ramberg |
| 11 Megan Manor | 29 Hunter Schutz |
| 14 Diego Schmitt | 30 Alyssa Blackbird |
| 15 Joy Olson | 30 Lloyd Larrieu |
| 17 Katherine Anderson | Please let the office |
| 19 Madelyn Thompson | know if your name is |
| 19 McKinley Thompson | not listed. |

SPRING VALLEY SENIORS STAYING PUT SEPTEMBER EVENTS

VICTORIAN TEA PARTY: Monday, October 16th 11:00 AM @ SV Seniors Staying Put office, S312 McKay Ave., Spring Valley, WI. Join in for a time of friendship and conversation, while enjoying tea, scones and other treats. Must call if you plan to attend – 715-778-5800.

SENIORS LUNCH: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays 11-1PM at Sneakers.

DANCE CLUB: Monday, October 16, 1-4PM at the Moose Lodge in Menomonie (\$5/person cover charge). Live entertainment... Lots of fun! Call 715-778-5800 for updates and for a ride.

WALKING CLUB: Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30 PM. Meet outside of Sneakers to walk for 30 minutes. Rain Cancels.

BOOKS-to-GO CLUB: Volunteers will deliver a basket of books to you for your reading pleasure. Call SV Library 715-778-4590 or Staying Put office 715-778-5800 for more information.

TECH WORKSHOP: One-on-one smartphone and tablet sessions. Appointment needed. Phone 715-778-5800.

MEMORY CAFÉ: A social get-together for older adults. October 9 and 23. Anyone with memory loss is invited to attend with a friend or companion. Make new friends, have fun and share stories. Enjoy coffee or tea and treats. From 10 - 11:30 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church, S520 Church Ave., Spring Valley, WI 54767. For information call 715-778-5800.

SHOPPING VAN SERVICE

The ADRC Shopping Van Service can take seniors and adults with disabilities to local business for shopping or errands such as going to the grocery store, the bank, the post office or for just general shopping. Reservations are required and space is limited! Suggested donations of \$3.00 a trip will be accepted however no eligible person will be denied a ride. Phone the ADRC at 715-273-6780 for more information.



SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Open the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30AM & 4:30-6PM. Phone 715-778-5988 for more information. For immediate need, please call the Pierce County Food Pantry in Ellsworth at 715-273-2070. Fall of 2017 needs: Apple Juice, Progresso/Healthy Choice Canned Soup, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Meats, Antibacterial Hand Soap, Toilet Paper and Kleenex. Also seeking 2 or 3 more drivers to get produce from Hudson on a rotation. Drivers are reimbursed for mileage.

St. John's Lutheran Church October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Moore Baptism Faith Formation 9AM • Sunday School 9AM • Coffee/Fellowship 9AM • Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10AM Reg. fee due for Houston Youth Gathering 2018	2 Bible Study 10AM, St. John's Library.	3 Bingo 2PM, SVHRC.	4 Confirmation 5:45-7:30PM.	5 Quilting 9AM-Noon. Choir rehearsal 7PM.	6	7
8 New Member Sunday • Faith Formation 9AM • Sunday School 9AM • Coffee/Fellowship 9AM • Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10AM	9 Bible Study 10AM, St. John's Library.	10 Memory Café 10-11:30AM. Council Mtg. 6PM.	11 Confirmation 5:45-7:30PM.	12 WELCA 2PM @ Vista Villas. Choir rehearsal 7PM.	13	14
15 • Faith Formation 9AM • Sunday School 9AM • Coffee/Fellowship 9AM • Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10AM Epistle Submissions Deadline is today	16 Bible Study 10AM, St. John's Library.	17	18 Confirmation 5:45-7:30PM.	19 Quilting 9AM-Noon. Choir rehearsal 7PM.	20	21 Suicide Awareness Event 11AM-5PM River Falls Legion.
22 • Faith Formation 9AM • Sunday School 9AM • Coffee/Fellowship 9AM • Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10AM	23 Bible Study 10AM St. John's Library.	24 Memory Café 10-11:30AM.	25 Confirmation 5:45-7:30PM.	26 Choir rehearsal 7PM.	27	28
29 Confirmation/Celebration • Faith Formation 9AM • Sunday School 9AM • Coffee/Fellowship 9AM • Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10AM	30 Bible Study 10AM St. John's Library.	31 SVHRC Worship Service 10AM.  HAPPY HALLOWEEN!		SSP Walking Club Every Tuesday & Thursday at 12:30 PM. Sneakers.	SSP Dance Club October 11, 1-4PM, Moose Lodge, Menomonie	SSP Victorian Tea Party October 16 11AM, SSP Office.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Communion Bread Baker for October: Amy Nystrom

OCT.	Head Usher	Ushers	Greeters	Reader	Acolytes	Coffee Host	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild
1	Bob Hanson	Brian Sandness	Shelby Crow	Kristin Larson	Connor Lynum/ Pierce Burr	Larry & Laurie Kreibich	Earl & Karen Gunderson	Marsha B/ Kathy Miller
8	Ben Anderson	Jeanne Niccum	Nancy Cleveland	Nancy Cleveland	Elijah Butts/ Claire Pommier	Shelby Crow/Jeanne Niccum	Judy Doughty	Julie Finch
15	Bill Emerson	Shelby Crow	Brian & Pat Sandness	Pat Sandness	Blayne Gregg/ Claire Anderson	Bev & Virgil Lueth	Missy Mathiesen/ Dana Benson	Marsha B/ Kathy Miller
22	Bob Hanson	Jon Tanberg	Beulah Thompson	Beulah Thompson	Charlie Maier/ Max Matthys	Hennemann Family	Sara & Grace Anderson	Nancy Cleveland/ Kristin Larson
29 Reform. Sunday	Ben Anderson	Confirmand	Pommier Family	Confirmand	Brody Burr/ Confirmand	Education Committee	Confirmand	Rob Moore/ Nina Larson

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Communion Bread Baker for November:

NOV.	Head Usher	Ushers	Greeters	Reader	Acolytes	Coffee Host	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild
5	Bob Kinsman							
12	Bob Hanson							
19	Ben Anderson							
26	Bill Emerson							