

## From the Pastor's Desk

*And Jesus answered them, "Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray."* (Matthew 24:4-5)

Fake news! It is supposedly a new phenomenon but we know differently. From the temptation of Adam and Eve where the serpent misrepresented what God had said and made its own false promise, trickery and deception has been part of life experience. Caller ID shows a local "472-" number and now even a local name, and it turns out to be someone saying we have won a vacation stay at a classy resort, just a credit card number is needed to hold the "free" reservation. We are bombarded with advertisements for products no different than the "snake oil" traveling hucksters (not to be confused with Nebraska fans!) peddled on the prairie. And there is the constant allure of activities and possessions that promise to save us from dull, meaningless existence, yet we still feel unfulfilled and insecure. Is it any wonder that we have a hard time trusting anything or anyone? Jesus said that many "saviors" would come wanting us to follow but we must know better.

*If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* (John 8:31-32)

~Pastor Urlaub



## "A Moment with Martin Luther"



### The Fourth Commandment

Honor your Father and your Mother.  
*What is this and what does it mean?*

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love and respect them.

### The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

*What is this and what does it mean?*

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.

### The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

*What is this and what does it mean?*

We are to fear and love God, so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.

### Youth Ministry

Sunday school parents: Sunday school registration and information papers will be available on the table in the Narthex beginning August 13th. Please fill these out and return them to the church office. Please make sure we have updated contact, permission for child pick-up and photos, and allergy information.

We are still in need of a few Sunday school teachers for this fall! The time commitment is 1 Sunday a month. The curriculum requires very little preparation time. Please consider joining the teaching team! It's a great way to get to know the kids and the other teachers! Remember – you don't need kids in Sunday school in order to help out!!!

**RALLY DAY!!!** Mark your calendars for Rally Day – September 10th!!!! All Sunday school students will be involved in an activity after worship at 10:15. We will have a potluck in Augustana Hall at 11:15 - everyone is encouraged to come and reconnect after the summer!!! This also God's Work Our Hands Sunday and we will be doing Vinton Feeds the World again so plan to attend Rally Day, stay for the potluck and then volunteer at VFW!

Are you on Pinterest? Take a look at the Bethlehem Lutheran page for ideas on family activities and bible activities for your kids. More pins are being added all the time. If you have a pin you would like posted, email it to Rachel at youth@bethlehemvinton.org.

Please 'like' our Facebook page Bethlehem Lutheran Vinton in order to keep up with the many youth events at Bethlehem!!!

The first meeting for LIGHTS will be October 4th at 5:30 in the Preschool room. Any Preschool – 5th grade student is welcome for a lessons, games, food, and fun!

We had several youth attend camp in July. We also had several LYO spend a weekend in Minneapolis doing service projects. A huge THANK YOU to the congregation for your prayers and financial support for both groups. Keep an eye on future newsletters and bulletins as we plan a day the campers and LYO to tell you about their experiences.



Riverside Campers



EWALU Campers

### **Reformation**

Reformation is coming! No one knew that 500 years ago. We will be observing the 500th anniversary with many different events. Beginning on August 20th with the hanging of the Martin Luther seal banner and Luther's explanation of the symbolism of the seal. This will be followed up with several temple talks containing Luther's explanation of the Apostles Creed each Sunday and a children's pop up book reading.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Luther's 95 Theses Bible Study - Open to All  
Starting on September 18th, 2017, we will start a 5 session bible study based on the book "Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide" by Timothy J. Wengert.

There is a sign up sheet in Augustana Hall for those that wish to attend the bible study. The book can be purchased on Amazon or from the church. If you would like the church to pre-order the book for you, please sign up by August 13th. The books will be distributed around September 1st to give participants time to read the selected material prior to the first meeting. The cost of the books is around \$11.22 + tax. Meetings will be every other Monday at 7pm in Augustana Hall.

The reading schedule is listed below:  
Dates, Subjects, Pages

Sept 18

Introduction: Luther's First Reformation Writings (Part 1)

*ix - xxxi*

Stop at heading The Ninety-Five Theses & the Letter to Albrecht

Oct 2

Introduction: Luther's First Reformation Writings (Part 2)

*xxxii - xlvi*

Oct 16

The Ninety-Five Theses

*1-26*

Oct 30

The Letter to Albrechts

*27-36*

Nov 13

A Sermon on Indulgences and Grace  
*37-48*

All are invited! Please join us in this 500th anniversary year to study more about Martin Luther.

**Women's Evening Bible Study**

The women's evening bible study will meet August 21st at 7p.m. in Augustana Hall for devotionals and fellowship.

Please join us!

**Pigs with a Purpose**

For the past several weeks we have had a pig in Augustana Hall. Not a real pig but a wooden cut out that is part of the Southeastern Iowa Synod "Pigs with a Purpose" project that was a great success. Each pig was dedicated with gifts of at least \$500 and decorated locally. The total income was just over \$62,000. More than \$32,000 was forwarded to ELCA hunger ministries. The remainder is being used for hunger ministries within the synod.

**Food for Thought Small Group**

Food for Thought Small Group meets monthly, on the third Thursday evening of the month. The members may carpool from the church or meet at the assigned restaurant. Fellowship and informal book discussion begins



at 6:30 p.m. and continues during the meal. This activity is open to anyone wishing to join the fun.

Our schedule for the upcoming months:

**August 17, 2017**

*Griselda Takes Flight* by Joyce Magnin

The Chrome Horse in Cedar Rapids

**September 21, 2017**

*Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Garlough Brown

Napoli's in Marion

**October 19, 2017**

*The Atonement Child* by Francine Rivers

Restaurant: Rock Bar American Grill in Cedar Rapids

**November 16, 2017**

*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

Irish Democrat in Cedar Rapids

**December 14, 2017** (note date moved up 1 week earlier in December than usual)

*A Red Bird Christmas* by Fanny Flagg

Potluck at the Bethlehem Inn in Vinton

We would love to have new members join us. If you have questions call Linda Wallace (472-5638).

**Vinton Feeds the World 2017**

Date: Sunday, September 10th at 1p.m.

Where: Vinton Skate Center

Meal Goal: 25,000

**Volunteers Needed**

If you haven't already done so, please consider volunteering for the event. Forms can be found in Augustana Hall and on the website at [bethlehemvinton.org](http://bethlehemvinton.org). Please spread the word! Try to get friends, family, co-workers, even strangers involved! With God's help we will have another spirit led event. It will be here before you know it.

Grace and peace to you and thanks for your support!

Marta Bauer  
Event Coordinator

**Prayers:**

*for health & healing:* Ray Lough, John Eden, and Lois Schmitt.

*for sympathy:* Donald Selken's family on his passing; Jean Redlinger's family (Dave

Redlinger's mother), Cheryl Kelley on the passing of her first cousin, Zola Cerny.

*for thanksgiving:* Steve and Jennifer Urlaub on the birth of a son, Henry Gustav.

*for guidance, safety and growth in Christ:* all children attending bible camps, Vacation Bible Schools and LYO members on their service trip.

*for service and leadership:* All camper leaders, LYO Chaperones and volunteers.

#### **Notes and things:**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade confirmation classes will start on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lutheran Home Ice Cream Social** is August 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. Please stop by and enjoy the ice cream and celebrate with the Lutheran Home on over 60 years of "Providing Quality Christian Care and Service".

The Lutheran Home is looking for some assistance from area businesses to ensure a successful Ice Cream Social. If you would be willing to donate gift certificates, items with your logo on it, etc. that they could use for grab bag items or use in the donation drawings they would greatly appreciate it. Monetary donations are also welcome. If you are interested in donating items or making a monetary donation, please contact Sarah Smith at 319-472-4751 or email [s.smith@lhaa-e.org](mailto:s.smith@lhaa-e.org). They can pick up donations or they can be mailed to the Lutheran Home. Make checks payable to the Vinton Lutheran Home Auxiliary. Contributions will be recognized during the Social and in the Vinton Livewire the following week.

#### **Flowers in June:**

6<sup>th</sup> George and Marta Bauer

13<sup>th</sup> Doug and Brenda Sutton

20<sup>th</sup> John and Becky Williams

27<sup>th</sup> Ryan and Kelli McClintock

#### **Servers in June:**

August 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

**Acolytes:** Ushers

**Altar Guild:** Sally Jacobs, Judy Renken

**Assisting Minister:** George Bauer

**Communion Server:** Lisa Vermedahl

**Lector:** Jan Bearbower

**Tape Ministry:** Mona Hanson

**Greeters:** Ron & Evelyn Bland, Ryan & Sally Jacobs

**Counters (6):** Lisa Vermedahl, Kimmit Renken

**Counters (13):** Lisa Vermedahl, Steve Wallace

**Ushers:** Bruce & Bev Anderson, Steve & Linda Wallace

August 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

**Acolytes:** Evan Sampson, Trenton Sivola

**Altar Guild:** Sue Mangold, Sheila Stickels

**Communion Servers:** Sheila Stickels, Brenda Sutton

**Tape Ministry:** Warren Henkel

**Assisting Minister:** George Bauer

**Ushers:** Gregg & Deb Sampson, Doug & Brenda Sutton

**Greeters:** Amelia Jacobsen, Duane & Sue Mangold

**Counters (20):** Steve Wallace, Tom/Dana Hanson

**Counters (27):** Tom/Dana Hanson, Dennis/Tina Eden

**Council Lock up:** Tim Jorgensen

### **Domestic Violence Awareness**

In the coming months, information about Domestic Violence, reprinted from Waypoint Services, will be presented. If you think you may be a victim or know someone who is, please use this information and if you'd like printed copies, please stop by the office.



#### **Safety Planning**

Since each person's situation is different, no two safety plans are the same.

#### **Safety in the relationship:**

- Have important phone numbers (police, shelter, friend/family) accessible.
- Determine if there are one or two neighbors you/they can tell about the violence and ask them to call the police if they hear any suspicious noises coming from the home.
- Plan four places you/they can go if they need to leave the home.
- Have a safe place for extra money, car keys, clothes and copies of important documents.
- Keep change for phone calls with you/them at all times; open your/their own savings account, rehearse the escape route with children and support person; update your/their safety plan as needed.

#### **Safety during an explosive incident:**

- If an argument seems unavoidable move to a room with an easy exit. Not a bathroom, kitchen or anywhere near potential weapons.
- Identify which door, window, stairwell, or elevator offers the quickest way out of the home and practice the exit.

- Find neighbors to tell about the violence and ask that they call the police if they hear a disturbance.
- Devise a code word to use with children, family and friends when police are needed.
- Decide and plan for where to go if leaving the home is imperative, even if that possibility is remote.
- Use your own best instincts and judgment. Think of how best to keep safe until help arrives. You have the right to keep yourself safe until you are out of danger.

**Safety in public or at work:**

- If you have a proactive order, keep it with you at all times. Call the police if the abuser violates the protective order.
- Inform building security and co-workers you trust about your situation. If possible, provide a photograph of the abuser to building security.
- Vary your routes to and from work and arrange from someone to escort you to your car or bus and with you until you are safely on your way.
- Plan what to do in various situations if your abuser confronts you. (for example, in your car or on the bus).

**Safety after ending the relationship:**

- Change the locks and install safety devices on windows.
- Develop a safety plan and discuss it with your children. Review the plan as often as necessary.
- Make sure your children's school; daycare center or camp knows who has permission to pick up the children.
- Tell your neighbors and landlord that your partner no longer lives there and ask them to call the police if they see that person near your home.

<i>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</i>					
<i>Consolidated Fund Activity Report for June 2017</i>					
<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Transfers/ Journal Entries</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Building Fund	45,502.23	1,431.00	0.00	(5,747.44)	41,185.79
Cassens Prop Fund	80,550.00	20,200.00	103,497.44	5,747.44	3,000.00
Equip Replace Fd	3,271.16	0.00	0.00	100.00	3,371.16
General Fund B	(4.59)	2,978.00	0.00	(2,978.00)	(4.59)
General Fund A	11,753.40	10,788.79	18,110.55	2,180.00	6,611.64
LYO Fund	4,027.25	0.00	0.00	672.93	4,700.18
Memorial Fund	12,219.99	390.00	21.83	0.00	12,588.16
Property Fund	27,908.42	0.00	0.00	400.00	28,308.42
Sun. School Fund	7,117.82	0.00	1,756.41	(672.93)	4,688.48

# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FARMERS MARKET

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Farmers Market Coffee is sourced directly from coffee farmers participating in LWR projects. Every delicious cup helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. Farmers get a strong up-front price for their coffee beans and a portion of the profit. LWR Farmers Market Coffee brings you closer to the people you help through your support of LWR. Because this coffee is sourced directly from LWR project participants, you will see the faces and learn the stories of the actual farmers who grow your coffee. And 80 cents of every pound you purchase goes back into LWR projects to benefit more around the world. Visit their website to learn more [www.lwrfarmersmarket.org/](http://www.lwrfarmersmarket.org/)



## **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The suggested date for the 2017 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 10. Mark your calendars today! If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2017!