

From the Pastor's Desk

Reformation 500

We have been waiting for this a long time, 500 years to be exact. Well, we have not, of course, actually been waiting 500 years, but when such an anniversary comes along it is significant and it should be noted. Some may remember the US Bi-Centennial in 1976 and what a big deal was made of it. My home town started an Independence Day celebration parade that continues strong today. Surely, others will remember our congregation's centennial four years ago.

500 years ago on October 31st, Dr. Martin Luther started a discussion in the church that very quickly led to a controversy and eventually became a reforming movement that, like my home town's July 4th celebration, continues today. Many things could have happened in those years. Luther could have been put to death early and the whole thing would have become a minor footnote. The movement could have died of disinterest at any time. But while the church has certainly not been made perfect, it is significantly more faithful in some ways and we are beneficiaries. We are also responsible for valuing and continuing what is good.

Attention is being paid in study groups and sermons on "The Lutheran Brand." Videos will be shown and Temple Talks will be given each Sunday to highlight Luther's teachings on the Apostles' Creed. We will celebrate with a Reformation Festival on October 22nd that will be just for the fun of it. Luther was German, so the food will be German and great entertainment will be by the Guttenberg German Band.

On October 29th we will worship, not Martin Luther, but the God whom Luther helped us to see more clearly in Jesus Christ, to trust more boldly, and to serve more faithfully.

500 years only comes once in a lifetime and this 500th Anniversary happens to come in ours. Come, remember, give thanks and praise, and grow stronger that we may build onto and pass on this great heritage. Look for a listing of activities in this Star.

~Pastor Urlaub



"A Moment with Martin Luther"



The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What is this and what does it mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is this and what does it mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouse, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

What then does God say about all these Ten Commandments?

God says the following:

“I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquities of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

What is this and what does it mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we are to fear his wrath and not destroy these commandments. However, God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep these commandments. Therefore we also are to love and trust him and gladly act according to his commands.

Youth Ministry

It was great to see so many kids involved in the Vinton Feeds the World Food Packaging event! We have a great group of kids here that really enjoy serving.

The 3rd Sunday of each month is a Service Sunday for the Sunday school kids. We will work on projects for our church, our town, and the world. Our first service project was completed on September 17th. We finished some art projects from VBS for the SS rooms and a prayer box for opening. Look for these to appear throughout the year.

LIGHTS: Pre-school – 5th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month - October 4th 5:30-6:30 in the preschool room in the church. Join us for a Bible lesson, craft, games, food, and fun!! Choir practice follows in the sanctuary from 6:30-7:00.

We will begin our hat and mitten collection on October 8th. We will collect hats and mittens until November 6. We will also collect Thanksgiving items for the food pantry during this same time period. We will deliver the food bank items on our Service Sunday – November 19th.

NOISY OFFERING will be collected on the last Sunday of each month. Save your coins, grab a can and help us collect it!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Look for an email regarding some fun events!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY EVENT – Movie night October 20th! Wear your comfy clothes and bring sleeping bags or blankets to lie and a snack to share. We’ll watch a movie on the big screen in Augustana Hall.

PARENTS: Please remember to register your child for Sunday school. This is important so that we have current contact and allergy information in the office and Sunday school room. Registration sheets are in the Narthex or Rachel (youth@bethlehemvinton.org) can email you one if you request it.

LYO is now meeting on Wednesday nights around 6/6:15 for about an hour. We’ll make a meal and eat with the confirmation students. After that our activities will involve service, fellowship, or discussion.

LYO will present on their service trip to Minneapolis on October 8th at 10:15. Please support them by attending and finding out what they learned and experienced there.

THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION 1517-2017

The Protestant Reformation began October 31, 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany. On this day Martin Luther posted the 95 theses on the door of Castle Church, challenging the teachings of the Roman church, his church. It has been 500 years since that event which changed world and church history forever.

In observance of this 500th Reformation Day, a Reformation Festival will be held in Augustana Hall on Sunday evening, October 22, 2017. A similar evening was enjoyed in 2010. There will be German food, Reformation Trivia and the Guttenberg German Band will entertain us. It’s an evening of food, fun and fellowship that you won’t want to miss. Please mark your calendars and watch for the opportunity to purchase tickets. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead.

October: A Month of “Reformation 500” Events

† Sunday, October 1

🕒 Worship at 9:00.

📖 Sermon: “Katherine Von Bora Luther: Disciple” written by Dr. Timothy Lull in honor of her 500th birthday on January 31, 1999, given at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco and presented here by Nancy Beckman.

📖 Temple talk on Luther’s teaching of the Creed.

† Monday, October 2

🕒 95 Theses study at 7:00 p.m.

† Sunday, October 8

🕒 Worship at 9:00.

📖 Sermon: “The Lutheran Brand: Catechisms”

📖 Temple talk on Luther’s teaching of the Creed.

📖 “Germany’s Luther Towns” a brief (less than 8 minutes) Rick Steves introduction to places important in the life of Martin Luther and the Reformation. Bring your coffee to the screening room in Augustana Hall.

📖 Rehearsal for Luther reading after worship.

† Sunday, October 15

🕒 Worship at 9:00.

📖 Sermon: “The Lutheran Brand: Social Services” by Deb Whitford, Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations for Lutheran Services in Iowa.

📖 Temple Talk on Luther’s teaching of the Creed.

† Monday, October 16

🕒 95 Theses study at 7:00 p.m.

† Sunday, October 22

🕒 Worship at 9:00.

📖 Reading and hymns: “Martin Luther and the Reformation.”

📖 Temple Talk on Luther’s teaching of the creed.

🕒 Reformation Festival in Augustana Hall at 5:45 p.m.

📖 German food, Reformation trivia, and the Guttenberg German Band.

† Reformation Sunday, October 29

🕒 Festive worship at 9:00.

📖 Sermon: “The Lutheran Brand: Faith Alone (Material Principle)”

📖 Congregations of the Cedar River

Conference of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will gather for a Hymn Festival to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. “The Church’s Journey in Art and Song” will include hymns, readings, choral arrangements, and a commissioned work. 4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids with a meal to follow.

† Monday, October 30

🕒 95 Theses study at 7:00 p.m.

† Tuesday, October 31, **Reformation Day**

📖 “Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World” in Augustana Hall. A new feature-length movie telling of the life, work, and effect of Dr. Martin Luther. There will be an intermission and brief Q&A following. Time to be announced.

Chapel Choir

Sunday School/Youngstars Choir

Rehearse: 6:30 pm October 4

Sing in worship w/ 8:25 warm-up: October 8

Chapel Choir

Rehearsals on Wed. at 7:00 pm: October 4, 11, 18, 25

Saturday, October 28 rehearse at First Lutheran, 10:00 am

Sunday, October 29 rehearse at First Lutheran 2:00 pm

Sing in worship: October 1, 15, 29

Sing in “The Church’s Journey in Art and Song” 4:00 pm

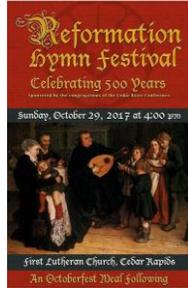
Special Reformation Service:

“The Church’s Journey in Art and Song”

On Sunday October 29 at 4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, the congregations of the Cedar River Conference of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will gather for a Hymn Festival to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. “The Church’s Journey in Art and Song” will include hymns, readings, choral arrangements, and a commissioned work.

All members from our congregation are invited to form the assembly for this service. Our chapel choir will participate in the mass choir.

Everyone is encouraged to wear black and/or red (liturgical color for Reformation). There will be a dinner in the Luther Fellowship Center at First Lutheran Church that day following the service.



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:

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).

Adult Bible Study

Luther's 95 Theses Bible Study - Still not too late to join!

We still have 4 session left of our bible study based on the book " Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses: With Introduction, Commentary, and Study Guide" by Timothy J. Wengert. I have one extra book if anybody would like to join us. Meetings are every other Monday from 7 to 8pm in Augustana Hall.

The remaining reading schedule is listed below:

Date	Subject	Pages
Oct 2	Intro: Luther's First Reformation Writings (Part 2)	xxxi -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.

Vinton Feeds the World 2017

We had another successful food packaging event! 30,240 meals packaged in a little over an hour.

I wanted to give thanks to God:

For **AmeriCorps** showing up and helping all day, doing the heavy lifting and processing things quickly.

For **Doug Sutton** and **John Hanson**: having two people that could back the large Outreach, Inc. truck up to the loading dock saved a lot of time and energy.

For **Francie Kavalier**: working her marketing magic and getting two television stations to show up and allow us to share the word about giving to others and feeding the hungry.

For **Dean & Nancy Beckman, Pam Woolison** and **George Bauer**: for always believing in me and providing unwavering support in my quest to help feed the hungry.

For **Pastor Urlaub** and the **BLC congregation**: listening to me go on and on about the hungry and answering the call to feed those that hunger.

Mostly, I'd like to thank God for putting this important mission in my heart and allowing me and all of those that participated in Vinton Feeds the World to do God's work with our hands.

God is good! All the time!

Grace and peace to you and thanks for your support!

~Marta Bauer
Event Coordinator

Fellowship Offerings

Offerings received at the Sunday fellowship serving counter do not provide the treats offered for our enjoyment each week. Those are provided by other generous donors. (Please consider signing up to provide and serve some Sunday.) Offerings are designated on alternating Sundays by the Sunday School and by the Christian Life Team. The Christian Life Team has chosen Project Share of the Vinton Municipal Electric Utility to receive offerings until the end of the year. The utility website says, "Project Share is a plan, created by your municipal utility, to assist needy households in paying their wintertime energy bills. Those qualifying for help will be carefully identified by an area social service agency. A local committee will oversee Project Share to guarantee all contributions will be handled equitably and efficiently."

Noisy Offerings also will go to Project Share each month through December.

The Sunday School will designate offerings on its days of responsibility at a future time.

Prayers:

for health & healing: Lois Selken, John Eden, Jim Nottger, Jackie Behounek and Claire Zuspann; *for safety and thanks for their military service:* Stoner Nudd, Matt Uthoff, Darin Humiston and Chris Jorgensen; *for aid and comfort:* victims of disaster around the world; *for safety and thanks:* rescue and aid workers; *in celebration:* Lutheran's around the world as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; *for leadership:* Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA Synod and Rev. Michael L. Burk, Presiding Bishop, ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synod.

Flowers in October:

1st:

8th:

15th: Bauers – George's Birthday

22nd: Bearbowers – Anniversary

29th: Suttons – Reformation

Servers in October:

October 1st & 8th:

Acolytes: Clinton and Dalton Hill

Assisting Minister: Nancy Beckman

Altar Guild: Sheila Stickels & Brenda Sutton

Communion Server: Dana Hanson

Greeters: Elaine Bearbower and Cheryl Kelley

Lector: Sheila Stickels

Tape Ministry: Mona Hanson

Ushers: Warren & Carol Henkel, Tim & Cheryl Jorgensen

Counters -

(1st): Deb Jertson and Mike Crane

(8th): Mike Crane and Marta Bauer

October 15th, 22nd, 29th:

Acolytes: Clinton, Dalton Hill

Ushers: Dean Beckman, Jim Dahl, Dave & Lisa Vermedahl

Assisting Minister: Nancy Beckman

Altar Guild: Sheila Stickels, Brenda Sutton

Communion Servers -

(15th, 29th): Sheila Stickels

(29th): Marta Bauer

Greeters: Nancy Gray, Amelia Jacobs

Lector: Jan Bearbower

Tape Ministry: Warren Henkel

Counters -

(15th): Marta Bauer, Kimmit Renken

(22nd): Kimmit Renken, Mona Hanson

(29th): Mona Hanson, Ron Bland

Council Lock up: Jon Clingman

Notes and things:

Christ in Our Home: is a quarterly published, daily devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day.

Portals of Prayer: is a daily devotional resource, published quarterly, that includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life.

LivingLutheran: the monthly magazine of the ELCA. LivingLutheran magazine nurtures awareness of Christ's presence in our lives and the world, shares stories of God's people living their faith, connects us with the global Christian community, provides an open forum for discussion and challenges us to bring God's grace and care to all.

LivingLutheran.org: Includes and expands upon the information presented in their monthly magazine. Their Reformation information, which includes some good articles about the Reformation and its 500th anniversary. From the home page, there is a navigation bar including the 7 areas of interest. **Reformation** is the link on the far right.

The Lutheran Digest is a quarterly publication, and is a blend of secular and light theological material provides believers reading

entertainment and spiritual supplement and subtly persuades non-believers to embrace the Lutheran-Christian faith. Its theme...summarized in one word...is "Hope." You can visit their website at LutheranDigest.com.

Printed copies of the above periodicals can be found in Augustana Hall just outside the sanctuary on the west side. Please feel free to take a copy home.

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Where Lutherans are responding:

- Hurricanes Irma and Maria Relief
- Hurricane Harvey Relief
- South Sudan Relief
- Louisiana Gulf Coast Flooding
- Africa Drought
- West Virginia Flooding
- Nepal Earthquake
- Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

Donate on their website –

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>



Bethlehem Lutheran Church					
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for August, 2017					
Account Name	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/ Journal Entries	End. Balance
Building Fund	45,613.79	1,504.00	0.00	0.00	47,117.79
Cassens Prop. Fund	1,186.37	0.00	758.48	0.00	427.89
Equip Replace Fd	3,496.16	0.00	0.00	100.00	3,596.16
General Fund B	(4.59)	2,327.00	0.00	(2,327.00)	(4.59)
General Fund A	5,845.63	10,837.05	16,373.28	1,593.00	1,902.40
LYO Fund	3,458.27	0.00	252.45	0.00	3,205.82
Memorial Fund	12,588.16	0.00	5.35	0.00	12,582.81
Property Fund	28,446.38	0.00	0.00	400.00	28,846.38
Sunday School Fund	4,688.48	0.00	443.68	0.00	4,244.80

Total General Fund giving at Bethlehem continues to struggle somewhat in 2017.

As you can see from the report above, the General Fund ended August with a balance of \$1,902. As I stated in my last report, we started 2017 with a General Fund balance of \$12,424.

Total expenses for August were \$3,204 more than total giving (General Funds A & B). Year to date, total disbursements outpace total giving by \$6,642.

Please remain aware and proactive to keep the General Fund in the positive (and perhaps build the balance) as we continue and finish out the final 3 months of 2017.

Thank you to all that continue to give towards the mission and ministry we have at Bethlehem. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions!

~Ryan McClintock
Council Treasurer