

From the Pastor's Desk

COMING REFORMATION EVENTS

- Temple Talks each Sunday on Luther's teaching on the Apostles' Creed.
- Sunday, September 10, a children's talk in worship using a pop-up book on Martin Luther and the Reformation.
- 95 Theses Class will meet beginning Monday, September 18. Sign up for this 5-session class in Augustana Hall. Books will be distributed ahead of the first class to allow preparatory reading.
- Rick Steve's "Luther and the Reformation" is a one-hour public television special commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will show this at a time(s) to be announced. Parents might be advised that Renaissance artwork appears in this documentary (think Michelangelo's statue of David). Just so you know!
- "Lutheran Brand" sermons.
 - o A sermon read by Nancy Beckman on October 1 written by Dr. Timothy Lull in honor of the 500th anniversary on January 31, 1999, of the birth of Katerina von Bora Luther, Martin Luther's wife.
 - o On October 15 Deb Whitford will speak on our commitment of caring for others, especially through Lutheran Social Services of Iowa.
 - o On Reformation Sunday, October 27, the sermon will be on the material principle (central teaching) of the Reformation often stated as "Faith Alone."
- Reformation Festival Dinner at Bethlehem on October 22 (Sunday) with the Guttenberg German Band and homemade German food.
- Festival of Reformation Worship on Reformation Sunday, October 29.
- Cedar River Conference Reformation Sunday hymn fest and Octoberfest meal at 4:00 at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.

- The Rite of Confirmation on All Saints Sunday, November 5, at the 9:00 Service of Holy Communion.

- Swedish pancakes after worship on November 12.

- Pastor Urlaub will lead a class, likely in the new year, called "by heart: conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism." Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton is quoted saying, "Studying the Small Catechism together will give us a common language with which to talk about faith, engage scripture, and make sense of our lives in the 21st century." The introduction to "By Heart" states:

Like the Small Catechism itself, this course aims to create faith. It is for adults who have never encountered the Small Catechism, and it is for adults who studied and memorized it as adolescents or teens. It is for those who assume that the original document requires no further explication and that we should simply pick it up and start reading (or memorizing). It is also for those who find scripture to be an inaccessible forest of words, the Creed and Lord's Prayer to be rote exercise, the sacraments to be obscure rituals, and Martin Luther and his innovations to be largely irrelevant. For those who are about to be introduced to the Small Catechism, and for those who know it well already, we hope the Spirit will use this course to ignite—and reignite—in them the irrepressible spark that Luther's poetic and resonant words uniquely do still today.

Please indicate your interest now by signing on the form in Augustana Hall or online at ... State the best time for you to meet—Sunday after worship, weekday, or evening. A donation towards the cost of the book (\$13-15, depending on participation) will be invited but not required.

~Pastor Urlaub



“A Moment with Martin Luther”



The Seventh Commandment
You shall not steal.

What is this and what does it mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbor’s money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

The Eighth Commandment
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What is this and what does it mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

Youth Ministry

VBS took place July 30th – August 2nd. A huge THANK-YOU to everyone who helped with this event: Brenda Sutton, Dana Hanson, Sheila Stickels, Sally Jacobs, Meredith and Aaron Zuspan, Deanna Garloff, Kelli McClintock, Erin Heims, Eric Dickinson, Emma Dickinson, Trent Sivola, Olivia Erhardt, Maddux Erhardt, Tristan Sisco, Grayce McClintock.



We had a lot of kids attend to learn that we are Built for a Purpose and God Made Us For A Reason. We are hoping to share some of what we learned during service on September 10th. *Check Bethlehem’s Facebook page for more pictures and videos from VBS!!!*

+THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to help with Sunday school: Lisa Vermedahl, Steve Wallace, Sheila Stickels, Cherie Neblung, Sally Jacobs, Kelli McClintock, Eric Heims, Pascale Wallace, and Katie Kuhn. We have a great teaching staff and I know



we’re going to have a lot of fun!! When you see these members please thank them for the time and effort they are putting into teaching the children of our congregation.

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.

Rally Day – September 10th!! All youth will be involved in an activity after worship. We would like to have a potluck after Sunday school – starting about 11:15. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. If you are attending the food packaging event, it will begin after this at 1:00.

Sunday School Family Activity – Tailgate before the Homecoming Game – September 29th. Meet in the church parking lot around 5:00 for hotdogs, desserts, and games before going to the big game!!

LYO – plan to meet September 5th at 6:30 to plan our upcoming year!!

September 3 – no SS

September 6 – (Wednesday) 5:30 VBS and Camp kids practice songs
6:30 LYO

September 10 – Rally Day/Camp and VBS kids sing/Potluck/Food Packaging Event

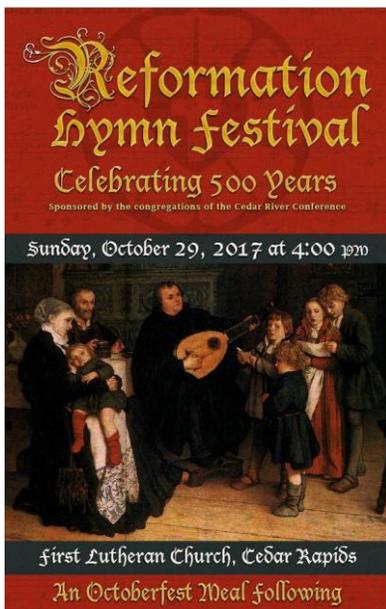
September 17 – Service Sunday

September 29 (Friday) – Tailgate before Homecoming Game

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.



Chapel Choir

“Make a joyful noise.....” New and old members are encouraged to gather together for fellowship and the joy of singing together! Singing is an expression of faith, testimony, prayer and praise. We do this to the glory of God! Prayerfully consider using your time and talents to sing in the choir.

The Bethlehem Lutheran Chapel Choir will have its first fall rehearsal on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. The choir is scheduled to sing on Sunday morning, September 17 with an 8:15 a.m. rehearsal and warm-up. We will also be preparing in September and October to participate in a special Hymn Festival “The Church’s Journey in Art and Song.”

The Chapel Choir is open to anyone wishing to sing and help lead congregational participation in worship. We are blessed with a core of dedicated and talented members who will gladly welcome, mentor and assist new members. Choir director, Lois Martin, will be happy to work with any individual wishing a little extra time to become comfortable using their voice and mastering their part.

The Chapel Choir regularly sings on the first and third Sundays of each month and at special services throughout the school year. Wednesday night rehearsals will begin at 7:00 pm. Current information each month will be printed in the Bethlehem Star and weekly bulletins.

We hope that our Bethlehem Lutheran choirs will continue to grow in faith, service and participation throughout the year.

Sunday School/YoungStars Choir

“Make a joyful noise.....!” The Sunday school children are scheduled to sing in worship throughout the school year. Special songs to share in church will be rehearsed during Sunday school time. We will also rehearse monthly at the YoungStars Choir time (6:30 pm Wednesdays prior to the Sunday we sing) to polish our songs. We encourage all children to be present and participate. The first Wednesday rehearsal will be on October 4.

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)

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.

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:

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. 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

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.

Disaster Recovery Assistance

The Statewide Lutheran Disaster Response Team needs your help to provide support to Iowa families affected by recent flooding, as well as coordinating the donation and transportation of hay to livestock endangered by the Montana drought and wildfires. For the next 30 days, your gift will help our neighbors impacted by these disasters. Donations can be made online at LSIowa.org and are also being accepted by mail. Please designate either “**2017 Iowa Flooding**” or “**2017 Montana Hay Lift**” in the memo line of the check, and mail it to:

Lutheran Services in Iowa
Attn: 2017 Disaster Relief
106 16th Street SW
Waverly, IA 50677

Prayers:

for health & healing: Lois Selken, John Eden and Claire Zuspenn

for safety and thanks for their military service: Stoner Nudd, Matt Uthoff, Darin Humiston and Chris Jorgensen; *for seeking knowledge:* College and grade school students returning to classes; *for thanks and support:* Teachers, administrators and support staff; *for gratitude and appreciation:* Rachel Dickinson and Sunday School teachers as our youth begin another year of learning about God, the church and exploring their faith.

Flowers in September:

3rd: Doug & Brenda Sutton - Anniversary

10th: Shannon & Misty Mahr -

17th: Tim & Cheryl Jorgensen – Ann’s Birthday

21st: Cheryl Neblung – Miles’ Birthday

Servers in September:

September 3rd & 10th:

Acolytes: Colton & Frankie Evans

Assisting Minister: George Bauer

Altar Guild: Dana Hanson, Deb Jertson

Comm. Server: Marta Bauer

Greeters: Tim & Cheryl Jorgensen

Lector: Patricia Lough

Tape Ministry: Elaine Bearbower

Ushers: Maurice & Pat Gardner, Dell & Mona Hanson

Counters (3rd): Denis/Tina Eden, Dave Vermedahl*

Counters (10th): Dave Vermedahl*, Doug Sutton

September 17th & 24th:

Acolytes: Colton & Frankie Evans

Ushers: Tom & Dana Hanson, John & Becky Williams

Assisting Minister: George Bauer

Altar Guild: Dana Hanson, Deb Jertson

Communion Server: Brenda Krull

Greeters: Doris Gosse & Karen Uthoff

Lector: Mike Timmermans

Tape Ministry: Marva Hanna

Counters (17th): Doug Sutton, Gary Simnacher

Counters (24th): Gary Simnacher, Deb Jertson

**to be rescheduled*

Council Lock-up: Tom Hanson

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.

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.

Domestic Violence Awareness



Researchers developed this model to show common tactics batterers use to achieve and maintain power in intimate relationships. Although every relationship has different dynamics, many abuse victims say that they have experience many – if not all – of these attitudes and behaviors from their abuser.



<i>Bethlehem Lutheran Church</i>					
<i>Consolidated Fund Activity Report for July 2017</i>					
Account Name	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/ Journal Entries	Ending Balance
Building Fund	41,185.79	1,428.00	0.00	3,000.00	45,613.79
Cassens Prop Fund	3,000.00	1,192.80	6.43	(3,000.00)	1,186.37
Equip Replace Fd	3,371.16	0.00	0.00	125.00	3,496.16
General Fund B	(4.59)	2,891.00	0.00	(2,891.00)	(4.59)
General Fund A	6,611.64	13,713.55	16,460.21	1,976.00	5,840.98
LYO Fund	4,700.18	784.00	2,025.91	0.00	3,458.27
Memorial Fund	12,588.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,588.16
Property Fund	28,308.42	0.00	362.04	500.00	28,446.38
Sun. School Fund	4,688.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,688.48

The General Fund continues to remain positive in 2017 at Bethlehem with a July ending balance of \$5,841. However, the General Fund has lost \$6,583 from the January 2017 opening balance of \$12,424. Year-to-date, total expenses outpace total giving by \$3,400. Total giving for 2017 is also down \$15,000 from last year at this point.

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 4 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