

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

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October 2019

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Later this month on October 31, we will be celebrating a special holiday. And no, I'm not talking about Halloween. Every year Halloween shares its day with Reformation Day. The day before All Saints' Day, in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg. We typically use this day as our marker for the beginning of the Reformation.

The Reformation was an important time for the church, especially for the Lutheran church. It marks a return to the Gospel, a return to the Word of God as the true and only source for knowledge about God and salvation. And, in a way, the Reformation was about restoring hope to the church.

The church had begun to turn to good works and money as the means of salvation, selling indulgences for sin rather than sharing with people the freedom we have as redeemed children of God. In addition, the church was standing more on the authority of popes and the teachings of the church than they were on the Word of God. Things had gotten so bad that most people weren't even able to read their Bibles, because they didn't know the language it was written in.

Luther sought to change all this. He started by seeking to reform the church as it was. His original goal was not to depart from the church but to change it from within. Ultimately this failed and he was excommunicated, but because of his confidence in the gospel and what he believed the Scriptures to be teaching, he continued to preach and teach. Thus began the Lutheran church.

One of the great things Luther did in the midst of the Reformation was to translate the Scriptures into German so that the average person could read the Word of God for themselves. This was revolutionary since at the time, the church was teaching that the common person simply couldn't understand what was

written in the Bible. Now we are free to read the Word of God for ourselves.

As God's children, our focus, our hope is based in the same passage Luther placed his hope in,

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:8-9

In fact, Luther narrowed this down to the simple phrase, "salvation by grace alone through faith alone." This message is all throughout the Scriptures. Jesus is constantly encouraging His disciples to believe. Throughout the Old Testament, we have countless instances where the people were encouraged to have faith and trust that God would see them through their current predicament.

God's Word is just as important now as it was during the time of the Reformation. We need that Word to remind us of our sin and our need for a savior. We need that Word to show us the way of salvation. We need that Word to call us to repentance when we fall and to lift us up with the good news of sins forgiven in Christ when the weight is too much for us to bear.

So this month as we look forward to celebrating Reformation Day, I encourage you to spend time in God's Word. If you're not sure where to start, begin with one of the Gospels or an epistle. Remember as the children's song says, "I stand alone on the Word of God." So let the Bible be the book for you, stand on His Word.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

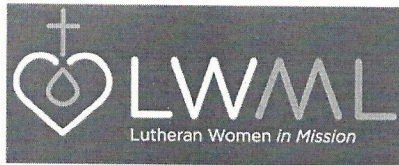


On October 15th, Council will meet at 7:00 p.m.

The Voter's meeting will be Sun., October 20th after church in the fellowship hall.

Here's a few items on the Voter's Agenda:

- Budget
- Nomination Committee



We will celebrate LWML Sunday on October 13th. All members are invited to wear purple. A noisy collection will be taken for a mite offering which supports the mission of the church throughout the world.



In the month of October we will be taking donations for the Orphan Grain Train. Boxes will be in the back of the sanctuary. Please put the clothes in bags. Thank you for your donations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students will be sing during the church service on October 27.

ALL SAINTS

Join us All Saints Sunday, Nov. 3rd for recognition of the faithfully departed in this last year: Bert Hanson, Gertrude Eneboe, Carolyn Seieroe, Norman Meadows, Lois Pottoroff, Glenn Ullerich.

"THY STRONG WORD"

'Thy Strong Word' is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a.m. Monday through Saturday on KDSN 107.1FM).

October 7-12	Rev. Mark Kluzek St. John, Kiron
October 14-19	Rev. Kurt Kaiser Zion, Denison
October 21-26	Rev. Merle Mahnken Immanuel, Schleswig
October 28-Nov. 2	Rev. David Loeschen Bethlehem/Our Savior

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in October are:

Sara Purcell	2
Don Petersen-Joyce Vinke	4
Sandy Bauman-Eldon Teut	6
Liam Gray	7
Duane Mordhorst-Ethan Jones	9
Karen McCall	10
Dylan Hanson	11
Shirley Gosch-Lynette Thies- Angela Teut	14
Aaron Folk	18
Darin Wood	21
Wyatt Hinds	23
Dennis Nelson-John Thies- Keegan Bretthauer	24
Alyse Bretthauer-George Hull- Becky Meadows-Mike Ohlmeier	26
Sally Goslar-Charlys Folk	27
Shane Sorensen	28
Nisha Hull	31

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