



Monthly Newsletter

October 2021

Community Lutheran Church

PASTOR TIM EIGHMY

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38



Pastor Tim Eighmy

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Office Hours

Tues. – Fri., 9 am to 1 pm;

Weekend Worship

Sunday, 9:30 am



IN SILENCIO ET SPE ERIT FORITIVDO VESTRA



Reformation SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2021

Justified
by

FAITH



Mission Statement of Community Lutheran Church:

Living Christ's love in all we do.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM

“Grace Alone; Faith Alone; Scriptures Alone”

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted “The Ninety-Five Theses” on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany for all to see. He was challenging the Catholic Church’s traditional stances on purgatory, indulgences, and penance. Luther argued that these teachings were unnecessary for the Church because we are saved only by God’s gracious will of sending Jesus to die on the cross and be raised from the dead for our salvation. Luther insisted that he was standing on the authority of the apostles as written in the Bible.

This event sparked a major religious controversy throughout Europe that was called the Reformation. In 1521, the Church tried to quell this controversy by excommunicating Martin Luther as a heretic. But this action sparked the Reformation even more. The people who rallied behind Luther in defiance of the Church came to be called the Lutherans. And this is why to this very day Lutherans go out of their way to celebrate Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday in October.

It is often jokingly said in pastors’ circles that Lutheran doctrine is probably the best kept secret in the Lutheran Church. Despite our specific teachings about the gospel of Jesus Christ, we live in a culture where people assume that doctrines are nothing but semantics, religious politics, or silly philosophies. We like to say in general, “It is just important to be a Christian and believe in the Bible.”

As a person who became an ordained pastor because I fell in love with Lutheran doctrine, let me say a few words about the gift of Lutheran doctrine. As a person who was very shy when I was a child and throughout my teenager years, I couldn’t shirk the feeling that I was an imposition upon everyone and couldn’t measure up to people’s expectations of me. And then I kept hearing how God already loves us and has already saved us through Christ’s death and resurrection. I began to understand how we are called to be what God has already made us to be and we don’t have to try to be something we are not. Yes, we sin; and God forgives us. So instead of trying to avoid sins all the time, we can try to be the most loving person that we already are to God and to everyone else. And that’s Lutheran doctrine in a nutshell.

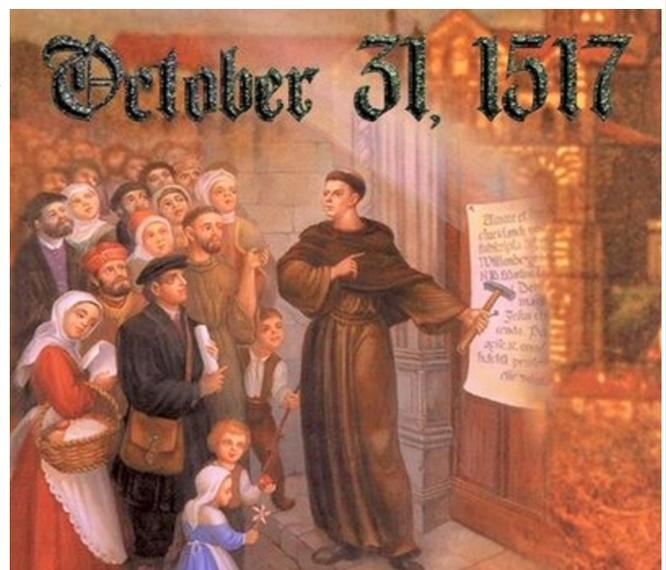
And all of the teachings of our church are based on that core teaching. Having grown up in a household and culture that didn’t hug or kiss very much and befriending people in college who regularly hugged one another and kissed publicly loved ones, I came to realize that the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are not just rituals that we have in the church, but they are actually a “public display of affection” (PDA) of God’s love for us. And I have come to embrace, celebrate, and teach others about how salvation is really a loving, trusting relationship with God and with all that God loves and this relationship will last for eternity.

This is the message that first changed the life of the apostle Paul who wrote epistles like Romans that Luther quoted. This is the message that changed the life of Martin Luther as the leader of the Reformation in Germany. And this is the message that changed my life of being a shy farm boy to being an ordained pastor in the ELCA.

As a Lutheran pastor, my prayer is that the gospel of God’s grace revealed through Jesus Christ will change your life so you can see God’s love active in all that you say and do.

IN CHRIST’S PEACE,

PASTOR TIM EIGHMY





A MESSAGE FROM LINDA MILLER

Thriving During These Times

Lessons from Luther

You may have seen an article in the recent *Living Lutheran* magazine called, “Pandemic Wisdom From Luther” by Anthony Bateza. Wait...What? How could we learn anything from Luther about this COVID-19 pandemic? I found this a little intriguing and worth re-sharing some of this article and the learnings from Luther.

While we have started to return to a level of normal, we are still limited in some things that we would like to do. And, it wasn't all that long ago, we were spending way too much time cooped up in our homes, away from friends and family and our church family—disconnected from the life we had known previously.

We had to settle for phone calls or notes and cards—or ZOOM--instead of in-person visits; we weren't able to get together for lunch or dinner with others. Our entire pattern of living was changed. But it did give us time to think...time to realize what is really important. It taught us the value of having long conversations over while sharing a meal. It showed us that the little things matter.

This not only describes what most of us experienced in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it also could describe what Luther, an Augustinian friar trying to survive in 1521, experienced. After his defiant display of power at the Diet of Worms, he was quickly taken to Wartburg Castle and hidden away to save his life. He knew he was fortunate to be alive; however, he didn't feel lucky for this time completely alone—away from what he knew and loved. He longed for a return to normalcy.

What is “normal?” Have you noticed that we have a bit of “selective memory” when we think about returning to “normal.” The picture in our minds of “normal” is all around those things we love most... family, friends, good times, holiday gatherings and the good times. It's sort of a mix of wishful thinking and creative remembering. We tend to overlook the challenges and difficult times. But the value of returning to normal cannot be ignored and our longing for that pre-pandemic life is real.

Luther wasn't just upset by the change in his daily schedule and plans, he was fearful about the future. Yet his situation, which was brought about by his strong theological convictions, gave him a sense of passion and purpose. Yet he knew that somehow God was working through him to share the good news of Christ to all.

We are also a bit fearful about the future. What will it look like? Will we ever be “pandemic free?” Can we really return to what was normal for us? Luther was also fearful about the future.

We have learned how hard life can be when nothing we do is easy, and every day is uncertain because of this virus. Sometimes we long for the ordinary because all this extraordinary stuff has us just plain exhausted.

But here is a lesson we can take from Luther: Finding time and space to collect ourselves, to know what is happening and what is expected of us, is necessary...and a gift for our souls. This is partly why Luther praised the value of peace. He knew very well the toll that chaos and unrest can take, particularly on those already the most vulnerable in society.

Another lesson for us: The ordinary patterns of life can be indispensable spaces for God's work. Luther knew in his mind and felt in his heart that the dynamic shifts of life can be moments where we can see and share in God's work.

Continued on next page...

Eventually Luther made his way back to Wittenberg and the Reformation movement. It's hard to say if his life ever returned to "normal." There was much disruption and chaos when he returned. He walked away from his religious vows, married, and became a father and learned about a new kind of chaos. He took on the role of a prophet and criticized the corruption and degradation of the late medieval church. And he learned the burdens of building up the church as he and his colleagues took on the responsibility of guiding new Protestant communities.

What we knew as normal before COVID-19 may not come again as our lives continue to move forward along unknown and unpredictable paths, But we know that our Lord is always with us.

Going back to the normal we knew before the pandemic is likely not an option, but we do know this: there will be many opportunities for us to move forward with God by our side...the God who is always reforming us. There will always be moments for us to see and share In God's work.

Blessings,

Linda



A harvest of sufficiency, contentment, and generosity



When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

–Leviticus 19:9-10

“What I earn is mine, ALL mine, to do with what I want.” That’s the message our culture tells us again and again. Yet the Leviticus 19:9-10 clearly tells us that the “mine, all mine” attitude existed some 2,500 years ago as well. It’s hard-wired into us.

Our sinful human nature leads us to claim all we can for ourselves, which is why for thousands of years and up to the present God has called faithful people to live a better way. In this passage, “the Lord your God” instructs farmers and vintners to harvest only once, and not to the very edges of their land, and to leave the remnants of the harvest to the poor and the foreigner – people on the margins scavenging for their daily bread.

The teaching encourages landowners to find sufficiency in their first harvest, to be content that their needs are met, and then be generous with what is left over. Today, Leviticus 19:9-10 challenges us whose “harvests” of income are more than sufficient to satisfy our immediate needs. Do we *have* to take it all? What can we give for the needy?

In this traditional season of harvest, what blessings can you count from the last year? (Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider this, and make a list). Does your harvest more than adequately meet your needs?

Now prayerfully consider how much you can generously “leave” for the needy? Consider this in making a year-end contribution to your congregation, or in determining a pledge for 2022.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

CHOIR NOTES



A note from our Choir Director

The Community Lutheran Church choir is for you if you have an interest. This is a group of caring people who enjoy spending time together in the hopes of contributing meaningfully to services. We don't have delusions about being a "professional" choir, and we humorously acknowledge that we're not perfect, but we share a belief that sincere musical effort can add something special to worship.

No experience? No problem. You don't read music? You won't be alone. Join us for rehearsal this week.

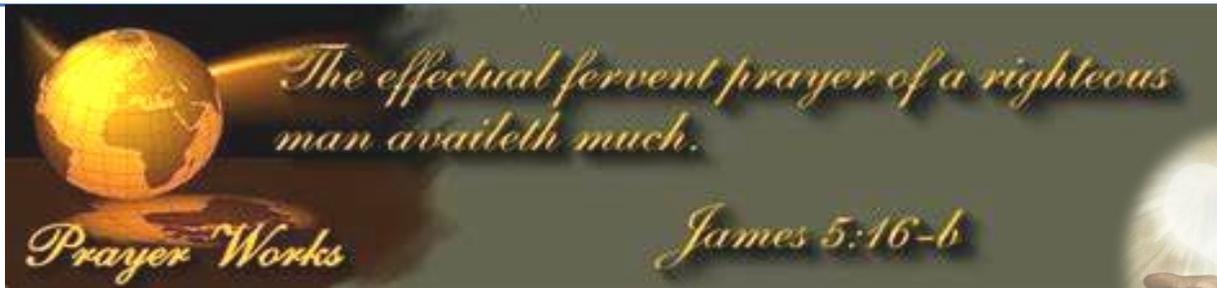
Give it a shot! If you'd just like to explore the idea in conversation, give

Shawn Bristle a call at 928-542-5035.

Here is what's happening this month.....

OCTOBER 2021

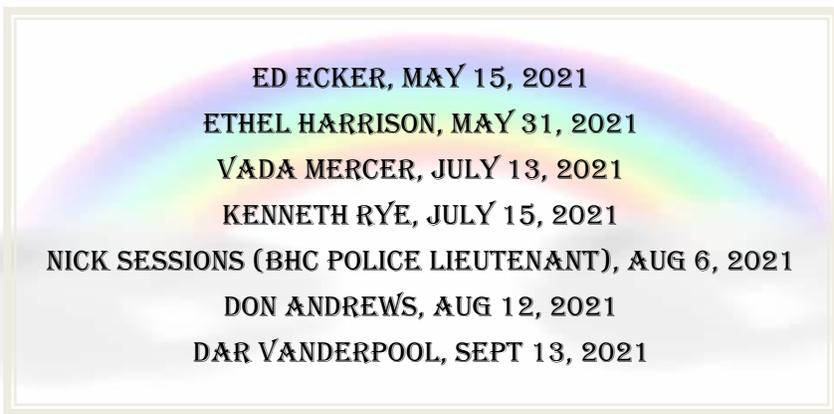
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10 am Pet Blessing
3 9:30 am Worship Service	4 Office Closed	5	6 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00 am Bible Study	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship Service	11 Office Closed	12	13 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00 am Bible Study 6 pm Council Meeting	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship Service	18 Office Closed Bishop's Fall Gathering— Zoom	19 Bishop's Fall Gathering— Zoom	20 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00 am Bible Study	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship Service	25 Office Closed	26	27 6 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Committee Meeting	29	30
31 Reformation Day 9:30 am Worship Service						



Please continue to pray for all the persons whose names have been offered up by members and friends of the congregation.

We pray for healing, comfort, guidance, strength, recovery, safe travel, and unrevealed needs, as well as for those with thankful hearts and for those who grieve.

Let us remember the ones God called home out of our midst, and keep their families and friends in our prayers:



If you know someone who would like to be included in the ongoing monthly prayer list, be it for prayer or thanksgiving, please let the office know!



**OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 3—Alice Grondahl
- 4—Lois Meyer
- 5—Yolanda Nau
- 8—Murl Shaver
- 18—Ron Parrott
- 22—Ed Wiebe
- 25—Doug Dyrdahl
- 25—James Smock
- 28—Elfine Lemke



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 25—Don & Jean Oman (41)
- 27—Emil & Joan Marques (42)



Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in
a faith community!*

Please Welcome our New Members into our CLC Family



*Marie Anderson
Gary & Kathy Cochran
Don & Chris Dueker
JoAnn Guzik
Carolyn Lorenz*

Saturday, Oct 2nd was Pet Blessing!



*Community Lutheran Church
2275 Ricca Rd
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Next Newsletter Edition: November 2021

