

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2017



Thanksgiving Service
On
November 23, 2017
9:30 AM

Worship Times

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Monday - 6:00 PM

Bible Studies

Sunday - 9:30 AM - All Ages

Tuesday - 10:00 AM - Ladies

4th Saturday - 8:30 AM - **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Contact Us

Church Office: (256) 536-9987

Fax: (256) 536-8104

Preschool/CDC: (256) 536-5245

Websites: ascensionhsv.org (church)

cdc.ascensionhsv.org (CDC)

This Sunday, November 5,
takes us back to Central
Standard Time. Sleep an extra
little bit, then get up and still
make it to church on time!



COMING IN NOVEMBER

Everyone is ready for November to come around, right? Good! Because November has a lot going for it, especially at Ascension!

For starters:

- Time change on November 5
- HHR Missional Outreach will be doing worship services three times - November 1, 15 and 29 at 10:00 AM;
- Regency Missional Outreach (which started a year ago on November 8!) will worship on November 8 and 22;
- Regency has Sunday morning services every Sunday at 9:30 AM;
- Alex Sabol (who preached his last sermon here in November, 2016) is getting ready to graduate from the seminary;
- **Donuts with Dad (CDC-November 17)**
- Thanksgiving Day service, November 23 at 9:30 AM

Get ready, get set!

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A 500 year milestone occurred on October 31. It's been 500 years between October 31, 1517 and October 31, 2017. The milestone is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation.

In 1517, University of Wittenberg Professor Martin Luther nailed a document called the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, as an academic invitation to other scholars to debate the sale of indulgences in medieval Germany.

In so doing, Luther challenged the medieval Catholic Church, its pope and bishops alike, to return to the teaching and preaching of the pure Word of God. The 95 Theses were a call to forsake the doctrinal failures of the Middle Ages that had submerged the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His way of righteousness into the pit of Purgatory, a late invention of **the Catholic Church that sought to finance construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by selling indulgences.**



Little did anyone imagine the impact of those hammer blows on the future history of the world. Little could anyone imagine a future that has come about 500 years later and the singular imprint that a devout monk named Martin Luther would make on it, putting into motion a set of events and accomplishments now being celebrated throughout the Western World.

Little did I know about the long reach of the Reformation 17 years ago when Grace and I spent three weeks in Germany touring the Luther sites. Those three weeks were (and remain) the high points of my **life. I preached in English for two weeks in Luther's two churches in Wittenberg and in a gorgeous stone Gothic chapel. We were hotel guests of Wittenberg's Lord Mayor. We were ambassadors to Luther's home town of the ramifications of his work as I had studied and come to understand them. But, little did I know.**



Oh, I knew about worldwide Lutheranism. I knew about the effect Luther had on the German language through his prolific writings. I was greatly aware of his impact on the culture of the Western world and of the relationship between church and state that he envisioned. I was a Lutheran and proud of it. And I preached it in those German churches to English-speaking tourists who were flooding Germany in the Year 2000.

But, little did I know!

I know Lutheran theology and the teachings of the Small Catechism and the Book of Concord. I had **championed some of Luther's causes by playing his heroic roles in Reformation era dramas. But, 17 years ago, little did I know.**



Yes, in the Year 2000, I toured Luther's Germany, and so did some of you - members of Ascension, my own family members - in what I have termed the highlight of my life.



Dare To Share

But, 17 years have changed my perspectives. There's so much more to the Reformation than what is making headlines now.

I have been reading of the Reformation tours to Luther's Germany. There were steps to climb, buildings to see, hymns to sing, concerts to attend. Everything well documented and interestingly reported!!

Some people - y'all and others - have asked me to consider leading a tour through Germany like 17 years ago. I demurred, "Been there done that." That's not the real reason, though, for saying "no." The spirit of the reformation is not in Martin Luther but in Jesus, His Savior—the crucified and risen One.



Yes, I've come to discover that the Reformation is not about Luther, but about Jesus. It's all about Jesus and His imputed righteousness, His grace and mercy, the blessings of forgiveness and promise of eternal life. That's the meaning of the Reformation.

Five hundred years later, the differences between the Pope and Martin Luther are still there. They seem so obvious: the Pope remains the caretaker of a world-wide religion. Luther is the never-compromising leader of the righteousness of Christ Jesus that we receive only in faith, just by believing it. Happy 500th birthday, my beloved Lutheran Church. Holy Spirit, help us. Guard us and protect us. Strengthen our faith.
Love, Pastor Bernie

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone

Just one Light to end our darkness,
Just one Light to bring the dawn,
Just one Light and hope awakens,
Just one Light, just one Light,
and the shadows gone!

Just one King born of a promise,
Just one King for sinful man,
Just one King, behold His coming,
Just one King, just one King - eternal plan.

Just one faith refined by fire,
Just one faith in Christ alone,
Just one faith, be strong, courageous,
Just one faith, just one faith
Worth more than gold.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors
to our King,
Angels descend with songs again and earth repeat
the loud amen.

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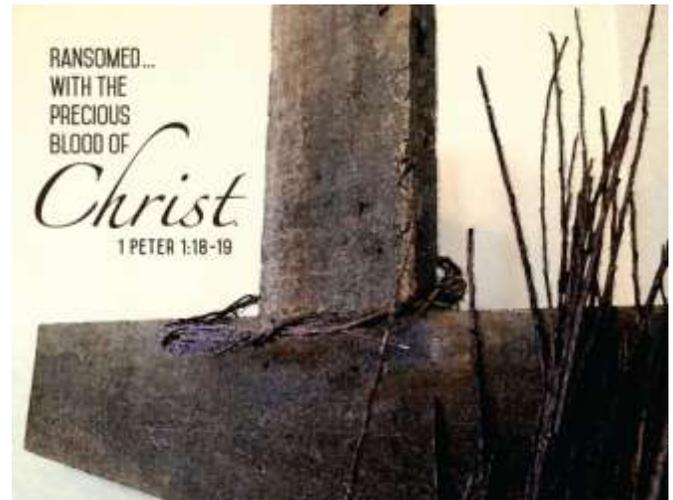
Greetings and good tidings!

This is your Vicar writing to you all. I hope you all had a good Reformation, this year, it being the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I thought I would share some thoughts about it that I had, and what it means to us as Lutherans and as Christians.

First, look at the Core of the Matter. The Reformation was, at its heart, about Jesus. The Church had neglected its duties and had become an institution - not about sharing the knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Good news that his resurrection brings for us as sinful man - but rather, selling the forgiveness of sins for a profit. This was the point of the Reformation, to snuff out false doctrine and corruption in the church and center the focus of the church back on salvation, back on Christ.

With that in mind, I would like to focus back on the idea of what that means to us. Without a doubt, the Reformation had its beginning in Germany – starting with a monk from Germany. And while there is a history there, the idea of the Reformation is not exclusively tied to the German people, their descendents or their culture. **The Reformation was about Jesus, and 500 years later, it's still about Jesus.**

That message of salvation is for all people from all places, all backgrounds, all ethnicities and all cultures. The message ties back into the idea of the grace commission – **“Go forth and make disciples of all nations.”** And so, the Reformation, which was started by Luther, was not a political or racial movement, but was focused on Christ. We, also, take the message of Christ to all who may hear it. Luther may have been an instrumental figure in the Reformation, but he was just a man, a man who pointed us back to our Lord, Jesus Christ and the loving salvation He brings.



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

CRISSI PATTERSEON

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past - Another hymn in Isaac Watts' *1719 Psalms of David Imitated* is based on Psalm 90, and is perhaps Watt's most bracing hymn. It was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared, and was later sung at the funeral service of Winston Churchill. Some of the original verses have fallen into disuse, but as you read them, think of the ailing hymnist, sitting at the desk in his room on the Abney estate, pouring over Psalm 90 and penning these words:

- 1-Our God, our help in ages past, / Our hope for years to come, / Our shelter from the stormy blast, / And our eternal home.
- 2-Under the shadow of Thy throne / Thy saints have dwelt secure; / sufficient is Thine arm alone, / And our defense is sure.
- 3-Before the hills in order stood, / or earth received her frame, / From everlasting thou art God, / To endless years the same.
- 4-**Thy Word commands our flesh to dust, / “Return, ye sons of men:” / All nations rose from earth at first, / And turn to earth again.**
- 5-A thousand ages in Thy sight / Are like an evening gone: / Short as the watch that ends the night / Before the rising sun.
- 6-Time, like an ever rolling stream, / Bears all its sons away: / They fly, forgotten, as a dream / Dies at the opening day.

We also have a great Christmas carol from this 1719 collection. As Watts studied Psalm 98, especially verses 4-9, he worded them this way: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!



Coming up in November is Alex Sabol's graduation from the seminary in Fort Wayne.

This is the information that is available right now, per Alex's mom, Kristen

Sabol:

I'm writing to you today because I wanted to let the congregation at Ascension know that we expect Alex to be ordained at his home church in Pittsburgh on Sunday, December 3. This is not iron-clad yet, because there are still some pretty important things that need to happen first (like an actual Call...then a Call service - which takes place at the Seminary, who will be on break between November 10 and 27.)

Nevertheless, reliable sources on the inside tell me that it a "95% go" (with final confirmation expected on November 12).

I wanted to extend an Ordination invitation to anyone who might be interested in attending. If anyone is interested, there is a block of rooms reserved for Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, at the Holiday Inn Express Bridgeville ([412-914-2000](tel:412-914-2000)).

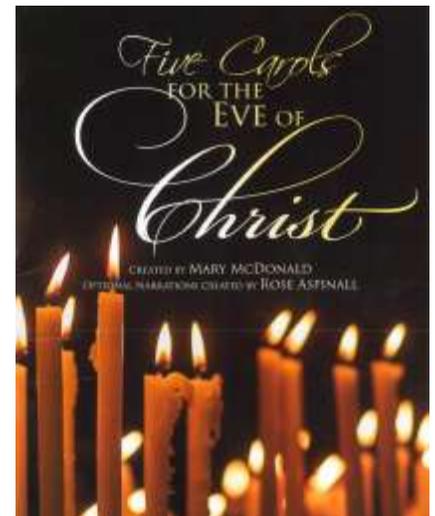
Joe and I will be hosting a "pre-Ordination celebration" on Saturday evening (December 2) at Al's Cafe in Bethel Park.

The Ordination is scheduled for 3:00 PM on Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church in McMurray. (I can give more exact info if anyone wants it. Please feel free to give out my contact information. My phone number is [412-445-2569](tel:412-445-2569).)



Thank you to all those who have contributed to the glorious music of this past month, whether it be singing in the choir, playing the harp, vocal solos, etc.!!
- Crissi Patterson

Needed - some joyful voices for the choir's Christmas cantata! If you're going to be in town this December and would like to commit to a short-term music experience, now is the time! We will begin rehearsing for the cantata throughout November until the last possible minute in December, when we will present "Five Carols for the Eve of Christ." Rehearsals are Wednesday from 6:00 PM for approximately an hour.



November 23, 2017 - 9:30 AM

The LWML would like to thank everyone for the generous donations collected on LWML Sunday. The donations made it possible for us to give each of our three seminary students \$600 toward tuition and fees.

Again, thank you.

ASCENSION LWML

WORD *of the day*

Psalm 90:17

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands upon us.

The LWML of Ascension is participating in two missions and would appreciate your assistance.

The first mission is Matthew 25 Ministries. In developing countries, medicines (when obtainable) are often dispensed into hands, pockets or leaves of any available container. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts clean, empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in those developing countries. So far, we (LWML) have collected 461 pill bottles. We want to thank all the church family that has donated in the past and we ask for your continued support.

Our second mission is donations to the American Philatelic Society. We are collecting cancelled postage stamps. The donations enable the society to better serve its membership by promoting stamp collecting as a hobby.

OUR SEMINARIANS



Alex Sabol
 Birthday - May 8
 Concordia Theological Seminary
 6600 North Clinton Street, #351
 Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Colin Ford
 Birthday - May 7
 205^{1/2} Walker Avenue, #1
 Huntsville, AL 35805
 colin.ford@ctsfw.edu

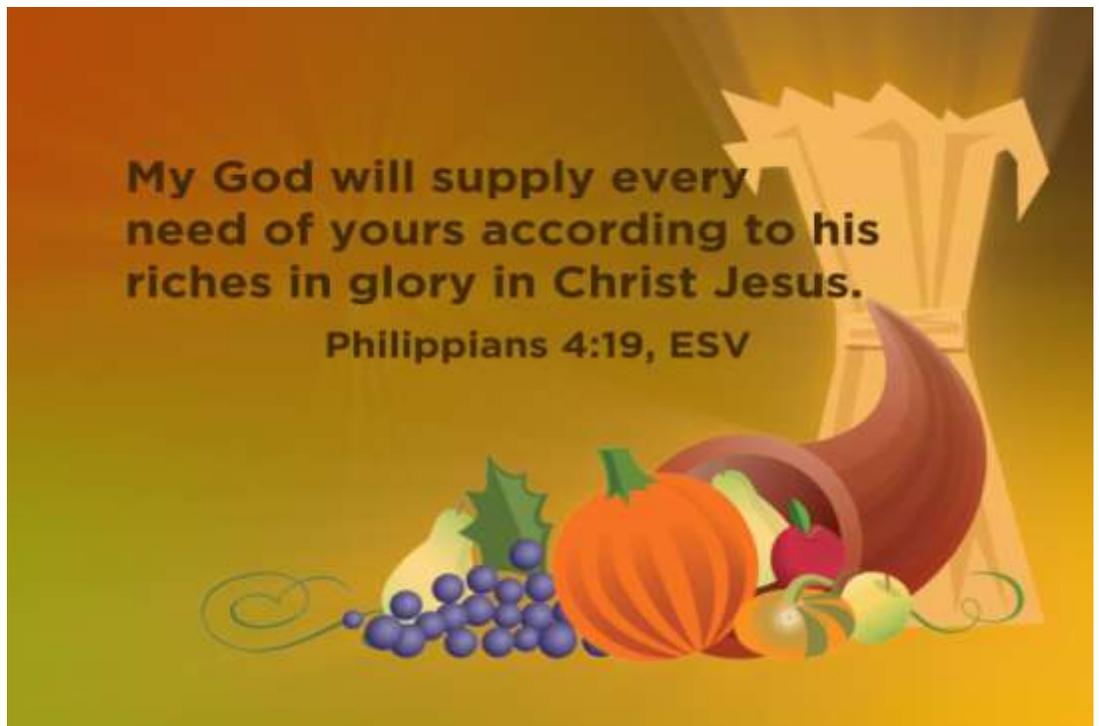


Joshua Brakhage
 Birthday - June 20
 Anniversary - July 18
 2 Founders Way, Unit A
 St. Louis, MO 63105
 joshua411@gmail.com

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by the His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise, and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as (good stewards of His varied grace,) (1 Peter 4:10) we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and **God's holy Word**, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family, neighbors, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.



Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we **are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. "For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matthew 13:12).**

I personally want to thank everyone who purchased/donated toward the Pancake breakfast for the CDC PTO. We were able to raise over \$1,000.00. The PTO will decide which six-seater stroller to purchase. It will be shared between the Infant and Toddler One rooms.

The new name for our activity room is the “Chicka-Chicka-Boom-Boom Room.” The name was chosen through a contest of teacher-submitted names. Mary Engel and Marcia Pate were the judges. Joice Baker, the afternoon early learner’s teacher, submitted the winning name. We are just waiting for the mounting hardware for the room to be fully assembled. (Of course, they forgot to include that when they sent the activity centers.)



This past month, we invited our mothers to “Muffins with Mom.” We also had school pictures taken. Finally, we had the Huntsville Fire Marshall attend a staff meeting and give us training on how to operate a fire extinguisher.



I am attending sessions sponsored by Child Care Central to address questions concerning becoming a state licensed center. We already have to abide by most of the regulations set by the Department of Human Resources because we participate in the Childcare Management Agency’s subsidized childcare program.

In November, Ms. Moore, Ms. Patterson and I will be attending the joint LCMS Southern, and Mid-South Districts Educators’ conference. This year we are very fortunate because it is being hosted by Grace, here in Huntsville. We won’t have a long commute!

The Sunday School children are already starting to practice the songs for the children’s Christmas program. It is to be

held on Sunday, December 10. There will be one service that morning. We are hoping to be able to hold all practices on Sunday mornings and forego Saturday practices.

Instead of participating in Operation Christmas Child boxes, this year, we are taking up special offerings for the hurricane victims. Please send offering money with your child for this purpose.



A HARVEST MINDSET

Just then, his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile, his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now, the reaper draws his wages; even now, he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words, many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." — "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."



(John 4:27-42)

In most areas of our country where fields were seeded in the spring, crops are ready for harvest. Farmers plan for a whole year to bring in the harvest. They prepare the machinery during winter, plant seed in the spring, and cultivate and irrigate, if necessary, in the summer. It's a busy time, but it's all for one purpose: to bring in a bountiful harvest. When the crops are ready, all other work on the farm that could be done is not nearly as important as getting the harvest in. It's the number-one priority.



Jesus often used that picture to describe the urgency and importance of helping to bring believers into God's kingdom. By starting with a casual conversation at a well and recognizing a truly deep need, Jesus brought living water into the life of a Samaritan woman. And because of the responses of the woman and of many others from her town, Jesus stayed two days, and "many more became believers."



The disciples needed to have their vision corrected. They thought they had lots of time to look for the harvest. But this wasn't just something to do when they "got around to it." The Bible is clear about the importance of the mission and our involvement in it. In your work, at school, or in your neighborhood, where do you see the harvest? What will you do? When will you start?

Prayer: Father, forgive us when we lose sight of the harvest. Forgive us for having misguided priorities. Give us courage today to walk through doors you will open for us. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

Abrielle Mwakabumbila	11/01	Bob Hartwig	11/11
Ron Salem	11/03	Mark Williams	11/12
Daniel Jeziorski	11/03	Jordan Reynolds-Gleason	11/12
Robby Gehring	11/05	Harrison Grott	11/17
Carol King	11/05	Carl Engel	11/17
Lynne Heape	11/08	Ellen Rosson	11/18
Raven Jones	11/08	Bob Beamer	11/18
Victoria Salem	11/09	Lincoln Hartwig	11/18
Jonathan Glenn	11/09	Steve Booze	11/22
Brooklynn Symborski	11/11		

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

Given to the Glory of God

November 5 -

November 12 -

November 19 -

November 26 -

MISSIONAL OUTREACH FOR NOVEMBER

Missional Outreach Visits

HHR: 11/1, 11/15, 11/29 (10:00 AM) Regency: 11/8, 11/22 (10:15 AM) Regency Sundays: 9:30 AM

Welcome by Pastor or Vicar

1st Song

2nd Song

Bible Reading

3rd Song

4th Song

Bible Reading

5th Song

6th Song

Bible Reading

7th Song

8th Song

Missional Outreach groups welcome anyone who wants to participate in these special events. Huntsville Health & Rehab is located at 4010 Chris Drive; Regency is located on Max Luther Drive. For more information, contact Bob Smith (256)656-9795.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 AM - HHR 4:45 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Choir	2 6:00 PM - Lutheranism 101	3	4
5 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:15 AM - Meet & Greet 9:30 AM - Sunday School/Bible Class	6 6:00 PM - Worship	7 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 5:45 PM - PTO	8 10:15 AM - Regency 4:45 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Choir	9 6:00 PM - Lutheranism 101	10	11 10:00 AM - LWML
12 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:15 AM - Meet & Greet 9:30 AM - Sunday School/Bible Class	13 6:00 PM - Worship	14 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Directors	15 10:00 AM - HHR 4:45 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Choir	16 6:00 PM - Lutheranism 101	17 7:30 AM - Donuts with Dad (CDC)	18
19 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:15 AM - Meet & Greet 9:30 AM - Sunday School/Bible Class	20 6:00 PM - Worship Reflections articles due!	21 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Elders	22 10:15 AM - Regency NO Confirmation No Adult Choir	23 Thanksgiving Service - 9:30 AM Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
26 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:15 AM - Meet & Greet 9:30 AM - Sunday School/Bible Class	27 6:00 PM - Worship	28 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	29 10:00 AM - HHR 4:45 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Choir	30 6:00 PM - Lutheranism 101		