

RIVER OF LIFE *STREAMS*

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Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS 1847 - 2022



REFORMATION HISTORY Some interesting things you may not know 1517-2022

You are probably aware we have the date of October 31 for observing the Reformation because it was on October 31, 1517 that Dr. Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. While the name of the Castle Church is very familiar, you may not know there are two churches in the old city of Wittenberg. He preached often at the City Church, was married there, and his children were baptized there.

You are probably aware what mostly offended Luther on October 31, 1517, was the **selling of indulgences**. These were pieces of paper that you could purchase that would do all sorts of things promised by the Church. You could get extra credit for helping yourself or relatives get a good place in heaven. You could purchase a piece of paper that promised forgiveness for something you intended to do before you did it.

You may also know the idea of Purgatory was questioned by Luther. Purgatory is supposed to be the place you could go if you hadn't built up enough merits or credit to overcome your sins and faults. Martin Luther asked, *"Where did you get that idea? The Bible doesn't say that. Jesus never mentioned it."*

You may be aware that Luther posted these 95 Theses, or statements about teachings in the church, because he was also proposing and invited anyone interested in debating these statements to participate in a debate. What you may not know is that the debate never happened. How, in a matter of a few weeks, did not only scholars hear about Luther's 95 Theses but also the common people? Some clever printer took the notice and translated it from academic Latin into everyday German, and printed copies as fast as he could. It was like a bomb went off. Within two weeks, the sale of indulgences in Germany, once a steady stream of income, fell off to a trickle. It is the questions raised by the 95 theses, about the power of the church, about the mercy of God, about how we are made righteous, right with God that caused the change

Dr. Martin Luther probably did not understand what all would happen from his action. He simply knew that he must speak up, that he must be faithful to what he read in the Bible. He also probably didn't understand the risk to his own life. About 100 years before Martin Luther's action, a man named Jan Hus was burned at the stake for asking similar

questions about the Church and the need to return to Bible teachings. The name “Hus” means “Goose” in the Bohemian language. Just prior to his being burned, Hus was asked to recant his teachings. His response: *“You are now going to burn a goose, but in a century, you will have a swan you neither can roast nor boil.”* We believe that Martin Luther fulfilled Hus’ prophecy. This prophecy was mentioned at Luther’s funeral in 1546. Even today, the swan is a symbol in many churches for Martin Luther.

Martin Luther died in Eisleben, the town of his birth. Luther had been called to Eisleben to mediate a dispute between two brothers who were both counts of Mansfield. He was accompanied by his three sons.

You may know that Luther’s funeral was at the Castle Church, and he is buried below the high altar of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. His family and the university thought it would be at the City Church. It was Frederick III, also known as Frederick the Wise, who was Elector of Saxony from 1486 to 1525, who is mostly remembered as being one of the most powerful early defenders of Martin Luther. He successfully protected Luther from the Holy Roman Emperor, the Pope and other hostile figures. He suggested the Castle Church.

Let me share with you one more thing you may not be aware of. Today just above the altar in the City Church in Wittenberg there is a painting. It was painted by a friend of Luther’s, Lucas Cranach. It shows Luther in his pulpit preaching. The people of the congregation are intently listening. Luther’s finger is pointing to something in the church that is the heart and soul of all that we teach and believe. He is pointing to the cross on which the dying Jesus hangs. His message: You and I can’t add one thing to the price Jesus paid to take away our sins. Our salvation is a gift that comes to us from God who came down from heaven.

I thought you might appreciate some of these facts that usually don’t find their way into sermons.

On October 30, Reformation Sunday for us this year, we will be observing the 505th Year of the Anniversary. The sermon will concern the Three Solas: ***Sola Gratia, Grace Alone; Sola Fidas, Faith Alone; Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone;*** which are ***The Heart of the Reformation!***

By Trusting in Jesus, in Christ Alone, we have God’s gift of salvation.

*In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm,
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled,
when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all - here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid - here in the death of Christ I live.*

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Mitschke





Oct. 2 – Communion 17 Pentecost
“We Have Only Done Our Duty”
Luke 17:1-10

Oct. 9 – Communion 18 Pentecost
“Go Show Yourself to the True High Priest”
Luke 17:11-17

Oct. 16 – Communion 19 Pentecost
“Can We Pray and Not Give Up?”
A Parable of Contrasts
Luke 18:1-8

Oct. 23 – Communion. 20 Pentecost

“The Parable of the Two Prayers”
Luke 18:9-17

Oct. 30- Communion . Reformation Sunday



*The Heart of
the
Reformation”*
Romans 3:21-
31



Thanks to **Doris Anderson** and Joanne **Morris** for their service on the Altar Guild and faithfully setting up and putting away our Communion vessels and elements each week.

Thanks to Pam Vermeulen for sending cards to our shut-ins and those with medical issues!



Judy Bremer
1215 Burns,
Minooka, IL 60447

Sandra Krause
North Aurora Nursing Home
310 Banbury Rd
Aurora, IL 60542

Bill Richardson
StoryPoint, Room 355
605 S. Edward Dr.
Romeoville, IL 60446

Vince Zitella
6105 E. Hilltop Dr.
Coal City, IL 60416

Julianne Zitella-Grell
650 S. Broadway St. Apt. 2F
Coal City, IL 60416

Roger Feiertag
1610 Augusta Lane
Shorewood, IL 60404



Dennis M. Myers, loving son of **Pam** and **Jim Vermeulen**, and loving father of **Parker** and **Regan** died unexpectedly on Sept. 22 at age 50.

The **Memorial Visitation** was on Friday, Sept. 30 from 3 to 8:00pm with the **Funeral Service** at 6:00pm at the Modell Funeral Home, 7710 South Cass Ave., Darian.

We express our Christian love and sympathy to our friends Pam and Jim and pray for our gracious Heavenly Father's strength and help for this difficult time.

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. "

Romans 8:38,39



Church Cleanup Day

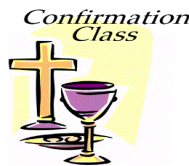


Thank you to all that helped with the church cleanup day.
Thanks to Matt for grilling up lunch for everyone!



Sunday School...

Sunday School is at 10:45am each Sunday



See or call Pastor Mitschke about Confirmation class

Youth Group

Plan on attending all events if possible, for some fellowship and to help our youth group!



Head Elder Dave Hall has been in touch with Pastor Ryden and is working with him regarding looking for a pastor.

The Elders are continuing to search for a pastor!

Sunday
Adult
Bible
STUDY



Bible Study is at 10:45am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall.



**Congregational meeting November 13th at 10:30 am.
Elder and Council positions open for election.
Anyone interested in running talk to Bob Grimm**

If you need to use the LIFT, let an Elder or Usher know to assist you!
(Please note that the Lift is out of service at this time until further notice. Sorry for any inconvenience!)

Swaddling Clothes
Our outreach ministry for families!

Open on the 2nd Saturday, and the 4th Tuesday of each month.

October 8th
9 am – 12 pm
Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

October 25th
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**We are looking for volunteers to help change out clothes for the
upcoming fall/winter season!**

If you're interested in helping, please contact Amanda Graves.
Contact Pam Sterle if you want to help some mornings.
The more, the merrier!

Please consider donating your time to this worthwhile ministry.
Help is always needed and appreciated.

Donating to a charity using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

If you are age 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts.

Learn how by taking your RMD as a QCD and donating directly to a charity it will not be considered as taxable income.

Check the website listed below for an explanation or you can ask Vince on how it all works.

<https://www.fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics>





Holy *COMMUNION*

The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is received reverently among us. With COVID-19, our reception of the Sacrament is still affected.

Social distancing is practiced coming forward. Communicants come to receive the Sacrament as singles or a family. As the first family/single leaves the Communion Table, the next single or family comes forward.

In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

The bread and wine are in individual cups touched only by the communicant(s). As the pastor says, "*Take eat*" . . ., each communicant takes his own cup with bread, "*Take drink*" . . ., each communicant then takes his own cup with wine. The pastor then speaks the dismissal.

We followed suggestions and introduced these new precautions long ago. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to share them with an elder or pastor.

We appreciate the service of our Altar Guild for their beautiful service and add an extra thank you for their special work currently.

Dave Hall, Head Elder