



SHEPHERD'S STAFF

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Volume 59 Issue 10

OCTOBER 2017

Freed To Be the Church

Well, we've made it: this month will mark the five-hundredth anniversary (i.e., the quincentenary!) of the start of the Reformation. And so Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses will be mentioned on the news. People will write and talk about it as a watershed moment in world history and European culture. But what does it mean to you and me?

The last verse of our appointed Gospel for Reformation Day points us toward an answer: "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36 NRSV). By becoming fully human, suffering death, and being raised on the third day, Jesus Christ has defeated sin and death and freed creation from its captivity.

Throughout the Reformation Luther was urging the church to see this liberation as our greatest treasure: "One thing, and one alone, is necessary for life, justification, and Christian liberty; and that is the most holy word of God, the gospel of Christ" (*Freedom of a Christian*). In Christ there is no longer anything we *have to do* to be in relationship with God. Instead, accompanied by the Holy Spirit, our lives and the life of the church are about what we *get to do*.

And so it's fitting that we will get to be the church in many ways this month. We will get to experience God's grace through Word and Sacrament five times in our congregation. We will get to hear local Christian leaders across denominations reflect on how the Church is reforming today (October 3). We will get to talk with Bishop Clements about what God is doing in the Northern Illinois Synod (October 5). We will get to have fun around the bonfire at the Baileys' house (Saturday, October 14). We will get to witness and pray with Justin Abel and Lauren Spangler as they affirm their baptism on October 29. We will get to connect with our neighbors at Trunk or Treat that same day. We will get to observe Reformation Day with the whole Northern Illinois Synod in worship October 29 and with the whole ELCA through a livecast at Rockford Lutheran Academy from the National Cathedral all day October 31! All of these and even more are happening around us, and all are ways to be reminded of the freedom Christ has won for us—the freedom to be his joyful church in the world.

† IN OUR PRAYERS †



Intercessions: **Nevagay Abel, Neva & Don Abel, Kelsey Hernandez, Stu Hoffman, family of Lois Johnson, Lisa Jones, Doris Kampfe, Kevin Persaud, Carline Talmadge, Ron Hunt, Alice Kundo, Annette Aken, Helen Swanson, Doris Dohlen, David Johnson** (nephew of Dyvone Freburg), **Phil Armato** (Patte Lund's father), **Mildred Anderson** (mother of Cheryl Erdmann), **Lyle Solko, Don Johnson** (friend of Lyle & Phyllis Nelson), **Carol Triplett** (friend of the Smalley and Wacker families), **LeAnn Dahl** (daughter of Carol Dahl), **Huxley** (Carol Dahl's niece's grandson), **Sally and Marcie Ramsey** (friends of Helen Swanson), **Pastor Jane McChesney, Bill Wolf** (father of John Wolf), **Don Stinson** (friend of Don & Neva Abel), **Lois and Mike Virtue** (friends of Scott & Sue Francis), **Christine Hallman** (daughter of Karl Anderson), **Lynette Vitale** (cousin of Dana Rogers), **June Cain** (synod bookkeeper), and **the Stubbs family** (missionaries in Tanzania).

(Please review this list and let either Pastor Scott or the church office know when a name can be removed).

Fleece Blankets

In October we will be making Fleece Blankets for Rock House Kids!

Watch for more information on tying the blankets.



Senior News
Senior Luncheon

October 24, 12:00 noon
Barbecues, chips, desert, and beverage will be served.
We will play Halloween Bingo after lunch.
Please sign up on the poster in narthex.

Keeping Shepherd of the Valley up-to-date

Please be sure to let the office of Shepherd of the Valley know when you have a change in address, phone number or e-mail.

Please let the church office or Pastor Scott know if there are items you would like to see in the newsletter.

Faith Forum

Join us in Shepherd Hall (down the hall from the office), 11:00-11:45 A.M. most Sundays for Faith Forum (a.k.a. Adult Forum). Each month we'll follow this pattern:

- * 1st Sunday of the month: Together in Faith (informal coffee and conversation in Moline Hall)
- * 2nd Sunday of the month: Living Lutheran (discussing last month's *Living Lutheran* Magazine)
- * 3rd Sunday of the month: Connecting the Faith (how our faith matters in the world)
- * 4th Sunday of the month: Deepening the Faith (topics to deepen our roots in the faith)

Attendance statistics average are based on the 4 weeks

September 3—September 24

Average attendance: 74

Contributions average are based on the 4 weeks

September 3—September 24

Average weekly contributions:

Current & Benevolence \$1,556.61

Building Fund - \$ 523.12

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial results as of August 31, 2017 and Year to date totals

	C & B Actual	C & B Budget	C & B YTD Actual	C & B YTD Budget
Income	\$11,497.25	\$11,825.00	\$116,943.76	\$117,700.00
Expense	\$17,798.50	\$16,921.30	\$130,969.75	\$127,071.60
Inc/exp plus offsets	-\$6,301.25	-\$5,096.30	-\$14,025.99	-\$9,371.60
Net income	\$1,188.30	\$1,300.67	\$8,587.03	\$5,430.33
	-\$5,112.95	-\$3,795.63	-\$5,438.96	-\$3,941.27

C&B balance	8/31/17	7/31/17
	\$1,556.61	\$6,669.56

	Building Actual	Building Budget	BLD YTD Actual	BLD YTD Budget
Income	\$1,871.00	\$2,233.00	\$17,947.00	\$17,867.00
Expense	\$2,257.40	\$2,257.40	\$10,224.20	\$18,059.20
Net inc/exp	-\$386.40	-\$24.40	-\$2,277.20	-\$192.20

Building fund balance	8/31/17	7/31/17
	\$15,888.05	\$16,274.75

Please note: Financials run one month behind in the bulletin

Balance on our mortgage - \$286,196.56

I would like to challenge everyone to up your weekly giving by \$5. This is an increase from what I challenged at the Annual Meeting. We have had some changes to pledged giving. Your increased giving will help to cover the cost of our expected expenses

LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY

Our present library is celebrating its 20th year of service to the congregation.

The library was first begun in the fall of 1963 with 30 books! From that small beginning, we have increased our collection to more than 3000. In September of 1997 a group of women met and shared their plans for a new library. The old one was on the wall of Shepherd's Hall.

Bill Anderson was put to work building new shelves for the new library. It was an exciting time and many books, and audio-visual materials have been checked out in the past 20 years. Catherine and Bob Edlen did a number of special presentations, using books from the library. AND NOW we must look to the future, revisiting the purposes of the library. **The library is the place to go to find new ideas, enrich our study of the Bible, find a new book to share with a small child, find Christian music on a CD, read a magazine, meet other readers, study the history of our church, find a new novel that inspires us.** Come and visit our library this fall!



What We Did on Summer Vacation

Have you had an experience you'd like to share with the church? Sign up with Pastor Scott to talk about what you've been up to during the Forum after worship in September. From Synod Assembly to church camp, mission trips to vacations, and everything in between, your sisters and brothers in Christ will be inspired by what you've seen and heard.

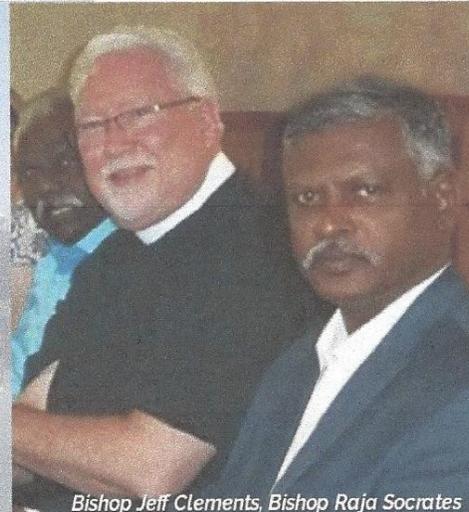


Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

Companion Synod Trip to India, 12 Days, February 5-17, 2018

Optional extension to
Taj Mahal, Agra: February 16-18

with Bishop Jeff Clements, Deaconess
Cheryl Erdmann, John and Esther Prabhakar



Bishop Jeff Clements, Bishop Raja Socrates

Tour Cost Summary

Approximately \$ 2299 (single supplement \$299)
Extension \$ 599 (single supplement \$99)

Participants should also plan on \$500 - \$1000 in cash for expenses during time spent with the Arcot Church in addition to the above costs.

For more information/ questions

815 964 9934

Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann
at the NI Synod office or

Dr. John & Esther Prabhakar 815 757 0406

Please Pray, consult with your family and once you decide to go, please call Deaconess Cheryl or e-mail her at CErdmann@nisynod.org and reserve your spot. Places are limited to maximum of 25, with a minimum of 20.

More information on the kiosk.

What's Included?

Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, gratuities for drivers and guides, and airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$99 per person).

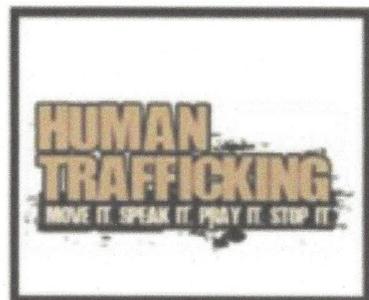
Not Included: Indian entry visa is required for U.S. citizens (currently \$60 per person for the online e-visa) *GTD will provide information*, fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour, beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast, any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary, items of a personal nature, optional travel protection (Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$169 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan), passport fees (a passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S.)

Optional Extension: One-way airfare and tax from Chennai to Delhi, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, and gratuities for drivers and guides.

Mark your Calendars

October 29, Reformation Sunday. Plan to attend the Northern Illinois Synod Reformation 500 Worship and Ordination Service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota.

21st Annual
 Ecumenical Benefit Brunch
 Saturday, October 7, 2017
 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 200 North 1st Street / Rockford, IL



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 27-JULY 1 + HOUSTON, TX
 GATHERING@ELCA.ORG + 888-411-3522 + ELCA.ORG/GATHERING

FOR BY **GRACE** YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. - EPHESIANS 2:8

#ELCAYG2018

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS + JUNE 24-27

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 MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA AN ELCA GATHERING OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

RE-MARK-ABLE Conversations with the Bishop – Fall 2017

All RE-MARK-ABLE Conversations begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and continue at 7:00 with the opening devotion and continued conversations.

Thursday, October 5 – North Conference – Katie's Cup, 502 7th St., Rockford

We are a **RE**-synod! We are **MARK**ed with the cross of Christ. We are **ABLE** to faithfully forge ahead in the name of Jesus.

As we move toward REvitalizing, REforming and REnewing, Bishop Jeff Clements and the synod staff invite you to an evening of conversation. We want to hear what you're experiencing right now and with what you are experimenting. The guided conversation will allow congregations of each conference to hear more of what others are doing, too. ALL are invited – young and old; rostered ministers and congregational members; long-term members and brand-new members.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV)

Questions, contact [Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann](#) or [Julie Lewis](#) in the Rockford office – 815-964-9934

FALL BONFIRE AT THE BAILEY'S

Saturday, October 14th

6:00pm—9:30pm

8321 Blomberg Road, Cherry Valley, IL
(South of Cherryvale Mall on Perryville Road)

Hot Dogs, Chili, S'mores and Hot Cider provided by the church

Please bring chair bags for seating

Sign up on poster in the Narthex

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

(Event Cancelled if raining)



Halloween Trunk & Treat

Sunday, October 29th

3:00pm—4:30pm

Invite family and friends to a
Fellowship's even of tricks or treats
Among spooky decorated cars in our church parking lot.

Come dressed in your Halloween costumes.

Free Popcorn and Hot Cider provided.

Cost? Once can per child of non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry.

Sing up in the Narthex to register your car for participation or attending the event.

Any questions, please contact Janette Erickson



As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, *Living Lutheran* is exploring 500 of its unique aspects. This series continues this month with 14 more facts.

- 26** If Luther could have had his way, he would have probably deleted the books of Esther, Hebrews, James, Jude and Revelation from the Bible. They were among his least favorite books of the Bible.
- 27** There were reformers well before Luther and what became known as the Reformation, but Luther and other reformers of his time became the first to skillfully use the power of the printing press to give their ideas a wide audience.
- 28** During the religious wars that followed the Reformation, even family members were often pitted against one another. Both Catholics and Protestants were often convinced that the other was doing “the devil’s work.”
- 29** The Counter-Reformation—or Catholic Reformation—initiated vigorous efforts to condemn the teachings and influence of Protestant reformers, restore obedience and loyalty, reconvert the converted and establish new missions and influence globally in regions including Africa, Asia and South America.
- 30** The Catholic Society of Jesus, whose members are called Jesuits, was founded in 1534 and participated in the Counter-Reformation to stop Protestantism from spreading. Today they represent the largest single religious order of priests and brothers in the Catholic Church.
- 31** The Council of Trent (1562) decreed that all bishops must “banish from churches all those kinds of music in which, whether by organ or in the singing, there is mixed up anything lascivious or impure, as also all secular actions; vain and therefore profane conversations, all walking about, noise, and clamor, that so the House of God may be seen to be, and may be called, truly, a house of prayer.”
- 32** On April 18, 1994, the Church Council of the ELCA officially repudiated and apologized for Luther’s words and teachings that have been appropriated by anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred and violence toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people. The ELCA also pledged to oppose such bigotry within the church and in society and to pray for the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community.
- 33** The idea put forth during the Reformation that God sees all believers as spiritually equal had profound repercussions in the church—especially when the idea was applied to women.
- 34** Luther’s exhortation to read and interpret the Bible on one’s own and the impact of the printing press opened new doors for lay people that changed the church’s approach to faith formation and Christian education forever.
- 35** One of the far-reaching impacts of the Reformation was the promotion of applying the word of God to every area and endeavor of life, in the church and in society.
- 36** The early movement of Lutheranism quickly gained followers in the German states, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Scotland and portions of France.
- 37** While we associate the Reformation with Germany, broader reformation movements spread across Northern and Western Europe, including also England and Switzerland.
- 38** England went through its own religious and political reformation in the late 1500s through early 1600s. It was influenced by Luther and other reformers, but it was more deeply intertwined with the power, personal beliefs and political motives of England’s kings, queens and political leaders of the time.
- 39** In the 17th century, Lutherans from Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark began to migrate to the United States, bringing their language, culture and Lutheran faith with them.

(Reprint information was granted by *Living Lutheran* magazine for this article as it first appeared in the June 2017 issue of *Living Lutheran*.)



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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Officers of the Congregation

President - Carol Bailey
Vice-President - Sherry Scheider
Secretary - Vicki Nitz
Treasurer - Phil Smalley

Congregation Council

Carol Bailey, Christian Education
Janette Erickson, Fellowship
Vicki Nitz, Preschool
Sherry Scheider, Worship/Music
Zane Smalley, Youth Ministry
Kris Tukker, Social Ministry
Peggy Wenstrom, Personnel
Don Wiese, Finance
John Wolf, Stewardship
Deb Zandonatti, Outreach
Property

Staff

The Rev. Scott Benolkin, Pastor
Judi Fields, Secretary
Linda Longardner, Organist
Phil Smalley, Treasurer
Susie Smalley, Music Coordinator
Patte Lund, Christian Education
Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
Anita Ralston, Custodian

Warm Feet

'Warm Feet Mission' is looking for your kind donations of either socks or monetary donations, to purchase socks.

There will be a box, on the table by the side of the Sanctuary, for all contributions.

We will also have socks available, that you may purchase for donation, at church on a Sunday to still be determined.

Thank you in advance.

See Ann Honer for more information.

