

# Pilgrim's Progress

A monthly publication.  
Volume, No. 10

October 2017



**REFORMATION**  
2017 *It's Still All About*  
**Jesus**

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation is finally here. We have been reviewing Luther's Small Catechism in worship, viewing the "Faces of the Reformation" in bulletins, and studying Luther and the Reformation in Bible class. We will dedicate a commemorative banner October 8, enjoy a Luther movie October 13 at

6:30pm, celebrate with a special Divine Service October 29, and sing together in a Reformation Hymn Festival November 5 at 2:00pm. There is also a list elsewhere in this newsletter of other celebratory events in our area.

Why does the Reformation matter? Why celebrate it? It might be obvious to some, but it must be said that this celebration is not about how great we Lutherans are (Lutheran triumphalism). It is not about how great Martin Luther was. It is about the heavenly Father who sent His one and only Son to live, die, and rise again for us and our salvation and who sent His Holy Spirit to work repentance and faith in us through the Means of Grace: grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, Christ alone, to the glory of God alone.<sup>1</sup> In a phrase, even as it has been, so, "It's still all about Jesus."

What have past Reformation celebrations been about? They have been about many and various things. Professor Erik Herrmann gives an account of some of those, but points out that for the generation immediately after Luther the emphasis "was not on Luther's person or life—he was not to be venerated or emulated, and certainly there were no stories of miracles like the stories of the medieval saints. Rather, the focus was on what Luther taught, the strength of his message, his insight into the Scriptures and the blessed rediscovery of the Gospel."<sup>2</sup> For those Lutherans, it was all about Jesus.

For us who have inherited the eternal truths Luther and the Reformation rediscovered but who find ourselves in a world far removed from that time and place, we might well wonder how to bridge the gap. While our world generally opposes "organized religion," let alone confessional Lutheranism, our world does understand narrative and the way narratives have the power to shape us. On this basis, Erik Herrmann argues

that the Reformation emphasis on Scripture must be emphasized today: "The biblical narrative becomes the key to understanding our life, the defining story that interprets our world. It's not that we find the Bible meaningful to our life, but rather our life receives its meaning from the Bible."<sup>3</sup> To give this observation a more concrete form, Robert Kolb writes, "[Luther's] theology of the cross places the person of Jesus Christ and his saving activities, particularly his death and resurrection (Romans 4.45; 1 Corinthians 15.3–5), at the center of the reading of all of Scripture and as the framework for its interpretation."<sup>4</sup> In other words, "It's still all about Jesus."

In that light, this anniversary of the Reformation is simply another opportunity to return to the Scriptures as the divinely inspired and inerrant Word of God that not only reveal to us the person and work of Christ for the sake of Spirit-wrought faith, but also shape our lives by the power of the Spirit into the likeness of Christ in order that we might be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom now and forever. In this way, the Reformation still matters. It matters to every person in this world because it has been and continues to be all about Jesus, the Lord and Savior of all.

In a sermon on March 10, 1522, Luther said, "Take myself as an example. I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept [cf. Mark 4.26–29], or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything."<sup>5</sup> So, for Luther, for Lutherans, and for us it has been, is, and will continue to be all about Jesus, the Word made flesh who came, is coming, and comes to us by His Holy Spirit through His Means of Grace. Thanks be to God who has called and gathered us as His Eternal Church! As we celebrate the Reformation, may He continue to work through His Word that is read, preached, heard, sprinkled, eaten, spoken, and sung to bring Christ to people and people to Christ so that, long after this celebration, future generations might continue to say, "It's still all about Jesus."

In Christ,

*Pastor Rusnak*

<sup>1</sup> For more on the *solae* of the Reformation see:

<https://lutheranreformation.org/theology/solus-christus>

<sup>2</sup> Erik Herrmann, "The Relevance of Remembering the Reformation,"

*Concordia Journal* 43, no. 1–2 (2017): 18

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 24.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Kolb, "Reading and Inwardly Digesting According to Luther."

<sup>5</sup> J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, eds. *Luther's Works*, vol. 151 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press), 77–78.



<http://www.okclipart.com/Martin-Luther-Reformation-Clip-Art30fqntmkhv/>

The month of October/November brings one many opportunities to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

- **October 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30p.m at the Majestic Cinema of Brookfield you can watch the documentary called **Martin Luther: The Idea that changed the World**. Tickets are to be ordered at <http://mtolivemkeorg/tickets>.
- **October 13** in the church basement at 6:30pm will be a showing of a Martin Luther film. Fellowship, popcorn and lemonade can be had by all.
- **October 15 at 1:30 pm at Benediction Lutheran Church**, 8475 W. Fond du Lac Ave. in Milwaukee, Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation the way that Martin Luther did "**in German**".
- **October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00p.m. at Trinity Ev. Lutheran**, 1046 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee. You are invited to Choral Vespers where you will hear Organist & Choir Director: Dr. John Behnke  
Choir: Trinity choir and members of church choirs throughout LCMS SWD.  
Preacher: Pastor Hunter Hofmann  
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. John C. Willie, SWD  
President of LCMS.
- **October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30p.m.** Milwaukee area Festival Reformation Service of Christ Triumphant – Concordia University Wisconsin 12800 N. Lakeshore Dr., Mequon.
- **November 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00p.m. Reformation Hymn Festival** at Pilgrim. Church. From 12:00-1:30pm. will be a free will offering lunch to raise money for a defibulater.

## Stewardship Emphasis

It is quite possible that we spend more time thinking about money than we do about our salvation in Christ. Much of our life is focused on how to get, save, spend, invest, and protect money. Jesus addresses the topic money in His parables. In fact, over half of the parables that Jesus told deal with money and possessions. This month, we are going to take up three of these parables, all of them from The Gospel according to Luke. Jesus' parables challenge our preconceived notions about money and point us to a more faithful use of the gifts God gives to us.

### *"Possessions and Parables"*

- **October 8:** "The Parable of the Rich Fool" (Luke 12.13–21)
- **October 15:** "The Parable of the Shrewd Manager" (Luke 16.1–14)
- **October 22:** "The Parable of the Minas" (Luke 19.11–27)

Finally, on Sunday, October 22 and Wednesday, October 25, all households will have the opportunity to commit a portion of their finances, their time, and their spiritual gifts to the Lord and His Church during the offering.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Gracelyn Moritz	10/03
Randy Geipel	10/12
Jacqlyn Bristow	10/14
Steven Sullivan	10/14
Lisa Phillips	10/17
Warren Schmidt	10/17
John Bognar	10/18
Leroy Liebert	10/22
Elaine Guetz	10/24
Mike Zawacki	10/25
Andy Doebele	10/25
<b>Hildegarde Kretzschmar 102</b>	<b>10/25</b>
Andrew Bristow	10/30
Betty Brye	10/31



### ANNIVERSARIES

Paul and Nancy Janowski	10/11
Bob and Sandie Erskine	10/16
Andrew and Jessica Staff	10/18

**SCRIP.** The sale of “cards” through **SCRIP** means money for the PCDC without costing you extra. Simply buy the desired card downstairs after service for restaurant, grocery, gas, retail stores and spend them like cash at the store. During the week it can be purchased at the PCDC office.



## Sunday School begins Another Year of Classes



During the worship service on September 10<sup>th</sup>, Pilgrim’s Christian Education Ministry, both to children and adults, was celebrated. The children of Pilgrim received a special blessing from Pastor Rusnak, as they began another year of Sunday School classes.



Our theme this year is, “Jesus is My Rock”. The children enjoyed painting rocks, one large and one small. The large one was placed in their yard to serve as a witness to the neighborhood. The small one was placed in a public place to be found, as part of the Facebook Group, “Wauwatosa Rocks.”

The Board of Education is planning more child-centered activities for the 2017-18 year. If you would like to invite children, that may be interested in the Sunday School program, please request an invitation packet from the Church Office.

The 2017-2018 season of Pilgrim LWML began on September 8<sup>th</sup>, with a regular Friday evening meeting. This year’s theme is HOPE to HOME and will reflect the HOPE we live in daily through our faith in Christ, as we are assured of our heavenly HOME when Christ comes again.

Our Zone 4 President Mary Zuehlsdorf shared her experiences from when she attended the LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM, in June as our delegate. She told us about the new LWML logo that will usher the organization into the future after celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

October will have a number of LWML events for us. **October 1<sup>st</sup>** is LWML Sunday, so watch for a display about the Mission Grants for both the 2016-2018 biennium for the LWML-South Wisconsin District, and for the new list of LWML grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. Ask someone about the difference.

On **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, Zone 4 will hold its **Fall Rally at Mt. Olive at 6 p.m.** It will include a salad supper, provided by the ladies of Mt. Olive, and will feature Lutheran Bible Translator Missionary Elliot Derrick and his family as they prepare to go to Cameroon. This includes LWML groups from 10 area churches. The LWML-SWD President Barb Kaun will join us.

**Both men and women are invited** to the LWML meeting which will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.. We will hear from **Rachel Meyer**, another missionary, tell us how she is “**Bringing Hope to Uganda.**” Missions is what LWML is about as we live in the **HOPE** of our salvation to our heavenly **HOME**.

The **Ingatherings** this year will continue the theme **HOPE to HOME** as various items will be gathered for the Food Pantry at **HOPE Lutheran Church**, aiding others as they HOPE for BASICS. Items being collected in Oct are: **soup, canned vegetables** (not corn), and **tuna**. These may be placed in the Ingathering box in the narthex.