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Insights of The Reformation

1. Music's Contribution

"In the center of the new musical movement which accompanied the Reformation stands the great figure of Martin Luther." (Music in Western Civilization, 1941 - Prof. Paul H. Lang, Columbia Univ.)

Luther, in his unfinished thesis *Concerning Music*, wrote:

"He who despises music, as do all the fanatics, does not please me. For music is a gift and largess of God, not a gift of men. Music drives away the devil and makes people happy; it induces one to forget all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and other vices. After theology I accord to music the highest place and the greatest honor."

later he writes,

"God has His Gospel preached also through the medium of music . . ."

A large contribution of Luther's careful renovation of the Mass was his introduction of hymn singing by the congregation. In the summer of 1524 a hymnal was published containing 24 hymns credited to Luther. Some believe Luther was inspired to write his first hymn, "By Help of God I Fain would Tell," by the martyrdom at the stake of two young students in Brussels in 1523. In 1524 an aged linen weaver in Magdeburg was arrested for publicly singing in the street Luther's hymns, "May God Bestow on Us His Grace" and "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee."

"Luther's distinction in the field of music lies . . . in the fact that he encouraged and even increased the use of music in the Church. In his treatment of the musical heritage of the Church he remained consistent with his practices in other fields, always retaining the good, discarding the untenable, creating where necessary.

Luther's belief that music should also serve the Gospel gave to Lutheranism that distinctive feature which earned for it the title of "the Singing Church." Under his encouragement musicians composed, reclaimed, and transmitted the rich treasure of the Church in an unbroken line of musical development from Luther to Bach." *

So also today in our congregation the use of music in the Church, i.e. in worship, is:

- to serve the Gospel, to build up the body of Christ,
- to proclaim God's Word of Law and Gospel.

It is not filler or icing on the cake or entertainment, but rather an integral part of the Divine Service.

2. What happens in worship?

At the time of the Reformation one of the things Luther sought to correct in the Church was the view of how God works through the means of grace, His Word and Sacraments.

The predominant view of Rome was that the Word and Sacraments worked *ex opere operato* - that is by mechanical action apart from faith in the receiver. In down to earth terms - you got "brownie points" with God just by attending the Mass and it did not matter if you understood or believed the content. One of the effects of this teaching was to turn the person in the pew into a spectator, rather than a participant or active listener and receiver of the gifts of God through faith.

One of Luther's insights is that Jesus Christ is truly present with us in His Word and Sacraments as His people gather around them. Christ "is actively present to save us when we encounter Him within the worshiping assembly." Jesus is present on Sunday morning as His Word is read, "He who hears you, hears Me," He said. He is here interacting with those assembled, convicting through His Law, calling to faith through His Gospel, in the liturgy, in the hymns, the sermon, gathering people in through Baptism, forgiving our sins and sustaining us with His very body and blood in the Lord's Supper, enlightening us with His gifts.

With this understanding we are more than spectators. God uses the spoken and sung word, the water word, the wine and wafer word to come to us personally, to change us from the outside in - to make us a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17)

With this understanding, to act like a mere spectator and not participate in the worship; or to shut our ears or to slam our hymnal, to dissociate ourselves, to even harden our hearts to what goes on in the Divine Service may at best indicate a lack of understanding that Christ is truly present and really at work here in the Divine Service through His Word and Sacraments. From this, dear Lord, preserve us. Rather help us by Your Spirit to hear and believe, and so receive Your Word and Sacraments in faith to our spiritual growth and strength.

Pastor Pelsue

* Luther and his times, E.G. Schwieber, CPH 1950



OCTOBER NEWS & NOTES

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

October 31st - Reformation Sunday

- Divine Service both services.
- Special music and processional.

November 7th - All Saints' Day - Divine Service at both services. Thanking God for His goodness and grace in the lives of those believers who have gone before and especially remembering

those whom the Lord called home from our parish during the last year.



LIFE CHAIN 2010



The annual Life Chain has been set for **Sunday, October 3rd from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life

Americans standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception.

This is a service event for our catechumens. All ages are encouraged to come! If you are unable to stand for the whole hour, that's okay - we will provide you with a chair or just come and stand for however long you can. The more the merrier! All participants will be treated to a root beer float immediately following the event.

God links us together with Love!
Be a link in the LIFE CHAIN USA!



REFORMATION WOMEN'S GUILD

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! All ladies are invited to come to our next **WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING** on **October 5th at 12:30 p.m.** We had a great time at our first meeting for the 2010-2011 year. Come one, come all to see what our next program and snack is going to be. We also want to thank our 2 visitors, Julia Graudin and Amy Hotzel for coming to our September meeting. Thanks to everyone for making my first meeting as president of the COR Women's Guild a success. *Brenda Hargett, President*

LWML FALL RALLY on **Saturday, October 9th** at Messiah Lutheran Church on 2846 S. Grand. Breakfast begins at **8:45 a.m.** and the Opening Devotion is at 9:30 a.m. Professor Tim Dost is the guest speaker and his topic is "*Katie Luther.*" Babysitting is available by reservation only. Call Karen at 636-861-3591 by October 1st.

LWML SUNDAY will take place on **Sunday, October 17th.** All women are invited to wear something purple or gold to church on that Sunday to show your support of the LWML mission work. *Don't forget to bring in your dollars and change in your Mite boxes for Missions on that Sunday.*

The congregation can also support the missions of the LWML by picking up a mite box after church, by making a donation into the Large Mite Box and by collecting canceled stamps and placing them in the 'stamp' box in the parish hall. Thank you for your support.

CARE & SHARE



Do you enjoy getting together with some of your friends who occasionally become quite a bunch of **CUT UPS**? Of course, some of their jokes may be rather **TACKY**, but you **CARE** about each of them and love to **SHARE** time and conversation with them.

Well, how about joining the Care and Share ladies (the **CARE BEARS**) on Thursday, October 28th at 9:30 a.m., as we *cut, tack,* and arrange fabric to share with others, from infants to elderly, both locally and abroad? We'd love to have you. We meet the last Thursday of the

month, 9 months of the year.

Homework is also available for those who would like to help cut out quilting squares by cutting on the pre-drawn lines at home. Call Lois Schoech for more information at 314-647-1882.

YOUTH DAY!

On **Sunday, October 3rd**, beginning at 12:00 noon and ending at 2:00 p.m., all youth ages 12 thru 18 are invited to join us for pizza and soda, Wii Tournaments/practice and bumper pool. We will also discuss what other events the youth might like to do. If you have any questions, please call Martin Liebmann.



MEN'S CLUB MEETING AND PRACTICE SESSION

When: **Tuesday, October 5, 2010**
Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Where: **Fellowship Hall**

The meeting agenda includes making preparation for the Pancake Breakfast on November 14th. Tickets will be distributed at the meeting. Please sign the list on the bulletin board if you are able to attend.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE IN MUSIC MINISTRY

On **Sunday, October 10th**, our theme will be recognition of music as a great gift of God used in the service of the Gospel. In light of that theme, we will recognize God's gifts through two professional church workers among us who celebrate major anniversaries specifically in church music, Rev. Henry Gerike (40 years) and Lois Schoech (60 years). Refreshments will be served during the Bible Study hour in their honor. Also, cards and/or tokens of appreciation can be given.



THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP/PROPERTIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

On **Saturday, October 16th at 9:00 a.m.** we will attempt to clean out and organize the parish hall closet. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. Coffee and pastries provided. If you have any question, please call Julie Graudin.



COUNTRY HARVEST – OKTOBERFEST POTLUCK

Sunday, October 24th - 12:00 noon

Members are encouraged to bring either good ole' fashioned country cooking or a German dish. German/Country music will be played for listening. A sign-up sheet is posted on the fellowship bulletin board. Please indicate the number of people attending and what type of dish you will be bringing.

Also included is a **PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST** (carved or painted). Pumpkins will be judged in four different categories: Adults, Family, Teens, and 5-12 years. We are asking for a contribution for each vote. All monies collected will go towards helping a family within the congregation. Matching funds have been applied for through Thrivent. Sign-up sheets are on the Fellowship bulletin board.

Thanks!

Julie Graudin



RETIREES MEETING

Everyone is invited to the Retirees meeting on **Tuesday, October 26th at 12:00 noon**. All are Welcome!!! More details to follow in upcoming church announcements. Look for a sign-up sheet to be posted on the church bulletin board in the near future.

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 7th, at 2:00 a.m.** – Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday (11/6) before you go to bed.



SINGING SOPRANO IN THE CHOIR.

When I first started coming to Reformation Lutheran I was amazed at the precision of the service, the high regard of the liturgy, the hymns, the entire service. I noted that the choir was singing part of the liturgy and special songs. I knew immediately that I wanted to be part of this. Rev. Gerike invited me to join the choir and I gave it a try. He is a great choir director. He makes sure everything sounds the way it is supposed to. I like to sing soprano because I feel comfortable with that range of notes. Also, the sopranos get to sing above the melody sometimes and I feel like we just reached heaven with our voices. It makes me feel like we are all angels. God did not bless me with a great voice but I get along with the other sopranos just fine. All voices are important but I love being a soprano.

Inga Duke

OCTOBER FEED MY PEOPLE
MEAL-A-MONTH



Spam or canned meat, canned sweet potatoes, green beans, canned applesauce, powdered milk

We now have two locations for food collection!! A new basket is located in the narthex and the shopping cart has been moved to the parish hall. Please cut out the half sheet insert in this newsletter and take along with you to the grocery store and purchase the items listed or any food items you would care to give. Return the bag of groceries to the basket or shopping cart. Please - no glass containers or clothing. Thank you for your donations!

A HYMNAL IN EVERY HOME



Bible, Catechism, Hymnal. These three are the foundational texts that have shaped and formed Lutheran

Christians through the centuries since the time of the Reformation. And, as you probably know, the hymnal was generally brought to church from its place in a Lutheran's home, where it was used for personal devotion, prayer, and meditation.

Concordia Publishing House is offering special prices on the hymnal from now until the end of the year. The Pew Edition of the Lutheran Service Book is now only \$20 a copy, and the Personal Edition is now \$30.

To order your copy at a discounted price, use the order form from the poster on the church narthex table and place the completed form along with your check made payable to Reformation Lutheran Church in an envelope and deposit into the box on the table or in the offering plate on Sunday. Hymnals will be ordered by November 15th for Christmas delivery. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 314-352-1355.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY
LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Wednesdays, October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27, 2010
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Concordia Seminary - Sieck Hall - Room 202

*"Living as Citizens of Heaven and Citizens of America:
The Role of Christians in a Democratic Society"*

Does God have a political party? Does following Jesus mean ignoring the government? What happens when the government ignores - or imposes on - the church laws

that run contrary to Scripture? Should the church speak up on controversial issues or leave that to individual Christians?

This workshop is being led by Dr. Charles Arand, professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary. The cost is \$30.00 per person. For more information, call the office of Continuing Education and Parish Services at 314-505-7486.



OCTOBER IS
CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH



Clergy Appreciation Month is an excellent time to help the congregation demonstrate love, appreciation, and encouragement for your pastor. Here are some simple acts that feed a shepherd ...

- 1. Pray for your pastor.**
Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, and joy, as he pursues the activities of ministry for you and your family.
- 2. Express appreciation, spoken and written.**
A spoken compliment is always welcome. A written one can be read over and over again. Tell pastor's wife something nice about him, she'll appreciate it and he will hear about it later.
- 3. Celebrate with a special meal.**
Host an annual celebration at which your pastor and his family are the honored guests.
- 4. Respect his time.**
When possible, give advance notice about meetings, confirmation parties, invitation to rehearsal dinners, and other events to which he will be invited.
- 5. Live in peace.**
Appreciation is more than cards and gifts, it's an attitude. Pastors sometimes face a great deal of criticism, both to their face, and behind their back. Speak well of your pastor when you hear him criticized.

For more ideas on how you can show appreciation to Pastor Pelsue and other clergy in our congregation for the important work they do, see the church bulletin board.



VETERANS' DAY RECOGNITION



On Sunday, November 14th during both services, we would like to recognize all veterans of our church family. If you or a family member is a veteran, please complete the form on the next page and return to the secretary's mailbox. Thank you.