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Lutheran Like Me

When it gets to be October you begin to feel a chill in the air. Perhaps you see your breath for the first time since last winter. You may start to think of the Reformation of 1517 in Wittenberg, Saxony and of Martin

Luther nailing those 95 theses against indulgences, purgatory, and the cult of saints, on the church door for discussion. Strange Latin phrases like *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone), *Sola Gratia* (grace alone), *Sola Fide* (faith alone), and *Solus Christus* (Christ alone) start floating around in your head or appearing on stained glass windows of Luther's Seal. You may even find yourself singing "A Mighty Fortress" in the shower. What's going on? You're Lutheran like me!

And what a blessing to learn at the feet of this great theologian and be heirs of the Reformation. Let us listen to Luther himself from the Smalcald Articles to gain appreciation for our spiritual heritage:

"The first and chief article is this: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 3:24-25). He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works and merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood (Romans 3:23-25). This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us ... Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls. (Mark 13:31)"

Spend some time this October reading up on Luther. Kittelson's [Luther The Reformer](#) or Bainton's [Here I Stand](#) would be a good place to start. Or see the movie on the American Luther - C.F.W. Walter (see page 5)

A Blessed Reformation or October to you,
Pastor Pelsue

Vicar's Corner!

Seasons of Change!

"For I am the Lord, I do not change..."
Malachi 3:6



We have entered into my favorite season, fall! I love watching the leaves change into that beautiful fall colors and also enjoy the cooler temps that the change in seasons brings! As I sit and see the changes that are occurring outside, I have been reflecting on the changes in my life over the past 2 months. I have become a vicar and also a father of two children instead of one! We tend to not like change because of that fear of the unknown. Our bodies change no matter how hard we exercise to battle aging. Our places of employment change as the economic forces change or when new opportunities come along. Even some of our friendships change as family needs and employment pull us or friends away to new lands.

Many of these changes become enjoyable new seasons in our lives. Yet no matter what season of change you find yourself going through today, a rough patch or smooth as glass, you can find comfort in the scripture verse from Malachi 3:6, **"For I am the Lord, I do not change."** Our gracious Lord is our comforter, our ever-present help no matter what mountain peak or desolate valley you are walking through today. With celebration and thanksgiving, you can praise the Lord for his blessings upon your life.

As we also reflect this month on the Reformation and the change that occurred in the church at that time, we can take comfort in grace of God that Martin Luther found while reading the scripture. Even though so many things change during our life, the one constant that is always there is our Heavenly Father and the love that He has for us. We can be reminded of that love each time we come into the sanctuary on Sunday and see the cross that is front and center. It is on this cross that our Savior Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins so that we can receive forgiveness! As we see the change in seasons, be reminded that your God never ever changes!

Vicar Brett



OCTOBER NEWS & NOTES

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

October 30th - Reformation Sunday
- Divine Service both services.
- Special music and processional.



November 6th - 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 2011



The annual Life Chain has been set for **Sunday, October 2nd 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!

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

MOVIE AFTERNOON! Join us on **Sunday, October 23rd**, after the 2nd service, for the viewing of the 2003 Martin Luther movie. Bring a light lunch item or appetizer to share. There will be a short discussion after the movie. Drinks provided.



REMEMBER WHEN RETRO POTLUCK to honor COR Veterans after the 2nd service on **Sunday, November 13th**. Included in the afternoon activities are Trivia and a Retro Dress Contest - three categories: child, teen and adult. Dress in the style of your favorite decade of the 20th century - 1900-1999. Voting for best dress will be done

through cash donations with the money going to Lutheran Ministry to the Armed Forces. Prize for the best retro dress will be a gift card to a retail clothing store.

Sign up sheet will be posted on October 16th. Bring a favorite dish that you liked while growing up or one you served to your family.



LWML FALL RALLY

LWML FALL RALLY will take place on **Saturday, October 8th** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2211 Tenbrook Road, Arnold, MO. Breakfast begins at **8:45 a.m.** and the Opening Devotion is at **9:30 a.m.** Hannah Loum is the guest speaker. Babysitting is available by reservation only. Call Judy Hibbard, 636-296-9651 by October 1st. See the church bulletin board for more information.

LADIES CLUB NEWS



Our first official meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m.** Dessert will be provided. Please bring a leaf (green or perhaps just beginning to change color) for a craft. Call Brenda Hargett for more information.

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 27th 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.

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!



As many of you are aware, the Reformation Women's Guild has retired! A fall rummage sale was discussed for October but due to the retirement of the Guild, it has been cancelled. The possibility of a Church

Rummage Sale (to benefit the carpet fund) is currently being discussed for the spring. Please continue to save your rummage! Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.



MEET OUR NEW FIELD WORKER

My name is Matthew Resner, but I also go by Matt. I am the new first year field worker here at Church of the

Reformation-Lutheran. My wife's name is Kathleen. Here is a little bit about ourselves to help you get to know us a little better.

My hometown is Jefferson City, Missouri. My parents are teachers there at Trinity Lutheran School. I graduated this past May from Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois, with a Bachelor's Degree in Theological Languages and Theology. While in Chicago, I enjoyed the Cards-Cubs rivalry, since I am a big St. Louis Cardinals fan.

My wife, Kathleen, is from Manlius, Illinois, which is a small farm town of about 450 people. It is about an hour north of Peoria and 45 minutes west of the Iowa border (the Quad Cities). She graduated last December from Greenville College with a Bachelors Degree in Special Education. I am proud of her for getting her teaching degree in three and a half years. She is currently teaching 3rd grade at Salem Lutheran School in Black Jack, Missouri. She really enjoys teaching and is very good at it.

In June of this year, we got married. A few months ago we then moved into our duplex here in Affton to start the Seminary. We really enjoy the area, church, and both of our schools. We are so blessed to be here in this loving, caring, and supportive congregation. We look forward to getting to know all of you!

God's Blessings, *Matthew Resner*

READY TO RING



The Handbell Choir will be ready to ring on the first Sunday in October! We welcome new ringers Carrie Hartwig, Paula Jeffcott, and Jill Pelsue! Our 2-octave bell choir is "complete" ~ but if you'd like to join us we can expand to THREE octaves with the addition of three more ringers! Think ahead to your "New Year's" resolutions now.

For more information, contact any ringer (we wear red shirts when we ring in church) or call Jenny Gastler.

Solo Instrument Needed!!

The Bell Choir anthem for All Saints Sunday, November 6, would be best with a solo instrument (preferably treble clef). Flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, etc. would be

appropriate. Minimal rehearsal needed. Students or adults are welcome! Contact Jenny Gastler.

Christmas Card Clearance!

Salem School Christmas cards continue to be available, while supplies last. Students in Jenny Gastler's art classes at Salem created the card designs which have been professionally printed. Cards, with envelopes, are sold in packages of 20 for just \$5.00. Jenny will have cards available on Sunday mornings.



RETIREES MEETING

Everyone is invited to the Retirees meeting on **Tuesday, October 25th 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 6th, at 2:00 a.m. - Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday (11/5) before you go to bed.

OCTOBER FEED MY PEOPLE MEAL-A-MONTH



Main Menu: Canned chicken and dumplings, low sodium or no salt; canned green vegetable, low sodium or so salt; whole wheat flour; applesauce in plastic, no sugar added; powdered milk or shelf stable boxed milk or soy milk.

Additional Items: Kid Friendly Food! Peanut butter and real fruit jelly; macaroni and cheese, dried fruits.

Return the bag of groceries to the basket (narthex) or shopping cart (parish hall). Please - no glass containers or clothing. Thank you for your donations!

"FANTASTIC ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE!!"



That is what a vast majority of couples say after attending a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend**. Their greatest regret is that they didn't attend sooner! During the Weekend, couples are gently guided through a communication process that deepens their relationship and communication with each other. They

also renew and rekindle the sparks from when they were first married.

Isn't it time for new life for your marriage? Whether you've been married 3 years or over 50 years, you can rediscover the one you love on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend in a comfortable and private environment away from family, work, and other responsibilities.

The next St. Louis area Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is scheduled for November 11-13th at the Holiday Inn, South Lindbergh Blvd, in St. Louis. Be sure to apply for this exciting Weekend no later than October 12 to secure your hotel reservations and meals at a special rate! For more information, please contact Tom & Kathy Von Behren at 636-343-9453 or vonbeh@sbcglobal.net. Too shy to call for more information? Then check out the website at www.stlmarriage.com before you apply. Don't miss out on this great experience!

CONCORDIA SEMINARY LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE

Wednesdays, October 12th, 19th, and 26,
and November 2, 2011 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Concordia Seminary - Sieck Hall - Room 202

*"From Sea to Shining Sea: A Christian's Perspective
On America and Its Politics"*

While polite conversation carefully avoids discussions of religion or politics, both will be center stage as we explore the complexities of being Christian in America. There is much to consider: What's the proper relation and separation of "church and state?" Can any political party (Democrat, Republican, or Tea) claim a Christian mantle? How involved should a Christian be in the political system? Is America God's chosen nation? What does God really think of politics? These and many more pertinent questions will be answered using the dynamic and ever-relevant insights of Martin Luther and his heirs.

This workshop is being presented by Dr. Joel Biermann, professor 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.



ARTS FOR LIFE

Presents an original, faith-based
Musical Revue

Love, Lift Us Up

Telling the stories of the people from Joplin and North St. Louis who suffered the tornados earlier this year. All proceeds will go directly to the tornado victims, just in time for winter.

Saturday, October 22 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm and
Sunday, October 23 at 2:00 pm at

Bayless High School
4530 Weber Road, St. Louis MO 63123
All Tickets are \$20 General Admission
and T-Shirts are \$20

Purchase Tickets/T-Shirts online: www.artsforlife.org

For more information contact:
voice mail 314-795-2119, or email artsforlife@charter.net

If you cannot attend, please consider purchasing a T-Shirt or making a donation. Wear your T-Shirt to the event and qualify for door prizes.