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CELEBRATING THE 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth. So it is still today. The celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not a time for novelty. It is a time to return: to the truth, to the basics, to the foundation.

Do you remember the Small Catechism? Many of us were made to memorize the catechism (or at least part of it) during our Confirmation classes. Some of us might have even suffered through a public examination over its contents.

How much do you remember? Say it with me: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him...” Can you finish? Do you remember where that is found? (It’s in Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed.)

It’s time to return. Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the instruction of laypeople. Luther intended the Small Catechism to be used at church and in the home to instruct children in the faith and to reinforce the faith in the hearts and minds of adults.

There is no better time than in this year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to review the catechism. Read it for yourself. Refresh the theology in your mind. Pray the catechism daily. Memorize it.

But even more, teach it. If you are a parent, teach it to your children. As you have opportunity, share it with your friends and peers. The catechism teaches the fundamentals of the Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Office of the Keys and Confession. This small book is well worth your time and study.

May this celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation be a time when we return to the Word and Sacraments, when we turn to Christ and His love. It’s *still* all about Jesus. (This newsletter article was supplied by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod for use as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.)

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING OCTOBER 22nd

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd, following 9:00 am worship. All confirmed members, age 19 and older, are invited to attend and are eligible to become voting members. The Church Council will be meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7 pm.

BRAINERD ZONE LWML RALLY, OCTOBER 17th

All the women of St. John's Lutheran Church are invited to the Brainerd Zone LWML Rally at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Backus, MN on Tuesday, October 17th. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The featured speaker is the Rev. Terry Finnern from Alexandria, Minnesota, who will talk about the "The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation: A Journey of Life and Faith." The Ingathering will be non-perishable food times for the Pine River/Backus food shelf.

THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & SOCIAL HOUR

The Men's Bible Study & Social Hour has started up again on Wednesday mornings. It begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends promptly at 9:00 am. They are presently studying the book of Romans.

THE TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study has started again on October 4th with a study of the book of Acts. They meet Tuesday afternoons starting at 1:30 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship Hour is being held each Sunday morning following our service. Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments during this time. If you would like to serve your church in this way, please sign up on the sheet posted in the fellowship hall.



ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017 FROM 9 am – 2 pm

It's almost here! It's time to finish your projects so you can bring them to the church.

On Sunday, Oct 1st in the morning, Monday, Oct 2nd & Wednesday, October 4th between 8 am & 12 noon, and Friday, October 6th between 8 am and 3 pm:

Bring your **GRANDMA'S ATTIC** items. If you bring small appliances (like a toaster, coffeemaker, etc.) make sure they work. NO clothing, shoes, electronics or large appliances. We will price these for you. All items not sold will be donated to other organizations unless you pick them up by Sunday, Oct 8th;

Bring your finished projects for the **BAZAAR**.

On Friday, Oct 6th between 8 am and 3 pm.

Bring your fresh **garden** produce, canned tomato sauce, salsa, jams, jellies, pickled beets, etc.

Bring your cookies, cakes, pies, bread, rolls, bars, chex mix, fudge, etc. for the **BAKE SALE!**

Please have everything priced or at least give us an idea of their value. A price list is available at the church.

Come to help make some pies and bars.....or help set up the displays.

We need **YOUR** help – **Signup sheets** are in the entrance to the church – it really helps us plan better.

We will be having a demonstration of making lefse and apple fritters with those fresh goodies for sale at the bazaar. A **Lunch** choice of Chili or Chicken Wild Rice Soup with bread and a dessert will be served.

You can always help by being a customer at the Bazaar or by coming for a tasty lunch on the 7th!! **Proceeds go to the General Fund.** We hope you will consider helping in whatever way you can and

Let's have some fun!

NEWS FROM THE RUESCHES

OUR TOGETHER IN MISSION MISSIONARIES

In late August Pastor Ruesch shared the following in his newsletter:

WHO AM I?

During our summer travels in the U.S., we were asked a lot of questions about the people here in Puerto Rico. (To see some answers to other questions we've been asked, keep reading!) The people of Puerto Rico are passionate...loyal to family...musical...and mindful of their history. The history of the Puerto Rican people is an interesting one. The island was originally inhabited by the native Tainos, until the Spanish conquest and colonization of the island in the late 1400s and 1500s. Over the next several hundred years, slaves were brought to the island from Africa. Since 1898, Puerto Rico has been under the control of the United States. This means that Puerto Rican culture has a blend of Taino, Spanish, and African roots...with a distinct American influence that is missing in the other Caribbean islands.

These roots are important to the Puerto Rican people it influences everything from the food they eat to the music they like to the way they view the world around them. Even if you're not Puerto Rican, there are probably "roots" that you have that are meaningful. I'm descended from German, Swiss, and English immigrants. I have "roots" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and am proud to call myself a "Yooper." I'm a lifelong Lutheran...the grandson of an LCMS pastor on my mom's side and had more pastors on my dad's side of the family. These things are all important to how we talk about ourselves and how we learn to see the world where we live.

How we identify ourselves has become a core issue among us in the 21st century. Am I white, black, or brown? Am I a Democrat or a Republican? Am I pro-this or anti-that? Am I a millennial, a Gen-Xer, a "baby boomer" or something else? Is my identity something that I can choose if it's something that I don't come by naturally?

As Christians, we understand that our true identity doesn't come from our ancestors, our upbringing, or our decisions. We are who God has made us to be. In the water of Holy Baptism, joined to His Word, God has called us his own, dear children. Our true identity is found in that font, where everything that belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ is given to us. Paul writes in Romans 6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (6:3-5, ESV)

What is your identity? What has God said about you? He has called you His child (1 Jn. 3:1). He has called you a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20). He has called you an heir of His kingdom (Gal. 4:7). He has given you all of this in the font that makes you His child. That is who *you* are.

El Señor sea con ustedes, Pastor Ruesch

If you would like to give toward the support of the Ruesches by placing your offering in an envelope marked "Together in Mission."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Tanja Braden	October 01	James Quale	October 19
Alyssa Born	October 01	Gretchen Wold	October 20
Kimberly Charron	October 02	Kyle Wolf	October 22
Milan DeWitt	October 03	Lynette Fageroos	October 23
Tammy Packer	October 04	Linda Goonan	October 23
Kelli Parker	October 04	Betty Cooper	October 24
Colleen Smith	October 05	Jonathon Novotny	October 24
Jennifer Cooper	October 06	Spencer Packer	October 24
Gary Gray	October 07	Angie Bodeker	October 25
Keith Bartel	October 09	Nick Hasskamp	October 25
Bryce Haugly	October 09	Florence Landrus	October 25
Garrett Westerlund	October 10	Robert Landrus	October 25
Ruthanne Monse	October 11	Leonard Bauer	October 26
Debbie Schultz	October 11	Craig Lund	October 26
Janice Butler	October 12	Jamie Smith	October 26
Jeremy Robak	October 12	Allison Holmwig	October 27
Kendra Gruhlke	October 13	Daniel Bender	October 27
Hunter Miller	October 13	Andrea Gibbons	October 27
Emily Campbell	October 14	Christian Rom	October 28
Terry Dox	October 15	Jason Plekkenpol	October 28
Koreanna Armstrong	October 16	Taylor Wilke	October 31
Steven Banks	October 17	Karisa Glanz	October 31
Donald Weimer	October 17		
Julie Glanz	October 17		
Michael Lamke	October 18		
Brooke Miller	October 19		
Jessicca Monse	October 19		
Nicholas Parker	October 19		

*The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
324 3rd Street NW, Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-3170

October Ushers

Henry Torgerson
Charles Wikelius
Dennis Lamke
Nathan Rom
Richard Peterson

Deacon: Pat Scott

Communion Fillers

10/1: Sheryl Wold
10/15: Joy Janzen &
Linda Bakken

Communion Cleaners

10/1: Mary DeWitt &
Judy Isaak
10/15: Laura &
Merle Peterson

Altar Care:

Debbie Schultz