

He leads the
HUMBLE
in what is
right, and
teaches the
HUMBLE
his way.

PSALM 25:9



THE PILGRIM HERALD

October 2017

**PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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The Pilgrim Herald

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church LC-MS
462 Meadowbrook Drive, West Bend, WI 53090

October 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR FISHER

Romans 4:3-5 ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank God for all your prayers, cards, and gift during my continued recovery, your continued support of me and my family is truly a great blessing from God in my life. October is upon us and this October marks the Five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. All Lutherans are familiar with the basic story of an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailing the Ninety-Five Theses to the castle church door in Wittenberg. But what would cause a little-known pastor and university professor not only to post his theses for a church discussion and dig his heels in to willingly stand and confess before Emperor Charles V? Why was there such a fuss over these theses and not over the ninety-seven theses he posted weeks earlier—September 1517—where he hoped to reform the method of scholarly thought and study of theology?

For Luther, the main concern was always Pastoral care. On the very day that Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses—October 31, 1517—he also wrote a letter to Cardinal Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz. Luther’s words unveiled a pastoral concern, as he had been pastor of St. Mary’s congregation since 1515. Instead of gaining the forgiveness of sins by the purchase of an indulgence paper, Luther argued that only the Gospel of Christ forgives sin. Evi-

dently the poor souls believe that when they have bought indulgence letters they are then assured of their salvation. They are likewise convinced that souls escape from purgatory as soon as they have placed a contribution into the chest. Further, they assume that the grace obtained through these indulgences is so completely effective that there is no sin of such magnitude that it cannot be forgiven. (Luther’s Works 48:46)

And then, Luther states the proper way: The first and only duty of the bishops, however, is to see that the people learn the gospel and the love of Christ. For on no occasion has Christ ordered that indulgences should be preached, but he forcefully commanded the gospel to be preached. (Luther’s Works 48:47) Twenty years later, in 1537, John Frederick, Elector of Saxony, commissioned Luther to prepare articles as a clear confession of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. It is here that Luther writes, as he states, the “first and chief article”: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:24–25). He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all (Isaiah 53:6). All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works or merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood (Romans 3:23–25). (Smalcald Articles, Part II, paragraphs 1–3). And then, Luther writes: Upon this article, everything that we teach and practice depends, in opposition to the pope, the devil, and the whole world. Therefore, we must be certain and not doubt this doctrine. (Smalcald Articles, Part II, paragraph 5)

Luther’s letter to Albrecht, at its core shows the pastoral concerns for both his congregation and for the Church at large. Luther began his pastorate in 1515, while his service as professor at the University of Wittenberg began in 1508/1509. His care for souls, namely, the preaching of Christ as the only Savior from sin,

was the reason for his letter to Albrecht. He also attached a copy of the Ninety-Five Theses to it, but it was not the main reason for his letter. This letter reveals Luther's pastoral concern for right preaching, namely, that salvation or justification comes wholly from God and becomes man's wholly by reception. The Scriptures do not require man to pay any kind of penalty, in part or whole. God's sheep only trust God alone to justify (cf. Romans 4:5).

The root of Luther's concern is for the conscience of the believer. But just as justification would be uncertain if it depended upon the condition of our works or the law and were not freely received on account of Christ through mercy, so also hope would truly be uncertain if it depended upon our works, because the law always accuses consciences. Nor can consciences find peace, unless they grasp mercy by faith. Nor can the hope of eternal life exist unless the conscience obtains peace. For a doubting conscience flees the judgment of God and despairs. (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, p. 167 in K-W) "A troubled conscience does not need moral instruction or lessons in Christian ethics but the forgiveness of sins" (John T. Pless, Martin Luther: Preacher of the Cross [St. Louis: Concordia, 2013], p. 48).

God bless,
Rev. Joseph M. Fisher
Heb. 12:1-2



**Board of Elders Meeting Minutes, Pilgrim
Ev. Lutheran Church
9/5/2017**

The meeting began with prayer by Pr. Raffa at 6:31. Present at the meeting were Pr. Raffa, Dennis, Dave, Ron, Tanner, Howie, Brian, and John. Absent were Pr. Fisher and Gary.

Schedules were made through October 8th. The worship schedule for the Christmas season was considered. We tentatively settle on 9, 6, and 10 o'clock services on Christmas Eve (a Sunday) and 9 on Christmas Day. New Years Eve (Sunday) will have services at 9 and 6. New Years Day service will be at 9.

The website is progressing in development. The matter of live-streaming services was discussed. Possible costs for internet service will be determined for consideration of the trustees. Howie has requested to be released from his service as an elder owing to personal matters requiring his attention. The board accepted and thanks him and the Lord for his years of faithful service.

The processional cross was discussed in detail. (Note: all discussion is hypothetical. The congregation will decide at a voters' meeting whether to use a processional cross in the future) A suitable cross has already been donated by a member of his own means. Pr. Raffa discussed the proper form to a procession, where congregants turn to face the cross as it is processed up the nave to rest next to the pulpit. Such a ceremony would be held for holidays and confirmation services, as has been the case historically in the Lutheran Church. Such a ceremony also takes place during the entrance hymn, meaning the time added to any service would be the length of this hymn and no more. The elders note that the congregation must be educated as to the value and history of such things, as we acknowledge that for some the ceremony seems inappropriate. We encourage any with concerns to speak with their elder

or a pastor. This matter will be discussed at a future voters' meeting after ample time has been given the congregation to consider the matter. Attempts made by the pastors to coordinate an event to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation have not been successful. Pr. Raffa will make another attempt with fellow congregations.

Questions were considered regarding a church choir. At the moment, no member is available, willing, and talented enough to lead such. Matters relating to organists were briefly noted. The board of elders heartily approves seeing both of our pastors paid appropriately. We favor a raise in pay for Pr. Raffa to bring his salary into proportion with Pr. Fisher's for years of service. The directory is progressing. A set of communication delays has hindered progress so far, but progress is forthcoming.

The bible study and Sunday school signage on the northeast side of the church is being replaced by a member at their convenience. Elder contacts with members were shared. The elders discussed the possibility of any other parishioners serving as cantor. In the absence of the current cantor, the pastors are willing and capable of service, so the need is not of any significance.

The elders ask the trustees to consider addressing the dead ash trees on our property. The elders pray for the recovery of Pr. Fisher, who is recovering well at present. We expect 11-13 youth in catechesis this year with 1-3 8th graders preparing for confirmation. Our book study was postponed owing to the time.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Pastor Raffa at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,
Tanner Schmidt

TRANSFERS OUT:

We wish well at their new Church homes;

David & Verlaine Gronowski who have transferred to Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro N.C., and Gloria Dengel who transferred to St. John's Lutheran in West Bend.



Sympathy and Prayers to Jim and Suzanne Stadelmayer on the loss of Jim's Mom, Beverly Stadelmayer. Also to Brian & Angie Skrentny and family on the loss of Brian's Dad, David Skrentny.

Sympathy and Prayer to Nancy Scherer on the loss of her husband, Don. Don was called home to his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.



We all were happy to meet again in September after a 2 month break. We enjoyed lunch together and especially Jane Rockrohr's "Singing Bible Study". LWML members donated items to be taken to the Green Lake Fall Retreat which will then be given to Bethesda.

Our Zone 7 Rally will be held at St. Paul's Cascade on Saturday, October 14. Registration begins at 8:30 am. followed by a light breakfast at 9:00 am. Chari Peri of Angel Hugs will be the speaker. All ladies of the congregation may attend.

The items needed for the Ingather are POST-AGE STAMPS, BIRTHDAY and CHRISTMAS WRAP, which can be dropped off in the office by Thursday, October 12.

Our next meeting in Tuesday, October 17. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



The 2017-2018 Sunday School year began Sunday, September 10th. During music time we sang several hymns and familiar Sunday School songs. This was followed by our classroom activities where we are studying Old Testament Bible Stories – God Works through Prophets and Kings.

Our teachers and assistants this year are:

Early Childhood (3& 4 year olds) and Kindergarten:

Mrs. Diane Swanson (Sunday School Supt.)
and Ms. Lauren Oppermann

First and Second Grade:

Ms. Ginny Schober

Third and Fourth Grade:

Mrs. Nancy Rosenthal

Fifth and Sixth Grade:

Pastor Raffa

Seventh and Eighth Grade:

Mr. Paul Grosskreuz

During October our stories will include:

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-46),
Elijah is Taken to Heaven (2 Kings 2:1-15),
Naaman and Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-4), *Jonah* (Book of Jonah), and *Hezekiah Prays* (2 Kings 18-19).

If your child/children are not currently attending Sunday School please know that they are welcome at any time. Registration forms are available.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD PANTRY ARE:

Paper towels, Pasta Sauce and Noodles, Peanut Butter, Jams/Jellies (No Grape Please), Coffee, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softener,

Our Greatest and most needed item is Toilet paper. We cannot keep it on the shelves.

Thank you for supporting this Pilgrim mission.

SILENT AUCTION NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who donated, bid on items and bought raffle tickets.

There are some items that did not get bid on, please check out the back hallway by the fellowship hall to see if any of these items are yours.

If these items are not picked up by Sunday, October 8, they will be donated to the Bethesda Resale center.

The winners of the big raffles items were:

Kewaskum Floral Basket - Norma Benz

The 32" Television - Dan Shay

The Packer Football package - Rev. Fisher

The Jelly Belly Basket - Janice Voelzke

The Door County Coffee Basket - Sami Spalda

This will be the last Silent Auction .

The 2017 Silent Auction raised \$1363.00 for the Church.

Again thank you to everyone who participated. Especially to Norma Benz and Sarah Spalda for all their hard work in putting this together,

IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and

reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Note: After much consideration, we have decided to add a page in the newsletter that lists all of those struggling with health issues. (Not published on the website). Each month we will also have various petitions that you can pray at home for various needs all people in Christ, and especially those within our immediate church family here at Pilgrim. In the bulletin we will list those sick and infirm on the basis of need and emergency. In the event that you would like to have your name or your loved one's name removed from the prayer list, please let us know.



- 1- Robert Selzler
Suzy Schober
Linda Mejchar
- 2- Jamie Mulvey
- 3- Tom Benz
Shaun Olson
Michael Schwittau
Jenny Vickerman
Daniel Virchow
Sadie Stoecker
- 5- Robert Baerenwald
Jim Stadelmayer
J.R. Mulvey
Abby Mulvey
- 6- David Fellenz
Jerry Sullivan
Becky Ruppier
- 7- Kevin Smith
- 8- Michael Loomans
Susan Kleinke
Megan Ringgenberg
Kevin Hoffman
Carolyn McAfee
- 9- Marge Legate
Nicole Kabitzke
Andrew Tinlin
- 11- Barbara Jennrich
Kristin Thimmig
- 12- Matthew Klumb
Kassandra Franke
Jayden Rauch
Jayden Guillaume
- 15- Kyle Knollenberg
Kaitlyn Loomans
Lauren Oppermann
Dan Schulz
- 16- Betty Fezatt
Susan Gabor

- 17- Austin Weber
- 18- Becky Woelfel
- 19- Eileen Mueller
- 21- Rebecca Hodge
Roger Kossert
Ruth Kohler
- 22- Mark Schauland
Joseph Heger
Cara Schmidt
- 23- Elaine Kuenzel
Barbara Soat
- 24- Beth Gatzow
- 25- Dorothy Kroll
- 26- Aspen Westphal
Jami Held
- 27- Landon Kirkland
- 28- Janette Mullins
- 29- Nancy Torre
- 30- Karri Johnson



- 1- Glen & Vicky Schnabel
Jeff & Karri Johnson
- 2- Neal & Evelyn Schleif
- 3- Scott & Wendy Franke
- 5- Dennis & Susan Kleinke
- 8- Richard & Karen Spiering
- 10- Jody & Paula Merkel
- 13- Richard & Caryn Lewandowski
- 14- David & Evelyn Carey
- 17- John & Carol Heger
- 18- Mark & Nancy Rosenthal
- 23- Mark & Mary Schauland
- 26- Patrick & Connie Gliniecki
- 27- Orville & Janey Heckendorf
- 28- Terry & Bonnie Mowery
Corey & Abby Janssen
- 29 - Ed & Nancy Kleinke
- 30- David & Beth Brehm

DAILY LECTIONARY

This outline is a devotional reading plan that covers the entire Sacred Scriptures each year. The selections are based on ancient models and are generally in harmony with the liturgical church year. The average reading is three chapters daily. The lectionary is in accordance with Martin Luther's suggestions: "But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided in lections, let this be "Preserved in the ears of the church". Also: "after that another book should be selected, and so on, until the entire Bible has been read through, and where one does not understand it, pass that by and glorify God."

OCTOBER'S READINGS

- Oct. 1** Jonah 2: 2-9
Jeremiah 32-34
- Oct. 2** Psalm 114
Jeremiah 35-37
- Oct. 3** Psalm 115
Jeremiah 38-40
- Oct. 4** Psalm 116
Jeremiah 41-43
- Oct. 5** Psalm 117
Jeremiah 44-47
- Oct. 6** Psalm 118
Jeremiah 48-50
- Oct. 7** Psalm 119: 1-8
Jeremiah 51-52
- Oct. 8** Psalm 119: 9-16
Lamentations 1-2
- Oct. 9** Psalm 119: 17-24
Lamentations 3-5
- Oct. 10** Psalm 119: 25-32
Ezekiel 1-3
- Oct. 11** Psalm 119: 33-40
Ezekiel 4-6
- Oct. 12** Psalm 119: 41-48
Ezekiel 7-9
- Oct. 13** Psalm 119: 49-56
Ezekiel 10-12
- Oct. 14** Psalm 119: 57-64
Ezekiel 13-15
- Oct. 15** Psalm 119: 65-72
Ezekiel 16-18
- Oct. 16** Psalm 119: 73-80
Ezekiel 19-21
- Oct. 17** Psalm 119: 81-88
Ezekiel 22-24
- Oct. 18** Psalm 119: 89-96
Ezekiel 25-27
- Oct. 19** Psalm 119: 97-104
Ezekiel 28-30
- Oct. 20** Psalm 119: 105-112
Ezekiel 31-33
- Oct. 21** Psalm 119: 113-120
Ezekiel 34-36
- Oct. 22** Psalm 119: 121-128
Ezekiel 37-39
- Oct. 23** Psalm 119: 129-136
Ezekiel 40-42
- Oct. 24** Psalm 119: 137-144
Ezekiel 43-45
- Oct. 25** Psalm 119: 145-152
Ezekiel 46-48
- Oct. 26** Psalm 119: 153-160
Daniel 1-3
- Oct. 27** Psalm 119: 161-168
Daniel 4-6
- Oct. 28** Psalm 119: 169-176
Daniel 7-9
- Oct. 29** Psalm 120
Daniel 10-12
- Oct. 30** Psalm 121
Hosea 1-4
- Oct. 31** Jonah 2: 2-9
Hosea 5-7

Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Missouri

Have you ever considered becoming a pastor or deaconess? If so, Rev. Bill Wrede from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis would like to meet with you at Concordia University 12800 N. Lakeshore Dr. Mequon WI 53097. on Monday, October 16 or Tuesday October 17 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. in the Alumni Heritage Room.

On Tuesday October 17 at St. Paul Lutheran Church 701 Washington Street, Grafton WI 53024 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Rev. Wrede is interested in meeting with prospective students of all ages— elementary school age through adults. Appointments are individual, informal and family/friends are welcome to come with you. Appointments are not necessary but encouraged. If you are interested in scheduling a specific time, please contact Rev. Wrede at 314-505-7221 or wredew@csl.edu.

WE Energies

You can call WE Energies at 1-800-242-9137 to request a Winterizing Kit for your home for free!! While you are calling them you can also request a WE Energies Cookie Book to be sent to your house.



Fall Work Weekend 2017

Work weekends are some of the most important weekends of the year for LuWiSoMo. Many volunteers are needed to help with a wide variety of projects during these busy weekends. This year we were blessed to have an extremely busy summer in the campground. This means that we are in desperate need of volunteers to help cut, split, and stack firewood as we are almost out. Youth groups are highly encouraged to join us, as they are a GREAT help in moving and stacking wood.

Those that have been involved in the past, we can never thank you enough, and those considering volunteering for the first time, we welcome your assistance. All volunteers will have the opportunity to enjoy God's wonderful creation, the fellowship of working side by side with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

Lodging will be provided on Friday and/or Saturday (if needed), meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Please prayerfully consider supporting the LuWiSoMo outdoor ministry through service. You are welcome to come for a day or the whole weekend.

The project list is constantly being updated and there are always maintenance projects to be completed. We would like to have as many peo-

Reformation milestone: celebration and repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

Women of the Reformation

Although the names most often associated with the Reformation are male, women also played key roles in maintaining the integrity of the church. “Most were wives and mothers,” professor Justin Holcomb writes. “Some were also authors, apologists, ex-nuns and queens. All were faithful servants of Jesus.”

Women who made notable contributions include:

- Katherine von Bora, the former nun who married former-priest Martin Luther
- Argula von Grumbach, a Bavarian noblewoman who published letters and debated with university faculty
- Olympia Fulvia Morata, an Italian scholar who lectured on the teachings of Luther and Calvin — and was persecuted and imprisoned
- Jeanne d’Albret, queen of Navarre and a leader in France’s Huguenot movement, who tried to peacefully resolve tensions between Catholics and Protestants
- Marie Dentière, an aristocrat who left an Augustinian monastery to speak in public — even on street corners! — about church reform

Voices of the Reformation

“There is not — nor can there be! — any reason for tearing oneself away from the church in schism. Rather, the worse things become, the more one should help her and stand by her, for by schism and contempt nothing can be mended.”

—Martin Luther, German pastor whose “95 Theses” sparked the Protestant Reformation

Our confidence in Christ does not make us lazy, negligent or careless, but on the contrary it awakens us, urges us on and makes us active in living righteous lives and doing good. There is no self-confidence to compare with this.”
—Ulrich Zwingli, Swiss leader of early Reformation movements

A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God’s truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.”
—John Calvin, French reformer who fled to Switzerland; father of the Presbyterian Church

You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.”
—John Knox, a staunch follower of Calvin who brought Presbyterianism to Scotland



When Jesus Christ utters a word, he opens his mouth so wide that it embraces all heaven and earth, even though that word be but in a whisper. The word of the emperor is powerful, but that of Jesus Christ governs the whole universe.
—Martin Luther, Table Talk

Appreciate — and act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God’s work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church’s ministry. “They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle,” Barna writes. “They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers.”

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. “They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands,” Barna notes, “nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces.”

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!

Thank you Pastor Fisher and Pastor Raffa for your faithful service to Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church.



Sign of grace

Make this sign to hang on your wall as a daily reminder of God's amazing gift of grace.

What you need:

- White poster board
- Large wooden letters that spell GRACE
- Painter's tape
- Tempura paint
- Paper plates
- Paintbrushes
- Colored pens or markers

What you do:

1. Place the poster board on the ground (outside, if possible).
2. Put tape on the back of the letters and secure them to the board. No tape should be visible.
3. Paint and draw all over the poster board. Be creative with splatters, handprints and so on.
4. When paint is dry, remove the letters and hang up the poster.



The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.



" _____ the _____ was _____
 through _____ ; _____ and
 _____ came _____
 _____."
 _____ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV