



# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017



St. John's Lutheran Church  
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He remembers His **Testament** forever  
the **Word** he appointed for a thousand generations.  
Psalm 105:8(JP)

Rev. Thomas Cowell  
Pastor  
Phone: 515-924-3388

‘Telling the good News about Jesus-In Burt, Iowa, and the World’



Dear Christians at St. John's Lutheran Church,

Surely you have heard by now that we are quickly approaching the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. We Lutherans know what Reformation Day is all about. However, it is important to remember that most people are not familiar with the basics of Lutheranism or why we celebrate Reformation Day. This article is meant to help you talk about the Reformation to your non-Lutheran friends.

Maybe you've heard a non-Christian friend say this before: "You Lutherans worship Martin Luther, right?" Jesus, Lutherans, and Martin Luther himself would be among the first to oppose this statement! Luther tried his best to dissuade people from calling themselves "Lutheran." But seeing that the title was going to stick, he offered this advice:

By any consideration of body or soul you should never say: I am Lutheran, or Papist. For neither of them died for you, or is your master. Christ alone died for you, he alone is your master, and you should confess yourself a Christian. But if you are convinced that Luther's teaching is in accord with the gospel and that the pope's is not, then you should not discard Luther so completely, lest with him you discard also his teaching, which you nevertheless recognize as Christ's teaching. You should rather say: Whether Luther is a rascal or a saint I do not care; his teaching is not his, but Christ's. [AE 36:265]

We call ourselves "Lutheran" as a way of confessing that we are Christians who believe that we cannot be justified before God by our own strength but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith.

Or surely you have been scolded by a non-Lutheran Christian for celebrating an event which "divided the church." This too is a misguided view of the Reformation. Although serious and dangerous false teachings among other groups of Christians require us Lutherans to separate ourselves from them, we continue to confess with Luther that the true Church does not consist of denominations, but of people who fear, trust, and love God:

For, thank God, today a child seven years old knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd. For the children pray thus: I believe in one holy Christian Church. This holiness does not consist in albs, tonsures, long gowns, and other of their ceremonies devised by them beyond Holy Scripture, but in the Word of God and true faith. [Martin Luther, Smalcald Articles, 3.12.2-3]

Maybe you have even heard a Lutheran mutter: "I don't know why we're celebrating a holiday that's not in the Bible." However, the Reformation is everywhere in Scripture.

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When Luther heard in 1530 that the Lutherans were finally able to confess their faith through the Augsburg Confession to Emperor Charles V he wrote:

I am tremendously pleased to have lived to this moment when Christ, by his staunch confessors, has publicly been proclaimed in such a great assembly by means of this really most beautiful confession. And so the word is fulfilled: "I spoke of your testimonies in the presence of kings [Ps. 119:46a]." What follows will also be fulfilled: "And I was not put to shame [Ps. 119:46b]." For "whoever will confess me before men, him I also shall confess before my Father who is in heaven [Mt. 10:32]." [AE 49:354-355]

So then Reformation day is entirely a Biblical holiday. It is a holiday which commemorates the steadfast faith of those saints who, in following Scripture alone, boldly confessed Christ alone in the midst of violent persecution. Reformation Day is also a day for us to examine our own Christian lives of repentance and faith, suffering and prayer, and reorientation toward Christ who is our only lord and savior.

Therefore on October 31, and every day of the year, celebrate Lutheranism and the Reformation with boldness and joy. As you celebrate, be prepared to confess your Lutheran faith clearly to a world which is unfamiliar and often hostile to our message. In doing so we give Christ alone all the glory.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Thomas Cowell  
Festival of the Reformation, 2017



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1- Isaac Mino  
2- Helen Smith  
3- Pastor Thomas Cowell  
3- Elyssa Marlow  
4- Dorothy Jahnke  
4- David Kerkove  
5- Christian Haase  
9- Renee Feuring  
9- Floyd Lavrenz  
9- Ron Parsons  
11- Ann Heyes  
11- Lyle Karels  
13- Roger Lavrenz  
13- Glen Schuller  
17- Jackson Hutchinson  
17- Jeff Madsen  
17- McKensie VanVoorst  
18- Spencer Faber  
27- Diane Riles  
28- Gerald Thompson  
29- Cheryl Batt  
30- Duane Heyes

### Religion School and Sunday School Students/Parents

A meeting has been scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the Board of Education and Pastor Cowell about the Christian Education of your children. Mark your calendars and be sure attend! Rally Sunday will be September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5 – Michael Marlow  
6 – Jace Alt  
6 - Ivy Rose Helmers  
7 – Mike Melick  
9 – Angela McFarland  
10 – Lee Huber  
12 – Kaitlyn Bierstedt  
16 - Christopher Faber  
18 – Bob Simmons  
19 – Jeffrey Riles  
21 – Alexandria Bierstedt  
21 – Jon Kruse  
23 – Corey Culbertson  
23 – Karen Karels  
23 – Staci Thompson  
24 – Rod Eimers  
28 – Marilyn Evans  
30 – Don Madsen

### Transfer Out

**Ellen Hutchinson**  
**Children: Jackson-B, Hayden-B,**  
**Addy-B, Emma-B**  
**To St. John's Lutheran, Fenton, Iowa**  
**July 5, 2017**

### FUNERAL

**Marjorie Lavrenz**  
March 13, 1922 – August 21, 2017  
Services held August 26, 2017 With Rev.  
Mark Lavrenz officiating.  
Burial at Burt Township Cemetery.

## **Kids of the Kingdom Preschool**

Preschool for the 2016-2017 school year will start September 5 with our regular sessions on Tues.-Thurs. Jessie Parsons is our teacher and we are still accepting registrations. Contact the church office or Jessie. Once again we want to say a big **thank you** to our members for stepping up and helping us with the 'Cobbler and Ice Cream Social'. It was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without your help.

### **Pre School Soup Dinner**

What: Soup Dinner

When: Sunday, October 15th, 11:00 - 1:00

Free will donation.

Once again serving chili and chicken noodle and potato soup. Please come and support your preschool and get warmed by our wonderful soup. Bring your containers for carry outs if you aren't able to stay after church. See you there.

## **Bake Sale - October 29**

Kids of the Kingdom Preschool will once again be having a bake sale along with the Burt Lions Club Omelet Breakfast, on October 29. We are grateful for any donated baked goods to sell and we encourage you to come check out our goodies after you've had your omelet. Freewill donation.

### **LWML**

St. John's LWML enjoyed our Ladies Day Out, meeting at 12:30 on July 6, at Wrangling Grace Cafe in Bancroft. Four members and Ruth Nerum joined us. Guests were Pastor Cowell, Hannah and Penny, Mary Schmidt and Rosann Shipler.

Lavonne Boderius joined us in the afternoon at Ruth's Apartment at Stonebridge.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Caradene Parsons  
Secretary