



ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, www.spvc.org

October 2017

1517 - 2017 Reformation 500

On October 31, 1517, in Wittenberg, Germany, Martin Luther posted his thoughts about some theological topics and the practices of the Church. That simple action began the Reformation — a movement that changed Western society.

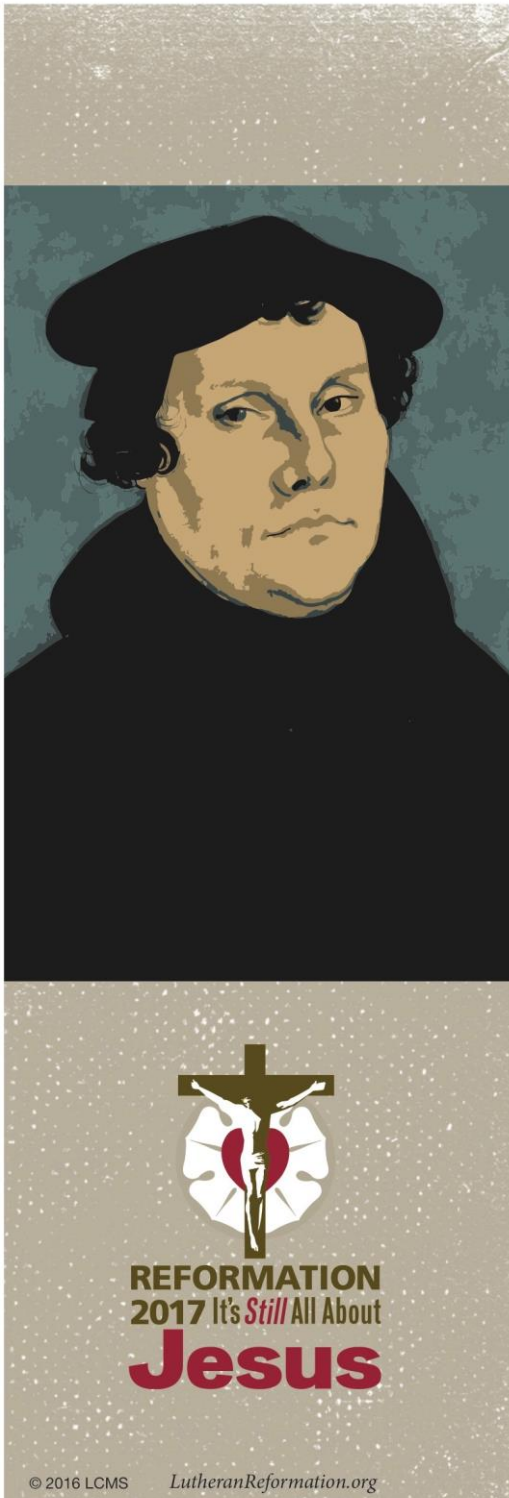
One man stood against the corruption of the establishment. Luther's fight was, of course, one of theology. But it was still one man, a monk, against the massive Holy Roman Empire. Luther was threatened, exiled, condemned and labeled a heretic. But his teaching grew in popularity throughout his life.

Those who follow Luther's teachings number in the millions. Most Protestant churches today trace their lineage, in some part, to the teachings of Luther. The German language exists as it does today in large part due to Luther's translation of the New Testament.

Luther's writings on the freedom of the Christian to serve the government, and the role of the government to establish justice and to protect citizens, have greatly influenced our view of authority. Though he was a theologian, Luther wrote and thought about all of life. He was concerned for the children in his town. He was involved in the politics of his day. He was an academic. He was a family man. He was a revolutionary. He was involved in the lives of the poor and the common man.

Yet this Reformation anniversary is not a celebration of Luther. Even the Lutheran church does not celebrate Luther. Lutheran does not mean a follower of Luther, but of his theological teachings.

Luther and the other Reformation theologians believed that all mankind is sinful, that everyone is guilty of error in God's sight. They also believed that God will punish those who do what He forbids. The problem



is not only that everyone sins, but that mankind's sinful condition means there is no way to do enough good things to earn God's love.

The Reformation proclaimed that the solution to the problem is not in man, but in God. Luther and his followers taught that the Bible teaches salvation by God's grace, through faith, because of Jesus. The message of the Reformation is that the Scriptures teach that God has grace on sinners. He gives forgiveness freely to all who believe in Him. This forgiveness is given through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. All who believe in Jesus as their Savior receive forgiveness and eternal life. All of this is a free gift from a loving God.

Luther's teaching, and that of the Reformation, is often summarized in three "solas." Sola gratia, sola fide and sola scriptura — by faith alone, by grace alone and by Scripture alone. The key to Reformation theology is found in God's love for people.

By grace alone means that God gives His love freely. People can't earn God's love. People can't earn forgiveness. God's love is not gained by human efforts, but given freely by God's grace.

By faith alone means that those who believe in Jesus as God's Savior for all of mankind receive forgiveness and eternal life. Faith is something God gives to people through His Holy Spirit, working in the Word of God and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. People do nothing to earn God's love, but receive it by grace through faith.

By Scripture alone means that God has revealed His truth through the Holy Bible. Scripture is the one trustworthy source for the truth about God. The Scriptures are properly read in light of Jesus as the Son of God in the flesh. The Bible teaches that His death and resurrection is the key event in all of history, because there, Jesus died to gain the forgiveness of everyone's sins. This does not mean that Christians should only read the Bible. Sola scriptura means that the Bible is the only trustworthy source for doctrine and life.

The three solas, by grace alone, by faith alone and by Scripture alone, are all summarized in one more phrase from the Reformation, solus Christus — through Christ alone.

This is really the focus of the Reformation. God's grace, our faith and the Scriptures are all focused on Jesus Christ. The Reformation moved the focus from the Church to Jesus. Luther and the reformers taught that Jesus is how God relates to us and how we relate to Him. The reformers taught that Jesus is our salvation, that Jesus is the way that God loves.

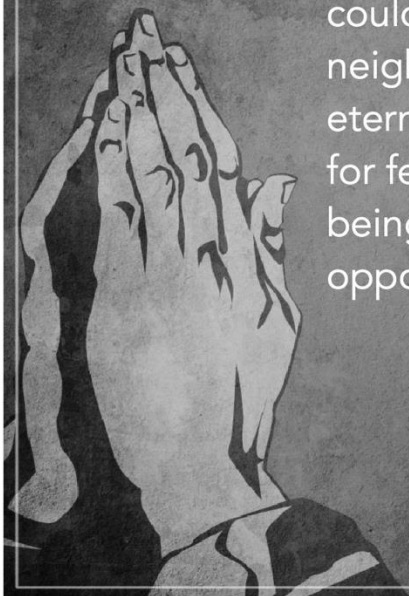
When Martin Luther understood Jesus as the center of all of Scripture and man's relationship to God, he saw everything in light of this relationship between God and man. This moved him to teach about the Christian's role in society, the role of the government, and how individual Christians live out their faith.

Luther cared for the people in his town and worked to provide materials for them, writing the *Small Catechism* to teach the basics of the faith, and translating the Bible into German so that everyone could read the Word of God.

Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany, 500 years ago. Much has changed since then. Many things we encounter daily were influenced by the Reformation. The heart of the Reformation was theology. It was a return to God as the source of mankind's salvation. It was a focus on God's love. 500 years later, Lutherans still teach this theology, and rejoice in God's love.

Let's celebrate the freedom of the Gospel on Sunday, October 29! Look for other celebrations around Cleveland.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK



Have you ever wondered what we at St. Paul could be doing for the surrounding neighborhoods and communities that would eternally benefit their lives? Come and join us for fellowship, stories about how God's work is being done through people like you, and an opportunity for prayer.

October 7th
3pm Mission Presentation
4:30pm Prayer Walk
5:30pm Dinner at Saint Paul

Neighborhood Prayer Walk & Mission Presentation Saturday, October 7, 3pm

Who are the people in your neighborhood? How can you pray for them? What could St. Paul be doing for our neighborhoods and communities that would eternally benefit their lives?

Come hear Jim and Cheryl Brockman talk about mission work and how reaching out with the Gospel has strengthened their faith and helped their neighbor. Then, venture out on a prayer walk while distributing door-hangers. It's a great opportunity to see the needs of the people around us and pray for our neighbors. Finally, dinner and fellowship back at church. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about how you are called to be a witness to God's infinite mercy through Jesus Christ and to exercise that wonderful gift. Event sponsored by grants from Thrivent and the Ohio District. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Neighborhood Prayer Walk and Mission Presentation
Saturday, October 7
3:00pm – Presentation
4:30pm – Prayer Walk
5:30pm – Dinner at St. Paul



Thank you to everyone who rented tables for the **Flea Market**, all those who attended and all those who baked for the bake sale. Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Bonfire**. Thanks to the Youth Group for supplying food and corn hole, to Colleen Kato for supervising their projects, to Vicar Buvinghausen for the entertainment, to Pastor Zielinski for the devotions and to the LWML group for the fire and cider.

Mark your calendar, **The Christmas Tea will be Sunday, December 3 at 3:00pm**. Betty Barlow and Kristen Nagy will be telling us about services available from The Oaks. Watch for more details to follow.

The next LWML meeting will be October 3 at 10:00 am. All women are invited to attend.

LWML Lorain- Medina Zone

Meeting, November 18th, 10:00am at Shepherd of the Ridge.



Women's Retreat

Featuring:

Rev. Dr. David Buegler, St. Paul, Westlake
"Luther's Light Shining in the Darkness" and "Here I Stand"

Worship led by:

Rev. Paul Pater, Hope Lutheran, Sheffield Village &
Shepherd of the Ridge, North Ridgeville

Includes a service project to make cards for soldiers
Skits, songs, and fellowship for a day of learning and fun!

\$5 Registration, includes lunch

Register by October 1 at www.spvc.org or call 440.212.5440

October 14, 2017
9am - 2:30pm

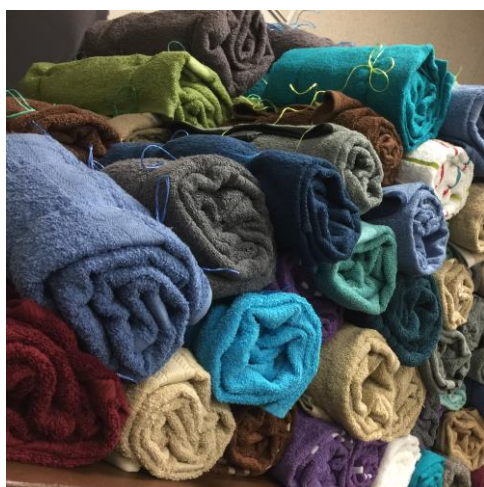
Faith Lutheran Church
2265 Garden Drive
Avon, Ohio 44011



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®



Thank you to everyone who helped in some way, shape, or form with the much-needed disaster relief efforts these past few months. For all who donated money, materials, time, and effort, thank you so much. Your work has been a blessing in both caring for those affected in a material way, but also in a spiritual way. Reflecting the love of Christ to those hurting during times like these is what Christians do. We serve the God who created both body and soul, and as His people we care for both, especially in troubling times. Thank you for your generosity, your hard work, and your prayers. To God be all glory!



28 Flood Buckets

510 Hygiene Kits

\$3000+ in donations

Thanks be to God!

TRUSTEES

October pretty much brings summer to a close and yet we still may be cutting the lawns. For those who wish to provide winter wreaths in the cemetery, please wait until November 1st before placing them on the graves of your loved ones.

Thanks to all the members who have helped keep our church clean and safe. To many of you who have taken out the trash, picked up litter, done some extra cleaning, or helped on some maintenance projects, we thank you.

The Trustees continue to work on maintaining all aspects of the church and property. If you notice anything that needs attention, please contact one of the Trustees or drop a note in the Trustee mailbox. Thank you.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has started back up again! Thank you, Parents, for faithfully bringing your child/children to Sunday School each week. All children are welcome, bring a friend to Sunday School!

Sunday School is at 9:15 am, Sunday mornings.

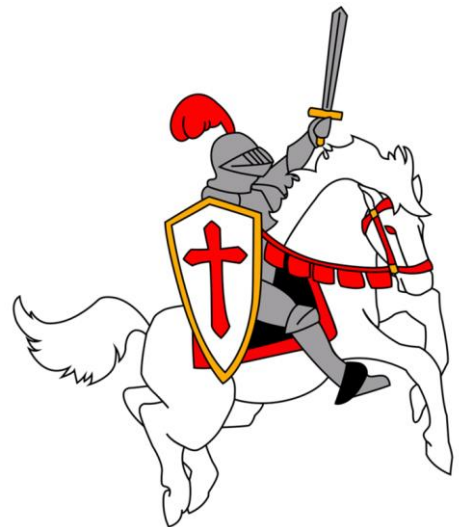
LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST BAND VISITS ST. PAUL

Mr. Brian Pollatz and the student musicians from Lutheran High School Northwest, Rochester Hills, Michigan, are returning to St. Paul! Four and eight years ago St. Paul played host to wonderful music and terrific kids as the band toured through Cleveland. Join us for a night of music as part of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

Saturday, November 11

(time TBA)

Watch for sign-ups in the Welcome Center!



October 2017

Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dean & Heather Zimmerman # 11 Bill Benns	Dave Scaife	Tim & Shelly Blaine # 19	Adam & Ashley Read # 3 Aaron Bores Cheryl Dearth	Tim Keller Harrison Knopf Paula Pietch Marlene Shook	Richard & Ann Olee # 59 Yurledis Zielinski	Jim & Anita Praisler # 22 Evelyn Balliet Betsy Wilson
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Trinity Barajas Tom Keller Billy Schnurr	Matthan & Molly Hibler # 13 Jim & Jeanette Rafter # 24 Dennis Balliet Colleen Kato Chris Ruhrkraut	Philipp Weintz Lauren Zacharias	Marge Demboski	David & Tracy Gigliotti # 29 Gabriella Read Sandy Turner	Joyce Haury Ryan Keller	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Wilma Hoermann Kyle Keller Carter Luthy	Brian & Cheryl Dearth # 30 Julia Baker David Fischer	Owen Hawke Delaney Herbert	Rick & Michele Gatt # 26	Hailey Murawski	Lauren Blaseg Jim Praisler
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Terri Giese Curt Hawke	Scott & Joann Wiesemann # 35 Brooke Barajas		Jessica Ehrman	Dennis Goodhart III	Walter & Magdalena Dill # 55 Izsac Metzger Scott Schuster	Jerry Weigel
29 Garrett Beck Gabrielle LaChance Kim Schultz	30	31 David Carlson				

October 2017

Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	2 6p Confirmation 6p Handbell Rehearsal	3 LWML Meeting 10:00a	4 Bible Study 10am	5 7p Choir Rehearsal	6	7 3pm Mission Presentation 4:30 Prayer Walk 5:30 Dinner
8 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15a SS 9:15 Mission Presentation Blood Pressure Clinic Youth to Akron Zoo 11:30am	9 6p Confirmation 6p Handbell Rehearsal	10 Elder Meeting 7:00pm	11 Bible Study 10am	12 7p Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Women's Retreat 9am- 2:30pm Faith Lutheran Avon, Ohio
15 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	16 No Confirmation 6p Handbell Rehearsal	17 Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm	18 Bible Study 10am Quilters meet 12pm	19 7p Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	23 6p Confirmation 6p Handbell Rehearsal	24	25 Bible Study 10am	26 7p Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 REFORMATION 8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	30 6p Confirmation 6p Handbell Rehearsal	31				

October
2017



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Deby Freese, office clerk at the national office of Lutherans For Life, and her husband, Paul, recently had an opportunity to travel to Hong Kong with a group from Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa, to take part in a semi-annual VBS that is held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church (AGLC), The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, in conjunction with Ma Chan Duen Hey Memorial College (a secondary school affiliated with AGLC). This VBS included youth from both Hong Kong and mainland China. This year, Scripture lessons, games, and crafts focused on the value we have because God created us and continues to love us and be with us. While there, Deby had an opportunity to present a devotion on the sanctity of life to the VBS mission team, church staff, and Hong Kong teen VBS helpers/interpreters. She was able to include the Touch of Life fetal models in her presentation. Everyone was impressed by the fetal models—especially the teen helpers from Hong Kong.



Speaking Up For Life

“Parents also do well in preparing young men and women for the realities of married life. Because of the Fall, marriage is hard work. It requires appreciation of our differences as male and female, the commitment to work together, trust, friendship, and more *agape* than *eros* love.” *Linda Bartlett, former president of Lutherans For Life*

“Your witness can speak for the speechless. Your words can give value to people considered disposable. Remember that in heaven these disabled folks will be your equal in every way. What will they say to you when you meet there? God’s stars see God’s handiwork in all people.” *Rev. Mark Jeske, www.timeofgrace.org*

“Luther placed primary emphasis on the Word. He understood that Scripture is the final authoritative source for the Church’s life and doctrine. Everything the Church says or does is to be consistent with God’s Word and is to be regulated by God’s Word. God has spoken, His Word is truth, and it is the Church’s responsibility to regulate her speech in the light of God’s speech. That is what continual reformation is.” *Rev. Michael Stangeland, pastor at Highwater Lutheran Church, Lamberton, Minnesota, and Old Westbrook Lutheran Church, Westbrook, Minnesota*

For those who have had an abortion—
a **Word of Hope**. 888.217.8679
www.word-of-hope.org

Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

Hope For Life



2017 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

Ft. Wayne, Indiana • New Braunfels, Texas • Lincoln, Nebraska • Pekin, Illinois

Mark Your Calendars!

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect . . ." (1 Peter 3:15)

Ft. Wayne, Indiana – Concordia Seminary, September 16, 2017

New Braunfels, Texas – Cross Lutheran Church, October 7, 2017

Lincoln, Nebraska – Redeemer Lutheran Church, October 21, 2017

Pekin, Illinois – St. John's Lutheran Church, November 11, 2017

For additional information, including registration, speakers, schedules, hotels, and more, go to:

www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

Questions? Email Virginia Flo at vflo@lutheransforlife.org.

LFL conferences are wonderful places to meet new friends and build relationships! You will find many FOR LIFE-minded folks from around the United States and Canada.

An LFL conference is spiritually uplifting and encouraging.

The speakers focus directly on God's Word and how it applies to the life issues as demonstrated in our conference theme, **Hope For Life**.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1377 Lester Road
Valley City, OH 44280
Address Service Requested



THE POWER TO GIVE

In the New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the importance of giving and doing for others. In the Old Testament, Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tells us what not to do.

Cross out ALL of the following letters to reveal Proverbs 3:27.

..... B J K Q X Z

Write the remaining letters (in order) on the spaces below.

B W J I T J H Q H O B L Z D G B O O K
D K F Q R O M T B H J O B S Q E W H O
X B D B E K Q S E Z X R Z V J E Z X I B
T W K H Q E N I K Q T I Z S I Z N B Y
J X J O Z U X R P Q O K W J J E B B R T
O A Q C Z T

"DO NOT _____

_____, _____

_____."

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."