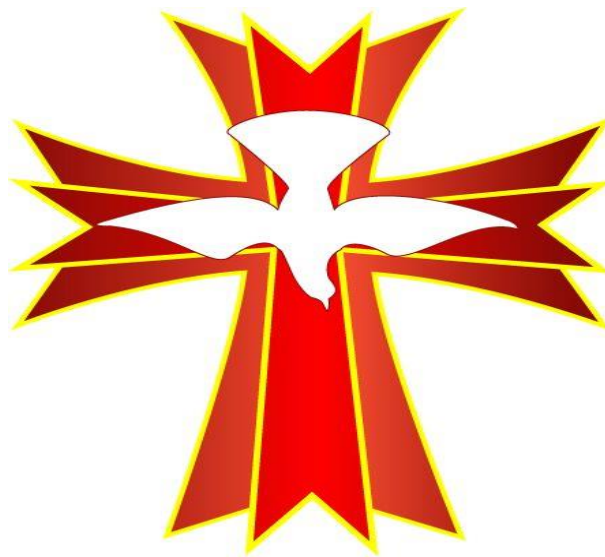


CLC NEWS

October 2020

*A newsletter from Christ Lutheran Church
Englewood, Florida*



The Season of Pentecost

Published by Jeannie Caporaso, Office Administrator



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN

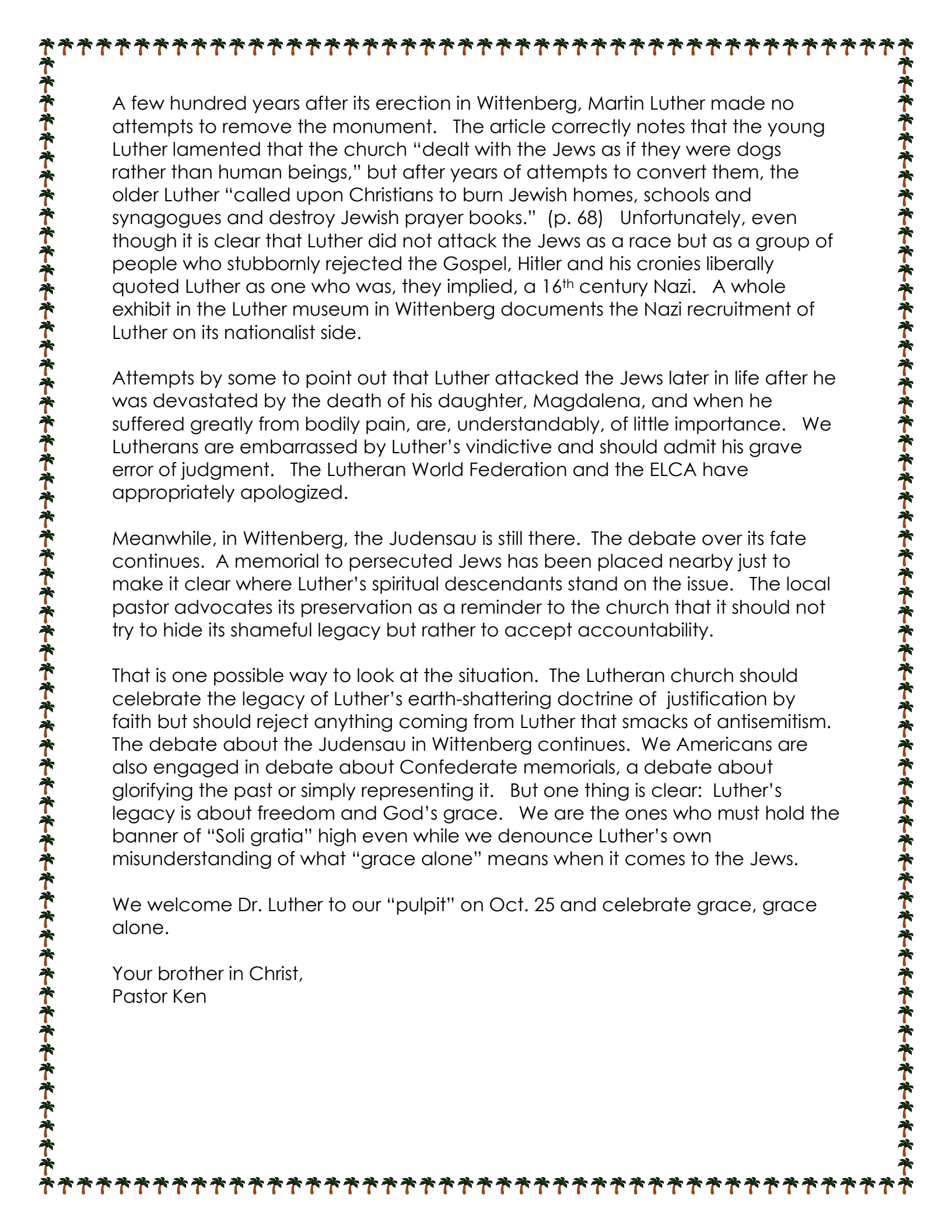
Message from the Pastor
Christ Lutheran Church
October 2020
"Welcome Dr. Martin Luther!"

I've been in communication with Dr. Martin Luther's social secretary, Fraulein Ingetraut von Hosentraeger in Wittenberg, making arrangements for Dr. Luther to visit Christ Lutheran on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25 to be our guest preacher. Fraulein von Hosentraeger has booked flights with Lufthansa which will bring Dr. Luther to the Sarasota airport. But Luther doesn't trust automobiles so we will have to send someone with an ox cart to pick him up and provide hay for the oxen during Dr. Luther's stay. And, oh yes, Dr. Luther will make sure he tests negative for COVID before he boards the plane in Wittenberg.

All kidding aside, we welcome Dr. Luther to our church on Oct. 25. (He looks a lot like me)

I read a disturbing article in the October issue of the SMITHSONIAN recently. The article entitled, "Hatred in Plain Sight," (pp. 62ff) points out that there are about 20 monuments erected in the 1300s still in plain sight, mostly in or near churches in various German cities. They depict the "Judensau," (the Jewish pig) and show a rabbi looking at the south end of a pig with words mocking the Jewish holy name of God usually engraved on the monument.

One of the most famous Judensau's is unfortunately still in place behind the Stadtkirche in Wittenberg where Luther preached most of the time. Sensitive Christians in Germany have objected to the monuments. One of them, a converted Jew named Duellmann, marches around carrying a sign that asks the question, "What does this church want to be? The church of the Gospel or the church of the 'Judensau?'"

A decorative border of palm trees surrounds the text. The border consists of a repeating pattern of palm trees in brown and green, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

A few hundred years after its erection in Wittenberg, Martin Luther made no attempts to remove the monument. The article correctly notes that the young Luther lamented that the church “dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings,” but after years of attempts to convert them, the older Luther “called upon Christians to burn Jewish homes, schools and synagogues and destroy Jewish prayer books.” (p. 68) Unfortunately, even though it is clear that Luther did not attack the Jews as a race but as a group of people who stubbornly rejected the Gospel, Hitler and his cronies liberally quoted Luther as one who was, they implied, a 16th century Nazi. A whole exhibit in the Luther museum in Wittenberg documents the Nazi recruitment of Luther on its nationalist side.

Attempts by some to point out that Luther attacked the Jews later in life after he was devastated by the death of his daughter, Magdalena, and when he suffered greatly from bodily pain, are, understandably, of little importance. We Lutherans are embarrassed by Luther’s vindictive and should admit his grave error of judgment. The Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA have appropriately apologized.

Meanwhile, in Wittenberg, the Judensau is still there. The debate over its fate continues. A memorial to persecuted Jews has been placed nearby just to make it clear where Luther’s spiritual descendants stand on the issue. The local pastor advocates its preservation as a reminder to the church that it should not try to hide its shameful legacy but rather to accept accountability.

That is one possible way to look at the situation. The Lutheran church should celebrate the legacy of Luther’s earth-shattering doctrine of justification by faith but should reject anything coming from Luther that smacks of antisemitism. The debate about the Judensau in Wittenberg continues. We Americans are also engaged in debate about Confederate memorials, a debate about glorifying the past or simply representing it. But one thing is clear: Luther’s legacy is about freedom and God’s grace. We are the ones who must hold the banner of “Soli gratia” high even while we denounce Luther’s own misunderstanding of what “grace alone” means when it comes to the Jews.

We welcome Dr. Luther to our “pulpit” on Oct. 25 and celebrate grace, grace alone.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ken

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

September 3	20	\$1,916
September 13	20	\$756
September 20	18	\$290
September 27	17	\$795
Income		\$3,757.00
Expenses		\$5,809.08
Balance		\$(2,052.08)

The monthly breakdown of expenses for September 2020 is available in the office.

COUNCIL KEY POINTS

The Worship and Music Ministry and Pastor Lentz will be preparing "special" services for *Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day*.

Don't forget to wear red on October 25th for Dr. Martin Luther who will be our guest preacher. Dr. Luther will remind us about God's unconditional grace and share memories of his own challenging years at the University of Wittenberg, 500 years ago. Invite your neighbors, friends and family members to meet perhaps the world's most famous professor!

On November 1st, All Saints' Day, we will remember those who have passed into God's triumphant Kingdom this past year. Please let us know who you would like to remember in our intercessory prayers. Please fill out a card in the Narthex with the name of the deceased and your name and leave it in the box marked "All Saints". The name will be read aloud, a candle will be lit and a bell will be rung.

Tri-folds featuring Christ Lutheran Church have been printed and will be distributed to each member to share as an invitation to encourage prospective new members to worship with CLC. Invitation postcards will also be ordered to procure new residents to the community by mail.

Pastor Kenneth Lentz will now be available three days a week. New office hours for staff will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 6 pm.

The 2020 Constitution for CLC is now available in the Church office on request only. If you would like a copy, please call the Church office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to remain in effect, Pastor Ken Lentz continues to do all in home visits at this time. Many of the assisted living facilities still maintain limited visitation. Congregants continue to receive greeting cards and calls. Members are urged to contact each other during this period of isolation, masking, and social distancing. CLC is a family that loves, cares and connects with each other.

Respectfully,
Charlene Seltz, Council Secretary

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM KEY POINTS

Peace and Joy!
Carol

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM KEY POINTS

Respectfully,
Lois Greene, Chair

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE TO THE GLORY OF GOD

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Altar, it's very simple. Please fill out the applicable date box of the "Flower Book" in the Narthex. The cost is only \$15. Use an envelope in the pew and mark ALTAR FLOWERS on it. Thank you for contributing to our worship.

CLC MINISTRY TEAMS NEEDED

According to the Constitution, the following ministry teams are also required and are not currently active at CLC:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Audit</i> | <i>Memorial Garden</i> |
| <i>Christian Education</i> | <i>Nominating</i> |
| <i>Evangelism (Outreach)</i> | <i>Personnel</i> |
| <i>Fellowship</i> | <i>Property</i> |
| <i>Financial</i> | |

If you would like to volunteer to be on any of these ministry teams, please contact any Council member or Pastor Ken.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	<i>Sandy Scheuermann</i>
5	<i>Steve Nielsen</i>
8	<i>Tracie Maunula</i>
18	<i>Jodie Rock</i>
18	<i>Helen Eckert</i>
19	<i>Ursula Hiller</i>
23	<i>Barbara Houmiel</i>

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like to be, please notify Office.

"Behold the turtle . . . he only makes progress
when he sticks his neck out."
Contributor: Lois Greene

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Remember,
if you have an interesting story,
an inspirational article,
a moving experience, or a touch of humor
which you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.
