

Covenant News



October 2021

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

This may not be an overly popular thing to say/type, but I've never been a fan of summer to the point it is my least favorite season of the year. For starters, it probably has something to do that I actually liked going to school. Then, it tended to be rather crazy on the farm-front during that time. And, honestly, there was a bit of envy during those hot-as-h--- days as my friends lived it up in air-conditioning (my father caved in later in my high school years, but, of

course, it had to be well into the 90's before he actually turned the blasted thing on!). Needless to say, whenever that first day of fall officially arrives, while most appear distraught, I give the biggest fist-pump within me.

Usually fall is when most faith communities get back into the swing of things, as people remain on the home-front instead of going on vacations. Education opportunities pick-up, among other things. And yet, there's this one congregation not too far from our home that seems to have a pretty full parking lot regardless of the season. Granted, it's a smaller church building and parking area, but they do their fair share of cars lining the surrounding streets. Their sign out-

front sits at a rather prominent corner for traffic, and I still remember the first fall being here: it read something along the lines of “Leaves change, but Jesus doesn’t.”

That one made me go “hmm...” within (perhaps an even stronger reaction than the fist-pump of good riddance to summer). It’s one of those instances of, “If only there was more space on that sign to really dig into that.” Because, yes, there is some truth to the statement: Jesus doesn’t change when it comes to love and mercy and compassion. But we do believe Jesus can relate to people in different ways, right? I suppose that Jesus doesn’t necessarily “change” in order to reach children of God where they are in their respective journey of faith. It’s just one of those instances where we need to add a line to any church sign: “Details inside.”

Because we know some children of God can fully immerse themselves in public worship and feel directly connected to the Divine. Some can read Scripture for hours, and get so much out of it every time. Some prefer more hands-on ministry by directly interacting with siblings in Christ in serving with one another. Some cannot get enough of the classroom setting sifting through the densest theological treatises you can imagine. Some crave the solace of nature for a spiritual ecstasy. And on and on we can go. Jesus has a way of not necessarily changing the Divine identity and all, but maybe there’s a bit tinkering with the Holy Spirit interactive means to reach the individual in a way that is most meaningful.

We must admit when it comes to church-related anything, we tend to get rather stubborn in believing our way of interacting with God is vastly superior to inferior others. Leaves may change, even the world, but *our* Jesus doesn’t(!), as if God hasn’t figured out a way to show love and mercy and compassion to humanity in the 21st century that may be slightly more meaningful to certain life contexts than how it happened thousands of years ago. The Father/Son/Holy Spirit has a way of being more flexible than we give the Trinity credit for, after all. The core identity, for sure, remains, but that incarnation of God appearing in our midst, even within you and me, can change for the better; not just in the sense of us knowing God is truly there, but to inspire us to be so caught up in that divine love and mercy and compassion, that we will figure out relevant ways to bring it all to life for others today.

That isn’t anything new, really. A burning bush can work. A voice from heaven can as well. So can a book or another person. And yes, a cross and an empty tomb still works thousands of years later. That ultimate fruition of love and mercy and compassion will never change in the sense of showing just how much God loved (and loves!) this world, but God knows the message can be spread in different modes than what ensued with Mary Magdalene and the disciples, then. And there is plenty of holiness in those interactions to go around today, for the presence of Christ amidst it all will never change. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

Image: Lanterman's Mill in Youngstown, Ohio (Erik Drost, rove.me)

Happy Birthday!

10/1 Jane Schuetz
10/6 Elaine Knerem
10/7 Marquise Lane
10/17 Katie Garberich
10/24 Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
10/26 Steve Dobush
10/31 Bishop Emeritus Allende
10/31 Ryan Spychola

"A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed"



You're invited to celebrate World Food Day with "A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed," featuring **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** and guidebook author and travel TV host **Rick Steves**. This online benefit for ELCA World Hunger will take place on **Thursday, Oct. 14**, at 8:30 p.m. There will be performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir.

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this



event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. If you're interested in registering for this online event via Zoom, please contact Pastor Brad.

*10/10 Donna & Steve Kobella
Happy 40th Anniversary!*

*10/12 Steve Dobush & Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Happy 25th Anniversary!*

*10/18 Marie & Bert Zahn
Happy 52nd Anniversary!*

*10/18 Nancy & John Werner III
Happy 46th Anniversary!*

*10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak
Happy 61th Anniversary!*



Covenant Lutheran Women Annual Rummage Sale will be held Friday, October 8, and Saturday, October 9, from 9:00am-1:00pm. Volunteers for set up before and packing up after would be greatly appreciated, as well as volunteers to work the sale.

On Sunday, October 31, we celebrate the Reformation that ensued centuries ago, and as a reminder that as the church, we are always reforming for the sake of the Gospel.



An early reminder to be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 6!

On Sunday, November 7, we give thanks for the lives of saints who have gone before us, who continue to shape us to this day. We also hear God's precious reminder that we too are saints, called out from baptismal waters to serve as the living disciples of our Risen Lord!



From Living Lutheran's 500th anniversary of the Reformation series: several of the 50 quotes included in the respective issue published in 2017. "This list is not meant as an all-encompassing compendium of everything essential to the Reformation and its theology, but rather as a glimpse of the variety of ways the movement that Martin Luther sparked in 1517 would influence the history of the world."

1 "In short, I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no one by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion. Take myself as an example. I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philipp and Amsdorf, the Word ... did everything."

—Martin Luther (1483-1546)

2 "One man, Martin Luther, took a stand that literally shredded the fabric of Europe. It changed theology, it changed politics, it changed society and it changed political boundaries. It gave us a revolution in education, in literacy. There are many, many manifestations of the Reformation."

—Tom Rassieur, curator, "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation"

3 "[Luther's] Reformation neither transformed the church, nor was crushed by it. Instead, a de facto partition took shape. One by one, a series of German and Scandinavian cities and territories abolished the Catholic Mass, repudiated the church's hierarchy, and required preachers to proclaim Luther's doctrines. A new form of Christianity was starting to come into being. ... Like all great revolutions, it had created a new world."

—Alec Ryrie, author, *Protestants*

4 "The Reformation is a much broader event than that singular day. To be sure, the Reformation began on that day. The Reformation, however, spanned two centuries and encompassed a cast of characters from a variety of nations. Luther may very well be at the center of the Reformation, but he does not stand alone."

—Stephen J. Nichols, author, *The Reformation*

5 "The Protestant Reformation had a lot to do with the printing press, where Martin Luther's theses were reproduced about 250,000 times, and so you had widespread dissemination of ideas that hadn't circulated in the mainstream before."

—Nate Silver, author and statistician

6 "The recently published *Atlas of World Christianity* enumerates about 500,000,000 adherents to churches and denominations that trace their descent directly or indirectly from 16th-century Protestant beginnings and several hundred millions more in 'independent' churches with Protestant origins or strongly Protestant characteristics."

—Mark Noll, professor

7 "... the Reformation as such, liberated from its early modern political constraints, remains alive and well in the United States. Anyone who doubts this need only open the Yellow Pages of a local phone book from anywhere in the United States and look under 'Churches.'"

—Brad S. Gregory, professor

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant October 2021

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	2 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in Sanctuary
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	3 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor	4 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout troop meeting in Nursery	5	6 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	7	8 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parlor Rummage Sale 9:00-1:00	9 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting Parlor Rummage Sale In Hall 9:00-1:00
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	10 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class	11	12 7:00 Congregational Council	13 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	14	15 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	16 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	17 Twenty first Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class	18 6:30 8:00 pm Girl Scout troop meeting in Nursery	19	20 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	21	22 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	23 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanek	24 Twenty second Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class	25	26	27 6:30 pm Women's meeting in Hall	28 4:30-6:30 pm Community Meal Drive Thru in Parking Lot	29 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Hall	30 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanek	31 Reformation 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor						

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