

Covenant News



October 2022

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

Greetings! As we continue our exciting preparations for the 75th anniversary celebration on Reformation Sunday (October 30), we encourage all of you to take time in sharing some of your favorite memories with one another in these weeks ahead. For some reason, one in particular is standing out to me (although my duration here is a comparatively minor blip in the grand scheme of this congregation's vast history, to say the least). For many years, Covenant hosted a St. Nick Night, when we especially invited

young people of the surrounding community (and beyond) to join us for an evening of singing Christmas carols, putting our creative minds to work with crafts, and hearing from the pre-Santa Claus St. Nick. And, before the youth were encouraged to head up to the sanctuary for that special visit, they were asked to leave a shoe behind to fulfill an ancient tradition. When they returned to the fellowship hall, they would find a tasty treat in their footwear, before partaking of the other snacks and drinks provided by the church.

Nothing extravagant. Nothing that made a mark on the budget. But it was special, nonetheless. Joy emerged on faces over the simplest of things that night. Those young people may not remember that singing or crafting or snacking for the long run, but that night, we did our part in letting those precious children of God know they were and are loved; that they are cherished by God, that they are worth us taking time and effort in bringing the Gospel to life amidst what can often be the busiest time of year for churches.

And as much as congregational anniversaries will be re-hashing the big dates of building dedications and start and end points for pastors and organ installations and whatever else, there's something to be said for the moments that will never appear on a church history timeline. Granted, those headliners are important, to say the least. Let's just not overlook the just-as-important in-between times: the times when we opened our doors to children who were not "official members" in our books. Let's not forget about opening up our parking lot for a farmers' market. Let's remember when our entire church was filled with the wonderful noise of Camp Covenant, when our fellow disciple of Christ, Sharon Steward fulfilled a need during those summer months for the neighborhood youth. There are so, so many, that cannot possibly fit in this newsletter, and won't even be able to cover if we took all the time for the rest of this calendar year.

Regardless, let us remember that we were and are Covenant outside our treasured church building walls, too. Let us continue recognizing that God sets us free to be the church wherever we are, blessed with the gifts of love, compassion, grace, mercy, and hope. Granted, the times when we worshiped on Sunday mornings, midweek during Lent and Advent, not to mention fellowship with senior lunches and Easter breakfasts, are all vitally essential. Those are the times when we are spiritually fed and uplifted to joyous heights that will stay with us forever, and hopefully those heights helped us do our simple, but just-as-vital, discipling wherever we went for the following days. May those days be part of our internal church history books, too. Safe to say, "Well done, good and faithful servants! Well done, indeed!" And, yes, let us keep it going! Amen (so let it be)!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



An early reminder to be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 5!



10/1 Jane Schuetz

10/24 Jennifer Lasher-Dobush

10/6 Elaine Knerem

10/26 Steve Dobush

10/7 Marquise Lane

10/31 Abraham Allende

10/17 Katie Garberich

10/31 Ryan Spychola



*10/10 Donna & Steve Kobella
Happy 41st Anniversary!*

*10/12 Steve Dobush & Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Happy 26th Anniversary!*

*10/18 Marie & Bert Zahn
Happy 53rd Anniversary!*

*10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak
Happy 62nd Anniversary!*

On Sunday, November 6, 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!



50 Things You May Not Know about Luther

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 Luther sparked in 1517 would influence the history of the world.

1 Martin Luther did not think of himself as a reformer of the church. He felt that that job belonged only to Jesus Christ; Luther was merely a John the Baptist, pointing to the Lamb of God.

2 Luther was not exactly from peasant stock. His father—whose father was a farmer—ended up a well-to-do mine owner, and his mother's family, the Lindemanns, included a mayor of Eisenach, Thuringia, in Germany.

3 The 95 Theses may or may not have been posted on the University of Wittenberg's "bulletin board" (the Castle Church door) on October 31, 1517—but they were posted in the mail to the Archbishop of Mainz, Albrecht von Brandenburg.

4 Luther's chief complaint in the 95 Theses was bad preaching and how it undermined the listeners' faith in God.

5 In the 16th century, Luther would've posted a university notice like the 95 Theses with wax or paste, not hammer and nails. The depiction of Luther hammering the Theses first appeared in 1717.

6 During Luther's lifetime, the 95 Theses were only available in three Latin printings. Only with the publication of the German Sermon on Indulgences and Grace did Luther become the world's first living best-selling author.

7 In Luther's defense of the 95 Theses, called the Explanations, Luther first insisted that God's word, not our decisions or works, creates faith in us and makes us Christians.

8 When Luther insisted that Christians are righteous and sinner at the same time (“simul iustus et peccator”), he was not giving believers an excuse to sin but was providing a way to be honest about themselves (as sinners) and about God’s mercy (as righteous).

9 Luther rarely used the phrase sola Scriptura (“Scripture alone”) because he also recognized other, lesser authorities in the church and because he preferred to use phrases like “God’s word alone,” which implied proclamation of Scripture’s commands and promises.

10 With the phrase “faith alone,” Luther excluded all human preconditions for receiving God’s mercy, so that faith itself can never be a “work” we do for God but a relationship God establishes with us through word and sacrament. That is why his explanation of the third article of the Creed in the Small Catechism begins, “I believe that ... I cannot believe.”

11 In 1520, Luther became convinced that the word in the Greek New Testament translated as “grace” (*charis*) did not designate a power dwelling in us but God’s undeserved mercy.

12 Despite some movie depictions to the contrary, Luther never met privately with his prince and protector, Elector Frederick the Wise.

13 Luther was not a monk but a friar. Friars (Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians) lived in community in cities and often had responsibilities as university professors of theology or preachers. Monks often lived in isolated areas and focused their lives on work and prayer.

14 Luther’s “theology of the cross” was not a theory about only the cross but the belief that God always reveals himself in the last place human beings would reasonably look: with the Israelites not the Egyptians; in a manger; on the cross; among mortal sinners in the church.

15 When Luther and other reformers distinguished between “law” and “gospel,” they were not differentiating between the Old and New Testaments but between two ways that God’s word works: to reveal sin and mortify the “old creature” (law), and to reveal God’s mercy and make the new creature of faith alive.

For the full list, please visit:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/10/reformation-500-50-things-may-not-know-luther/>

Timothy J. Wengert, an ELCA pastor, is professor emeritus of Reformation history at the United Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. Author and editor of more than 20 books, including *Martin Luther's Catechisms: Forming the Faith* (Fortress, 2009), his translation of the Small Catechism is used extensively throughout the ELCA.



We are delighted that 2022 marks 75 years of ministry as a Covenant family! And so, we will boldly celebrate on Reformation Sunday (October 30) with worship in the sanctuary at 9am and a catered brunch following the worship in our fellowship hall. Bishop Emeritus Abraham Allende will preach, and we will also have our ecumenical handbell choir and the Wolf Creek

brass quintet join us to make the day all the more special as we give thanks to God for the honor to be part of this wonderful body of Christ. We only ask that if you do plan on joining us, to RSVP to Jen Lasher-Dobush by Sunday, October 16, as we need a head-count for the meal. We hope to see you here!

We have started updating our Covenant congregation directory, not only with revised phone numbers, email and physical/mailing addresses, but also including pictures with this one as well. However, we're going to try something new this time around. Instead of having you come to Covenant for an appointment with a photographer, we're inviting you to send in your own picture of yourself, you and your loved one, or your family. This does not have to be professionally done. Feel free to make it your own. Make it fun and creative, if you like. Take it outside in nature. Include your pets, if you want. It can be in-the-moment laughter. We would like this to be an enjoyable Covenant family project for the summer. Then, you can send the picture in via email, mail, or dropping it off at the church. If you need help taking a picture, please contact Jen at the church office, and we will be happy to make arrangements to do so.



The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

October 2021

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in Sanctuary
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck	2 World Communion Sunday 9:00 Eucharist	3	4 1:30 Worship & Music Meeting 6:30 Women's AA Meeting in Hall	5	6	7 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parlor	8 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting Parlor
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	9 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class	10	11 7:00 Congregational Council 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	12	13	14 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	15 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	16 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class 1:5:00 FWF Hall	17	18 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	19	20	21 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	22 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	23 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class	24	25 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall	26 6:30 pm Women's meeting in Hall	27 5:00-6:00 pm Community Meal in Parish Hall	28 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Hall	29 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	30 Reformation 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 75 th Anniver. Brunch in hall	31					

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