

# Covenant News



## October 2025



### **Reformation Sunday: Rooted in Grace, Renewed for Today**

Each year on the last Sunday in October, Christians around the world celebrate the Reformation. For Lutherans especially, Reformation Sunday is not only about history, it is about the heart of the gospel that still shapes us today.

In 1517, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. In doing this, he sparked conversations that rippled across Europe and led to the start of the Lutheran Church. But Luther's concerns were not about starting a new church! They were about calling the church back to the good news of God's grace. He emphasized that salvation is not earned through our efforts, but is God's free gift in Christ, received through faith. His 're'discovery of "grace alone, faith alone, scripture alone" continues to anchor our faith and practice.

Reformation Sunday is more than remembering the past; it is a day to reflect on how God is still reforming the church. We are reminded that we stand on a living tradition: the Spirit continues to breathe new life into the church, calling us to repentance, renewal, and hope. Just as the Reformation opened the way for ordinary people to hear the Word of God in their own language, so we are invited today to make the gospel accessible in fresh ways that meet the needs of our communities.

This October 26<sup>th</sup>, as we prepare to sing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and see the red paraments that symbolize the Spirit's fire, we give thanks for God's faithfulness through the centuries. And we are called to ask: how is God still reforming the church today? Where is the

Spirit leading us to trust the gospel more deeply, to embody Christ's love more boldly, and to bear witness in a world that still longs for grace?

Reformation is not just about commemorating the past; it is a day to affirm that the church has a future. It is God's ongoing work—rooted in grace, renewed for today, and open to the new thing that God is doing!



Pastor Andrea will be facilitating a prayer group at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays this fall. We will meet on the first and third Wednesdays. Of the month to explore prayer practices and pray for the needs of our churches and our communities.

# FREE community MEAL

Our next FREE community meal is Thursday, October 23 (5-6pm)! We invite you to come in through the back door into our fellowship hall and have a seat, as we serve you and our neighbors a FREE meal. However, if you don't need this yourself, please help us let others know of this wonderful opportunity to not only have some food, but conversations with our neighbors.

# 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 Abraham Allende  
10/31 Ryan Spychola



*10/10 Donna & Steve Kobella  
Happy 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

*10/12 Steve Dobush & Jennifer Lasher-Dobush  
Happy 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

*10/18 Marie & Bert Zahn  
Happy 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

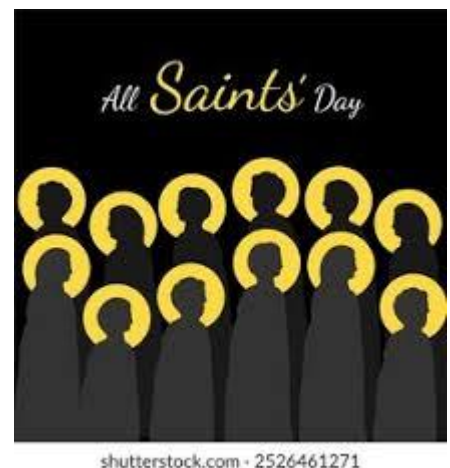
*10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak  
Happy 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

Our Congregational Assembly meeting for the Fall will be held on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>, in the church hall after service. We will be discussing the church's current finances and the budget for the next year. Please plan to attend!!



An early reminder to be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 1 !

On Sunday, November 2 , 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!



Lutheran Church of the Covenant

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes Tues, Aug 19, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm by President Ted Lockmiller

**Present:** Ted Lockmiller, Pastor Andrea, Mary Kaye Bernardo, Mike Davis Jennifer Lasher-Dobush, Gwen Susaneck, Charlotte Zaranka.

**Absent:** Chuck Dickey

**Devotions and prayer:** Mary Kaye

**Council Business:**

Council minutes approved/amended of meeting Tues, June 17, 2025. Motion made by Jen. Seconded by MaryKaye

**Pastor report:**

Joint worship on Sept 7, 2025, 10:00am, will be at Master.

Service project: talk about the Sunday School book?

For the month of September, we will be focusing on a series called “Worship: Rooted and Renewed”. Each week we will highlight one of the four parts of ELCA worship: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending, to show how our practices are both rooted in the earliest patterns of the church and continually renewed by the Spirit for our lives today. It will give us an opportunity to reflect on why we worship the way that we do as Lutherans.

Adult Sunday Bible class will begin again Sun, Sept 14, 2025, 10:30. Every week till end of the year. Bible class will continue the book club with Church #31-33.

Update/discussion on the One Church Covenant, Growing in Faith? Regarding the \$10,000 grant, Synod Bishop said Pastor should be in only one church each week. Grant is for churches with no Pastor. We can't do that.

Growing in Faith classes: Pastor will check if there are any scholarships. It is \$65 per class, 6 classes, a break, then another 6 classes.

Church Trac-starting to use this database-hoping to have all the demographic info by end of Sept. Will be able to keep attendance and other info in one place.

Pastor is looking for an opportunity for continuing education.

Ideas – Do more with New Cornerstone Church. (Pastor Randall)

Weekly prayer meeting?

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike Davis

We are 7 months into the Fiscal year 2025. Revenues and expenses should be in the 58<sup>th</sup> percentile. Year-to-date revenues total \$59,594 (54.3%). Expenditures total \$81,725 (58.8%), resulting in an excess of expenses over revenues of \$-22,131. Mike withdrew \$10,000 from the Edward Jones account in July which was electronically transferred to the operating checking account. This was retroactively approved by the council to cover general operating costs. Jen approved and Gwen 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Cash in the bank as of end of July 2025 was \$2,700. The cash flow is becoming a monthly issue which Mike continues to monitor weekly.

## **BOARDS:**

### **Finance:** Gwen

Gwen met with Master and ordered the new envelopes for 2026. To keep expenses down the envelopes were ordered as one order. Covenant will have #s 1-40. Master will have #s 41-65. The front was redesigned with choices to check where you want the money to go. The envelopes should be in by end of September.

Early July contribution statement went out to everyone so everyone could see how they are doing with their offerings. 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr statements may go out end of Oct again.

Congregational Assembly Meeting will be in the Fall. Time to be determined by Ted. We must talk about expenses.

### **Social Ministry:** Mary Kaye

Might be able to get a \$1,000 grant “Feast of Abundance”. For holding a community event like a block party.

She got an application for “high points” in Maple Hts where they could put a transmission tower for cell phones. Amount you get varies. There are already a couple in MH.

She will find some time to go to the library to look up places to get grants.

**Education:** Chuck Dickey absent. Children’s Sunday school and Adult Bible class will start again Sun, Sept 14, 10:30. Bible class will continue the book club starting with Church#31-33.

### **Worship and Music:** Jen

We will meet at Master on Sun, Sept 7 at 10:00 for combined service, project and potluck.

At their Covenant/Master Aug 5 joint council meeting they came up with an idea to do something for the MH and Bedford school districts as a service project. When they meet again, they will finalize the place and items for the project.

Last Sunday in Aug is the last one for outdoor worship. We will be moving back inside after that.

Pastor has a new microphone for inside. There is also a spare lapel mic for an assistant to wear in the future if needed. It is not compatible for outdoors. We may be discussing the idea of an outdoor worship team for next summer who would set up and prep on Sunday mornings. It is getting to be a lot for one person. Or, we may decide not to have outdoor service next year.

**Managers:** Vince

June 19 – replaced ceiling tiles in parlor. June 27 – cleaned filters on dehumidifier June 27 – lightning struck big tree in back and large branch fell. Lost power and internet. Live wires were down. June 28 – got Pete to clean up tree and branches for \$400. Amt was approved.

July 11 – Power on. Frank had to rehang outside light (came out of hole) July 11 – had mini kitchen and fridge cleaned and painted. Cleaned shelving inside. July 12 – had lights in hall changed and replaced with new ones. Kitchen partially cleaned. Sept 11, 12, 13 – MH city wide garage sale – 10-5:00. We will participate 103:00.

TO-DO – Aug – ceiling tiles in hall by parlor are leaking. Will be repaired by Iman Roofing. We will buy the tiles.

Vince and Ted will work with heating system. Change pressure valves on heat registers. Vince got a name of someone who works on big heating systems like ours.

**Old Business:** No decision made yet for new Vice-President.

**New Business:** Clothing shed - \$305.80 profit from April to July, 2025.

**Next Council meeting:** Thurs, Sept 18, 2025, 7:00pm. **Devotions:** Ted

Adjourned 9:24pm with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Charlotte Zaranka Council Secretary

# *Covenant News*

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