

# The Witness

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

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**October 2022**

# The Witness

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What is the Reformation? This is a relatively new feast, really. No other church celebrates it but The Evangelical-Lutheran Church. It is a day, like any other church festival, that calls us to repent of our sins, but then to rejoice in the forgiveness of sins Jesus gives us. Let's take a quick trip back down memory lane to review The Reformation.

Martin Luther wasn't always going to be a pastor. He was going to be a lawyer. His dad Hans had climbed out of the lower class through mining, and Martin's work in the law was his ticket to the up-per class. But then his shining star of a son decided to become a monk! Now this monk (he actually was a friar, a preaching monk) had a very strict conscience. He was taught that to make God happy with you after you sinned, you had to do things to earn His favor. Soon He began to realize that the more he sinned and the more he did, he was falling further and further behind in paying off his sinner's debt to God.

The head of his order, Fr. Johannes von Staupitz, decided his star friar had too much time on his hands to think about how bad a sinner he was, so he sent him to Wittenberg to teach at the new university there. Soon Luther learned from St. Paul's Epistle to The Romans that we are forgiven not by what we do for God, but by what Jesus did for us on Calvary's Cross. He paid the entire debt we owed God for sin.

That gets us to October 31, All Saints Eve 1517. Wittenberg's Castle Church is dedicated to All Saints, and the Elector of Saxony had a massive collection of relics that he put on display there every year on All Saints Day. And it also happened that a man was selling indulgences in nearby towns. Luther realized that indulgences, whether times past or present, are no way to buy God's favor. So he posted his theses on the door of the Castle Church (since those doors doubled as bulletin boards) so everyone coming to see the relics would read what he had written.

He had no idea what would happen next. Soon all Europe had read his words, and the entire church was called to repent of its false teaching. Many would not. They threw Luther and those who believed as he did out of their church, because they didn't want to hear and believe the true teaching of God's Word. By God's grace, we still stand firm on God's Word. "God's Word and Luther's Doctrine pure, Unto eternity shall endure!"

How is this? It's not due to anything we do. No, if it were up to us, we would all ruin God's Church and believe false doctrine. Luther himself daily confessed that were all up to him, he'd quickly ruin everything! So it is with me, you, and every other Christian. But God promises in His Word that the gates of hell will not overcome His Church (St. Matthew 16: 18). His Word is the very thing that keeps Satan from overpowering his little Christian flock. His Word preached to us keeps us faithful.

What does faith believe? It believes God created all things in six 24-hour days. It believes man sins and falls short of God's glory. It believes God sent His Son into the world to become man, to suffer and die for us to take away our sins, to rise again to give us life, to ascend into heaven to rule all things for us and send us His Spirit to give us faith. It believes The Spirit brought you to faith in Christ through Holy Baptism and preaching, and through preaching keeps you in The Faith. It believes He gives you forgiveness and eternal life when you eat at The Altar Jesus' true Body and precious Blood. It believes He will take us to Himself when we die and raise our bodies from the graves on the last day to live forever.

So how do we remain in The Faith? He has given us the means. Read God's Word daily. Study the Catechism; nicknamed "The Layman's Bible," it is a faithful summary of all Scripture teaching. If you don't have it, get a Book of Concord and read it to learn more and more what your Church believes. Pray The Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers. Join us also for Bible Study after church on Sundays. (continued on page 3)

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**Saint of the Month: St. Luke, Evangelist, October 18:**



Saint Luke the Evangelist was a physician (Colossians 4:14) and a companion of St. Paul on some of his missionary journeys (see Acts 16:10ff; 20:5ff; 27-28). Material found in his Gospel account and not elsewhere includes the Annunciation and almost all we know of Jesus' birth, infancy, and boyhood. He recounts some of the most moving parables, including the Good Samaritan

and the Prodigal Son. He also provides three of the sayings of Christ on the Cross: "Father, forgive them (23:34)"; "Today, you will be with me in Paradise (23:43)"; and "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! (23:46)" Luke's Gospel account emphasizes the human love of Christ, His compassion for sinners and for suffering and unhappy persons, for outcasts such as the Samaritans, tax collectors, lepers, shepherds (not a respected profession), and for the poor. Christ's treatment of women and their important supporting role in His ministry is also emphasized in Luke more than in the other Gospels.

Let us pray: Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments may put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matthew Uttenreither



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League**

Lutheran Women  
In Mission

**Where Mites Go**

Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp  
Denver, Colorado

Grant: \$25,000

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) shares both God's grace and the glory of His creation. Many families in metropolitan Denver are unable to fully finance camp tuition or provide transportation to LVR where their children would experience God's Word in daily devotions, singing, and worshipping around a campfire. This grant will span two summers when LVR will partner with Lutheran churches in Denver to arrange sign-up, transportation, and scholarships for 50 children from the inner city, so they could have this mountain-top camp experience. Research shows that the challenges of camp activities are transformational, giving children tools to overcome real-world challenges when they return home.

**Testimonies from Around the World:**

South Africa

Your literature went with one of our missionaries who is currently involved in a month-long mission to Uganda and a series of important outreaches planned for the Nuba Mountains of Sudan and South Sudan.

We have also allocated some of your resources for missionaries who do ministry with Sola Scriptura Bible Colleges in Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, and conduct African Pastors Conferences. **The needs are so very great and you can be sure that every Bible or theology book you have sent will be greatly appreciated, earnestly studied, and eagerly taught and applied.**

## **“We Are All Beggars”**



In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

## Luther's Seal



## Time & Talent

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning: *First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*

*(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)*

### Deacons

October 2	Tom Friedewald
October 9	Jim Jenne
October 16	Jonathan Schultz
October 23	Tom Friedewald
October 30	Jim Jenne

### Greeters

October 2	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
October 9	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
October 16	Gail Bujnowski Judy Darville
October 23	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
October 30	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten

### Altar Guild

October:	Kim Giannopoulos Pam Hrajnoha
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We congratulate the following members of Ascension as they celebrate their **birthdays** in October:

- October 1 Sarah Uttenreither
- October 12 Bonnie Schultz
- October 14 Grayson Gregorio
- October 15 Melinda Plucinski
- October 16 Viola Watt (100!!!)
- October 20 Lois Marten
- October 21 Lilian Konozi
- October 25 Martha Sichau
- October 29 Sue Gunia
- October 31 Rev Stanley Zyskowski



We also congratulate the following couples as they celebrate their **wedding anniversaries** in October:

None on record

These are the **birthdays** and **wedding anniversaries** recorded in our church records for the coming month. If any birthday or anniversary was omitted, please notify the church office.

### Around Ascension . . .



Fall is here! The leaves will soon be falling, blanketing Go's creation with beautiful colors.

Praise the Lord.....we received our Certificate of Occupancy for our school renovation from the Village of Niles. We are currently making plans to share our facilities for the 2022-23 school year. We will keep you posted!

Sunday Bible Study resumed on September 11th. Pastor will be leading a study of the Book of Acts every Sunday following our worship service. All are welcome!

What better way to kick off Ascension Women's Circle than with a little ice cream??? On Wednesday, September 14th the ladies resumed after summer break to make plans for the coming year. A LWML Gathering will be held right here at Ascension on Saturday, October 22nd. Watch *News & Notes* for more information as plans develop. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, October 4th at 11:00 am.

Mark your calendars for Reformation Sunday, October 30th. The Women's Circle is once again hosting a Reformation Pot Luck following our worship service. Bring your favorite casserole, salad, or dessert to share. A sign up sheet will be placed in the narthex. Let us know how many will be attending and what you plan to bring.

Confirmation Class resumed bright and early at 8:30 am on Sunday September 30th. Luke and Megan continue their studies. 😊

Keep checking *News & Notes* each Sunday for more of what's happening around Ascension.

## 2022 ASCENSION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b>	Tom Friedewald
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Jenne
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandy Friedewald
<b>Secretary:</b>	Audrey Schultz
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Carolyn Jannusch
<b>Board of Deacons:</b>	Jim Jenne (Chair) Hal Downs (Emeritus) Tom Friedewald Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
<b>Board of Christian Ministries</b>	Lois Marten (Chair)
<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Jason Romano (Chair)
<b>Board of Youth:</b>	Sarah Lindahl (Chair)

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## **OFFICIAL ACTS**

### **Funerals**

Sophie Krumins  
August 12, 2022

Elizabeth Orozco  
September 10, 2022

Do you have an announcement to share about your family such as a birth, death, engagement, graduation, etc., **let us know! We'd love to hear from you!**

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