

OCTOBER 2024

## PEW ECHO

### FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

527 Giddings Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

920-467-3251

1stReformed.org

Brad Veenendaal - Pastor

pastorbrad@1streformed.org

Sue Dempster - Office

office@1streformed.org



### What's In a Name

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus **Christ**, through whom we have gained access by **faith** into this **grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the **glory** of God.*

- Romans 5:1-2

Long before Halloween became a scary day, October 31 has been a special day because of what took place on that day over 500 years ago. It is known as Reformation Day, because on that day, in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses—a summary of his disagreements with leaders of the church and a call for change in the church—on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany, setting in motion what would come to be known as the Reformation. At that time, it was perhaps the greatest movement of God in the Church since Pentecost.



At the heart of the Reformation is what has come to be known as the “Five Solas” – five Latin phrases with the word *solus* (from which we get our English word solo), a word that means alone. They became the rallying cry of the Reformation, and formed the foundation of Reformed

beliefs. Here is what they are:

<i>Sola Gratia</i>	Grace Alone
<i>Sola Fide</i>	Faith Alone
<i>Sola Christus</i>	Christ Alone
<i>Sola Scriptura</i>	Scripture Alone
<i>Sola Deo Gloria</i>	Glory of God Alone

It led to seismic upheaval as the Protestant branch of the Christian Church was born and spread throughout Europe, eventually making its way across the ocean to what would become the United States, and around the world. It was a movement that did not initially seek to break away from the Catholic church, but sought to bring reforms to the church that would bring it back to a focus on the Bible and the gospel, to relying on the grace of God and trusting in faith in Jesus for salvation. But when this call for change was renounced by the church hierarchy, the movement turned its focus to starting something new: a church that would be reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God. We are Reformed because of the Reformation.

This is what our name means. This is why we are Reformed. Our enduring hope and our eternal salvation are by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, guided by scripture alone, for the glory of God alone. And this is why we have so much more to celebrate than candy and costumes and pumpkins at the end of October. For what was set in motion centuries ago in the Protestant Reformation has changed the church and changed the world. And the next time you're talking with someone about where you go to church, and someone asks, “Reformed? Reformed from what?” You can tell them what's in a name.

Grace and Peace in Christ,  
*Pastor Brad*





## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Katie Fabian
3	Corey Kappers
7	Clark Otte
	Morgan Steffen
9	Ronda Arthur
12	Dave Mulder
13	Chuck Otte
15	Bob Bonneau
	Joel Huibregtse
17	Trenten Otte
18	Rachel Halverson
18	Nicholas Bimmel
19	Dorothy Arthur
21	Jana Middlesworth
22	Marty Halverson
23	Tong Wang
25	Ann Graumann
26	Kris Beach
	Steve Stoffregen
28	Larry Meyer
31	Dennis Meerdink



Why is a birthday cake the only food you can blow on and spit on and everybody rushes to get a piece?

### EPITAPH (In a cemetery in England)

*Remember man, as you walk by,  
As you are now, so once was I,  
Remember this and follow me.*

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

*To follow you I'll not consent,  
Until I know which way you went.*



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

3	Dale & Beth Wingert	(43)
5	Woody & LaVerne Soerens	(73)
6	Rick & Ronda Arthur	(44)
12	Steve & Linda Wilterdink	(50)
18	Lyle & Luella Justinger	(61)
22	Pastor Brad & Tonja Veenendaal	(30)
25	Dave & Jackie Stoffregen	(38)
27	Ken & Sara Born	(39)
30	Dan & Jane Van Wyk	(42)

### GOD WILL PROVIDE

A young woman brought her fiance home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man.

The father invited the fiance to his study for a talk.

'So what are your plans?' the father asked the young man.

'I am a biblical scholar,' he replied.

'A Biblical scholar. Hmmm,' the father said. 'Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?'

'I will study,' the young man replied, 'and God will provide for us.'

'And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?' asked the father.

'I will concentrate on my studies,' the young man replied, 'God will provide for us.'

'And children?' asked the father. 'How will you support children?'

'Don't worry, sir, God will provide,' replied the fiance.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, 'How did it go, Honey?'

The father answered, 'He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God!'



## STAYIN' PUT

As you drive down a certain street in a certain town, pass all of the nice brick homes lined up along a nice concrete street, you'll suddenly see a change of scenery. There, nestled among those finehouses is Ferguson's hog farm. A small white framed house, a single pick-up truck with rusted fenders parked on a dirt driveway and over a hundred hogs in the pasture behind the house. If you go and ask Mr. Ferguson how this came to be, he'll be glad to tell you.

"This here place used to be out in the country. When I bought this place 42 years ago, there wasn't a soul for miles around. Then about ten years ago, folks began to build those big fancy houses all around. I ain't never had the first bit of trouble out here till them folks decided that this was a good place to live and they all wanted to move in on me. Then all of the sudden I get lawyers and real estate agents coming to see me, wantin' me to sell out. They tried every trick in the book, they even had one of them petition things that was signed by all of them fancy folk sayin' that the smell from the hogs was makin' their younguns' sick. But it didn't work. This here is my home and I ain't moving just because a bunch of folks decided that this place was better for them than it was for me. No sir, ain't nobody gonna run me off, I'm stayin' put!"

Needless to say, but Mr. Ferguson is a stubborn old coot isn't he? When it comes to our relationship with Christ and His church, you and I should be just as stubborn. We should take on the attitude that no matter what comes along, nothing can separate us from our Lord and His family and we're "staying put!" The Bible puts it this way...

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"*

*"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35, 38-39)*

## APPROACHABLE

There is not a hint of one person who was afraid to draw near [to Jesus]. There were those who mocked him. There were those who were envious of him. There were those who misunderstood him. There were those who revered him. But there was not one person who considered him too holy, too divine or too celestial to touch. There was not one person who was reluctant to approach him for fear of being rejected. Remember that.

—Max Lucado, *God Came Near*

*Come to me,*

*All who are Weary and Heavy-Laden*

*And I will give you Rest.*

Matthew 11:28

## GOD'S LEFT HAND

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."



## USHERS FOR OCTOBER

Bob Bonneau  
Paul Graumann



**USHER  
SCHEDULE**



## GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

**Oct. 6**  
Doug & Katie Fabian  
Duane & Lori Gumm

**Oct. 13**  
Marly Van Wyk, Karen Rooker  
Paul & Ann Graumann

**Oct. 20**  
Mark & Jean Kappers  
Lyle & Luella Justinger

**Oct. 27**  
Mike & Mary Rammer  
Ron & Carol Meinnert





# KID'S PAGE



## JESUS & JACK-O-LANTERNS POEM

I am like a pumpkin  
Shining bright on Halloween  
God picked me from the patch  
Washed the dirt and made me clean

He wanted me to shine  
So He scooped the bad parts out  
Removing seeds of fear  
Seeds of anger and of doubt

God's love fills up my heart  
It brings a smile to my face  
The light of Christ shines bright  
And the darkness is erased

Now I am full of light  
Like the pumpkins that you see  
I want everyone to know  
That Jesus Christ is in me



WHAT  
2 THINGS CAN YOU  
NEVER EAT FOR  
BREAKFAST?

LUNCH AND DINNER

WHAT  
DO YOU BUY TO  
EAT, BUT YOU  
NEVER EAT IT?

A PLATE

There are names of sixteen (16) books of the bible hidden in the paragraph below. A preacher found 15 books in twenty minutes; it took him 3 weeks just to find the 16th one, HAVE FUN!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain luke, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a job. We want it to be a most fascinating little moment for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will be quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.

Enjoy the fun now and find the 16 Books!

09:57

## GOD HAS SENT YOU A TEXT



PLEASE READ IT!

What starts with E,  
ends with E — but only  
has 1 letter?

ENVELOPE

answers

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain luke, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a job. We want it to be a most fascinating little moment for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will be quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.

## Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:



- God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)
- Then He washes all the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, fear, hate, and greed. (Romans 6:6)
- He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)
- And He puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1pm Dorcas Society 7pm Elders	2 6:30pm CrossCenter 6:30pm The Chosen Group Study	3	4	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:45am POW 45 / SS 10:45am Share the Gospel	7 6:30pm Living Bible Study	8 7pm Executive Committee	9 6:30pm CrossCenter 6:30pm Promiseland	10	11	12
13 9:30am Worship 10:45am POW 45 / SS 10:45am Share the Gospel	14 9:15am Moming Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	15	16 6:30pm Believe 6:30pm CrossCenter 6:30pm The Chosen Group Study	17	18	19
20 9:30am Worship 10:45am POW 45 / SS	21	22	23 6:30pm CrossCenter	24	25	26
27 9:30am Worship 10:45am POW 45 / SS	28 9:15am Moming Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	29	30 6:30pm Believe 6:30pm CrossCenter	31		

### CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- ♦ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ♦ At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- ♦ This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- ♦ The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge--Up Yours"

