



Peace Lutheran Church

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The Hero of All Saints' Day

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about the concept of "hero". In light of the recent celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, many people consider Martin Luther to be a hero for what he did. The world considers Luther to be a cultural hero. The Church considers Luther to be a spiritual hero. However, the real "hero" of the Reformation is Jesus Christ. Not only did the Lord direct Martin Luther's actions in the Reformation, but Jesus also provided the blessings which the Reformation regained for the Church. By perfectly obeying the Law of God, Jesus earned the righteousness which we need and which Luther preached. By suffering and dying on the cross, Jesus also gained the forgiveness of sin which we need and which Luther preached. By rising from the grave to live again, Jesus obtained life after death for us, which we need, in which Luther preached. In other words, Jesus did all the work so that we might be justified (declared right before God) freely and by faith and so be saved.

Now, we celebrate All Saints' Day which occurs on the day immediately following Reformation Day. Who's the "hero" of All Saints' Day? Just as All Saints Day follows Reformation Day on the calendar, so it follows the teaching of Reformation Day.

Many people think that people are the heroes of All Saints Day. Many think that we receive forgiveness by God's grace and so become Christians but that we live the Christian life by our own effort and so become saints. In other words, we receive justification (a right standing before God) by grace, but we attain sanctification (a holy life) by our own work. This way of thinking comes because of our natural desire to earn something before God and the misuse of the word *saint* by some churches.

A *saint* is simply one who is holy. That is what the word literally means. It is assumed by many people (and some denominations) that this holiness is achieved by the individual through their own holy living. When a person is canonized in some church traditions, it is often viewed as declaring him to be holy and a Christian "hero" for all that he has done in living a flawless life.

However, this is not a Biblically correct understanding of the word saint, nor how sainthood is achieved. As salvation is a gift earned by Christ and given to us freely by faith, so is holiness, a gift belonging to Christ and given to us freely by faith. The Bible says, "For our sake he [God] made him[Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21) Jesus becomes sin on the cross so that we become holy in the washing of Holy Baptism. We become saints by God's action through Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. God declares us to be holy (i.e. saints) and so we are. Notice how Paul declares the recipients of his letters who have faith in Jesus Christ to be "saints". You, who have faith in Jesus Christ, are saints in God's eyes as well.

What about the life of a saint? This is not something for only the select few to attain, but it is the life of all who've been baptized into Jesus Christ. The life of a saint is a gift of God as well. We live saintly lives by Christ's presence and His power. Paul says of his sanctified life, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20) Our sanctified (i.e. holy) living is informed by the Word of God and nurtured by His Sacraments so that we are able to live a life of the saint. from the beginning to the end. As St. Paul puts it in his letter to the Philippians, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

So, the hero of All Saints Day is the same as the hero of the Reformation: Jesus Christ.

In Christ, Our Hero,
Pastor Schlund

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TO

Helen Lewis for putting up the LWML display in the hallway.

All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.

Everyone who came and cleaned the Lord's house on cleaning day.

Matt Schlund for changing the banners and paraments.

Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.

Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.

Everyone who has donated treats for our fellowship time.

Everyone who cleans the kitchen after Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.

All of the men who volunteer to usher.

Everyone who counts the offering.

Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.

This list is not inclusive. Please accept our apologies if we have missed giving you credit for serving the Lord in any fashion. We know that the Lord knows your service to Him.

Thank you – Gary Link and his family express their deepest thanks to everyone for their cards, prayers and love during this difficult time of Pat's sudden death. Your continued prayers, love, concern and caring are very much appreciated.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

What a glorious Reformation celebration we have had!! It's good to learn about the roots from which the Lutheran Church came, the struggles, the people God blessed with courage and integrity. Now we have the responsibility of keeping the law and gospel message pure for future generations. May we all focus on Christ, as the reformers did!

As November begins, with the craft shows, harvest dinners, and bazaars, the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will focus on their study of the PSALMS. Ladies will meet for Bible study November 3rd and 17th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. There is always a chair at the table just for you!

Assisted Living Ministry with a devotion and hymn singing will meet at the following locations. On November 14th at 11 a.m. they will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. Earlier in the month on November 10th at 11:45 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet for a no host lunch at Hardee's, 2615 10th Ave So. Afterward many in the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and enjoy the fellowship these activities present!

Voters Meeting Set

The next Voters meeting for members of Peace will be **Sunday, November 5**. There will be a potluck meal before the meeting. The meeting should begin around 12:30 p.m. We will be voting on the 2018 budget and talking about other important issues. Copies of the budget can be picked up from the usher's stand for your review.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **From November 1 through December 15, we will be collecting items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native Americans where Rev. Dan Jacobs and Rev. Dennis Bauer serve.** They are in need of **winter hats, gloves, mittens and warm socks, all sizes and for all ages.** Please purchase these items and bring them to the church anytime during this time and we will get them sent to the reservations before Christmas.
- ♥ Remember that the ladies of LWML will be sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on **December 6 – NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.** If you would like to help in anyway, please contact LWML President Val Martin.
- ♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.



November Anniversaries

Nov. 1 Vic and Carol Scheuffele
 Nov. 6 Michael and Crystal Lewis
 Nov. 17 Charlie and Angelika Fisher

Baptismal Anniversaries

November 4 Val Martin
 9 Brenna Hasbrouck
 9 Andrew Schlund
 11 Pastor Steve Schlund
 11 Michael Lewis
 15 Kaylee Lewis
 21 Al Beute
 22 Katherine Onstad
 22 August Birkholz
 22 Josie Ryster
 24 Betsy Wirth
 26 Alan Brown



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

Tami Birkholz, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Joseph Furr II (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).
Leonard Gidlow
Jane Hering
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer
June Meier
Bill and Dorothy Neuman
David Norman
Kathy Politz
Jean Radke

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

Deacon for November: Arnie Gidlow

November ushers:

5 – Darrell Greenwood and Kevin Aguiar
 12 – Matt Schlund and Al Beute
 19 – Pat Lewis and Tyler Denning
 26 – Eric Fletcher and Mitch Martin

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 98,587.23	\$102,750.03
Interest Income	\$ 907.31	\$ 749.97
Total Income	\$ 99,494.54	\$103,500.00
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 64,752.27	\$ 65,308.95
Administrative	\$ 5,269.55	\$ 6,157.44
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 17,768.66	\$ 17,837.50
Missions	\$ 8,324.79	\$ 8,624.97
Christian Education	\$ 4,076.33	\$ 4,312.47
Total Expenses	\$ 100,191.60	\$102,241.33
Net Church Income	\$ (697.06)	\$ 1,258.67

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at Peace

We will once again have a **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** on November 23. It is the Order of Matins without Communion. During the service there will be a non-perishable food offering that will be taken to the Great Falls Rescue Mission. Following the service, we will also have a meal for families of Peace who want to come and join us. There is a sign-up sheet posted and a tentative menu. Please sign your name and the number of people in your family and indicate what you will be bringing to add to the meal. We all have sooo much for which to give thanks!

Nursing Home Ministry needs your help!



A ministry providing devotions and hymn singing has been provided weekly over a number of years for residents both at Benefis Extended Care Center and Park Place Nursing Home. Currently, there is a need for volunteers to help with this service. The weekly schedule is as follows:

Benefis Skilled Nursing Center –

Tuesday 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Park Place Nursing Home –

Thursday 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

If you would like to help in this ministry of love, please contact Alice Schuman at 761-6657.