



Peace Lutheran Church

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The Reformation Hero

For many people, Martin Luther is a hero. As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, you will see and hear Martin Luther being made into a hero by the secular media. He is a hero of the common man, they will say. Luther stood up against oppressive authorities of Church and State. He championed the rights of conscience, individuality, and free speech. Luther will be praised as a hero of literacy for his work on translating the Bible into German, the language of the people. The list of Luther's qualifications to be a hero will go on and on. However, you will likely hear little or nothing regarding Luther's faith, his preaching, or his teaching. To many in the secular press, there is nothing much heroic about these things.

Good Christians, especially Lutherans, will take exception to this. Many will say that this is precisely why Luther is a hero. He rediscovered the Gospel, the good news "that one is justified (that is, becomes right with God) by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:28) In doing this, Luther saved the Christian Church from going down the path to destruction. We feel very fortunate and blessed to still have the Gospel and a Church in which to hear it because of Luther's heroic efforts.

Was Martin Luther a hero? If so, what kind of hero? As is the case with many discussions and debates, both sides go too far. Secular supporters of Martin Luther make some very good points. Luther did influence the literacy, culture, politics and history of Germany. However, these secular advancements were not Luther's primary or even most important work. The heart and soul of Luther's work was the advancement of the Gospel.

However, the spiritual descendants of Luther overreact to Luther as a secular hero by making him a spiritual hero for rediscovering the Gospel and saving the Church. The Word of God was always there. Luther simply proclaimed that Word – the Law and the Gospel. He rejected any notion that he was a hero for doing that. When people tried to make Luther a hero for taking on the emperor and the pope, he said, "I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything."

As far as saving the Church goes, the Church was never really in any danger. Jesus has promised, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) If the devil and the hordes of hell cannot destroy the church, then no pope or emperor will be able to do so either. The Church remains in existence and flourishes only by the Word.

In these dark days when it seems as if faith is faltering and the Church is crumbling, many Christians desperately look for a hero. I think that's why the Reformation is popular with many Christians, especially Lutherans. We are looking for that hero in Martin Luther. But that position has already been taken. In *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, Luther writes, "But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only son adored. He holds the field victorious."

Jesus Christ came to fight and to defeat sin, death, and the devil and He has triumphed gloriously. On the cross, Jesus suffered and died to earn forgiveness for all of our sins and to guarantee life after the grave in heaven with Him. His resurrection from the dead is proof of His victory. We are right with God, apart from good thing that we can or must do. We have forgiveness and salvation and the devil and his evil angels cannot take that away from us. Sometimes Satan is successful in hiding that from us and corrupting the Church. However, then the Lord choose a someone like Martin Luther to reveal it clearly again. However, it is the Word of God which does the work of saving souls and preserving the Church.

As we celebrate Reformation Day again this year, we do thank God for His servant, Martin Luther, and all that the Lord did through him. However, the hero in this matter is not Martin Luther, but Jesus Christ. Jesus gained the gifts of righteousness, forgiveness, and the new life which lasts forever by His perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection. As in Luther's time, Jesus continues to freely distribute those gifts through His Word and Sacraments and to preserve His Church. That's a real hero!

In Christ, Our Hero,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who donated composition books for inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center.
Everyone who donated socks, mittens, hat and gloves to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne people.
All of the ladies and gentlemen who go to Benefis Extended Care Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.
Everyone who attends Family Night and helps with food preparation and clean up.
Gloria Creek and Val Martin for playing the organ during our worship services.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes.
Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.
Everyone who has donated treats for our fellowship time.
All of the men who volunteer to usher.
Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.
All of the ladies who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.
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.

LWML

- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 1.** LWML will have a display on the bulletin board with some historic facts and information about where the Mites go and some of the projects and events that we have sponsored locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you to **Helen Lewis** and **Linda Aguiar** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 9:30 service and altar flowers will be provided.
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be held at Peace Lutheran on October 7 from 10 a.m. to about 2 p.m.** Val Martin will speak about her adventures and experiences at the LWML national convention in Albuquerque. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Val Martin. Plan now to come!
- ♥ **Through October 8,** we will be collecting items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native Americans, where Rev. Dan Jacobs and Rev. Dennis Bauer serve. Items being collected are **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 these dates. We will be taking them to Billings on Friday, October 13.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.** We may have a guest speaker. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us!! Remember your Mite Box!
- ♥ **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.

Friday Ladies Bible Study

How refreshing the crisp cool days of October are! Red and yellow leaves on the trees in Great Falls show off autumns colors. Every season has its special qualities to cherish and enjoy!

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS invites you to join them as they begin a new Bible study. They have chosen PSALMS as their next study. On October 6th, 13th, and 20th they will meet from 1-3 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Learn and enjoy the richness of God's songbook and poetry!

Assisted Living Ministry with a devotion and hymn singing will be at the following locations. On Tuesday, October 10th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. Friday, October 27th they start the Reformation weekend with a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Rikki's, 1220 9th St So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Singing the oldies but goodies is such good spiritual therapy for the residents. Us, too!

Cleaning Day set

Cleaning Day has been set for **Saturday, October 21** beginning at 9 a.m. Everyone please come and help us clean the Lord's house and prepare for colder weather. Come for as long as your schedule will allow. Lunch will be provided.



October Anniversaries

- Oct. 10 Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen
 Oct. 15 Bill and Elsie Huss
 Oct. 30 Kris and Stacey Smelser

Baptismal Anniversaries

- October 1 Lyle Onstad
 1 Tom Croskrey Sr.
 2 Gloria Creek
 3 Molly Jacobsen
 4 Sarah Ostlund
 10 Rick Johnsten
 20 Connie Croskrey
 27 Lee Henselin
 28 Ruth Denning
 31 Ruth Rozokat

Deacon for October: Pat Lewis

October ushers:

- 1 – Ed Ostlund and Darrell Greenwood
 8 – Matt Schlund and Tyler Denning
 15 – Eric Fletcher and Mitch Martin
 22 – Greg Franczyk and Lyle Onstad
 29 – Jeff Blomgren and Arnie Wirth



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**.

Please keep **Gary Link and his family** in your prayers at the sudden and unexpected death of Pat Link on September 15.

National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 1 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** Meet at the northeast corner in front of Holiday Village Mall to pick up a sign. For more information call Jim and Barb Going at 727-4878.

Central Circuit Reformation Service

Join us for a joint Reformation service for all the congregations in the Central Circuit on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls. The offering from the service will go to LCMS World Relief and Human Care – Disaster Relief.

Montana District Pastors Conference in Miles City

Pastor Schlund will be attending the Montana District Pastors Conference October 18 – 20, 2017 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Billings. We will continue with our Bible study during Family Night on Wednesday, October 18.

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO AUGUST 31, 2017		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 87,158.53	\$ 91,333.36
Interest Income	\$ 811.53	\$ 666.64
Total Income	\$ 87,970.06	\$92,000.00
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 57,754.60	\$ 58,052.40
Administrative	\$ 4,649.28	\$ 5,473.28
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 16,195.18	\$16,350.00
Missions	\$ 7,474.79	\$ 7,666.64
Christian Education	\$ 4,118.93	\$ 3,866.64
Total Expenses	\$ 90,192.78	\$ 91,408.96
Net Church Income	\$ (2,222.72)	\$ 591.04

Roller skate to Christian music!

Come and skate to Christians music at Wheels of Thunder, 1609 12th Ave. No. on Mondays from 4-8 PM.

