

October 2005



The Church Door

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church



Thank you to the members of DML for voting to continue our pastor/people ministry team by extending an open ended call to me. I appreciate the renewed affirmation of our ministry together. I have enjoyed my time as your pastor these past four years and I anticipate that our Lord still has more work for us to do together. Although technically a pastor has 30 days to consider a call, I do not anticipate needing that long. It is my sincere feeling that the Lord has called me to DML and has blessed our ministry together and will continue to do so.

Someone recently said that they were aware of another church which had just received a check of a few hundred dollars from the Meijer Community Rewards program and asked if DML could do that, too. Actually, I had looked at the program before but didn't follow through being unsure if the program would be worth the time and effort for us. Would we have enough of our people sign up for the program and spend enough money monthly to get anything out of the program? (Only monthly purchases in excess of \$100 are eligible). The answer is, I don't know, but it's worth a try. An example on the Meijer

website shows how on person spending \$675 in a given month could generate \$10.15 for their designated organization.

So, DML is now signed up to receive rewards from the Meijer Community Rewards program. The next step is for you to sign up with Meijer and designate DML as the recipient of the rewards using our six digit code, 731821. There are brochures available at church explaining the program, or you can get more information at the store. You can also sign up on line at www.meijer.com. If you are already signed up to participate in the program you can add DML if you have less than three recipients already.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Dennis

Rev. John Matthews—

President of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society. Rev. Matthews will be speaking on his recently released book

Anxious Souls Will Ask...

The Christ-Centered Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Weekend Schedule:

Saturday, October 1, 2005, 11:00 am—Noon
Hackley Public Library

Following a brief time of speaking, Rev. Matthews will be available for book-signing. Books will be available for purchase on this day.

Sunday, October 2, 2005, 4:00 pm
Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 S. Mears
Whitehall, MI

View BONHOEFFER movie, bring a dish to pass and enjoy a potluck meal, then hear Rev. Matthews speak.

October 2—20th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon	Andrew Kitchka		
Lector	_____	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
Acolyte	Bethani Eggleton	Isaiah 5:1-7	#243 Lord, with Glowing Heart**
Nursery	Rose Justian	Psalm 80:7-15	#347 Jerusalem the Golden**
Ushers	Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden	Philippians 3:4b-14	#346 When Peace, like a River**
Tellers	Tom & Donna Whitehead Gordon Eggleton	Matthew 21:33-46	#474 Children of the Heavenly Father**

October 9—21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon	Rose Justian		
Lector	_____	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
Acolyte	Emily Johnson	Isaiah 25:1-9	#253 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now**
Nursery	Betty Proksa	Psalm 23	#701 What Feat of Love
Ushers	Emily & Bill Kitchka	Philippians 4:1-9	#214 Come, Let Us Eat
Tellers	Randy & Cindy Borreson Polly Eagle	Matthew 22:1-14	#540 Praise the Lord! O Heavens**

October 16—22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon	Tom Whitehead		
Lector	_____	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
Acolyte	Matthew Kitchka	Isaiah 45:1-7	#795 Oh, Sing to the Lord**
Nursery	Lauren Stroh	Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]	#738 Healer of Our Every Ill
Ushers	Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	#731 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**
Tellers	LaVern & Irene Borreson Bill Kitchka	Matthew 22:15-22	#705 As the Grains of Wheat #748 Bind Us Together

October 23—23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon	Cindy Borreson		
Lector	_____	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
Acolyte	Becky Stroh	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	#651 Shine, Jesus, Shine
Nursery	Jan Ward	Psalm 1	Lord, I Lift Your Name On High
Ushers	John Moore & Tom Proksa	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	#713 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
Tellers	Tom & Betty Proksa John Moore	Matthew 22:34-46	Shout to the Lord Open the Eyes of My Heart

October 30—Reformation Sunday

Deacon	Rose Justian		
Lector	_____	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Hymns</u>
Acolyte	Andy Doane	Jeremiah 31:31-34	#228 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**
Nursery	Donna Whitehead	Psalm 46	#377 Lift High the Cross**
Ushers	Gene Broge & Brian Doane	Romans 3:19-28	#499 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**
Tellers	Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf	John 8:31-36	#343 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Financial Informaton—August 31, 2005

ASSETS

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$794.46
Cash Account.....	\$0.00
Savings – Reserve	\$3,482.84
Total Funds for General Operations.....	\$4,277.30
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Building (Projects)	\$1,801.92
Church Repairs	\$3,069.88
Hellman Fund	\$74.50
Evangelism.....	\$69.00
Eve Circle.....	\$1,472.77
Kitchen Fund	\$357.55
Men’s Club	\$262.91
Youth Group	\$149.39
Total Savings—Designated.....	\$7,257.92
Savings – Memorial.....	\$4,226.98
Savings – Social Security	\$794.19
Total Funds for Special Purposes.....	\$12,279.09
Total Cash and Bank Accounts.....	\$16,556.39
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance	
LB Money Market—Cash.....	\$2,414.30
LB Fund	\$31,790.54
LB Income Fund	\$38,770.33
Total Investments.....	\$72,975.17
<u>TOTAL ASSETS.....</u>	<u>\$89,531.56</u>

LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$(1.74)
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,714.01
WH—State Tax Liability.....	\$185.85
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</u>	<u>\$1,898.12</u>

Summary Information—August

Average Attendance—**70**

Offering Needed to meet 2005 Budget \$7,008.65

Amount Received toward Budget \$5,847.15



Ain't it da truth

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,
'Cause I didn't feel quite right. . .
All those aches and pains annoyed me
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder
But he wouldn't let it rest.
What with Medicare and Blue Cross,
We would do a couple tests.

To the hospital he sent me
Though I didn't feel that bad.
He arranged for them to give me
Every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
My aging frame displayed.
Stripped, on an ice cold table,
While my gizzards were x-rayed.

I was checked for worms and
parasites,
For fungus and the crud,
While they pierced me with long
needles
Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked around,
And to make sure I was living
They wired me up for sound.

They have finally concluded,
Their results have filled a page.
What I have will someday kill me;
My affliction is OLD AGE.

Submitted by LaVern Borreson



Sunday, October 30

Chili Lunch

Baked Goods

Crafts

**Church
BAZAAR**

Saturday,
October
29



Desserts

White Elephant

**Dorcas
Circle**

Next meeting is October 3rd at 10:00 am in the Lounge. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Contact Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for more information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join in.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Saturday
October 1—9am
Breakfast at Mickey's

Please contact Tom Whitehead (231) 798-4454 with any questions.

Our Prayer Concerns

Pastor John Adam
(former DML Pastor)

Robert Carey
(Kris Garrow's grandfather)

Brett Cavanaugh
(Clif Hellman's nephew)

Beryl Connelly

Millie Fredrick

Stephen Hellman

Ann Hulka

Tom Hulka

Beulah Justian

Vicki Peterson

Nancy Rizzo
(Ann Markgraf's daughter)

Paul Suchovsky

Lowell Tambling

Friends and Family in the Military

Kevin William Sellon (*Mike & Carol Sellon's son*)
United States Army
Stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Sgt. Kenneth W. Hawkins (*Tom & Betty Proksa's nephew*)
United States Army
Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

AJ-3 Lisa Pepera (*Virginia Kolarik's granddaughter*)
United States Navy
Serving on the USS Kitty Hawk

E1 Lynzie Heiss (*Ron Heiss's daughter*)
United States Army
Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

Do you have a someone special you would like included in the prayers or added to our prayer list? Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at newsletters@dmlc.org and she will see they are included.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM 1ST LUTHERAN—KATRINA RESPONSE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praise be to God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for your part in our supply run down to the Mississippi Gulf Coast this past week! Because of your contribution we were able to take five truck and trailer loads of canned goods, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and medical supplies to Ocean Springs and Biloxi, MS. We were also able to give over \$5,300 in cash to the local contingent of Lutheran Disaster Relief. The money will go towards helping hundreds of families pay their bills and filling in the gaps left by FEMA and the Red Cross.

Upon our arrival we were greeted with smiles and thank yous. Within an hour and a half almost three trucks and trailers worth of supplies had been handed directly to people in need. Most of our bleach went to the local hospital for sanitation purposes. The rest of the supplies were taken to another distribution center in Biloxi, MS that had closed due to lack of supplies. Within three hours after re-opening their doors all of our supplies had been given out. The Red Cross estimated the average shelf life of a can of beans to be 24 hours. Obviously, the average life of our goods was much less.

The entire face of the Gulf Coast has been changed forever. The men who accompanied me in this journey were incredible. Not only did we drive 24 hours straight through, but worked for 8 hours once we arrived. After spending the night we drive 20 hours and returned Friday morning. Their efforts were much appreciated as volunteer help was in short supply. I am truly awed and humbled by the response of this community.

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you.” (1 Thessalonians 3:9)

Your Servant in Christ, *Vicar Thomas Montgomery, Pastoral Intern*



1 Give thanks for the sharing of the witness that is strengthened through the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Pare and Southern dioceses, and the ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synod and Western Iowa Synod, respectively.

2 Pentecost 20
O God, in the midst of health, economic, political, and social challenges in the African nations of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, we pray that your abounding grace may bring strength and hope to the people.

3 Give thanks for Pastor Manuel Morales and Prince of Peace Lutheran Mission, Houston, Texas. Ask that the Holy Spirit guide this “re-start” ministry, which already has a church facility and land for development, and is trying to reach out through family, youth, and leadership development to a diverse Hispanic/Latino community.

4 Pray for Pastor Cesar Arroyo and his wife Aida as they proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in the developing congregation Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood, California. Especially, ask that their youth outreach program be blessed.

5 Pray for Bette McCrandell, who serves with the Lutheran Church in Liberia, which continues to witness to God's love and faithfulness. Bette provides leadership to the education ministries of the Lutheran church.

6 Give thanks for Carol and Pastor James Sack, serving with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pray for James as he teaches and counsels at the Japan Lutheran Theological College and Seminary in Tokyo. Pray for Carol as she reaches out with a ministry of Music Thanatology within the church and the greater Tokyo community.

7 Pray for Pastor Douglas Schoelles and Church of the Resurrection, Roanoke, Texas, an ELCA mission under development. Ask that their need for a worship and music leader be met.

8 Pray for the companion relationship between the Indonesian Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP) Toba District and the ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

9 Pentecost 21—We pray, O God, together with the people of Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea: “grant that we might sleep in peace in this home; and that at the break of day we may find ourselves in safety.”

10 Pray for Camino Real Christian Fellowship, San Antonio, Texas, and Pastor Ernie Hinojosa. Ask for continued growth, vitality, and vision for this newly organized inner city, multiracial ministry.

11 Pray for Dirk and Sarah Stadtlander and Ron and Karen McCallum, who are entering language study in Burkina Faso in preparation for serving the ELCA mission in Senegal.

12 Thank God for the witness and vitality brought to the church through the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic and the ELCA Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

13 Give thanks for Amanda Lopez, a lay leader who has developed “P.M. Verb”—a young adult outreach ministry—and “Blend”—a coffee hour ministry—in San Antonio’s multiracial inner-city. Pray for continued growth of these two ministries.

14 Pray for ELCA seminarians doing their internships in international settings. Pray especially for Leslie Williamson of Luther Seminary, who will spend this year serving a congregation in Mexico.

15 On the eve of World Food Day (October 16), give thanks for the witness of Anne and Willie Langdji, whose work in the rural area of Linguere, Senegal, assists farmers and migrating herders that are historically in conflict over land use. They work with these groups in finding ways to grow new, income-generating crops that can feed cattle, minimize migration, and help herders improve their livestock, which will improve milk production. Processing and selling the milk produces income and offers nutrition during the dry season, when hunger is a problem.

16 Pentecost 22
Merciful God, we thank you for the power of the Bible that speaks to the people of Sao Tomé and Principe, the Republic of Congo, and Gabon. May they find strength and wisdom in you to witness amid the social challenges of today.

17 Pray for Pastor Patricia Muran and her husband Tom of Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz (Santa Maria, California). Give thanks especially for the families from Oaxaca, Mexico, who are joining this mission under development.

18 Give thanks for Spirit of Life, an ELCA congregation under development, and Pastor Gary Harris (Sergeant Bluff, Iowa). Pray that God will continue to bless their growing youth ministry and that the Holy Spirit will guide these young people as they grow in relationship with Christ.

19 Give praise for the companion synod relationship between the Diocese in Arusha Region of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod.

20 Thank God for Amanda Bartell, who teaches English at a teachers college in China under the auspices of the Amity Foundation. Give thanks for all Amity teachers in China who share their gift of presence and education.

21 Pray that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and insight to the ELCA Task Force on Education meeting this weekend to prepare a social statement on education for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

22 Praise God for the commitment and ministry of ELCA volunteer missionaries. Give thanks for the gifts of the many English-speaking teachers serving at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas and Tisovec, Slovakia.

23 **Pentecost 23**
We bless you, O God, for sending your Spirit into the hearts of the people of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. Even as challenges continue, including discord, we ask your grace to abound. And on this United Nations Day, we pray for all nations of the world, that peace and justice, even in the midst of diversity and differences, may prevail.

24 Pray for Pella Lutheran Church, Clinton, Wisconsin, and Calvary Lutheran Church, Beloit, Wisconsin. These two ELCA congregations have been seeking whether to merge, re-locate, or begin a satellite together. Pray for guidance and good spirit as they continue their journey together and live into their decisions.

25 Thank God for Mission Partners—congregations and individuals who support ELCA mission congregations by offering prayer, encouragement, volunteer help, and financial support. ELCA Mission Partners are vitally important to new congregations and those undergoing transformation or redevelopment.

26 Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP) leaders to proclaim the Good News with boldness and to be creative in helping visitors to the parks see the hand of the Creator in the wonders of the parks. May the Spirit give them the courage to witness to God's love and compassion in the midst of sometimes skeptical and hostile staff peers.

27 Pray for peace in our time on this "World Day of Prayer for Peace." Give thanks for the ELCA social statement "For Peace in God's World" on the tenth anniversary of its adoption in 1995. Pray that all Christians grow in their commitment and skills in peacemaking.

28 Pray for peace and security in the Holy Land, that the witness of the church may lead to reconciliation and justice for all, and that peace with justice may flourish. We especially lift up the people and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

29 Give thanks to God for Candice and Royan Yuen as Royan teaches Old Testament in the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Pray for all who find their vocation in teaching, especially in international ministries in seminaries and church-related colleges and universities.

30 **Reformation Sunday**
We give you thanks, O God, for signs of your presence and activity among the people of Germany. Continue to bring vitality, we pray, to the churches, that the awakening that happened with the Reformation may live on in ongoing renewal.

31 Pray for Jill and Pastor Steven Rheingans as they serve the Protestant Church of Oman, an expatriate congregation in this country located on the Arabian Peninsula.

Festivals and Commemorations

Tuesday, October 4

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226

Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. In a public confrontation with his father he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being "wedded to Lady Poverty." Under his leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they understood literally Jesus' words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Their task in preaching was to "use words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God's creation. This commemoration has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. A prayer attributed to St. Francis is included in LBW (p. 48) and could be used at gatherings in the congregation today.

Theodore Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864

Fliedner's work was instrumental in the revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. While a pastor in Kaiserswerth, Germany, he also ministered to prisoners in Düsseldorf. Through his ministry to prisoners he came in contact with Moravian deaconesses, and it was through this Moravian influence that he was convinced that the ministry of deaconesses had a place among Lutherans. His work and writing encouraged women to care for those who were sick, poor, or imprisoned. Fliedner's deaconess motherhouse in Kaiserswerth inspired Lutherans all over the world to commission deaconesses to serve in parishes, schools, prisons, and hospitals. At this motherhouse in Kaiserswerth, Florence Nightingale received her training as a nurse (see August 13).

Thursday, October 6

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536

William Tyndale was ordained in 1521, and his life's desire was to translate the scriptures into English. When his plan met opposition from Henry VIII, Tyndale fled to Germany, where he traveled from city to city and lived in poverty and constant danger. He was able to produce a New Testament in 1525. Nine years later he revised it and began work on the Old Testament, which he was unable to complete. He was tried for heresy and burned at the stake. Miles Coverdale completed Tyndale's work, and the Tyndale-Coverdale version was published as the "Matthew Bible" in 1537. The style of this translation has influenced English versions of the Bible such as the King James (Authorized Version) and the New Revised Standard Version for four centuries.

Friday, October 7

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, missionary to North America, 1787

Muhlenberg was prominent in setting the course for Lutheranism in this country. He helped Lutheran churches make the transition from the state churches of Europe to independent churches of America. Among other things, he established the first Lutheran synod in America and developed an American Lutheran liturgy. His liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888, used in many North American service books for a majority of the past century.

The commemoration of Muhlenberg invites congregations to look back on what has shaped their identity, worship, and mission in the past and to look ahead to what might shape it in the future.

Monday, October 10

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, 1996

Massie L. Kennard was a native of Chicago, Illinois. He was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served the church in various staff positions, including work as the director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

Saturday, October 15

Teresa of Jesus, teacher, renewer of the church, 1582

Teresa of Jesus is also known as Teresa of Ávila. She is commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Teresa chose the life of a Carmelite nun after reading the letters of Jerome. She was frequently sick during her early years as a nun and found that when she was sick her prayer life flowered, but when she was well it withered. Steadily her life of faith and prayer deepened, and she grew to have a lively sense of God's presence with her. She worked to reform her monastic community in Ávila, which she believed had strayed from its original purpose. Her reforms asked nuns to maintain life in the monastic enclosure without leaving it and also to identify with those who are poor by not wearing shoes. Teresa's writings on devotional life are widely read by members of various denominations.

Monday, October 17

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, c. 115

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria. It was there that the name "Christian" was first used to describe the followers of Jesus. Ignatius is known to us through his letters. In them he encouraged Christians to live in unity sustained with love while standing firm on sound doctrine. Ignatius believed Christian martyrdom was a privilege. When his own martyrdom approached, he wrote in one of his letters, "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. . . . Do not stand in the way of my birth to real life."

Ignatius and all martyrs are a reminder that even today Christians face death because of their faith in Jesus. Still, we are reminded in 2 Timothy, "If we die with him, we shall also live with him."

Tuesday, October 18

St. Luke, Evangelist

Luke is identified as the author of both Luke and Acts. Luke is careful to place the events of Jesus' life in both their social and religious contexts. Some of the most loved parables, including the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, are found only in this gospel. Luke's gospel has also given the church some of its most beautiful songs: the Benedictus sung at morning prayer, the Magnificat sung at evening prayer, and the Nunc dimittis sung at the close of the day. These songs are powerful witnesses to the message of Jesus Christ.

Paul calls Luke the "beloved physician," and some congregations use the day of St. Luke to remember and pray for those in healing professions. The Service of the Word for Healing in Occasional Services may be used.

Sunday, October 23

James of Jerusalem, martyr, c. 62

James became an early leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is described in the New Testament as the brother of Jesus, and secular historian Josephus calls James, "the brother of Jesus, the so-called Christ." Little is known about him, but Josephus reported that the Pharisees respected James for his piety and observance of the law. His enemies had him put to death.

Was James a blood brother of the Lord? It is difficult to answer that question because the Aramaic word for brother can also mean cousin. Jesus also said, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." The commemoration of James and his connection to Jesus as "brother" can spark further discussion about how we all share Christ as our brother through baptism into his death and resurrection.

Wednesday, October 26

Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters

These three outstanding hymnwriters all worked in Germany in the seventeenth century during times of war and plague. When Philipp Nicolai was a pastor in Westphalia, the plague killed 1,300 of his parishioners. In one week 170 people died. His hymns "Wake, awake, for night is flying" (LBW 31) and "O Morning Star, how fair, how bright" (LBW 76) were included in a series of meditations he wrote to comfort his parishioners during the plague. The style of Johann Heermann's hymns moved away from the more objective style of Reformation hymnody toward expressing the emotions of faith. Three of his hymns are in LBW, including his plaintive text, "Ah, holy Jesus" (123). Paul Gerhardt lost a preaching position at St. Nicholas's Church in Berlin, because he refused to sign a document stating he would not make theological arguments in his sermons. Some have called him the greatest of Lutheran hymnwriters.

Friday, October 28

St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

We know little about Simon and Jude. In New Testament lists of the apostles, Simon the "zealot" or Cananean is mentioned, but he is never mentioned apart from these lists. Jude, sometimes called Thaddeus, is also mentioned in lists of the twelve. At the last supper Jude asked Jesus why he had chosen to reveal himself to the disciples but not to the world. A traditional story about Simon and Jude says that they traveled together on a missionary journey to Persia and were both martyred there.

The prayer of the day for this lesser festival asks that as Simon and Jude "were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Monday, October 31—Reformation Day

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of the abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

With the 1999 signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification on this very date, the question of how the reformation might be celebrated appropriately is a lively question. If Lutherans and Roman Catholics agree on the basic nature of the gospel, now what? This commemoration is less a victory day for Lutherans than it is an opportunity to be reminded of the reformers' belief that the church would always stand in need of reformation.

From Our Members...

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong,
so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die.
He was out there sort of like a president.
I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.

But later on when I met Christ,
it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride,
but it was a tandem bike,
and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that he suggested we change places,
but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way.
It was rather boring, but predictable...
it was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts,
up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds,
it was all I could do to hang on!
Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal".

I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?"
He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure.
And when I'd say, "I'm scared," he'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing,
acceptance and joy.
They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again.
He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight".
So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received,
and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life.
I thought He'd wreck it; but He knows bike secrets,
knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners,
knows how to jump to clear high rocks,
knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places,
and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face
with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore,
he just smiles and says...."Pedal".

Submitted by Wally Roach

A GRANDMOTHER'S WISH

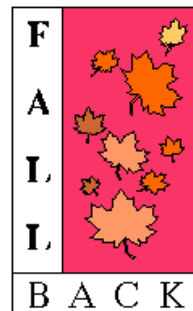
If I were granted any wish,
I'll tell you what I'd do...
I'd wish my kids were small again,
for just a month or two;
To hear their squeals of laughter,
To watch them while they play,
And when they asked me to join in,
I'd *not* say, "Not Today".

To hug again their chubby frame,
to kiss away their tears,
And cherished childhood innocence
that's washed away the years;
Then when it's story time again,
I'd stay a little longer;
To answer questions, sing the songs,
so memories would be stronger.

But time is callous, wishes myths,
yet God in His great wisdom,
Has given me another chance
before I join his Kingdom.
The face may not be just the same,
The name is changed, 'tis true,
But yet the smile that radiates,
reminds me so of you.

God must have known that Grandma
would need a chance or two,
For many little happy things
she hadn't time to do;
So God gave love to Grandmas
To equal that before,
That, in effect, embraces
those little lives she bore.

Submitted by Nancy Gibson



Sunday,
October 30
2:00 am

Tom & Donna Whitehead aid in relief for Hurricane Katrina victims

Donna and Tom completed a 3-day Red Cross disaster services volunteer crash course on Saturday, September 10 and received the next day that they would be leaving Tuesday morning from Grand Rapids to Alabama, from which they were to be deployed to Mississippi. They are scheduled to return to Muskegon late on October 4th.

They have been assigned as case workers. They had listed three different areas in which they would be interested in serving: Driving an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) to bring food to people where their homes are, to work on disaster computer operations, or to be case workers. They were told late Saturday night that there was a desperate need for case workers. Case workers talk with families one-on-one to determine their most important immediate needs, give them funds to meet those needs, and then refer them to other agencies for their longer term needs. They have been trained in that area so agreed to do that. This should be interesting because they will be able to listen to the stories of some of the people who have been hit the hardest hit and give them some direct help.

The Red Cross officials in Montgomery provided them with information about hardships to expect. This doesn't exactly sound like a great vacation spot but we know Tom and Donna's dedication will bring them through this..

Information received from Amanda Whitehead

Day 1

Well I actually got 3 phone calls from my parents today, which was 3 more than I expected on the first day, so that made me quite happy.

They arrived to Montgomery, Alabama this morning with no problems at all. Eight of the volunteers (including mom and dad) were given assignments immediately, which was a surprise to them. They were originally told that they would have a few days of more training once they got down there. So they are going to be stationed in Hattiesburg, Mississippi which they tell me is 70 miles north of Biloxi. When they called, they were driving from Montgomery to Hattiesburg, so they didn't know yet what the conditions were going to be like in Hattiesburg. They said that there wasn't much evidence of a hurricane in Montgomery, but the more they drove towards Hattiesburg the worse it got.

They were told that they'll be staying in a shelter while they're in Hattiesburg, but they were unclear as to if it was a staff only shelter or just a regular shelter. While they're in Hattiesburg, they will be "case workers." They will be talking with the people to determine what their immediate needs are and giving them the money from Red Cross to go out and buy their necessities. My mom's cell phone ended up cutting out, so that is all the details I have at this point. Hopefully that's not an indication that they won't have any cell phone availability while they are in Hattiesburg. I will send more when I get more. Thank you all for your loving support and please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Day 2:

It was a brief conversation so I have limited details. To-

day was their first day as "case workers." They got to talk to people who had appointments to come in today and sit down with them to fill out paperwork and then they issued them the approval to receive money. I guess the amount of money they received depended on how many people were in their household. My mom said that their "clients" were friendly enough. It's been 2 weeks since the Hurricane and they're in desperate need of things.

One of the couples my mom sat down with was an elderly couple who was very appreciative and happy to be talking with them. The woman in the couple asked my mom where she was from, and she just said, "Michigan." The woman then said, "I have an uncle that lives in Muskegon." So that was a pretty weird coincidence.

From what it sounded like, where they are located has a lot of damage, but not as bad as some other areas. Hattiesburg got their power back last week. After they got out around 5 pm, all the volunteers they are working with decided to take a drive about 30 minutes south to see the damage there. They were still out of power and the damage was much more severe than what they've seen where they are.

I wasn't able to get many details on their living conditions, but they sounded extremely upbeat and chipper. My dad was the one driving the van that had 10 volunteers all together that they are working with each day. He said that everyone is my age (26) or younger. I told him that they will help keep him young. They both really sounded happy and excited, so that put my nerves to rest a little bit.

Day 3, 4, 5

My parents are continuing to do great. I finally found out more on their living situation down there. They are one of the few volunteers that actually get to stay in a hotel instead of a shelter. It was them and the 8 other people that they arrived with that get hotel rooms. So they were very lucky. They think it was because they arrived so late at night that they were able to get the hotel rooms, but they're really unsure of why they were so lucky.

They have been working in Wiggins, MS. I was mistaken before when I said Hattiesburg. Apparently the hotel is in Hattiesburg, but they had been working in Wiggins. Yesterday they closed the Wiggins "office" and started up a new one in Augusta (I think that's the name of the town they told me). The Wiggins office was written up in the Washington Post. The article doesn't mention my parents specifically, but it's their "office" (for lack of a better word) is mentioned.

I can't remember if I mentioned this before, but while they are working, they are surrounded by a ton of policeman and security just to make sure everyone keeps in line. It sounds like they haven't had any problems so far, but it's nice to know that they're very protected.

Please keep Tom and Donna and all the victims of Hurricane Katrina in your prayers. And now also the victims of Hurricane Rita.

Luther Fest 2005, Reformation Fine Arts Festival

Sunday October 30, 2005 – 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

A joint ELCA Choir will sing "A Festival of Hymns - The Writers Tell Their Stores" by Hal Hopson.

The ELCA churches in the Stony Lake Conference are celebrating Reformation Day by hosting the first annual Luther fest - a Fine Arts Celebration. The celebration will include:

- Various groups performing in the sanctuary, including What Four (a local vocal quartet), soloists, Small Ensembles, Handbell Choirs, and a Hymn Festival for congregation, joint choirs, handbells, organ and brass quintet
- A juried art show displayed in the hallway classrooms.
- Various events and activities for kids in the fellowship hall
- Food - a real Oktoberfest variety of food.

Joint Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

Thursday, Oct.20 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.at First Lutheran

Thursday, Oct.27 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.at First Lutheran

Saturday, Oct. 29, 10:00 A.M. - Noon, Immanuel Lutheran

Health Events

October Health Forum

Topic Childhood Obesity & Type 2 Diabetes,

Thursday, October 20, 2005, 7:00 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Childcare provided

Flu Shot Clinic at Dr. Martin Luther

October 26th, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Flu shot clinic at Immanuel

Thursday November 17, 2005, 5:00 - 6:00 PM,
6:00 - 7:00 PM, Guest Speaker Terrie Hampel, MPH,

Muskegon County Helath Department,

Topic, Communicable Diseases.

7:00 - 8:00 PM Flu Shots resume

Do You Really know Where Your Children Are?

A free informational session on
Internet safety presented by Richard
S. Murray,

Assistant US Attorney,
Western District of Michigan
will be held at

First Lutheran Church

Thursday October 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Praise Worship Practice

Saturday, October 22
at 11:00 am

October 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9 am Men's Club at Mickey's
<p>2 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club</p>	3	4 <p style="text-align: center;">7 pm Finance Committee <i>Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226</i> <i>Theodore Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864</i></p>	5 <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 pm Property Committee</p>	6 <p style="text-align: center;">2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study <i>William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536</i></p>	7 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, missionary to North America, 1787</i></p>	8
<p>9 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club</p>	10 <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Congregation Council <i>Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, 1996</i></p>	11 <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Eve Circle</p>	12	13 <p style="text-align: center;">2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study</p>	14	15 <p style="text-align: center;">10 am Worship & Music Committee <i>Teresa of Jesus, teacher, renewer of the church, 1582</i></p>
<p>16 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club</p>	17 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, c. 115</i></p>	18 <p style="text-align: center;">St. Luke, Evangelist</p>	19	20 <p style="text-align: center;">2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study</p>	21	22 <p style="text-align: center;">9 am Mutual Ministry Committee @ Mickey's</p>
<p>23 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club <i>James of Jerusalem, martyr, c. 62</i></p>	24 <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 pm Evangelism Committee</p>	25	26 <p style="text-align: center;">Flu Shot Clinic at DML 4 to 6 pm <i>Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters</i></p>	27 <p style="text-align: center;">2 pm & 7 pm Bible Study</p>	28 <p style="text-align: center;">St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles</p>	29 <p style="text-align: center;">Church Bazaar</p>
<p>30 Reformation Sunday 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist 11 am BIBLE Club</p>	31 <p style="text-align: center;">Labor Day Reformation Day</p>					

**Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

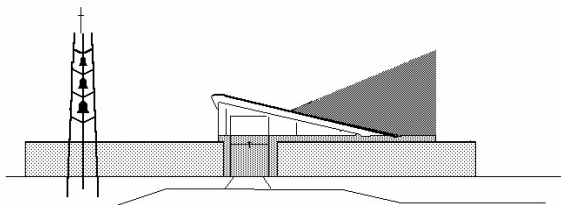
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We're on the Web!
www.dmlc.org

The Church Door

The Newsletter of
Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2005



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