



# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**A** Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship [ELW] 503–505 has probably been translated more frequently than any other hymn in church history. Luther and his contemporaries viewed this text as one of “comfort” in the face of adversity, confessing Christ as “the Lord of hosts by name” and reminding us that “no other God we claim.”

Based on Psalm 46, the hymn is a celebration of the sovereign power of God over all earthly and spiritual forces, and of the sure hope we have in him because of Christ. After its publication, it gained immense popularity throughout Reformed Europe.

*It was ... the Marseillaise of the Reformation. It was sung at Augsburg during the Diet, and in all the churches of Saxony, often against the protest of the priest. It was sung in the streets; and, so heard, comforted the hearts of Melancthon, Jonas, and Cruciger, as they entered Weimar, when banished from Wittenberg in 1547. It was sung by poor Protestant emigrants on their way into exile, and by martyrs at their death. It is woven into the web of the history of Reformation times, and it became the true national hymn of Protestant Germany. —Louis Benson*

The hymn became closely associated with Luther himself, as it embodied in its words and melody so much of the character of its author — bold, confident, defiant in the face of opposition. The opening words of the hymn are chiseled on the steeple of the Castle Church in Wittenberg and above the doors of St. George Church in Eisenach (where Luther sang in the choir).

There are at least seven theories on the time and circumstances in which the hymn was written. Perhaps the most likely story is that it was written in October 1527 as the plague was approaching. The evidence for this date is the printing history surrounding it (no copies beforehand, and a growing number of copies afterwards).

There is debate about where the tune came from. In times past, it was believed to have been borrowed by Luther, perhaps from an old Gregorian melody. More recently, however, scholars are inclined to believe that Luther wrote it himself. (It probably was not a bar tune as many have been led to believe).

Would you believe that some of Luther’s original hymn tunes were criticized for being too upbeat? He was one of the first to employ a major key for some of his hymns, including “A Mighty Fortress.” One scholar notes that Luther’s opponents complained about another such hymn, “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” (ELW, 594) for being far too joyous a melody to be sung in church.

Such melodies that Luther, and quickly other Lutheran Christians, used sometimes had their origins in dance melodies and folk tunes — but probably not bars.



# REFORMATION 500

*This is it!*



**A**fter months of preparation and anticipation, the day of commemoration and celebration is almost here. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther challenged the elite at the University of Wittenberg, Germany, to debate the subject of Indulgences in the Church. That event started the firestorm we call the Reformation. Now, five hundred years later, we remember the key elements of this Reformation: grace alone, faith alone, the Word alone. All will come together Sunday, October 29 (8:15 ad 10:45) with a festival Reformation Sunday worship service with brass and choir. Invite friends to this 500th anniversary worship...and be sure to **WEAR RED!**



First Lutheran-ers at Eisleben, Germany (April 24, 2017):  
l to r—Kay Sidle, Chris Dittmar, Marilyn Dunn,  
Julie Dittmar, Maria Schell, Tad Schell, Miriam Gibson

## A Lutheran/Roman Catholic Service of Prayer

will be held at First Lutheran at 3 PM on Sunday, October 29. This date coincides with Reformation Sunday itself. Speakers will include the Rev. Ralph Mineo, a former Catholic priest and now pastor at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in North Baltimore and St. John’s Lutheran Church in McComb, and dean of the synod’s Central Conference, as well as married couples in which one spouse is Lutheran and the other Catholic.

# REFORMATION 500

## 2017-18 Stewardship Emphasis



# Sharing God's Gifts

The emphasis this year is to recognize and celebrate what God is doing in our name around the world. What ministries are we being done in Findlay, the United States and in Africa, Asia and elsewhere? Where are our gifts needed in 2018 to share God's love in Christ?

You will have an opportunity to make a commitment in 2018 to give your heart, your hands, your time, and your money to further the work of Christ's Church. Please take the time to fill in a 2018 Commitment Card and offer it at worship

**October 22, 2017 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**  
**Stewardship Sunday**

Beginning in November and each month we will spotlight the various ministries of our congregation, the NWO Synod and the ELCA.

**"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." —1 Timothy 6: 18-19**

*An Invitation to Roman Catholics and Lutherans in NW Ohio*

## *Continue the Conversation!*

Following the beautiful shared service of worship held at St Michael's Parish on Sunday afternoon, September 10, we now have the opportunity to gather together in worship again—smaller, quieter, with more chance for conversation and more time for shared reflection—as we *Continue the Conversation* together.

Sunday, October 29

First Lutheran Church  
109 E Lincoln Street  
downtown Findlay

3 p.m. worship

with fellowship and refreshments to follow.

*Please join us, and help  
Continue the Conversation!*

As I type this today, I watch the latest news on the hurricane Irma. By the time you read this letter, we will already know the devastation caused by the storm and all of our friends and relatives and residents of the South will know the worst. The massive powers of wind and water are frightening. I continue to ask myself what would I do if I were a resident of the Caribbean or of the southern states? Property must become less important than lives.

Strangely enough, when we soon travel to Stratford, Ontario for a weekend of theatre, two of the three plays address the issue of the importance of money. Timon of Athens involves a character who buys friends with his generosity. These friends then refuse to aid Timon when he is in need. Timon uncovers his true self as a misanthrope and realizes the opposite excess, universal hatred. Neither excess is acceptable. The only truly good person in the play is Flavius, Timon's servant. Flavius is not ruined by money; he sees life as it is.

The other play, The Madwoman of Chaillot, involves a group of wealthy men of influence in Paris. Thinking there is money to be made from oil under the city, these men plan to destroy the city, caring not about the beauty of the city of Paris. The have-nots, led by the Madwoman of the title, have their own plan. As one critic writes, "Nothing is ever so wrong in this world that a sensible woman can't set right in the course of an afternoon." She takes matters into her own hands.

The play discusses money: who has it? who does not? where does it come from? what do the people do with the money? Even Shakespeare was concerned with greed, corruption, the gap between the rich and the poor, and environmentalism.

\*Now...if you are still reading, here are some facts about this season you may not know:

\*The term jack-o-lantern stems from an Irish myth about a man named Stingy Jack whose ghost wandered around carrying a carved-out turnip with a burning coal for light. That's why the first ones were made with turnips or beets.

\*The largest pumpkin pie ever, 20 feet wide, coming in at 3699 pounds was baked in an improvised oven by Ohio's New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers. The filling alone contained 187 cans of pumpkin, 2796 pounds of eggs, 109 gallons of evaporated milk, 525 pounds of sugar, 14.5 pounds of cinnamon, 7 pounds of salt, and 3 pounds of pumpkin pie spice. After letting it cool for two hours, bakers divided it into 5000 slices.

\*Illinois farmers produce roughly half of the 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins grown in the United States.

\*Fifty million is the average number of pumpkin pies eaten each Thanksgiving. Last year Costco alone sold nearly 1.75 million pies in the three days leading up to Thanksgiving.

\*"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" is 51 years old. Linus' classic words remain timeless: "There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics, and the Great pumpkin."

Thanks to HGTV Magazine for the above information.

God bless and keep reading.

Kathy Brooks (Kbrooks@Lrbcc.com)



## Social Ministry

**THE GOOD NEWS GARDEN** is going into hibernation! As we put the

Good News Garden to "bed," (and when I say we, I'm mostly talking about Jerry Bryant!), we look backward to all the donations of produce to members, food pantries, beautification of Main Street with the many flowers and forward to the Garden Harvest Soup for October's Community Dinner. Instead of a cover crop, the Garden Committee thought it might be nice to have some bagged, "mulched" leaves for amending the soil. NOT BAGS OF LEAVES, but MULCHED leaves. Look for an announcement in the bulletin before bringing your leaves. Thanks. J. Ebersole



**RIEHM FARM** continues to bring vegetables to the church on

Thursday for their distribution. We pick up the produce that is remaining and take it to City Mission, Community Dinner, or those who would like some fresh produce. Please sign the list if you would like to help. They will also be bringing late cold weather crops 2

weeks per month starting in Nov. I don't have a schedule yet but, if you would like to help then please let Carolyn Bryant know. Thank you to all those who have helped with this ministry in the past.



**Blood Mobile**

**RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE** will be here at First on Thurs. Oct

12 from 12-6pm. Look for a sign-up sheet to bring brownies, cheese or cookies. Encourage anyone to be a blood donor. The need is always there. An appointment can be made online

at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). We will feed you and thank you for your donation.



**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS YOUR**

**HELP!** Over the past 10 years your congregation has been most generous with monetary and food donations to our LSS Food Pantry in Findlay. Our emergency choice pantry, located at St. John's on Tiffin Avenue continues to serve more and more people who are among the 1 in 8 considered to be "food

insecure" within Hancock County. Like Chopin Hall and Christian Clearing House, our services depend on volunteers, and we are currently down 3 volunteers per week. If you are already volunteering at one of the other agencies, I applaud you. If you have not taken the "volunteer plunge," I would ask you again to prayerfully consider doing so with LSS. Our hours are currently Monday and Thursday 1P.M. to 4P.M. and Tuesday 11A.M. to 2P.M. We have volunteers who work every week and some who work just once a month. There is paperwork with clients (done with paper and pen) and some light lifting as you help clients select groceries off the shelves.

If you think you might like to try this, come for a visit during our hours, pick up an application, and be Christ's hands, heart, and healing. To inquire further, you may call the office (419-422-7917) and speak to Lou, or call Jane Ebersole, volunteer coordinator (419-422-9640). Thanks for your consideration. God's blessings.

The October Noisy Offering will benefit:



"To provide compassionate support to Hancock County cancer patients and families through their journey".

Food Cart Requests



Deodorant, bath soap, pasta and sauces

All donations benefit Lutheran Social Services The food cart is in the kitchenette.

NewsLetter DEADLINE Monday, October 16



Tuesday, October 3rd, 11:30 at Café Marie's All are invited to join the fun!

LSS FINANCIAL COACHING SUCCESS By Keira Morehead and Jane Ebersole

As I was reading the LSS Messenger this past month, I found this article on an LSS success story with one of their many programs. I called to ask about the program and whether the article could be reprinted. Pr. Mark Hill (development) said, "Absolutely! This is a program which involves 3 of our staff who work with low or no-income clients to manage their Ohio benefits, work on credit repair, and budgeting. Here is the article by Keira:

Ms. Gray has been receiving financial and housing coaching at Lutheran Social Services since November, 2016, with ultimate goals of obtaining permanent housing, securing stable employment, and increasing household income. [She] was approved for a 3-bedroom home. She signed her lease, received her keys, and moved out of the housing shelter and into her new residence on March 1, 2017.

Ms. Gray has worked with her current restaurant employer for one year as a Crew Member, Assistant Manager, and recently accepted the position as General Manager. She has increased her overall household monthly net income, decreased her expenses, and established a savings account creating a financial safety net for emergencies. She is now focused on maintaining and sustaining housing, continuing to increase her income and savings, and advancing in employment opportunities.



- Oct. 10—Martha Circle, 9:00am, church lounge Rachel Circle, 9:30am, church library
Oct. 14—Central Conference Fall Retreat, 9:00—1:00; English Lutheran, Bluffton
Oct. 16—Hannah Circle, 7:00, Church Lounge
Oct. 24-26 Rummage Set-up
Oct. 27-Rummage Sale 9:00—5:00
Oct. 28-Rummage Sale 9:00—12:00
The rummage sale committee has chosen to divide, equally, the October rummage sale profits between the local "Boot" project for Hancock County Schools, and the ELCA Hurricane Harvey & Irma Disaster Relief Funds.
Oct. 29-Cookie Sunday, Hannah Circle

Renovation Update



Several people have asked why the tile floor was not continued into the lounge. One has to remember how the lounge area is used. The open area for fellowship and Cookie Sunday, will be spectacular but, the lounge is more than Cookie Sunday. When the wall panels are closed, the lounge is a gathering room for peace and comfort. A bride shares the lounge with her mothers and bridesmaids to prepare for the biggest day of her life.

Families use it as a private gathering place when experiencing the loss of a loved one during a funeral. It is great to have a room in our building which "feels like home" and is comfortable and peaceful.

The End is Near (the renovation)

The lights are in, the floor is done and the ceiling tiles are in place. The wall panels, stair treads and baseboards will be installed the first or second week of October. Other than finishing touches, the project should be complete.

You may notice the new carpet installed in the lounge, nursery and offices. All the carpet was financed outside the Hall Renovation Budget approved in January 2017. The lounge carpet is made possible by an anonymous donation. (Thank you). The remaining carpet is from other dedicated funds.

Speaking of Carpet

During the renovation it was discovered that the 1950's horse hair pad to the nave carpet has deteriorated. It is now time to replace the carpet and pad. On October 9th, from 7:00—7:30, carpet samples will be available for your consideration. All interested in assisting with the carpet selection are invited. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts.



**Sundays**  
6:00—7:30  
7—12th graders

**Contact:**  
**Jennifer Treece**  
jennifertreece@yahoo.com  
**Sam Ried**  
samried112@gmail.com

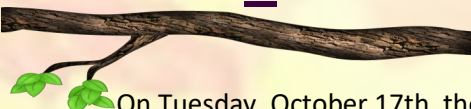


**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL

Thank you to all who provided baby items and help assemble the baby kits.

Thrivent Financial provided the seed money to purchase necessary materials to complete the kits. We appreciate the benevolence of Thrivent Financial.

**Older,**  
**Wiser,**  
**Lutherans**



On Tuesday, October 17th, the OWLs will enjoy "A VISIT WITH MARTIN LUTHER" presented by Pastor Mark Mohr, who will impersonate the reformer. All adults are invited to this informative program, which will be at 6:00, following a potluck supper at 5:00. Please bring your own table service and a covered dish to share.



## Confirmation

**Parent/Youth Orientation**  
September 13th, 7:00  
For all 7th and 8th Graders

**Classes Begin**  
September 20, 7:00

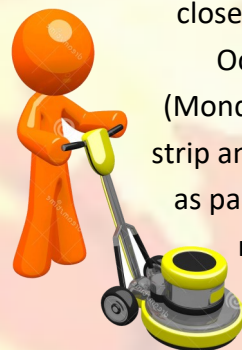
**Thanksgiving Eve Worship**  
November 22

### Communion Bread Class



A Bread Baking class is planned for anyone who would like to become part of our ministry to the church. Arlene Schriener will be teaching the class on Sat. Nov. 4 at 10:00 AM in the church kitchen. Come and see how the bread is made, then decide if you would like to offer to bake for the congregation. The average number of Sundays for any of our bread bakers is 4 times a year. There will be a sign-up sheet (hopefully on the bulletin board) soon!!! If you have questions, please contact Cindy Fitzpatrick at [cbrenfitz@aol.com](mailto:cbrenfitz@aol.com) or call 419-348-0410.

**Fellowship Hall** will be closed the week of October 2-9, (Monday—Friday) to strip and wax the floor as part of our flood recovery.



# October

## Worship Disciples

**November Newsletter Deadline**  
**Monday, October 16th,**  
**Weekly Bulletin Deadline**  
**Wednesday Mornings**

### LECTORS

Oct. 1  
8:15 – Kathy Brooks  
10:45— Arlene Powell

Oct. 8  
8:15—Acolyte  
10:45— Acolyte

Oct. 15  
8:15— Tad Schell  
10:45—Traci Roth

Oct. 22  
8:15— Jeff Kamm  
10:45—Toni Poling

Oct. 29  
8:15—Carol Bridinger  
10:45- Elaine Timbrook

### GREETERS

Oct. 1  
8:15 – Paul & Kathy Brooks  
10:45— Arlene Powell

Oct. 8  
8:15— Mike & Chris Meyer  
10:45— Kids of the Kingdom

Oct. 15  
8:15— Ken & Nancy Bahler  
10:45—Bonnie & Jerry Bosse

Oct. 22  
8:15— Jenn & Jennifer Kamm  
10:45—Carie & Randy Eakin

Oct. 29  
8:15—C. Bridinger/C. Wittenberg  
10:45— Timbrook Family

### ACOLYTES

Oct. 1  
8:15 – Kylea Timbrook  
10:45— Nathan Leipheimer

Oct. 8  
8:15— Evan Clark  
10:45— N. Leipheimer, C. Nielsen

Oct. 15  
8:15—Christian Nielsen  
10:45— A. Zawisza, S. Dale

Oct. 22  
8:15— Kylea Timbrook  
10:45— Lily Cox, Emily Meier

Oct. 29  
8:15—S. Dale, (Sam) Franks  
10:45—Emily Meier, Seth Franks

### SOUND ROOM

Oct. 1  
8:15 – Tim Roth  
10:45—Jerry Bryant

Oct. 8  
8:15—Dave Gerber  
10:45— Alex Treece

Oct. 15  
8:15— Tim Roth  
10:45—Steve Roth

Oct. 22  
8:15— Sam Ried  
10:45—Jerry Bryant

Oct. 29  
8:15— Tim Roth  
10:45—Alex Treece

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Oct. 1  
Daryl Rotman

Oct. 8  
Pastor Dittmar

Oct. 15  
Tim Cochran

Oct. 22  
Pastor Dittmar

Oct. 29  
Tim Franks

**8:15 Ushers**  
Ken Bahler  
Jim Schoerger  
Dave Wobser  
Richard Ruehle

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Oct. 1—Burson  
Oct. 8—Rotman  
Oct. 15—Schell  
Oct. 22—Kondik  
Oct. 29—Cunningham/Swartzkopf

Forms for your bulletin announcement are available on the bulletin board and at [1stLutheranChurch.org](http://1stLutheranChurch.org)  
*Flowers need to be delivered to the church by noon on Friday.*

**DEACONS**  
Jerry Bryant  
Paul Brooks  
Sue DeMoss  
Alex Treece  
Mike Zawisza

### ALTAR GUILD

Linda Mitchell, Pat Needles

### COUNTERS

C. Wittenberg & Bev Yammine

### LSS DELIVERY

Kathy Brooks

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Mike & Sharon Thompson

### COMMUNION BREAD

Oct. 1—Cindy Thompson  
Oct. 8—Carie Eakin  
Oct. 15—Suzanne Kirk  
Oct. 22—Jane Ebersole  
Oct. 29—Sharon Thompson

### COOKIE SUNDAY

Oct. 1— Community Dinner  
Oct. 8— Council  
Oct. 15—Endowment/Finance  
Oct. 22—Property  
Oct. 29—Hannah

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Oct. 1/8—Bev Yammine  
Oct. 15—Dave & Dee Rossman  
Oct. 22—Rick & Susie Polder  
Oct. 29—Randy & Julie Buck

# October

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## Birthdays

|                  |      |                 |       |                    |       |
|------------------|------|-----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Casey Cox        | 10/1 | Shirley Ruehle  | 10/9  | Beth Hardesty      | 10/21 |
| Barbara Stacy    | 10/1 | Rianne Roos     | 10/11 | Bradley May        | 10/21 |
| Janet Wobser     | 10/1 | Timothy Cochran | 10/12 | Linda Mitchell     | 10/21 |
| Heather Nielsen  | 10/2 | Mary Fleming    | 10/13 | Sandra Rakestraw   | 10/21 |
| Wendy Price      | 10/2 | Sharon Fraley   | 10/14 | Reed Blunk         | 10/22 |
| Jodi Wilson      | 10/2 | Tim Franks      | 10/14 | Sandra Dale        | 10/22 |
| Justin Shanahan  | 10/3 | Marie Peace     | 10/14 | Bartley Pardee     | 10/22 |
| Andrew Westrick  | 10/3 | Wendy Short     | 10/14 | Marilyn Wilson     | 10/22 |
| Miranda Westrick | 10/3 | Alex Treece     | 10/14 | Jerry Hawkins      | 10/24 |
| Karen Rose       | 10/4 | Patrick Breen   | 10/17 | Aaron Ried         | 10/24 |
| Alexandria Cox   | 10/5 | Joe Dudics      | 10/17 | Devra Hall         | 10/25 |
| Bree Stahl       | 10/6 | Beulah Bishop   | 10/19 | Roberta Howard     | 10/25 |
| Daryl Rotman     | 10/7 | Arlene Powell   | 10/19 | Gianna Masterlasco | 10/25 |
| Melody Schultz   | 10/7 | Kristin Johnson | 10/20 | Jean Wynkoop       | 10/25 |
| Zachary McRill   | 10/8 | Jakeb Neiling   | 10/20 | Laura Leopold      | 10/29 |
| Kelly Troiano    | 10/8 | Jeffrey Nunn    | 10/20 | Andrew Maurer      | 10/31 |
| Anthony Neiling  | 10/9 | Jenny Welte     | 10/20 | David Rossman      | 10/31 |

## Anniversaries

|                           |            |    |                         |            |    |
|---------------------------|------------|----|-------------------------|------------|----|
| Ken & Nancy Bahler        | 10/6/1979  | 38 | Matthew & Sadye Holbach | 10/19/2013 | 4  |
| Brandon & Kristi Gerdeman | 10/6/2012  | 5  | Greg & Kristin Johnson  | 10/20/2007 | 10 |
| Joseph & Candace Spoon    | 10/9/1993  | 24 | Mark & Suzanne Kirk     | 10/25/1997 | 20 |
| Tad & Maria Schell        | 10/11/1980 | 37 | Richard & Mary Kondik   | 10/26/1957 | 60 |
| Richard & Barbara Larick  | 10/14/1960 | 57 |                         |            |    |

## Baptisms

|                  |       |                     |       |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Kirsten Stevens  | 10/1  | Canda Rooney        | 10/16 |
| Michael Thompson | 10/1  | Robert Cochran      | 10/17 |
| Brooke Peplinski | 10/4  | Gregory Rossman     | 10/18 |
| Dalton Blunk     | 10/5  | Jakeb Neiling       | 10/20 |
| Phil Burson      | 10/5  | Kristen Buck        | 10/22 |
| Ella Zawisza     | 10/7  | Tricia Cox          | 10/22 |
| Amy Gibson       | 10/8  | Parker Haudenschild | 10/25 |
| John Ried        | 10/8  | Bree Stahl          | 10/27 |
| Matthew Price    | 10/10 | Arlene Powell       | 10/29 |
| Julie Buck       | 10/12 |                     |       |
| Jodi Wilson      | 10/14 |                     |       |

  
**First Lutheran**  
 First Lutheran Church  
 109 E. Lincoln Street  
 Findlay, OH 45840

*"Moving one step closer to God."*

NONPROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 FINDLAY, OH  
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Current Resident or:



This newsletter was mailed:  
 September 26, 2017  
 Give or take a day



**Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45**

**Sunday School 9:30**

**Freed & RENEWED**  
**in Christ** 500 YEARS OF GOD'S  
**GRACE IN ACTION**

[www.1stlutheranchurch.org](http://www.1stlutheranchurch.org)

419-422-2638