



October 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Why are you Lutheran? Is it because you were baptized and grew up in the Lutheran church? Are you Lutheran because you've visited other churches and have found that the Lutheran church fits better with what you believe and confess about Christ? Maybe you are like me and grew up in another denomination but became Lutheran through the love and prayers of a Lutheran spouse or friend? So I ask you again, why are you Lutheran?

I've told you before that when I was growing up, I saw the Lutheran church as being a strict church, stodgy, and set in her ways, never bending and no fun whatsoever! Thankfully, now that I am both Lutheran and a Lutheran pastor, I realize that my thoughts prior to being Lutheran were indeed unfounded. But now that October is here and we approach the Lutheran's church celebration of Reformation, I am brought back to what it was that attracted me, and maybe you as well, to this wonderful Lutheran church.



First and foremost, the Lutheran church is Christ-centered, meaning that Jesus and Him crucified is at the heart of everything that we as the Lutheran church believe, teach, and confess. Our hymnody reflects this, our teaching supports this, our confessions help us to understand better who Jesus is. Jesus at the center is reflected in our daily lives as we strive to live the Gospel among our family, coworkers, friends, and neighbors. Even the sermons from the pulpit, full of Law and Gospel for us, focus' not on our work because our work will never save us but rather on Christ's work for us, for He alone saves.

Second, the Lutheran church is the Christian church. That doesn't mean that only Lutherans will be in heaven (because heaven is full of saints of every denomination around the world). But it does mean that the confession of the Lutheran church is in accordance with God's Word. We should not fear our confessions, nor should we let it divide us, because our confession is that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Jesus, Peter, Paul, etc. The Lutheran confession is the church's confession, and has been from the very beginning. How do we know this? Because everything we believe, teach, and confess is in line with what God has said. Does that mean that we are the perfect church? Absolutely NOT. We are sinners, or to use a phrase Luther used, we are beggars, this is true. But, we are sinners who are saints, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ that covers our multitude of sins.

Third, the Lutheran church is a doctrinal church. Doctrine matters. Why? Because eternity matters. Think of the Sacraments, baptism and Holy Communion. What do these deliver to us? What does God give us as a gift in with and under the water, the bread, the wine, and the Word? Simple: it gives us eternal life with Him in heaven. That is why we as the Lutheran church hold our Sacraments so dear. They are given to us by the God who created the universe, to save us, to free us from our bondage of sin, to give us life because scripture tells us that unless we are saved, we are dead and enemies of God. In the Sacraments, life is breathed back into us, our sins are forgiven, and we are welcomed at the table where Jesus declares, "My body for you", "My blood for you...for the forgiveness of all your sins." This is our doctrine as members of the Lutheran Church. And it's important to note that not all

Continued on Page 2



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

Caring For Our Community Through Christ

REV. DAVID CASEY-MOTLEY, PASTOR

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Cell Phone.....253-241-1435
Email pastordavid.immanuel@gmail.com

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

The office is normally open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Please remember that the administrative assistant may be
away from the office running errands during this time.

Office Phone410-673-7107
Office Fax Number410-673-1426
Office Emailimmanuel.lutheranpreston@verizon.net

CHURCH OFFICERS — 2019

President..... Ruth Thomas
Secretary..... Gail Crampton
Financial Secretary Dee Lambert
Treasurer..... Carol Frase
Evangelism Chair Marsha Kenton & Shelly Kapitan
Trustee Chair Rex Rosebrock
Stewardship Chair Dicky Wheatley
Board of Education Chair Rene Langwost
Elders Chair Mark Frase

churches believe as we do about the Sacraments. Some see it as rather symbolic gestures that we do in remembrance of our Savior, but is not our Savior's grace given for us. When we come together as Lutherans, we confess as one body, that what we believe, teach, and confess is the same doctrine.

"But pastor, isn't it a personal decision as to what we believe about Jesus?" Sure. There is some truth to that. We are certainly free to believe what we will about Jesus and His word, but believing as we will, does not change what God's Word says. Many times when we disagree, it is not because we don't see eye-to-eye on something, but rather because we disagree with what God's Word says about something. And the devil will stop at nothing to use those things that we find to be uncomfortable and disagreeable, to divide us, scattering us among the wolves so that we may be devoured by the Father of Lies himself. Simply put, doctrine matters and our practice as the Lutheran church reflects our doctrine.

Fourth, the Lutheran church is something to be proud of. When the term, "Lutheran" was first spoken by the papist and the Roman Catholic church of the Renaissance, it was done so as an insult. "You are heretics, all of you, because you are followers of Martin Luther." Yet eventually, those who aligned themselves with what Luther taught, wore the title Lutheran as a badge of honor so to speak, because Luther did not teach anything that was contrary to Scripture. Now don't mistake what I am saying. Luther is not our God though it may feel like it sometimes with all the emphasis we put on him. And he certainly said and wrote some things that we as the Lutheran church find deplorable, even though Luther was not the only person who felt as he did about certain things. Yet the fact remains that for the most part, Luther was right about many things. He even was willing to be put to death for what he believed and confessed at the Diet of Worms in 1521, when, faced with giving an account of what he had written, some of which was against the teachings of the Roman Catholic church, he famously said, "Unless I am convinced by Scripture, or reason, that what I believe is not in accordance with God's Word, then I cannot, and will not recant anything. For to go against my conscious is neither right nor safe. Here I stand. I can do no other. May God help me. Amen." May we as the Lutheran church today be as bold in our confession today, willing to give our lives if need be for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice to be Lutheran. Wear it proudly, and live out the confession of our church because it is what the church universal has believed from the very beginning. May our loving and gracious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep each of us in our baptismal grace until life everlasting. Amen.

With a shepherd's heart,

Pastor David



From the President's Pen



In preparation of the October 13th Voters' meeting after church, the proposed Budget for 2020 is attached, with an overall 3.5% increase. This is due to an increase in Pastor's salary consistent with his years of experience prior to his time as a Pastor. The Board of Elders made this recommendation after becoming aware of a provision in the salary guidelines related to second-career pastors. The Council has approved this increase and will recommend approval of the Budget at the meeting.

Elections will take place for the following positions:

President

Financial Secretary

Board of Education

Trustees

Elders Chairman

The Council realized after consulting the Constitution that we were out of sync on some of the prior elections, so we are recalibrating to get back on track.

In other business, two policy documents were prepared by the Council. The first is a Code of Conduct related to childcare and conduct of teachers and volunteers. The second is an Internal Review of Ethical Misconduct Procedure and Policy and relates to how we will respond to allegations of misconduct. Both policy documents were requested by Selective Insurance during our renewal process. After being approved by Selective Insurance, the Council has approved these policies and they are now in place and copies available in the Church Office.

As we enter October, there will be special presentations regarding stewardship. Please consider the needs of the Church in your giving and participate in these events. Since we have fewer members, our Financial Secretary is ordering less envelopes. You can expect that your current envelope number will change in the coming year.

Ruth



October marks the beginning of this years Stewardship drive. We want to continue to be a strong and thriving congregation in service to God. We are led by spirit filled leadership, with a doctrinally sound message that meets the needs of the congregation. We must continue to show uncompromising convictions in our faith and service to God. Giving of our gifts of service, which we do through our time and God given talents combined with our financial support will insure that Immanuel will continue to meet the needs of God's people.

The Stewardship Committee has planned several events for this years drive. Beginning Oct. 6th, the adult Sunday School class led by Pastor Dave will have lessons with Stewardship theme for three consecutive Sundays. Please join us!

On November 3rd at 8:45 will have a Stewardship Breakfast catered by Katie Mae's (like Easter) followed at 9:15 by a short presentation by Iris, Glen and Dicky on Stewardship. Please plan on joining us for breakfast!

Pledge cards will be handed out at the 10:30 service.

In God's Service,

Stewardship Board



Evangelism Committee News



The Evangelism Committee met on September 9th. On December 8th the Town of Preston has invited our church to sing during the parade. We have decided that we are going to do this. Depending on how large our singing group—we can ride on the back of a truck, walk (and/or) be on a float. There were some neat ideas for a float if we decide to do one.

Everyone is invited to sing, the choir, youth group, WINGS, young and old. We will have a keyboard to use. That day we will also have our church open and decorated which anyone can help decorate that Friday and Saturday (end of November) would be wonderful. It was also discussed to have our church bell playing “Silent night” at the end of the parade and while our church is open. Please let the Evangelism know if you can help in any way or be a caroler. This is a wonderful opportunity for the church to be involved in this community event.



We discussed that on Oct. 27th the church will have a potluck dinner for Reformation Sunday after the church service. Please come, bring a friend and your favorite dish (can be meat, side or dessert). All are welcome.



For our Trunk –n-Treat this year, Pastor has offered to dress up as Martin Luther and we will hand out “The History of All Hallows Eve Day.” We will need lots of candy. The Youth Group and Frontier Girls have both offered to help with bagging candy. We also need helpers that can help hand out. Let Karen or Shelly know if you can be there. Again, it is a great community opportunity.

Thank you,

-Evangelism Committee

Marsha, Shelly, Rene, Marilyn, Gail C. and Darlena



Youth Group Scoop

October 6 will be our next meeting. We will be bagging up candy for Trunk or Treat. We are also planning some great outreach activities along with having some fun. Please go to our Youth group Facebook page for more information. If any questions please feel free to contact me Jennifer Phillips 410-829-9302 or email me

jennkphillips77@gmail.com

Jennifer Phillips



Care and Compassion

Lutheran Mission Society

Greetings from The Compassion Place at the Lutheran Mission Society in Cambridge. The weather is cooling down but work at the mission continues as usual.

When you are cleaning out your closets this fall please remember that gently used coats, especially for children would be much appreciated. Children's' clothing – from newborn through size 18 are always appreciated. Ladies' skirts, dresses and undergarments are also needed. Clothing and houseware items can be left in the designated area in the main entrance hallway in Geiger Hall. Please do not overload boxes or bags.

LMS's food pantry is very low in all areas. We need one pound jars of peanut butter, boxed cereals - both hot and cold, canned meats, fruits and soups, boxed macaroni and cheese, as well as spaghetti sauce and noodles. These items can be left in the designated basket in the narthex of the church.

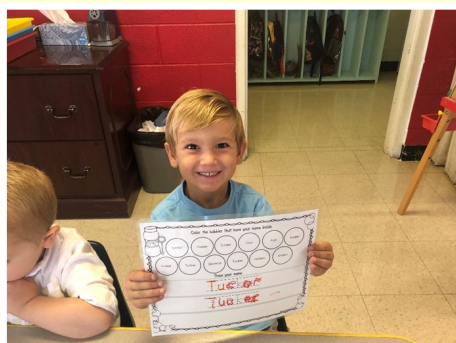
If you have any questions, need help getting your donations to church, or would like to give a cash donation, please contact Irene Wheatley – 410-310-2571. Thank you for helping us help others in our community.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16 ESV.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS!



We have started back to school and the month of September is flying by! We have welcomed a total of 27 kids into our Nursery School this year! We have already had a amazing response to the 2020-2021 school year. This month we've been busy learning the rules of the classroom, our shapes, colors, and numbers.



We've gotten some wonderful practice of tracing our names!



Thank you Stirling Photography for coming up with such a creative idea for our back to school pictures! We have some cute scholars on our hands!



We have been learning about different types of birds this month and have been building a nature center for them. We have built bird feeders and houses and have already noticed some new visitors!

Next week learn about letters!

SPECIAL FUNDS

Building Fund - (Front Step Replacement)
Anonymous

Memorial Fund (In Memory of Bobbie Duff)
Timothy Duff

Memorial Fund (In Memory of Bill Maser)
Taylor Oil & Propane, Inc.
Charles & Marilyn Heinemann
David H. Wilson
Lois M. Andrew
Doug & Sharon Gray
Vic & Vera Rieck
Pauline S. Heath
William & Connie Blanchfield
Idlewild Ruritan Club
Donald & Phyllis Walters
Colonel Richardson Middle School
Ed & Connie Overington
David H. Schmick
Nick & Carol Evans
Marsha Tull
Christine Schmick Campbell
Mark & Carol Frase
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Foster

Care & Compassion (In Memory of Bill Maser)
Dick & Irene Wheatley

Choir Fund (In Memory of Bill Maser)
Iris Rieck

Thank you!

A big thanks to everyone who bought a sub to support the Colonel Richardson High School Band!

They really appreciate our support!

Thank you,

Marsha Kenton & Larsen Van Offeren

THOSE SERVING IMMANUEL OCTOBER 2019

Date	Usher	Lay Reader	Greeter	Assisting Elder	Kids Worship	Acolytes	Head Tellers
Oct. 6th	John Hochmuth Richard	Ruth Thomas	Myrna Roth	Mark Frase	TBD	Hayden Plutschak	Janice Isenberg, Shelly Kapitan & John Crampton
Oct. 13th	John Hochmuth Richard Wheatley	Kathy Schmidt	Mark Frase	Dale Kenton	TBD	Kalei Durando	Doris Maser, Karen Lyons & Olga MacDonald
Oct. 20th	John Hochmuth Richard Wheatley	Arlene Stevens	Glen & Mary Lou Plutschak	Glen Plutschak	TBD	Catie Casey-Motley	Dee Lambert, Glen & Marylou Plutschak
Oct. 27th	John Hochmuth Richard Wheatley	Glen Plutschak	David & Kathy Schmidt	Dale Kenton	TBD	Veronica Phillips	David Schmidt & Kathy Schmidt



Lindy Gullick-Ayers 10/1

Kim Rosebrock 10/1

Bradley Plutschak 10/1

Richard Tucker III 10/2

Matthew Harris 10/3

Cooper Stevens 10/3

Michael Fisher 10/4

Christina Frase 10/4

Denise Mitchell 10/4

Jesse Arnold 10/6

Marilyn Harris 10/6

Evelyn Reichlin 10/6

August Thomas 10/7

James Eskrine 10/10

Francis Madigan 10/16

Zoe Durando 10/17

Melissa Phillips 10/17

Carol Frase 10/18

Sarah Ferkler 10/30

Grayson Fisher 10/30



Mark & Carol Frase 10/3

Lawrence & Viola Schmick 10/3

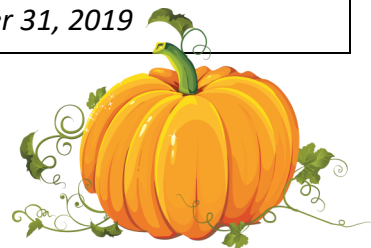
Rex & Kim Rosebrock 10/4

Jack & Donna Collins 10/21

Michael & Kimberly Jantz 10/25

SPECIAL DATES

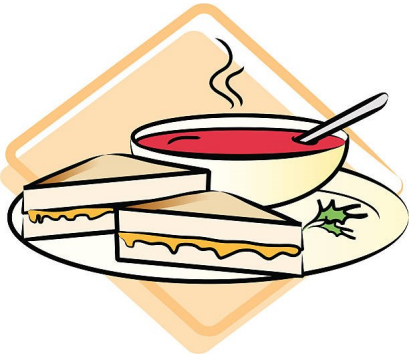
- World Communion Sunday, *October 6, 2019*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 27, 2019*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2019*



October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:50am Nursery School	2 8:50am Nursery School 6:45pm Handbells 7:00pm Al-Anon 7:45pm Choir	3 8:50am Nursery School 8:55a-m Thursday Connections	4	5 7:00 pm. A.A.
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Breakfast 10:30am Worship with Communion	7 8:50am Nursery School 7:00 Council Meeting	8 8:50am Nursery School	9 8:50am Nursery School 6:45pm Handbells 7:00pm Al-Anon 7:45pm Choir	10 8:50am Nursery School 8:55am Thursday Conn. 7:00p.m WINGS meeting	11	12 7:00 pm. A.A.
13 9:15am Sunday School 10:00a.m Breakfast	14 8:50am Nursery School 7:00 Elders Meeting	15 8:50am Nursery School	16 8:50am N. School 6:45pm Handbells 7:00pm Al-Anon	17 8:50am Nursery School 8:55a.m Thursday	18	19 7:00 pm. A.A.
20 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Breakfast 10:30am Worship w/ Communion	21 8:50am Nursery School	22 8:50am Nursery School	23 8:50am Nursery School 6:45pm Handbells 7:00pm Al-Anon 7:45pm Choir	24 8:50am Nursery School 8:55am Thursday Connections 6:30 Nursery School	25	26 7:00 pm. A.A.
27 9:15am Sunday School 10:00a.m Breakfast 10:30am Worship Potluck after Worship	28 8:50am Nursery School 7:00p.m Board of Ed	29 8:50am Nursery School	30 8:50am Nursery School 6:45pm Handbells 7:00pm Al-Anon 7:45pm Choir	31 8:50am Nursery School 8:55am Thursday Connections		

A Message From WINGS



This year has been busy for WINGS (women in God's service) & it's that time of year for our annual bazaar. Always the second Saturday in November (9th) so on November 6 & 7 we will start cutting veggies & chicken for salad & soups. We would love to have extra hands to help us so if you have any time open Wednesday or Thursday during the day please stop

by. It's always fun & time goes fast with lots of helpers. We are also having our usual tables of produce, books, household, vintage, Christmas & silent auction. Please donate any produce, plants, nice items or crafts for our tables. This year's bazaar profits are being donated to Lutherans World Relief (for hurricanes), Coastal Hospice (Caroline), & our Lutheran Church (Care & Compassion). All good causes so please "save the date" & come to our bazaar this year. Bring a friend & have lunch. We have some good cooks! At our meeting we have also made a donation for our nursery school & helping with Trunk & Treat. Please start buying candy for this event. We will place a box in church for your convenience. Thanking everyone for all your support. God's Blessings, WINGS



Trunk n Treat News

October is right around the corner and planning has started. This year there is a challenge set before each Church and that is that each Church has 10 cars that night. If you think you would like to be a part of the Festivities that night, Please come and join us. If you have any questions please contact Karen Lyons @ 410-673-1251.

The congregation has been very generous in the past with donations of candy. If you are planning to donate candy please try to get it to Church soon, as the youth group will be putting together the candy with information about our Church.

Please consider joining us even if you don't want to decorate your car. It is a lot of fun.

God's Blessings

Karen Lyons



Planning has begun for the Sunday School Children's Christmas Program.

The date is set for December 8th (same day as the Preston Christmas Parade). If you are currently a Sunday school student or want to be one, NOW is the time! All students can participate in this program. More information will follow, mark your calendars and get ready to share the Christmas Story✝

Trunk-n-Treat

Halloween Night



FREE EVENT!

Candy, hotdogs and bottled water
Community event sponsored by the churches of Preston

THURS. OCTOBER 31st

6 - 8 PM

Preston Carnival Grounds

2020 Budget

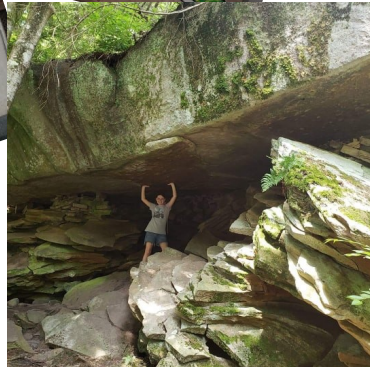
Immanuel Lutheran Church					
	2020 Budget		2019	Changes	2020
Pastoral Services					
	Salary		\$ 20,994.00	2099.40	23,093.40
	Employee Benefits		\$ 25,104.12	1655.96	26,760.08
	Auto Allowance		\$ 4,800.00		4,800.00
	Housing Allowance		\$ 27,891.00	2789.10	30,680.10
	Conference and Convention		\$ 1,500.00		1,500.00
	Continuing Education		\$ 500.00		500.00
	Guest Pastors		\$ 800.00		800.00
	Guest Pastors Mileage		\$ 100.00		100.00
	Total Pastoral Services		\$ 81,689.12	6544.46	88,233.58
Administration					
	Quik Books renewal fee		\$ 610.00	40.00	650.00
	Administrative Asst. Salary		\$ 15,200.00	608.00	15,808.00
	Office Supplies		\$ 4,500.00	-500.00	4,000.00
	Postage		\$ 1,000.00		1,000.00
	Telephone & Internet		\$ 1,850.00		1,850.00
	Maint & service contracts		\$ 7,000.00	1100.00	8,100.00
	Printed Materials		\$ 500.00		500.00
	Bank Charges/Safe Deposit Box		\$ 85.00		85.00
	District Travel Equalization		\$ 315.00		315.00
	Workmen's Comp Insurance		\$ 1,576.00		1,576.00
	Employer's Share SS Taxes		\$ 1,500.00		1,500.00
	Misc.		\$ 500.00	-200.00	300.00
	Total Administration		\$ 34,636.00	1048.00	35,684.00
Worship Expenses					
	Bulletins		\$ 1,200.00		1,200.00
	Altar Candles and Supplies		\$ 400.00		400.00
	Wafers and wine		\$ 150.00		150.00
	Organists/Music Director Salary		\$ 16,300.00		16,300.00
	Music		\$ 200.00	200.00	400.00
	Piano/Organ Tuning/Repairs		\$ 1,900.00		1,900.00
	Contemporary Service				
	Total Worship Expenses		\$ 20,150.00	200.00	20,350.00
Church Property					
	Electricity, Church		\$ 5,000.00	2000.00	7,000.00
	Electricity, Geiger Hall		\$ 5,000.00	2000.00	7,000.00
	Fuel Oil		\$ 8,000.00	-4000.00	4,000.00
	Insurance		\$ 7,500.00		7,500.00
	Janitor Salary		\$ 5,700.00		5,700.00

	Janitorial Supplies		\$ 600.00	100.00	700.00
	Water & Sewer		\$ 1,250.00	150.00	1,400.00
	Maint & Repairs, Church		\$ 4,000.00	-1000.00	3,000.00
	Maint & Repairs, Geiger Hall		\$ 2,500.00	-500.00	2,000.00
	Asbestos Inspection		\$ 504.00	-404.00	100.00
	Misc.-				
	Total Church Property		\$ 40,054.00	-1654.00	38,400.00
	Christian Education				
	Christian Youth Ministry, Sr.		\$ 100.00		100.00
	Christian Youth Ministry, Jr.		\$ 100.00		100.00
	Board of Education		\$ 300.00		300.00
	Adult Bible Study		\$ 150.00		150.00
	Lutheran Witness		\$ 100.00		100.00
	Portals of Prayer		\$ 500.00		500.00
	Confirmation Materials		\$ 100.00		100.00
	Total Christian Education		\$ 1,350.00		1,350.00
	Christian Witness				
	Evangelism Supplies		\$ 600.00	400.00	1,000.00
	Publicity		\$ 200.00		200.00
	Total Christian Witness		\$ 800.00	400.00	1,200.00
	Christian Stewardship				
	Offering Envelopes		\$ 300.00	-50.00	250.00
	Stewardship Supplies		\$ 300.00		300.00
	Total Christian Stewardship		\$ 600.00	-50.00	550.00
	Mission Outreach				
	Accepted Share, Dist. & Synod		\$ 5,000.00		5,000.00
	Delmarva Circuit Dues		\$ 400.00		400.00
	Lutheran Mission Society		\$ 400.00		400.00
	United Concerned Christians		\$ 200.00		200.00
	Total Mission Outreach		\$ 6,000.00		6,000.00
	Total Expenses		\$ 185,279.12	6488.46	191,767.58

Frontier Girls



The Frontier Girls had a “Dino-Mite” time at Mann's Choice PA and Deep Creek Lake !



The girls enjoyed a little pamper time with Glitz & Glam.

Blest Halloween!

It was no coincidence that Martin Luther chose Oct. 31 as the day to nail his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

by Rev. Mark Loest

For most people, October means cooler weather, raking leaves, and, at the end of the month, celebrating Halloween. For Lutherans, October includes the commemoration of Reformation Day—the day Martin Luther is said to have nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

It may seem strange that a day so preoccupied with the devil and death is also Reformation Day. But Luther chose this date with a purpose. His theses (academic statements for discussion and debate) were on the topic of indulgences, and Luther chose the eve of All Saints Day—when the church commemorates the faithful departed—as the date to make them public.

Penance and Indulgences

By the time they are confirmed, Lutherans know that the public outcry that fueled the Reformation of the church started with Luther's posting of the 95 Theses. They also know that Luther's theses had to do with the selling of indulgences. However, today's Lutherans do not always understand exactly what indulgences are and why Luther protested their sale.

Indulgences have to do with the Roman Catholic Church's practice surrounding the Sacrament of Penance that developed during the Middle Ages. Penance is the fourth of the seven Roman Catholic sacraments.

Basically, sinners, fallen from the grace they originally received in Baptism, may, by God's moving and by certain acts (contrition, confession, and satisfaction), recover the lost grace. Sinners are absolved only after displaying sorrow through prescribed acts of penance, such as praying, taking a pilgrimage, or giving alms. In other words, doing works, as well as having faith in the mercy of God, are necessary for full forgiveness.

But what especially alarmed Luther were the outright payments in connection with indulgences.

For money (and sometimes even goods like fowl and dairy products), a person could buy an indulgence that claimed to offer the merits of the saints—and even of Christ—on behalf of the owner, and, in that way, sins were forgiven and a place was secured in heaven.

Defined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, an indulgence is “the remissions before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.”

According to the Catholic teaching, indulgences offer forgiveness for the penalties that come with sin, even though Christ paid for those sins. A Christian can acquire an indulgence in a number of ways through the Church, which has authority over the “treasury” of Christ and the saints. In other words, indulgences either transfer or reduce penitential acts and punishment for sin. An indulgence is considered partial if it removes part of the temporal punishment due to sin and plenary if it removes all punishment.

Indulgences have been around for about one thousand years. In 1096, Pope Urban II offered plenary (meaning complete) indulgences in connection with the first crusade.

The great medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas (c. 1224-74) fully developed indulgence theory, allowing for the possibility of indulgences to be applied to souls in purgatory. For the sinner who does not make complete satisfaction in this life, there is purgatory—an intermediate state between heaven and hell. The soul that departs this life and is not immediately judged to heaven or hell is purified for a time in purgatory until released to heaven.

The result was that by the time of Luther, Christians cared more about avoiding purgatory than living and dying a Christian life and death. And indulgence claims were inflated beyond the original idea of release simply from temporal punishment imposed by a priest.

In 1530, the Augsburg Confession rejected the medieval errors concerning penance by declaring: “Rejected ... are those who teach that forgiveness of sin is not obtained through faith but through the satisfaction made by man” (Augsburg Confession, Article XII, page 35–Tappert).

95 Theses

Martin Luther (born Nov. 10, 1483), was the son of Hans Luder, a mine and foundry owner in Mansfeld, Germany. He originally began his studies to become a lawyer, but in July 1505, everything changed when during a terrible thunderstorm—and fearing for his life—he promised St. Anna that if she would spare his life he would become a monk.

Luther survived the storm and kept his promise, promptly quitting his university studies and joining the Augustinians in Erfurt. Taking his vows seriously, he soon experienced great spiritual conflicts over the forgiveness-of-sins-through-good-works system of monastery, which he came to realize was a completely inadequate way to be forgiven. In order to save the young monk from spiritual ruin, his superior, Johann Staupitz, directed Brother Martin to Scripture.

Luther began his studies again—only this time in biblical theology. By 1508, he was lecturing. In 1512, he earned his doctorate. Upon completing a trip to Rome (from the fall of 1510 until the spring of 1511), Luther may well have begun to question the medieval penitential system, especially in light of what he saw in the “holy” city, but he said nothing publicly at the moment. More would happen to shape his insights.

At the same time, Luther was transferred permanently to Wittenberg, to eventually take the place of Father Staupitz as professor of biblical theology. It was in Scripture that he was to find the answers that troubled his soul.

Luther describes what happened at Wittenberg: “At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, ‘In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live.”’

"There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is revealed by the Gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.' Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates" (*Luther's Works*, Vol. 34, page 337—Concordia Publishing House).

It was as a preacher, rather than professor, that Luther encountered the abuses of indulgences. Against the wishes of Luther's prince, Frederick the Wise of electoral Saxony, indulgences were hawked to the people of his land, albeit in neighboring ducal Saxony. They needed only to cross the border to purchase them. To make matters worse, the indulgence-salesman and friar John Tetzel told Luther's parishioners they could even purchase indulgences from him for sins they had not yet committed.

It was no coincidence that Martin Luther chose what we know as Halloween as the day to put forth his 95 Theses, mailing them to the archbishop in charge so something might be done, and, as the story goes, nailing them to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. In Wittenberg, Luther's own prince offered the pious the opportunity of indulgence through his enormous collection of relics in the Castle Church on the Day of All Saints, Nov. 1.

Luther took advantage of the occasion. Luther himself never told the story, but after his death, co-worker Philipp Melancthon described the scene.

On the Eve of All Saints, Oct. 31, 1517, Luther posted on the door of the Castle Church (in a manner customary at the university) the 95 Theses, which called into question and for discussion the abuses associated with indulgences.

The posting of the theses became the spark that ignited the Reformation.

A poem written long ago to commemorate the Reformation praises Halloween with the words:

*Blest Halloween that struck the hour
When Luther's hammer rose and fell
At Wittenberg in heaven-born power
And rang dark popery's funeral-knell,
When long and cruel night was gone
And smiling rose the promised dawn!*

Where's Marty?



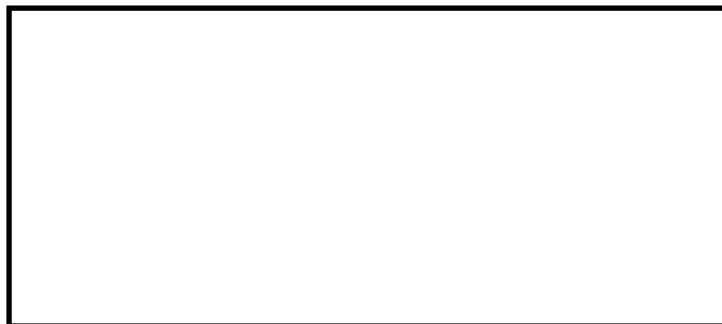
Can you find Martin Luther?

He is somewhere on the Church premises!

If found please notify Pastor David.



Immanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 39
Preston, Maryland 21655



Fruits of the Vine
October 2019

PAGE

ARTICLE

1	Pastor's Ponderings
2	Pastor's Ponderings continued
	Marty's Missing
3	From the President's Pen
	Stewardship Report
4	Evangelism Committee
	Youth Group Scoop
	Care & Compassion
5	Nursery School News
	Special Funds
6	Those Serving Immanuel in October
	October Birthday and Anniversaries
7	October Calendar
8	A Message From WinGs
	Christmas Program Information
	Trunk-n-Treat News
9	2020 Budget
10	Budget Continued
11	Frontier Girls
	Blest Halloween
12	Blest Halloween Continued
13	Blest Halloween Continued
	Where's Marty?