



Trinity Messenger



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

Volume 4, Issue 9

October 2007

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From the Pastors



Christ Reforms

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears, let him hear" (Matthew 11:12-15).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Lutheran Church is the only church that has a special day to celebrate her beginnings. Reformation Day is like our own private birthday party. Nobody has changed the world quite like Martin Luther did and probably nobody else ever will. Luther did it not with an army, but with the Word of God.

Reformation is the special holiday of the Lutheran Church to celebrate Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in the German town of Wittenberg, a small town even in those days, with only 3000 people. That day, October 31, 1517 changed the course of the church and the world. Dr. Luther wrote His 95 Theses in 1517. The public posting of these theological statements is commonly considered the beginning of the Reformation. From that day on the world significantly changed. That unknown monk freed much of the church in northern Europe from the grasp of the papacy and changed the political climate of the world. After October 31st of that year, the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation was attacked by a fatal disease that eventually left it a shell of what it once was. Modern nations arose, universal education began, the Gospel was being preached in a way that the world had not heard for over 1000 years. Today we celebrate Reformation. Many Reformation sermons and celebrations forget who and what really needs to be reformed. Father does know best after all.

Mark this well. October 31, 1517 was not the beginning of the Reformation. The Reformation began when your Father Adam did what you and I do, He rebelled. He sinned against God. The Reformation began in the Garden of Eden.

The Holy Triune God at the beginning formed everything out of nothing with His Word. On the sixth day He made Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were perfect. They were formed in the image of God. God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." "God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." The Lord formed. He formed everything from nothing. He formed orderly and creatively. It was Adam and Eve who deformed everything. They ruined everything. They destroyed and damned everything. On this Reformation Sunday it is easy for us old Lutherans to point the finger at the Pope who prays to Mary and sells indulgences or to point the fin-



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School Phone: 920-458-8248
Fax: 920-458-8267
Web site: trinitysheboygan.org

Divine Services:
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Monday at 6:00 pm
Family Education Hour 9:30 am

Bible Classes
(throughout the week)

Trinity Lutheran School
4-K thru 8th grade

From the Pastors cont'



ger at the Baptist or modern day evangelical who denies infant baptism or the body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. It is even tempting for us LCMS types to look at the ELCA as the Lutherans who need reform. Instead, let us look in the mirror, repent, and be reformed. You and I are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. You and I are deformed. You and I are guilty. The broken image needs to be re-formed. The dead man in each one of us need to be reborn.

Martin Luther, the reformer, knew this. The first of his 95 theses reads: "When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said, 'Repent', He called for the entire life of believers to be one of penitence." That sounds a lot like John the Baptist himself doesn't it? John's message was also brief and to the point: "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

To repent is to turn. It is to stop going in the direction of the enemy, Satan, and to be walking in the Way of Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. To repent is not something that is done by the one needing repentance. To turn around is not something that can be done by will power or resolve. To be placed back on the paths of righteousness is only by way of a gift from a giving God. God the Holy Spirit uses the Law to kill, to cause remorse, guilt, and the despair of self. God the Holy Spirit then uses the Good news of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and risen from the dead to bring you back to faith. To be Re-Formed is something that the Word, Jesus Christ, does to you, in you, and for you. Our text reminds us that, "from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force."

The Kingdom suffers violence in that sinners sin against it, and against themselves. You and I suffer violence when we sin. Our sin is a violent attack upon God' Word. The Kingdom is daily attacked when the Word of God is despised, when preaching and the Sacraments are ignored, taken for granted or perverted into things which Christ did not institute. That is why there has to be a reformation. Jesus reforms our deformities. John the Baptist is the greatest of all Reformation preachers. "Repent!" He says. For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." There is your salvation. "He who has ears to hear, let Him hear."

Jesus is your reformer. Being reformed is not easy or painless. The ground cries when it is reformed by the plow prior to seeding. The rock winces when it is reformed by the hammer and chisel into beauty and art. Yes, it is painful when the "Old Adam" is daily drowned in repentance, in Christ's daily reformation of you. God sent His only begotten Son Jesus in the flesh to reform you. By His perfect obedience to the Law He reformed your status with the Father. Jesus hanging and bleeding on the cross reformed your death into life, your fear and sorrow into peace and joy. Your bodies have been reformed pure and white and spotless and clean by the reformation wreaked against His innocent body by whips, thorns, backhands and spikes. By His stripes you are healed. You are now formed into a thing of beauty. You are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. You are an heir of the Kingdom. You are a child of the heavenly Father. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

In Christ,

Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor

Rev. John M. Berg
Associate Pastor

The Nave and Beyond

- Voters' Assembly Meeting Sunday October 7th at Noon in the Gym (Lunch and Childcare Provided)
- Festival of the Reformation at the Weill Center for the Performing Arts Sunday, October 28th at 3:30 pm

From the Principal



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL – TRAINING IN THE TRUTH

“Is it done, yet?” Many friends and family members have been asking me this question over the past 2 months. What are they referring to? One of my summer projects at home was to replace my yard shed. It was made 40 years ago and had served its purpose. However, the time was right to build a shed that would better fit my needs. Getting proper building permits, demolishing the old shed, deciding on plans and materials for the new shed, asking for advice from experienced friends, and constructing the shed were all part of my summer. I read that an experienced builder could complete the construction in a weekend. I’m not in that category, but I do enjoy “do-it-yourself” projects. There is a certain sense of satisfaction know that I built it with my own hands. As I neared the completion of the project, friends and family would ask, “Is it done, yet?” I would answer that I was close. I would always seem to find one more thing that needed to be completed before I considered the project to be done. Even now, the shed is done, but I know I will continue to find more that needs to be done to improve the project.

“Am I done, yet?” Or, better yet, “Is God done with me?” is the question that needs to be answered. God is the Master Builder of each of us and the students at Trinity Lutheran School. He destroyed our old lives through Baptism. He created new lives in us through the working of the Holy Spirit. Our salvation is complete, but our training in righteousness is not complete. On this side of heaven, that righteousness will never be complete. Along with St. Paul, we can say the following about our fellow believers in Jesus: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3-6) God’s good work in us will be completed when Jesus comes again. Until that time, we are being trained and transformed by the working of God’ powerful Word. (Are you reading and listening to His Word, the Truth, daily?) When each of us or our students fall into sin, we turn to God for mercy and forgiveness. His love is greater than any of our sins. He began the good work in us, and, while we are on this earth, He will fill us with “the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:11)

My shed may never reach completion, but you will reach completion in the day of Jesus Christ. Pray for the continued training in righteousness of the students at Trinity Lutheran School.

Is God done with me? No, I’m continually Training in the Truth!

Greg Becker

Greg Becker
Principal

Book Fair – October 8th-15th – in the church lounge



Wednesday, October 10th – All grandparents (and surrogate grandparents) are invited to join Trinity students for morning activities and lunch. Check with your grandchild or call the school office to sign up. Sign up sheets are due to the school office by October 3rd.

PTL Family Night – Tuesday, October 16th, 6:30pm Fun Family Food - Pack a Punch in your Kids Lunch. There will be a short presentation followed by a social time.

Picture Retakes – Wednesday, October 23rd – Students who were absent on Tuesday, September 11th for pictures, or those students who would like their picture retaken may do so on this day.



NO SCHOOL – Thursday, October 25th and Friday, October 26th

Music Notes



It was five years ago this month, October 6, 2002 to be exact, that we first worshipped in the newly renovated sanctuary. What a wonderful blessing it has been to rejoice, give thanks, and sing in this house of the Lord. Each week our voices join the angel choirs in hymn, chant, and song as we proclaim Christ as our King. May God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

The annual citywide Reformation Rally will be held at the Weill Center on Sunday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 2:45 p.m. There will not be a hymn sing preceding the service this year.

A combined choir featuring members of area Lutheran churches will sing at the Reformation Rally. If you would like to sing with this choir, you only need to attend one of two rehearsals being held at Trinity: Saturday, October 20 at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, October 24 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to sing with us for the service. You do not need to be a member of the Mixed Choir to be a part of the Reformation Rally choir.

This fall we are privileged to have with us a student from Concordia University, Mequon. Steve Hohnstadt will be at Trinity working on his Parish Music Practicum. He will spend some time directing the choirs, handbells, and playing the organ as he prepares to become a full-time church musician. Please introduce yourself to him and welcome him to Trinity.

Here is the upcoming music schedule:

Oct. 7	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School 4K - Gr. 2
Oct. 14	8:00 a.m.	Trinity Singers (Gr. 6-8)
	10:45 a.m.	Mixed Choir
Oct. 21	8:00 a.m.	Handbells
	10:45 a.m.	Cherub Choir (Gr. 1-2)
Oct. 28	8:00 a.m.	Mixed Choir
	10:45 a.m.	Joy Choir (Gr. 3-5)
	3:30 p.m.	Mixed Choir and Trinity Singers

Previous Quiz Question: This hymn was originally entitled "Redemption through the Precious Blood." William Chatterton Dix received his inspiration for the hymn from Revelation 5:9. This hymn was written as a Communion hymn on Ascension Sunday. While the first stanza reminds us of the Revelation scene, the second recalls Christ's Ascension and His words in the upper room, "I will not leave you as orphans..." (John 14:18). What hymn is this? The answer is "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" LSB 821.

New Quiz Question: This hymn is often called "The Old Hundredth" because it is based on Psalm 100. It is one of the oldest hymns of praise in the English language. It was written by William Kethe, a Scotsman who helped produce a complete English version of the metrical Psalms. The hymn was first published in London in 1561. What hymn is this? The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

Trinity History



Much of the story of Trinity is contained in the minutes of the Voters' meetings of our congregation. The contents of these minutes are very interesting and offer an opportunity to learn of the colorful past of our beloved Trinity Church.



November 8, 1961 - Rev. Hans Tornow was called as Senior Pastor and Rev. Karl Schulz as Assistant Pastor.

January 14, 1962 - Rev. Schulz requested he become Pastor Emeritus but would serve in ministerial acts if asked to do so by Rev. Tornow.

Letter of thanks to be sent to the Ladies Auxiliary for the \$2090 contribution toward the organ fund.

March 11, 1962 - Trinity to participate in the Lutheran Hour Festival at Vollrath Bowl on August 19, 1962 with Dr. Oswald Hoffmann as speaker.

New light fixtures to be installed in former Lunch Room which is now used as a Youth and meeting room. (Northeast corner, lower level of school.)

April 8, 1962 - Pastors, teachers and other members of paid staff were excused during consideration of the very comprehensive recommendations from the Salaries Committee.

July 11, 1962 - Future Church, School and Sunday School picnic to be held at Kiwanis Park.

September 12, 1962 - A budget of \$135,070 for 1963 was approved.

Reformation Celebration



Sunday, October 28, 2007
3:30 pm
Stefanie H. Weill Center
for the Performing Arts

The guest speaker this year will be the Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, Pres. Of Concordia University WI, and the guest choir conductor will be Dr. Kenneth Kosche, Prof. of Music at Concordia University, WI.

The service will begin at 3:30 pm, doors open at 2:45 pm.



LWML



We would like to welcome back LWML members and invite all women to join us for this years' activities.



Regular meetings are held at the Ministry Center the third Monday of September, November, January, March and May at 1:30 pm.

LWML 2007 Meeting Activities:

October 11th: Fall Rally at St. Paul, Cascade WI
 November 19th: Address Christmas cards for shut ins

LWML 2008 Activities:

January 21st: Bible Study or DVD Mission Grants
 February 1-2: Young Women's Retreat, Madison
 March 17, Speaking English with student of Alice Buck
 May 19: Quilting for Mission Trip

Your participation in LWML will be a rich blessing to you and God's Kingdom.

Family Fun Night



Family Fun Night this year will be held on October 31st at Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School gym, 4-7 pm. Parents are encouraged to bring their children (in costumes) to enjoy all the games and activities in a safe and fun environment. See you there. Bring your friends. Admission charge is one nonperishable food item per person.



A barrel for donations of individually wrapped candy will be set up in the hall outside the kitchen beginning in October. Call Alice Buck (459-7080) if you would like to volunteer to help in any way.

Senior Breakfast



The Trinity Seniors will meet October 15, at 8:30 AM at Fountain Park Restaurant. Pastor John Berg, our Associate Pastor, will be the guest speaker. Come and enjoy a morning of fellowship and get to know our new Assistant Pastor!

SHOO THE FLU

Shoo the Flu at Trinity will be offered on Wednesday, October 31 at Trinity in the Lounge 10 am - 2 pm.



Library



The library's theology section offers a variety of books to help in the study of scriptures and our Lutheran faith. There are several translations of the Bible along with commentaries on many Old and New Testament books. Other reference material include: Bible dictionaries, atlases and concordances. A wide range of topics are covered including creation, angels, the Lord's Prayer and Christianity. We also have the complete set of Luther's Works. As we begin new Bible study opportunities, check out the library for books that may enhance and add to your study.



October is National Book Month! October 14-20th is Teen Read Week

Check out the display by the library bulletin board!

New Items:

Children - "The Creation" by Paul Maier
 Adult - "Solomon's Song" by Roberta Kells Dorr
 "Colorado" by Rosy Dow
 "A Handful of Heaven" by Jillian Hart

Videos:

"Noah and the Ark"
 "Mary, Mother of Jesus"

Stewardship



WHOSE MONEY IS IT ANYWAY?

"Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from your hand" (1 Chronicles 29:14)

Our perspective of ownership will affect our attitudes toward money. If we view money as our own rather than belonging to God, we will use it differently than if we acknowledge that it belongs to Him. God's Word clearly states that He is the sole owner of all things. *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).* We must honestly remember that we are stewards, entrusted by God, in charge of the goods He has given to us.

Through faith, you will be able to understand and accept the words of Deuteronomy 8:17-18: *"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth..."* God is not only the owner of everything, but he even gives you the desire and ability to work and earn a living.

How you answer the question regarding the ownership of your money is a pivotal question. Will you acknowledge God's ownership and control? Do you see yourself as a manager, not an owner? Even though you may verbalize the right answers to these questions, your life may not give evidence to what you say. Because money and material things can be so attractive to you, you can easily live with the attitude that you are in control, so you follow the ways of the world and your own selfish desires.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus warns us about how our attitude toward money and things can affect our response to God's Word. Jesus stated that some *"seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants"* (Matthew 13:7). He explained, *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"* (Matthew 13:22). Having money and possessions can deceive you into believing that nothing is more important than owning things and enjoying the things money can buy. If the love of money controls your heart, God is pushed aside, and you will endanger your eternity with Him. In the end, God will disprove the bumper sticker that reads, "The one with the most toys wins."

Stephen Ministry



STEPHEN MINISTRY PEER SUPPORT meets Monday evenings October 8 and 22 at the Ministry Center. The new class for caregiver training will meet each Monday in October in the Luther Room with a mini-retreat October 19-20.



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEW TRAINING CLASS HAS BEGUN! On Monday, September 10, five trainees began study to become Stephen Ministry Caregivers. They are Alice Buck, Marianna Hartman, Richard Ingram, Larry Juse and Marie Volland. We thank God for these volunteers and for the continued prayers of our congregation members for these caring people who wish to learn more about care giving skills to help members of our church and community – God's people in need. –Stephen Ministry Leaders



Thank you to all donors, hole sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year's golf outing a great time!



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824 Wisconsin Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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October 2007



Return Service Requested

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sunday, October 7, 2007
12:00 pm
Gym
(Lunch and Childcare Provided)



REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 28, 2007
3:30 pm

Stefanie H. Weill Center
for the Performing Arts



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Please call the church office
at 458-8246 for details.