

From Pastor's desk...

OCTOBER 2021

Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

Lutherans love October! Why? Because at the end of the month, we celebrate the Reformation. Martin Luther never intended to form a new denomination. In fact, he deplored the fact that many people of the day were calling themselves "Lutherans" because it was easier to say than "Evangelical, Apostolic Catholics!"

Luther loved the church in which he had been educated and ordained. But as he studied the Scriptures, he saw more and more issues that he thought needed to be corrected, or in the words of the times, needed to be "reformed."

To "reform" means "to form again." There was much that Luther wanted to preserve in the traditions of his church. But there were things that the Bible could not support. Luther, and his student Phillip Melancthon, began writing of the matters which needed to be "formed again" regarding certain practices and some important doctrinal issues.

Space in this writing will not permit a lengthy analysis and description of Luther's challenges to the church of the day. And for the record, while some definitions of "The Reformation" say that the movement was the beginning of the "Protestant" church, Lutherans have never called themselves Protestants. Why? Because Luther wanted to "form again" the ancient, apostolic, evangelical traditions of the Christian church as he had come to know them from his study of the Bible. That makes us the bearers of the true meaning of the so-called Reformation.

Personally, we are "re-formed" in the daily river of God's grace. Yesterday's failings and foibles, doubts and fears, are subsumed in the promises of a gracious, merciful God, who in Christ has re-formed all of us sinners into his beloved saints.

So, as we remember what Martin Luther did for Christ's body, the Church, we remember what He has done for us: He has secured forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for us all! That is REALLY something to celebrate!

Blessed October!

Pastor P. (C)



Quarterly Voter's Meeting... The last quarterly meeting of 2021 for the Voter's Assembly will be held on Thursday, October 28 beginning at 6:30 P.M. This is a very important meeting - 2022 Budget will be discussed and approved, Officers will be elected, and other church business will be presented at this meeting. All voters should plan to attend. If you are not currently a voter and wish to join, are a confirmed member and over the age of 18, simply attend the meeting.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes have resumed. Sunday School - It's great having our littlest lambs hearing about Jesus! It's not too late for your lamb to join their class. Confirmation Classes - Our students are learning about the responsibilities and rewards of being a member of a LCMS church. Please include all our youngsters in your prayers as they continue their Christian education!

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LWML Sunday - On Sunday, October 10, we will recognize and celebrate the mission work of our LWML organization during our Divine Service. Our ladies may not be as active as they once were, but the outreach work they do is influencing the lives of people across the globe. Please feel free to wear purple or yellow attire on Sunday, October 10, in support of our LWML. Thank you, ladies, for your mission work!

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Fall Clean Up Day - October 16, beginning at 9:00 A.M.. **Volunteers are needed** to help with shrub trimming, garage and storage room cleaning and general outside fall clean up. Coffee will be available and lunch (pizza) provided. Bring your gloves, trimmers, rakes and other outside tools.



Reason # 11

God's People Tithed even before He Commanded Tithing

In the Old Testament, God commanded His people to tithe of their crops and/or livestock. From all their wealth, they were to render a tithe to the Lord. *"Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord...And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the Lord"* (Leviticus 27:30-32).

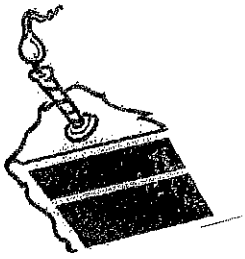


Even before God commanded the tithe, we find two patriarchs, Abram (Abraham) and Jacob, who tithed. Abram gathered an army to go after Lot and his family, who had been captured by tribal chiefs. After a successful battle, Abram traveled through Salem, the home of Melchizedek, a king and *"priest of God most high"* (Genesis 14:18). Melchizedek gave Abram and his group bread and wine and a blessing. In response to the act of hospitality, Abram offered one-tenth of his spoils of war to King Melchizedek.

The second incident of tithing prior to God's command to tithe takes place with Jacob (Abraham's grandson). After an all-night wrestling match with the heavenly king, Jacob asked God to bless him and from the blessings that he received he promised to give a tithe (Genesis 28).

These two men of faith tithed voluntarily. Their tithing was an outpouring of joyful thankfulness. They were not following a command or fulfilling a duty. Just as Abram and Jacob showed their gratitude, we are called to do the same through our giving.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You bless me with so much. Thank You for my physical and spiritual life. Help me to show my thankfulness to You as I give faithfully, joyfully, and generously. Place within me a desire to tithe. In Jesus' holy precious name I pray. Amen.



Birthdays

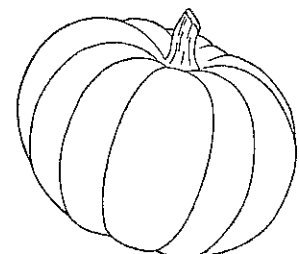
David Manuel	10/1
Megendeal Tesfazion Hibtes	10/1
Sondra Hermes	10/9
Mike Stolleis	10/10
Journey Nolting	10/11
Parker Kmett	10/12
Elise Greene	10/13
Keira Simmons	10/13
Elias Morgan	10/20
Nathan Curry	10/20
Katryna Tewes	10/23
Emery Greene	10/24
Olivia VanZeLe	10/26
Mary Wallace	10/27
Jacob Hermes	10/28
Steve Jurgens	10/28

Baptism Birthday's

Bob TeRonde	10/6
Bob Lockeby	10/7
Romel Nolting	10/7
Tammy Tewes	10/8
Jackson Kuhlman	10/9
Evelyn Thomas	10/14
Ken Matzat	10/16
Ron Jurgens	10/16
David Manuel	10/17
Kris Cowhick	10/17
Kristin Irlam	10/19
Lexi Manker	10/19
Marie Braker	10/20
Fallyn Shae Shull-Pernell	10/20
Diego White	10/21
Karl Carter	10/22
Stephanie Goebel	10/24
Bonnie Jurgens	10/25
Mary Wallace	10/27

Happy Anniversary

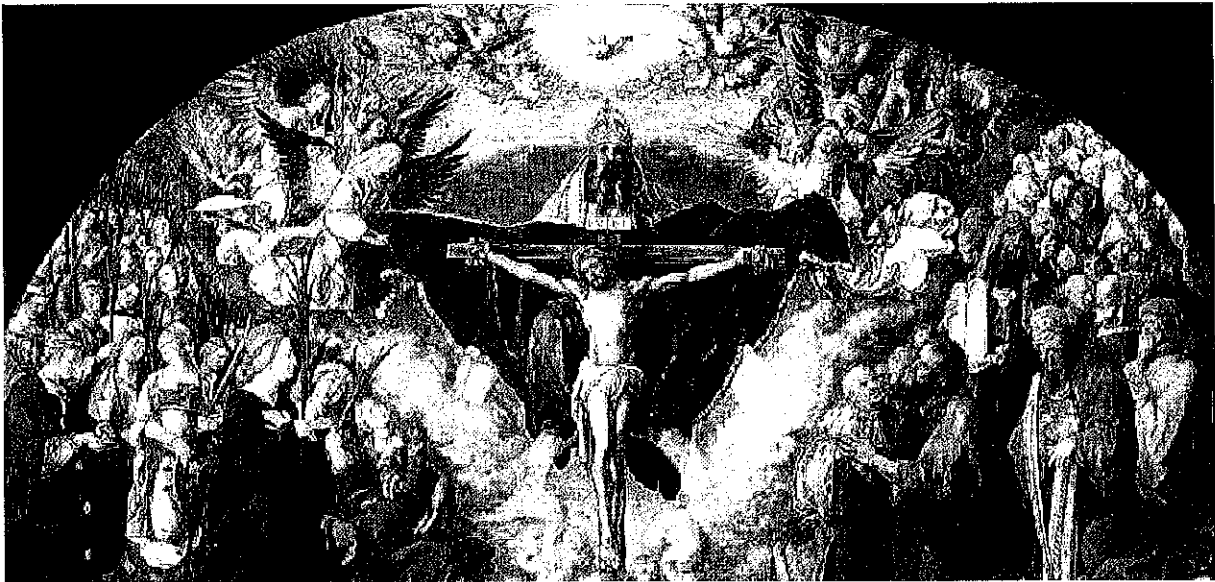
Darrel & Shirley Patrick	10/3
Frank & Mary Wallace	10/8
Gary & Carol Kiel	10/10
Mike & Amy Wendling	10/11
Ken & Sue Matzat	10/16
Butch & Jeanette Ealey	10/25



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Psalm 9:1-12

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence. For you have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.

You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish; you have blotted out their

A Free Conscience

Samuel
20 August 2021

Early in his career as reformer of the church, Martin Luther, like many educated people of his day, changed his name by Grecianizing it. For example, his colleague Philip Melanchthon's real name was Philip Schwartzertdt, which meant "Black Earth." He was of peasant farmer stock. Melanchthon just sounded better; more sophisticated. Luther changed his name, signing it as "Martinus Eleutheros," meaning "Martin-the-Free." How had he come upon such freedom, freedom so powerful that it caused him to change his name? The gospel lesson for Reformation gives us the answer, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" ([Jn 8:36](#)).

In the spring of 1520, Luther was being trundled along the bad roads of late medieval Germany on a horse cart. He was trying to make good use of

name forever and ever. The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins; their cities you rooted out; the very memory of them has perished.

But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted. (ESV)

the time while he was traveling by reading, having carried some books with him. He wanted to take his mind off the threat that stood over him. He had been given safe conduct to appear before the Imperial diet, the German Parliament, presided over by Emperor Charles V of Spain, the most powerful man in the world at the time. Luther was painfully aware of the fact that about 100 years previously another reformer had been given the same "safe conduct." Jan Hus, the Czech reformer, had been stripped of his rights and unceremoniously burned at the stake at the Council of Constance in 1415. Luther knew what an Imperial safe conduct was worth; not even the paper it was written on. But still he went. Why? He went to confess the divine truth before kings and princes confident of God's vindication of his cause.

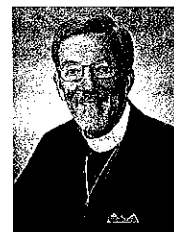
Luther stood before the arrayed principalities and powers of his day. He was presented with a pile of his books and he was asked to recant (reject and condemn) the content of those books. Luther demurred, asking for a day to consider how he should respond in the presence of the Emperor to this question. He was afraid; afraid for his life. He wrestled and struggled that night in a cell of the Augustinian Friary in Worms. The next day, with a much more calm and courageous demeanor Luther stood before the Emperor. He defended his work by pointing out that much in his writings was simply a repetition of the gospel truth, which had been praised, not only by his own party, but even by the Roman Catholics. But when push came to shove Luther responded, "Since then your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen." Scripture had captivated his conscience. He was free from the fear of earthly powers. Luther here strikes a blow that resounded through the centuries right down to our own present day. It echoes through

the US Constitution's first amendment, giving us free exercise of religion and speech.

The founders of our republic recognized what Luther had said here, that earthly power has no right to control the human spirit and conscience. On the floor of the diet of Worms in April 1521, Luther asserted the freedom of the conscience from external coercion. The word of God was alone to rule the conscience. Matthew Harrison, the president of our church body has said, "Luther, in a big way, for the first time, held forth the idea that the government has no right to coerce the religious conscience. None." And that is the teaching of our church. Against all comers, whether they are from the right or the left. We are free to believe and confess as we see fit no matter what our government or the Supreme Court says. Luther's Reformation and the freedom of conscience which it staked out in the face of all earthly authority is still a gift that we Lutheran Christians should honor, confess, and celebrate today. "It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Do not be enslaved again to a yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1). Already Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito has warned us with these ominous words, "I assume that those who cling to old beliefs (he's talking about you Lutherans) will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their own homes, but if they repeat those views in public, they will risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools" (Obergefell v. Hodges [Dissenting]).

This is not the freedom for which Martin Luther struck the first blow at the Diet of Worms in 1521. We have a far better freedom from God. It is not a freedom that can be guaranteed by governments, judges, or bureaucracies. Once humans guarantee our freedoms, we are no longer a free people. This is the freedom of our Lutheran Reformation, a conscience free from government oppression and coercion. Pray God we keep it.

Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran
Church



Martin Luther

“Every kingdom must have its own laws and statutes; without law no kingdom or government can survive, as everyday experience amply shows. The temporal government has laws which extend no further than to life and property and external affairs on earth, for God cannot and will not permit anyone but himself to rule over the soul. Therefore, where the temporal authority presumes to prescribe laws for the soul, it encroaches upon God’s government and only misleads souls and destroys them. We want to make this so clear that everyone will grasp it, and that our fine gentlemen, the princes and bishops, will see what fools they are when they seek to coerce the people with their laws and commandments into believing this or that.

“When a man-made law is imposed upon the soul to make it believe this or that as its human author may prescribe, there is certainly no word of God for it. If there is no word of God for it, then we cannot be sure whether God wishes to have it so, for we cannot be certain that something which he does not command is pleasing to him. Indeed, we are sure that it does not please him, for he desires that our faith be based simply and entirely on his divine word alone. He says, “On this rock I will build my church” (Mt 16:18); and in John 10, “My sheep hear my voice and know me; however, they will not hear the voice of a stranger, but flee from him” (Jn 10:27, 14, 5). From this it follows that with such a wicked command the temporal power is driving souls to eternal death. For it compels them to believe as right and certainly pleasing to God that which is in fact uncertain, indeed, certain to be displeasing to him since there is no clear word of God for it. Whoever believes something to be right which is wrong or uncertain is denying the truth, which is God Himself. He is believing in lies and errors, and counting as right that which is wrong.”

Martin Luther, *Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed*

Eternal Lord, ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us that, guided by Your Spirit, they may be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably and that freedom of conscience would be respected; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

For Noreen Linke, who was in a serious auto collision, that the Lord Jesus would be with her and that she will not have suffered any harm

For all public safety officers, that they would be kept safe in their labors in protecting life and property

For the President, Congress, and the Judiciary, that they would rule with wisdom and that the freedom of conscience would be respected among us

Art: DÜRER, Albrecht *The Adoration of the Trinity* (1511)



Contact Us



Visit Our Website



Camp CILCA Outdoor Ministries

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Zion Lutheran Church
525 N. Cartwright
Pleasant Plains, IL 62629

September 19, 2021

Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,

The past months have been filled with blessings for Camp CILCA. After a disruption to our schedule last summer due to the coronavirus, we were once again able to offer a full slate of camp activities to campers of all ages and abilities in 2021. Our campers hailed from all over the United States and even Switzerland! And just a few weeks ago, we gathered to renew friendships at the Annual Chicken Fry & Auction Fundraiser.

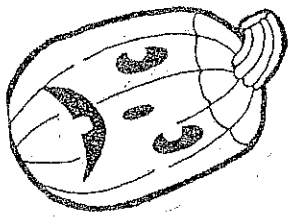

Thank you so much for supporting that fundraiser with your donation of item(s) for the auction. The auction alone raised about \$7,400 to help ensure that Camp CILCA will continue to be able to share God's creation and the Good News of creation's Redeemer with people of all ages.

We are grateful to God for His provision in all times and circumstances. Part of that provision is the support and encouragement shared by friends of Camp CILCA, including you. We thank you, and we pray that God will bless you abundantly in every way.

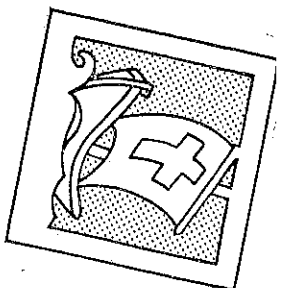
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh W. Theilen".

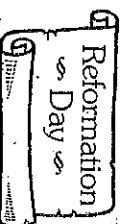
Joshua W. Theilen
Executive Director, Camp CILCA

OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. LWML Recognition Sunday						Fall Clean Up Day 9:00 A.M.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.			November Newsletter Articles Due	Voter's Meeting 6:30 P.M.		
31	1	Notes: Elders - Brad Mahler & Bob Teronde				
Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Reformation Day						



Zion's Newsletter
October, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
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Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Adult Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

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