



Are You A Protestant?

I had the opportunity to share my faith with a man who was shopping at SAM’S CLUB. He told me that he attended a non-domination church and he asked me where I went to church and I told him Good Shepherd Lutheran. He responded, “Isn’t that a protestant church?” Then he told me that the church he is going to wasn’t a protestant church. That got me to thinking; do people really understand what it means to be a Protestant? It all began on October 31st 1517 when a Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, “protesting” the unbiblical teachings and traditions in the Roman Catholic Church. Luther condemned the false theology of the Roman Catholic Church, especially the practice of selling “indulgences” —for the forgiveness of sins. The leaders of the Catholic Church had forgotten the truth that our own good works can by no means save us. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, and our good works result from our faith, they are not added to it as the grounds for the forgiveness of sins. Those who joined Luther were labeled as “Protestants”. **All Lutherans are Protestants**, but not all Protestants are Lutherans. A Protestant is a Christian who belongs to one of the many denominations that formed out of the Protestant Reformation.

What do Protestants believe?

Let me give you a summary:

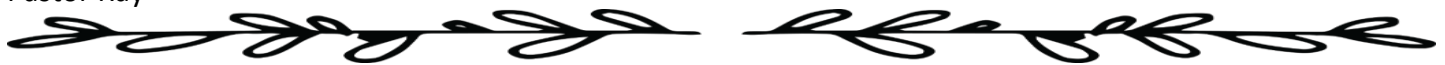
There are Four Solas that came out of the Protestant Reformation that emphasized the differences between the Protestants and the Roman Catholic Church. The word *sola* is the Latin word for “only”.

1. *Sola scriptura*: “Scripture alone”
2. *Sola fide*: “faith alone”
3. *Sola gratia*: “grace alone”
4. *Solo Christo*: “Christ alone”

Grace, faith, Scripture, and all because there’s only one Lord Jesus in whom we can be saved! On Reformation Day, we thank God for bringing such wonderful truths to light again through men like Martin Luther.

A blessed Protestant Reformation Day to all of you!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Ray



“Scripture. Faith. Grace. Christ. Glory of God. Smart man says nothing is a miracle. I say everything is.” -

Norm Macdonald

In the ancient world, any point of light in the sky was a “star.” Therefore, all planets are stars, but not all stars are planets. Planets (from the greek “planao” which means “to go astray, wander, roam about.”) are “stars” that keep

changing their relative positions in the sky. The Morning Star, is most commonly used as a name for the planet Venus when it appears in the east before sunrise. Its appearance means the sun will shortly follow.

The Dark Ages were a time when a corrupt church went unchecked. The Morning Star of the Reformation appeared in England during the 14th century. John Wycliffe was initially a professor of philosophy who would apply himself to the study of theology and Scripture. In the 1370s, he wrote three significant papers that took aim at papal authority, church authority, and the authority of Scripture. Wycliffe's writings would directly influence John Hus, a Czech priest in Prague (who was condemned and burn at the stake by the Council of Constance in 1415 for teaching Scripture alone had authority).

Wycliffe position on the authority of Scripture meant that the Bible needed an English translation for the English people to read. However, according to church law, translating the Bible into any common language was a heresy punishable by death. Undeterred, and before the invention of the printing press (1440), an English translation of the Bible was reproduced by hand and put into circulation. Wycliffe's motivation was to help Christians to study the Gospel in a tongue that they know best.

That same council who condemned John Hus also declared Wycliffe (who died in 1384) a heretic. The church expressed their displeasure with Wycliffe by exhuming his bones to burned them into ash and cast them into the river. Despite these efforts The Morning Star of the Reformation had already appeared. The dawn of the Reformation followed a hundred years later in 1517 with Martin Luther and the motto of the Lutheran Reformation that expressed the enduring power and authority of God's Word; *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever). A movement that the medieval church was unable to silence in no small part due to the printing press and Luther's translation of the Bible into the common language.

Sola scriptura – the principle that Scripture is the only rule and norm for Christian teaching and living. We are once again living in a dark age that is morally and theologically confused. The Word of God is unchanging. And yet we take for granted that we can read and study it in our own language.

Grace & Peace,
Curtis



Deacon's Digest

Why are we so worried?

Bible References:

Psalm: Psalms: 118:1,2,12-24

Epistle: Romans 1: 1-6, 16-17

Gospel: John 1: 19-30

500 years ago, a young German monk was worried. The world was changing, foreigners occupied much of Spain and Portugal. Europe and Germany were fragmented and not united. He feared that his church was veering off course as laid out in the bible. He could not get an adequate handle on his personal relationship with God. Does any of this sound familiar? I looked up some current events of around 1516-21 to try to get a flavor of what could be worrying folks back then.

King Ferdinand of Spain dies and was succeeded by his grandson, King Charles.

Desiderius Erasmus published a Greek New Testament.

The Ottoman empire declares war on Egypt and invades Syria.

King Henry VIII, established the predecessor to the Royal Mail. Henceforth bad news can be delivered right to your doorstep.

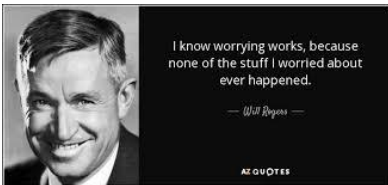
The German Purity Law was established. I thought to myself, aha, the ethnic purification begins. Not so, this is the law governing how to make beer the German way—aaah leave it to the Germans.

October is the month in which Lutherans celebrate the Reformation, therefore I thought it appropriate to talk a little about the one person to which we attribute that movement, Dr. Martin Luther. In this piece, I want to address things that worry people, and illustrate that we, in the early 21st century, are not unique in worrying about global issues. Then I want to leave you with some bible-based ways to address your worries.



The little baby's face reminds me of someone – the weight of the world is on his tiny shoulders. As a parent or grandparent, you feel like saying don't worry little guy I won't let anything harm you. I would imagine that when one of us starts to worry God thinks of us as that little baby, knowing he will take care of us.

Next, I'd like to show you a portrait and a quote from Will Rogers, an early 20th century commentator and philosopher. What he says [just in case the graphic does not come out clearly "I know worrying works, because none of the stuff I worried about ever happened"] does make a lot of sense doesn't it?



Here are some other quotes about worries:

- Worrying is using your imagination to create something you do not want.
- Worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening it just stops you from enjoying the good.
- Stop worrying about what can go wrong and get excited about what can go right!

Now let us get back to Martin Luther and the start of the reformation. We know that Dr Luther was not happy with the church selling indulgences primarily to fund Holy Wars and other things he thought were extravagant. He did not want to do away with his religion but to reform it but because of his criticisms in his 95 Theses, he was excommunicated in 1520.

I want to discuss the texts in the reverse order that we normally use in worship: Gospel, Epistle and then Psalms. Holding the bible as the authority, let us look at **John 1:29** "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! "

This Gospel text defines and answers the thesis about how we are saved. It is John the Baptist offering up the entire Gospel message in a bold, declarative statement. Might make a good bumper sticker!

Epistle: Luther considered salvation critical and tried to do his best to seek and try everything he could earn it through merit. You may have heard how Dr Luther confessed often and long "wearing out" his confessors, one of whom made the remark: "stop doing this until you have done enough sin to confess." In the epistle text, Luther was seeing "the righteousness of God" as a judgmental God who sees sin which leads to condemnation. This worried Luther, until he had the realization that the righteousness of God was not a judgmental process but really God's grace freely given to those who have faith in Him. He called it an "alien righteousness" meaning it is outside of us. We have no say in it and there is nothing we can do to earn it. After this realization he re-read the bible with God's free Grace in mind and it changed everything that he had previously understood and sparked the Reformation as we know it.

Psalm: Psalm 118 was offered as Luther's favorite Psalm and the LSB offers up this quote: "This is my psalm, my chosen psalm. I love them all; I love all holy Scripture, which is my consolation and my life.

But this psalm is nearest my heart, and I have a peculiar right to call it mine. It has saved me from many a pressing danger, from which nor emperor, nor kings, nor sages, nor saints, could have saved me. It is my friend; dearer to me than all the honors and power of the earth.

Dr Luther had verse 17 put on a plaque for his study: **I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.** He saw it daily and, because many reformers had tragic ends, he used this as assurance that he would be safe until his earthly tasks were done.

Dr Luther taught Psalms at the University of Wittenberg and this book infused him with a remarkable view of God. In fact, it was Romans and Psalms that he studied right up until he posted his theses. So, it is said that Romans have him his theology but his towering view of God from Psalms gave him his thunder.

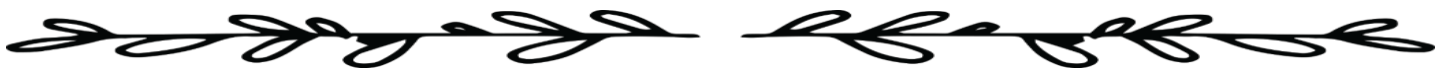
Again, no matter what our worries are I think we should remember that salvation is our biggest need. When people worry, they think that bad stuff will happen—folks there is nothing worse than being shut out of God's Kingdom. We celebrate that people of faith are saved and we are comforted with words in verse 1: **His steadfast love endures forever.** If you find yourself worrying about some earthly matter, try to remember the good news and focus on verse 1 or possibly verse 24: **This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Conclusion: Now we mentioned earlier the social and religious strife occurring during the reformation. There were three Protestant martyrs in mid 18th century France: Louis Rang, Jacque Roger, and Francois Rochette who were executed because they would not renounce their faith. Each sang the French version of Psalm 118: verse 24 in their final moments: **Here now is the happy day for which we have been waiting.** There must have been lots of fear and worry but they all faced it with rejoicing in the Lord. I hope you are not faced with that huge of a worry and I do not want to end on this note. Think back to that baby with worry on his face and imagine that God sees you as his child and wants to take care of you. Imagine if he were to send you a note, it light look like this:

My child
YOU WORRY
TOO MUCH.
i've got this, remember?
Look God

God's Peace and Blessings to you!

Deacon Joe



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

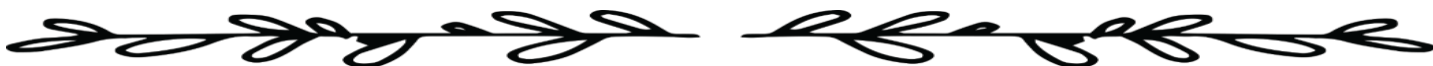
We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity,

His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

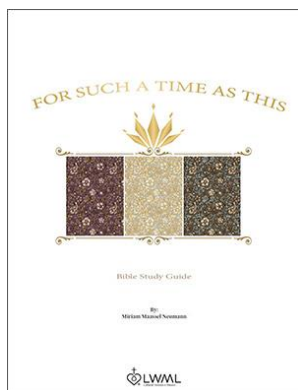
And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As His children by grace we want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.



Good Shepherd LWML

Saturday, October 9, at 10 a.m. we will resume our bible study and meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Karroll Staton will be leading our new bible study titled: **For Such a Time as This**



Esther went from an orphan to a queen. Joseph went from a slave to being second only to the King in all the land of Egypt. They both had ups and downs in their lives. This is typical of most of our lives as well. God has a plan for each of us, which eventually unfolds in His time and manner. His plans and purposes surface at exactly the right time. Esther and Joseph were just two of many Biblical characters who had things happen in their earlier lives that prepared them for the special purpose God had planned for them. This Bible study looks at Esther's story, Joseph's story, and then offers the opportunity to reflect our own personal stories and consider how events in our lives have prepared us for the plan and purpose God has for our lives.

This three-part Bible study was written by Miriam Neumann. It looks at Esther's Story, Joseph's Story and then at our story. If you would like to look at it ahead of time, click

below. Copies will be available at the meeting.

[Download your free copy at www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study/for-such-a-time-as-this today.](http://www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study/for-such-a-time-as-this)

Mite Explanation and History

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national [mission grants](#) and implement the LWML program.

[Mite Boxes](#), available from the district, zone, or LWML office, are distributed to every woman in a society, and often to each member of the congregation. Local groups submit Mite Box offerings to the appointed district officer.



Back to School

Hello all,

Thank you all so much for your support of me in my journey to the ministry. It is the start of a new semester and there are many exciting things. But first, a look back over the summer.

Over the summer I had an amazing opportunity to be an intern for Our Savior Lutheran Church in Aiea, Hawaii. It was an incredible experience as I was able to gain some valuable skills. It was great to see how a church office works, help with VBX (Vacation Bible eXperience) and Sunday morning services. Everything was great and I could not have asked for a better summer. I look forward to continuing to find opportunities like this in the future. Thank you so much to Pastor Gowen, DCE Kayla and the congregation of Our Savior for an amazing summer full of learning and growth.

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, I have been given the privilege of being a leader for the men's ministry on campus, BUILD (Brothers United in Life and Devotion). Me and the other leader have been working hard to try to figure out ways to cultivate a growing community of guys devoted to Christ here on campus. I am also excited to be part of the campus ministry team here and am excited for the great opportunities this semester offers.

I have a role on the Pre-Seminary Student Association (PSSA) leadership council as well. PSSA was a positive place for me last year to connect with other future pastors and is a great group of guys to learn from and with. It has been fun to reconnect with all of these friends who really made my first year of college incredible.

In regard to classes, I am finishing with the last of the core curriculum this year with my science class, Astronomy. I also will be taking a Church history class, a moral philosophy class and will be starting Greek. I am very excited for Greek right now and am looking forward to that class the most. Getting the core curriculum out of the way will also be great as I can now focus on the Theology, language and philosophy classes That I really enjoy

Thank you all again for your support throughout my journey. Your support is the reason I can be here enjoying these great opportunities to prepare for the ministry. College has been amazing, and I am excited for the new adventures year two will bring.

Blessings, Zeke Potts

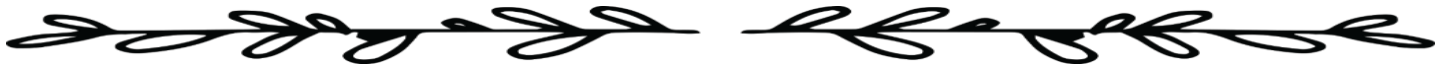


- October 5** ***The Witch Next Door***
What's the appeal of Wicca and paganism?
- October 12** ***Is the Devil Real?***
An exorcist tells all
- October 19** ***Conquering Conflict***
Healthy ways to tackle disagreements
- October 26** ***Zombies***
What's the fascination?

Thank you

Thank you to all for your sympathy cards, prayers and kind words to Janice and me when my son, Steve died unexpectedly. Your love and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated.

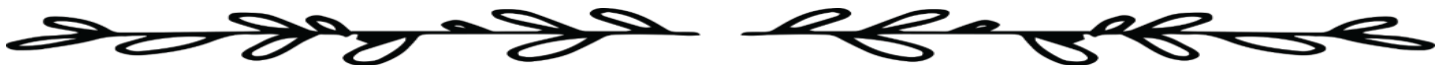
Betty Tucholski



Church Properties Board

Fellowship Hall Floor-Covering Replacement: In the September issue, we announced the Church Council approved establishing a Dedicated Fund for donations to replace the Fellowship Hall floor covering. Now for this October issue, for those choosing to donate by check, we suggest using either the special offering envelopes marked "Church Dedicated Fund" and using the Floorcov Fund in the memo line or by going to our Church website Shalimar.church and selecting the tab for Floorcov Fund. As also mentioned in the September newsletter, we are asking for any or all your suggestions for what might be best

and sending them to the Church, marked "FHFC" or Email to churchsecretary@gslcshalimar.org. We expect and welcome your thoughts and spending some time on researching some options! Thanks!



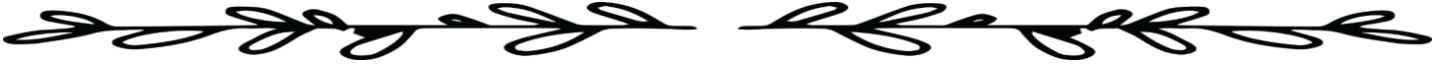
10/2 Norma Breidinger
10/4 DiAnn Keenan
10/6 Theresa Vacek
10/7 Laurie Bartlett
10/8 Minda Haag
10/15 Nancy Humphrey
10/16 James Anderson

10/19
10/21
10/22
10/23
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10/31

Scarlett Gray
Bonnie Steeb
Terri Snyder
Barbara Brinkley
Martha Haggerty
Chris Schwartz
Tim Evers



10/2 Don & Fran Chandler
10/6 Ronnie & Sarah Hoppel
10/12 Dan & Susan Wooldridge
10/21 Garry & Anna Haase



Good Shepherd Youth

