

Good Shepherd October Newsletter



Every year on the last Sunday in October, we celebrate “Reformation Sunday.” If you didn’t grow up as a Lutheran, you may wonder where this tradition comes from.

The Reformation began in 1517 when the Roman Catholic Church was raising funds to build their cathedrals by the selling of what was called indulgences. An indulgence was a financial contribution to the church for one’s sins and as a sign of repentance. If you contributed you received a certificate acknowledging your gift which also promised that you or a loved one would spend less time in the misery of purgatory in the afterlife. This basically amounted to paying to be

forgiven.

A German Monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Luther wrote that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. We are forgiven because of God’s grace and the gift of faith.

Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.

Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to re-tell our story – a chance to remember. You will hear about this in the sermon on Sunday morning and the youth our congregation will re-enact the story of the Reformation at our Reformation Picnic. Re-telling the story helps us remember that people, like Martin Luther, risked their lives to bring the church back to the truth of God’s Word and to the core of our faith that God continues to shower on us with His grace and mercy.



Come be a part of our Reformation Sunday celebration, join us on Sunday, October 30th at 8 AM or 10:45 AM for worship.

And don’t miss the Reformation Picnic at 12 noon in the church Court Yard. There will be fellowship, great German food, live action drama, Lutheran Trivia Contest, pumpkin carving and games for the kids, and live German music by the EDELWEISS Band from the Bavarian’s Wirtshaus Restaurant here in Ft. Walton Bch. Let us celebrate The Reformation!

Pastor Ray



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Luther's final written words were: "We are all beggars. This is true."

In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

Pastor And Family Life Minister Appreciation

Clergy appreciation emphasis is in October but we also want to encourage you to celebrate, honor and affirm your ministerial staff all year long. Often ministers and their families feel isolated and burnt out and often wonder if what they are doing is making a difference. Take time to appreciate our ministerial staff (Pastor Ray and Family Life Minister Curtis).



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Junior Year--Semester I

Hello all,

I have been back in school for a couple of weeks. Here's another update as I have gotten started on my Junior year at CUW.

Summer was relaxing and a great time to catch up with my family. I spent a lot of time watching basketball and football practices and enjoyed seeing how Noah is progressing as a quarterback. He is really excited for his Senior year sports and I am excited to see God do amazing things as he continues working towards his goal of being a professional football player. It has been amazing to get to spend time with both him and JJ this summer. JJ is learning the ins and outs of coaching and it was fun to watch him as he develops into a new role in life. I also enjoyed spending time with my Dad as I shadowed him, learning what a chaplain does and gaining valuable experience that can help me as I continue on this journey to becoming a pastor.

I had the opportunity to go to the LCMS National Youth Gathering as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). This was my first time ever going to a National Youth Gathering and it was a great experience. I was able to meet a lot of cool new people as well as run into some old friends from the many places my family and I have lived over the years. I enjoyed the opportunity and am hoping to do it again in the future.

My dad and I took a trip to return to school at the end of August. We had a great time together making the drive to Wisconsin. We took a detour and visited the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. It was a stop that we had planned for my graduation trip in 2020, but it was closed due to Covid before we could get there. It was a great opportunity to experience some Air Force History!

I am enjoying this semester so far. My classes are very heavily focused on languages as I am taking Hebrew 1, German 1 and Greek 4. My other classes include a class on the Lutheran Confessions and a World Missions class. I continue to lead BUILD, the men's ministry on campus. We have had a very good turnout this fall so far. In addition, I am active in the Pre-Seminary group and continue to enjoy Ultimate Frisbee.

I am continually excited about my future and can hardly wait to see the plans God has for me. I would like to thank all of you for the support that you have given me as I continue in my education. All of your support means a lot to me, and I am extremely grateful for everything you have done.

God's blessings,
Zeke Potts



On The Homefront

Having Zeke home this summer was wonderful. We quickly settled into a new routine with him around. He spent a lot of time going back and forth between sports practices with JJ and Noah. In between we enjoyed family game times and Florida's beaches. Our summer started with the first non-move related family trip we have taken since Zeke graduated from High School. Memories were made and laughs were shared.

With Zeke back at school, we at home are also back to our normal routines. Noah is a Senior in High School and we are helping him with the college recruiting process as he hopes to play College Football next year. JJ is busy learning to be a coach - he is coaching Middle School Football, Assistant to Varsity Football and also will help with Basketball and Baseball as the year progresses. He is also working on his Lego Business and getting ready to open up an online store in the near future.

Mom and Dad continue to soak in these moments where we are all together knowing that these years are quickly coming to an end. We are thankful for your prayers and support in helping Zeke achieve his dreams!

Peace in Christ,
The Potts Family



From the Bavarian's Wirsthaus German Restaurant

We proudly announce that **EDELWEISS TRIO** will be playing live at the Good Shepherd Reformation Festival on Sunday, October 30t5t.



Our local society MISSION MINDED WOMEN sporting their new shirts journeyed to Florida on September 17 to join the other ladies from Emerald Coast Zone LWML for a rally. The first time in 3 years. Those present represented 2 churches from Pensacola, and Cantonment, Destin, Shalimar, Crestview. Our bible study was on Noah, plenty of singing, good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Our local society continues to meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month with the continuing bible study on Chosen.



October 4

Luther's World

Molded by the world into which he was born

October 11

Life in a Monastery

A monk's life is a very regimented thing

October 18

Purgatory

Once a well-established teaching

October 256

Changing the Approach

How 'Twitter' was done in the 16th Century



10/2 Norma Breidinger
10/4 DiAnn Keenan
10/6 Theresa Vacek
10/8 Janice Balentine
10/8 Minda Haag
10/8 Betty Tucholski
10/15 Nancy Humphrey
10/19 Scarlett Gray
10/21 Bonnie Steeb
10/22 Terri Snyder
10/23 Barbara Brinkley
10/25 Martha Haggerty
10/25 Chris Schwartz
10/29 Margaret Snider
10/31 Tim Evers

Happy Anniversary

10/1 Glen & Diane Beck
10/2 Don & Fran Chandler
10/6 Ronnie & Sarah Hoppel
10/12 Dan & Susan Wooldridge
10/21 Garry & Anna Haase
10/21 John & Inge Miller





Bushes have been removed by the office awaiting sod.



Pastor Ray and Riley hangin out



Regular Sunday Worship Times

Traditional Worship @ 8:00 AM
Contemporary Worship @ 10:45 AM

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM

Exercise your own judgment concerning the level of risk you are willing to take with in person attendance.



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Music Director Lois Henry
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