

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OCTOBER, 2009

Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

During the month of October we celebrate *Reformation Day*. We remember Martin Luther and thank God for him and his ministry.

Martin Luther longed to understand St. Paul's letter to the Romans and the phrase "*the justice of God*." Martin understood it to mean the justice by which God is just and deals justly in punishing the guilty. Luther's circumstance was that, even though he was a good monk, he stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience. Martin Luther had no confidence that his good works would make him righteous in God's sight. Martin did not love an angry and just God. Martin Luther pondered until he saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that "*the just shall live by faith*." Then Martin grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and mercy God justifies us through faith. The Holy Spirit helped Luther to understand and believe that this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus.

This understanding made a positive difference in Martin Luther's understanding the Bible and in his relationship with God. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning for Martin. Before the justice of God had

filled him with hate, now it became to him inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to Martin Luther a gate to heaven. Martin's faith in Jesus as his Savior assured him that he had a gracious God.

As He did with Martin Luther, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand that this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus. We become conscious of sin through hearing and reading God's law. This righteousness comes from God apart from law to all of us who believe. All of us are justified freely by God's grace through faith in Christ.

This righteousness from God comes to you by faith in Jesus. You have the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. You are righteous in God's sight by faith in Christ.

Martin Luther believed, taught, and confessed that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. God justified you and all believers when Christ was crucified. You are justified in God's sight by faith in Jesus. We believe, confess, and teach that we are justified by faith apart from observing the law. Faith is not a person's contribution or decision, but a gift of God. St. Paul wrote, "*clearly no one is justified before God by the law because the righteous will live by faith*." (Gal. 3:11)

You are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by Jesus. God's grace is His undeserved good favor to you because of Christ. God's grace motivated Him to justify you freely when Christ was crucified. Redemption is the condition of freedom that Jesus accomplished for you by shedding His blood on the cross.

Let us thank, praise, serve, and obey your Lord and Redeemer. God be praised and thanked that we are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Jesus. God canceled the guilt of your sin and credited righteousness to you. Christ's righteousness is credited to you as your own.

God's Word of law and gospel made a powerful impact on Martin Luther and on the Christian Church. Martin became conscious of his sin through God's law. Luther believed and taught that this righteousness from God came to him and to all who believe in Jesus apart from law. Martin Luther taught and believed that he and all believers are justified freely by faith in Christ. Luther believed, confessed, and taught the Reformation principles – *"Faith alone, Grace alone, and Scripture alone."* God be praised and thanked for Martin Luther and his ministry. Thank and praise our Lord that this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus.

May God bless you and your family during this month of October and always!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Pastor Terry Nelson

Fall WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
(1st Sunday of the month)
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class –
Galatians
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study
(grades 6-12)
(2nd & 4th Sundays)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month. The 8:00 a.m. worship service and Adult Bible Class are not held when a Contemporary worship service is celebrated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are held at 10:30 a.m. for children three years old (by Dec. 1st) through fifth grade. Children are dismissed to their classes from the worship service after the opening hymn.

YOUTH in grades 6-12 meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:30 a.m. for Bible Study. A YOUTH ACTIVITY NIGHT will be held Wednesday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin announcements for other dates coming up.

A CONTEMPORARY worship service will be held Sunday, October 4, at 9:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION instruction, for young people in 7th and 8th grades, is being held on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in having your child join the group, give Pastor Nelson a call.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Excel in the Grace of Giving

You will be receiving a mailing on October 1st regarding our three-week stewardship program entitled “*Excel in the Grace of Giving.*” On Sundays, October 4, 11, and 18, our worship services will focus on this theme. As your pastor, I hope and pray that the messages offered will help us in our journeys as faithful and generous stewards. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who follow God’s ways and become more Christ-like in our giving. As Christians, we are motivated to give by the gift of God’s grace through His Son. With hearts filled with God’s love and grace, we can give faithfully.

Commitment Sunday is Sunday, October 18, which will be a day of joyful response to that grace of God. Please place your commitment form in the offering plate on Commitment Sunday or return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.

In Christ,

Pastor Nelson

October Meetings at a Glance

1	Thurs.	7pm	Elders
6	Tues.	7pm	Evangelism
12	Mon.	7pm	Trustees
13	Tues.	7pm	Stewardship
20	Tues.	7pm	Church Council
24	Sat.	10am	Women’s Outrch

ADULT BIBLE CLASS has begun a study of the book of Galatians on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

“Which would you prefer – slavery or freedom?” If asked this question, most people would undoubtedly respond, “Freedom.” Unfortunately, many people today equate freedom with “personal choice” or “do your own thing” without regard for God’s Word. With Christian freedom comes responsibility – to God and for others. God continues to speak to us through Galatians concerning freedom from sin and death Christ won for us on the cross; how our slavery to Christ provides us true freedom; and ways we can live as people whom Christ has freed from the curse of the Law through the power of the Gospel.

Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

ADULT CHOIR

People of all voices are needed - (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). If you enjoy singing praises to God, please prayerfully consider singing in the Choir. Speak with Pastor Nelson if interested. Our Choir plans on singing once a month at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. (The next rehearsal will be Sunday, October 18, after worship.)

“I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me.” (Psalm 13:6)

PASTOR’S VACATION

Pastor Nelson will take his final vacation Sunday for 2009 on Sunday, October 11. Rev. Richard Krugler will be the guest pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The yearly Sunday School calendar is available for all families on the registration table.

The children will begin practice and parts will be assigned for the Christmas program on Sunday, October 18. The Christmas Program will be presented on Friday, December 18, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m.

The Sunday School families are also sponsoring a Clothing Collection for ACTIVE FAITH, October 18 through December 7.

If you would like to plan a fun activity, help with the Christmas program, or be a substitute Sunday School teacher (our regular teachers teach once every 3 or 4 weeks), please call Amy Lockard at 248-446-9598 or email her at dratar@comcast.net. Thank you to those already serving!

FOPS

Families of preschool age children and younger are getting together for fellowship Friday evenings throughout the year. Watch the weekly bulletins for posted times. Contact Christina Nelson at 734-323-0770 for more information.

ACTIVE FAITH

Our congregation's requested item for the month of October is CANNED FRUIT. All other donations are welcome and may be placed in the box as you enter church. Our congregation pledges \$250 each month to Active Faith. We encourage monetary donations to help us meet that pledge.

CROSS OF CHRIST CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The Lord has blessed us with 73 children this school year. We thank God for our Teacher/Director Janelle Rapson Lach and our Aides, Lynne Lach, Julie Mattison, Kelly Nuttall, and Marci Wasilko.

We have a few openings in our four year old program, which meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call the church and preschool office at 248-437-8810 for more information.

We encourage donations to our Preschool Scholarship Fund to help those who may struggle with tuition payments during these tough economic times.

Cross of Christ Christian Preschool is also participating in the Thrivent Financial GIVING PLUS Program which provides \$1 for every \$2 contributed to our school by a Thrivent policy holder, up to \$300 per year. (Forms are available in the church office.)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our congregation is again reaching out to needy children in desperate situations around the world through *Operation Christmas Child*. Please fill your own box (plastic or shoe box). BROCHURES will be available soon with suggestions. If able, please include a \$7 donation in the envelope for shipping and place on top inside your box. **FILLED BOXES ARE DUE BACK ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15.**

MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFER IN:

+ + Ben & Kathy Sulisz
From Good Shepherd, Novi

BAPTISMS:

+ + Philip John Zoeller
Child of Aaron & Rachel Zoeller
September 6, 2009

+ + Viktor August Pavlov
Child of Jeremy & Amelia Pavlov
September 13, 2009

MEMORIAL:

+ + In memory of Thomas & Margaret Allan and Estel & Lela Nichols, a gift has been given to *Active Faith* by Neil & Annie Nichols.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Richard & Viola Chambers
Jeff & Nancy Marsh
Jim & Patty Wadkins
5 George & Hazel Richardson
7 Robert & Jeannine Hosbach
8 Robert & Dawn Petz
9 Jeffery & Karen Hantz
10 Charles & Dana Hamlet
Grant & Karen Neiswinter
12 John & Jean Boyle
17 David & Denise Gerke
25 Robert & Colleen Martin
Richard & Dawn Miller
James & Barbara Morrison

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Rose Hall
Eric Hantz
3 Ettie Ann Hirth
Drake Lockard
9 Clarice French
Jerry Geelhood
Ernest Johnston
10 Ray Brown
11 Carol Mielke
12 Keith Pixley
Pam Sieting
15 Alexander Geelhood
Neil Nichols
16 Aaron Faust
Adam & Eric Walrath
18 Ed Baughman
19 Bonnie Tura
20 Jessica Evans
Janelle Rapson-Lach
21 Warner Krause
22 Tammy Lanam
Adam Marsh
23 Austin Gerke
24 David Mielke
25 Alan Lach
26 Donna Evans
Florence Hall
27 Angela Baker
Mary Pogarch
28 Sherry Bugar
29 Edda Albin
Charles Deeds
Tricia Evans
31 Deanna Abrash
William Baker

Please inform the church office of any missing dates or errors.

LUNCH BUNCH

*1ST Friday of the Month – 11:30 a.m.
Sign up on the Information Board
Or Call Ettie Ann (248-349-2545)
or the church office*

**Friday, October 2, 2009
11:30 a.m.**

Meet at Genitti's Restaurant in Northville

Lunch served family style

Soup and Garlic Bread
Baked Chicken & Pasta
Antipasto Salad
Cannoli and Coffee
Tea or Pop

Special Price: \$8 – (including tax)

*Men and women welcome for good food
and fellowship!*

WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Women's Outreach met on Saturday, September 19. Claudia's devotion was on Mary and Martha from Luke 10: 38-42. She ended her devotion giving each a small package of M & Ms to remind us of Mary and Martha.

PRAYER SHAWLS

We have a lot of shawls that have been knitted or crocheted with loving hands. If you have friends or family members who are ill or shut-in, the shawls are wonderful to throw around their shoulders. There is a card that goes with each shawl so they will know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Please call Chris or Ettie Ann if you know of someone who needs a little lift with this special gift.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH continued

OKTOBERFEST

Our main discussion was the "Oktoberfest" planned for Sunday, October 18th at 11:30 a.m. We decided to serve Scheinsbraten, Wurstel, Brezel, Sauerkraut and Spatzle. You may not recognize the names, but you will recognize the foods. There will be roast pork, sausages, German potato salad, sauerkraut, spatzle, and pretzels. Desserts . . . German brownie torte, German chocolate cake, and pigs ears (yes, that's a dessert!) will be served. We will have a little present for the little kids. A "zuckertute" will be given to each child. There will be a sign-up sheet with number of adults and children requested. There will be a free-will donation, and we are hoping there will be enough donated to cover our expenses. Mark your calendars and remember if you want to eat, you need a seat. . . **SIGN UP** or call Chris.

Pumpkin Patch Presents

Sunday, October 25th

BAKE SALE

*Halloween Gifts & Halloween
Table Favors*

Bakers and Buyers needed!

PEW CANDLES

We have made enough money from our fund raisers and received donations to purchase the pew candles. They will be attached to every other pew in the center aisle and will be beautiful for Christmas.

The next Women's Outreach MEETING will be Saturday, October 24, at 10 a.m. Join us!

CROSS OF CHRIST CONNECTIONS

“Let’s Connect!”

The list on the bulletin board is getting longer

Realtor, Photographer, Certified Nurses Aide, Cake decorating, Small Engine repair, Landscaping, Custom shelving, Baker, Baby or Adult sitting, Auto body repair.

If you need any of these services, check out the bulletin board. If you have something to offer, add your name!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Giving: an Obligation or Opportunity

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians’ love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. They **excelled in the grace of giving**. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they *“urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints”* (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an opportunity to help other believers in need.

STEWARDSHIP:

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give as the Macedonians had. As God’s people, we have both an obligation and an opportunity. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made”* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Giving is an obligation, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, He changes us so we view our giving as an opportunity rather than an obligation. As renewed and transformed people, our attitudes toward giving change from a “got to” to a “get to” attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start to **excel in the grace of giving** by giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for Who He is and what He does for us. The more we give of ourselves and our gifts the closer our relationship with Christ becomes and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us, enabling our continued giving. *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11). We thank God that He fills us daily with His love so that we as members of His Body here at our church see giving as a privilege and an opportunity to praise and thank Him.

OCTOBER 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
+ Indicates Holy Communion				1 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Elders	2 11:30am Lunch Bunch – <i>Genittis</i> <i>Northville</i>	3
4 <i>Stewardship Program</i> No 8:00 a.m. service 9:15am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	5 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	6 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Evangelism	7 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 <i>Stewardship Program</i> 8:00am Worship + 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Team Trinity Yth. 10:30am Worship + <i>Rev. Richard Krugler</i> 10:30am Sunday School	12 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00pm Trustees	13 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Stewardship	14 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	15 6:30-8:30pm Girl Scouts	16	17
18 <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Adult Choir 11:30am OKTOBERFEST	19 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	20 7:00pm Church Council	21 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	22	23	24 10:00am Women's Outreach
25 8:00am Worship + 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:30am Team Trinity Yth. 10:30am Worship + <i>Adult Choir Sings</i> 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Praise Team	26 5:30 & 6:30pm Weight Watchers	27 6:30-8:30pm Cub Scouts	28 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	29	30	31

