



CROSSLink

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Worship Services:
Saturdays 5:30PM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 8:30AM (Sanctuary)
Sundays 10:45AM (LOFT)

October 2017

From the Pastor's Desk...

Pastor Bill Metzger



REFORMATION 2017: So what? Who cares?

Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

Unless you have been putting on your best Rip Van Winkle impersonation for the past twelve months, you are aware that 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Actually "Reformation" is a misnomer; "Recovery" would be a better description. As in "the recovery of the long-lost Gospel of Jesus"!

Having made that distinction, the temptation of many would be to stifle a big, juicy yawn and ask "So what? Who cares about a "recovery" that took place five hundred years ago?"

And with that comes the well-intentioned advice given to pastors everywhere: "Start preaching something **relevant**, something I can actually **use** in my daily life. Give me something that will **address and help** in my **struggles**. Enough already with all this forgiveness of sins stuff."

At the risk of people thinking I'm being dismissive of their pain, **there is nothing more relevant and useful than the Good News that your sins have been forgiven and you stand fully justified before God because of Jesus' death and resurrection.**

Here's why: the **five solas**.

1. **SOLA GRATIA.** That's a ten dollar phrase meaning **Grace Alone**. Your inborn guilt is what is causing all the misery in your life, whether you know it or not; whether you admit it or not. Your past and present sins are making you miserable. And even if you had no actual sins (which is impossible), you remain a sinner by nature. You do what you do because you are what you are. Your relationships are messed up, your health is shaky, your work life stinks (or at least it stinks much of the time), you have sleepless nights, you are worried about many things, and you often find yourself anxious and frightened, **and it's all because you are a sinner!** These problems all stem from the sinful condition you inherited from your distant ancestors Adam and Eve. You try to deal with all of this by taking control, trying to make changes, etc. That makes and keeps the focus on **you**. God wants the focus on **Him**. When you don't, that's sin. The solution is **the forgiveness of sin**. But you can't do it. You can't make it happen. Your best efforts at getting rid of sin fail. Every time. Your resolutions to "do better" fall apart. You've turned over so many leaves you feel like a tree. To stop sinning is impossible. You need Some-one else. Jesus. His death on the Cross is enough to save even a Christian! Even you! He took your sins from you and made them His own. In return, He gave you His righteousness as if it was always yours. And this **at no cost to you!** For you it is **absolutely free!** That is **SOLA GRATIA**. Grace alone.
2. **SOLA FIDES.** This means **Faith Alone**. Trusting in Another to do what you cannot do. Confidence in Jesus who was obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross. And that

obedience is credited to you by believing it. **By faith**, and nothing else. Just faith. No works. No behavior modification. No changes. No efforts at getting better. Just **faith**, and faith **alone**.

3. **SOLA SCRIPTURA**. By now you're getting the hang of this. **Scripture alone**. What God says in the Bible. His unchanging Word of Promise. Because He says so!!! How is this helpful? When you **feel** guilty, you aren't. Why? **Because God says so!** When you **don't feel** God's presence, He Is still here! Why? **Because He says so!** Whether you feel it or not. Has your prayer life gone "dry" and you have little or no excitement in your life as a Christian? You remain a Christian and your relationship with God has not changed. How do you know? **God says so!** Not feelings. Not what you see. Not what you experience. **God's unchanging Word! Because He says so!**
4. **SOLUS CHRISTUS**. Very simply put: **Christ Alone**. Your salvation. Your forgiveness. Your Christian life. All are the direct result of Jesus' work on Calvary on your behalf. The entire Christian life can be summarized with this equation: **100% Jesus - 0% you**. He **did it all** and He **continues to do it all**. Nothing depends on you. Not your salvation. Not trying harder. Not getting better. It's all Jesus! **100% Jesus - 0% you**. If you change this equation even one percent, then you lose the final "sola":
5. **SOLI DEO GLORIA**. This means: **Glory to God Alone**. If you take any credit for your Christian life then two things happen: You rob God of His glory, and you yourself are robbed of His comfort. The result is **misery**. When it's **all God's doing, because He says so, by simply believing what's already been done by Jesus**, the peace, joy and comfort will be without end. Not because you **feel** these things (the feelings will often be weak or absent), but because they are **facts**. You know this **because God says so!**

Well, there you have it. The **solas of the Reformation/Recovery**. And boy are they practical! For living as a dearly loved, forgiven, and redeemed Child of God in this valley of tears (that would be your life). And for knowing as a guaranteed fact that you possess eternal life right now! You will live forever.

Celebrate the Reformation/Recovery! October 28-29 would be perfect for doing so with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Clean and Forgiven Forever,
Pastor Bill Metzger
Ephesians 2:1-9

News from the Preschool

Jean Hoger, Director

September has flown by. We are getting to know these little people more each day. The quiet, shy ones are now more comfortable. The ones who came crying are close to coming in without tears.

We had our first chapel. The 4s came during our "Awareness of Me" unit. From head to toe, we learned that we can love and serve Jesus by loving and serving others. Our 3s found many crosses as they came into the church. We learned about Noah and how the rainbow is God's promise to us that He will never flood the entire earth again.

Together we collected items for the TLC Pregnancy Center in Elgin. I had to rent a van because we had so many items for mothers and kids up to age 5. This is a great way to serve and help others. Next month we'll be collecting gently used or new winter hats, mittens and gloves of all sizes. We'll have bin in the hall if you feel you want to contribute.

At the end of September we went to the Hollows. It is a great place to hike together and enjoy God's nature.

In October we will go to the Fire Station. We'll have all the families come to our open house on the October 13. The kids will sing at the LOFT service and we'll end the month with our costume party. The kids say what they're going to dress up as and then change their minds each day.

Our Taffy Apple order will be placed on October 5 and arrive on the 12th. Thanks to everyone who helped by ordering! It is a delicious and somewhat nutritious fundraiser!

Lutheran Composer Corner

Laura Schmuldt, Sanctuary Music Director

Perhaps the best known of all Lutheran musicians, Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1685, the son of Johann Ambrosius, the 'town piper' employed as the director of music for his hometown. The entire Bach family, in fact, produced several composers and musicians, not only in Bach's time but throughout his ancestry, and continued through his sons.

A mere 150 years after Martin Luther instigated the reformation, Bach was baptized at St. George's Church and would also become a young chorister in the very choir where Luther himself sang. By the time he was 10 years old, both of his parents had died and he was sent to live with his eldest brother, Johann Christoph (whose own teacher was Johann Pachelbel) in Ohrdruf. Christoph was already an established Kantor and organist at the Ohrdruf and began to teach his younger brother.

Bach has been coined "the fifth evangelist" because of his ability to bring the Gospel to life through music; however, he was not entirely the pious angel that those of us who admire his music like to think of him as. As a child he was frequently in trouble and received poor grades. This seemed to have turned around a bit when he was forced to leave his birthplace, but his rebellious nature remained. Eventually he would earn his first post in Arnstadt when he was 18. His audition would entail being the first to play a newly installed organ (thanks to a city tax on beer) as well as writing a new cantata (his first). Sometime later a brawl would ensue between Bach and the bassoonist after insulting him for being unable to manage a difficult passage Bach had written.

During his tenure at Arnstadt, he had frequent conflicts with the council. Complaints included the incorporation of "strange harmonies" into his organ music, playing too long, not long enough, smuggling a girl into the loft to make music. The final straw came when he requested a four week leave so he might go hear Buxtehude play the organ in Luebeck. He returned after four months. The fact they allowed him to stay must be a testament to just how very skilled he was.

Despite Bach's rebellious nature (which at some point landed him time in jail), his ultimate wish was most definitely carried on Luther's ideal that music enhance the message of the Gospel. He often would pay for supplemental musicians from his personal funds so that his music could be realized properly on Sunday mornings. In his resignation letter to Arnstadt in 1707 he mentions his goal for 'well regulated church music to the glory of God'. Upon every composition manuscript, Bach wrote the letters "J.J.", standing for "Jesus Juva" (Jesus Help) before he began and ended it with the letters S.D.G "Glory be to God alone". He wrote "The aim and final purpose of all music is the Glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit".

Bach wrote over 1,100 compositions that are known today, and it is theorized he may have written ten times more than that. Three of his compositions were even included on the "Voyager Golden Record" included on the Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977. Yet in his life he was far more famous as a performer than as a composer in his career. Following his death in 1750, his two eldest sons (of 22 total) Carl Philip and Wilhelm, along with many of his students, did work to preserve Bach's work, but it fell out of fashion eventually and out of public awareness, until Mendelssohn spearheaded bringing Bach's music back to the fore in the 19th century and continues to be celebrated and performed in both secular and sacred arenas.

LWML Weekend and 75th Anniversary Breakfast

LWML weekend will be celebrated on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1. In celebration of LWML's 75th anniversary, Holy Cross LWML will be hosting a breakfast on Sunday, October 1 after the 8:30 worship service. You won't want to miss it! There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken. If you can't make it to the breakfast, please consider a free will offering taken in the narthex after each worship service that weekend.

All donations will be donated to the LWML mites used both in the US and abroad. A few of the mission grants we are supporting are the Mercy House for Women and Children in Flint, Michigan, Belize Mission Feeding Program, Reaching the Homebound with the Northern Illinois District and Training Middle East Missionaries.

As always, we thank you for your support. If you have any questions, or would like more information about LWML, please contact Viki Dettmann.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Join us starting Tuesday, October 3 from 7:00-8:00 PM in the lower level LOFT (room 140) for a fascinating video Bible study, Faith Lessons – A Clash of Kingdoms, guided by renowned teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan.

Be the Message. As Christians, we're called to proclaim God's name in all the earth (1 Chronicles 16:8), but how do we do that in the midst of false gospels? In this fifteenth volume of the *That the World May Know* film series, discover how Paul communicated the Good News of Christ to Philippi, a Roman colony that worshiped false gods. Can you *live* the message as Paul did while he encouraged the church in Philippi to consider itself a colony of heaven, not Rome? Consider your citizenship - and the message you convey to the world - as Ray Vander Laan takes you deeper into the culture of ancient Philippi.

1. *The Gospel of Caesar*
2. *The Believers*
3. *The Powers of Darkness*

4. *The Philippian Jailer*
5. *Confronting the Empire*

For more information of if you have any questions, please contact facilitator, Ken Hauser.

Concordia Seminary Men's Choir at Holy Cross

On **October 8 at 3:00 PM** Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Kantorei (Men's Chorus) along with their director and organist, Kevin Hildebrand will lead us in Evening Prayer. There will be several opportunities to participate in worship along with the Kantorei, as well as music provided by them. This is a unique honor for us as well as an opportunity to invite our friends and family to Holy Cross.

College Care Packages

We will again be sending college care packages to our Holy Cross students away at college. If you have a student who would like to receive a package, please give the **student's name and address, food allergy information, and your contact name and phone number/email address** to Ellen Gezella, mailbox #58, by **Sunday, October 8.**

If you would like to donate items for the packages we will have tear-off lists on the narthex and LOFT bulletin boards. Donations should be placed in the designated collection boxes by **Sunday, October 8.** Donations toward shipping costs or gift cards are also appreciated.

Thank you from the Human Care Ministry for supporting our young adults as they are away from home. It is comforting to them to know their Holy Cross family is remembering them in thoughts and prayers.

8th Annual Oktoberfest - October 21

Grilled Brats, hotdogs for the kids, sauerkraut with all the trimmings and desserts – *All-You-Can-Eat*. Music to bring back memories of our German heritage. Fellowship with your friends of Holy Cross. What better way to help celebrate the 500th anniversary of Reformation than to attend the “mini-Oktoberfest” on Saturday, October 21 beginning at 6:30 PM (after the 5:30 worship service). Tickets will be available at a table located in the narthex and the LOFT lobby. Tickets are \$12 for adults or \$30 for families - kids 12 and under are free. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15 each. We will also have CARRY-OUT available for \$12/plate. All proceeds go to the CROSS fund for debt reduction. Plan to attend and purchase your tickets now. Come and make a guess on our “Pennies for Pipes”. See you all there - bring a friend.

Christmas Season Angel Tree - The Giving Tree

Jesus told us in His Word, in the Book of Matthew, that natural disasters would be increase in the Last Days. Ummmm, that seems to be the case in light of what has been happening this past month. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires and who knows what else will be looming in the future.

This year, the Angel Tree will be a symbol of how we can help our neighbors who have been victimized by the natural disasters. There is an organization, which began under the guidance of **The Lutheran Hour Ministries**, called the **Orphan Grain Train**, headquartered in Norfolk, Nebraska. When disaster strikes, they are asked to provide for physical and spiritual needs of the people who are hurt by an unexpected disaster event. When these events happen their supplies get depleted in the warehouse. Our goal this year is to provide supplies to them for when they next need to have them.

Each Wednesday night during Advent, we will have a theme for an item for you to bring to help add to these depleted supplies. What we are asking from you is to bring items to make up layette kits, school supply kits and hygiene kits. We only ask for 1 item each week per family. A list will be published in the News & Notes beginning October 14 and 15. We will gather these items under the Angel Christmas Tree, located in the front of church during December.

Right after Christmas, the plan is to deliver these items to the **Orphan Grain Train** headquarters with anyone who wishes to go and bring gifts for those in need.

If there are any questions you may direct them to Barb Molzer or Jeannine Thelander.

OWLS Hoots and Happenings



OWLS will meet at noon on Thursday, October 5 in the lower level of the LOFT. Hansmanns are hosting and will provide a devotion, a dessert and beverages. Please bring your own sandwich and your favorite games. Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends. Books and magazines can also be exchanged or donated to a charity at the meeting.

OWLS are planning a trip to a local Pumpkin Farm on Thursday, October 9. More information will be posted on the OWLS bulletin board. You may sign up to go along as a driver or a passenger. Everyone is welcome to join us.

LOOKING AHEAD:

OWLS are planning to volunteer at Feed Our Starving Children on November 16
OWLS will have a craft and bake sale after weekend services in early December
CHRISTMAS TEA at Three Oaks Residence is planned for December 21

AED Awareness Weekend at Holy Cross

Our Human Care ministry is having an AED Awareness Weekend on October 21 and 22. The #1 cause of death for both men and women is heart disease. In the event of a sudden cardiac event at Holy Cross, it's important that EVERYONE know where our 2 AED machines are located. The church AED is in the usher's closet next to the coatroom; the LOFT AED is in the kitchen cabinet above the wall phone.

Take time to check the AED locations so if you are present in an emergency you can get the machine and help save someone's life. Holy Cross is fortunate to have these AEDs and members who have taken the CPR/AED Class. ANYONE can call 911 and start the emergency process until the paramedics arrive. The Awareness Weekend will give everyone a chance to ask questions and see the equipment as it will be on display. Please stop by and take a look.

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	2	3 10:00A Adult Bible study	4 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	5 Noon OWLS	6	7 5:30P Worship
8 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 3:00P Worship led by Ft. Wayne Seminary Men's Choir	9 6:30P Board of Elders	10 10:00A Adult Bible study	11 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	12 10:00A Prayer Shawl	13	14 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
15 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	16 7:00P Governing Board	17 10:00A Adult Bible study 7:30P Dartball game	18 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	19 OWLS	20	21 5:30P Worship Oktoberfest following worship
22 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	23	24 10:00A Adult Bible study	25 6:00P Handbells 9:30A Women's Bible Study 7:00P KFC/Confirmation 7:00P Choir	26 10:00A Prayer Shawl	27	28 5:30P Worship
29 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:35A FISH Club 9:45A Adult Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	30	31 10:00A Adult Bible study				

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