

Cross CURRENTS



Issue 14.10
October 2019

A monthly publication to keep you informed about the ministry of Living Water and the opportunities for you to grow your relationships with the Lord and each other.

The Church Must Always Be Reformed

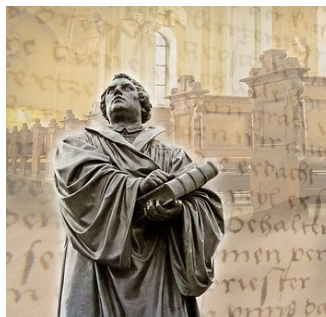
Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” —*John 8:31,32 (NIV)*

You have probably heard the calls for reform. Reform of our justice system. Reform of our immigration policy. Reform of the minimum wage employees are paid. Reform of the way we use our world and treat our climate. It seems like there is no shortage of things people want to change and reform in our state, our nation, and our world.

As much as you’ve heard the calls for reform from various people, you have observed the need for reform. As a Christian, you understand that so much of this world and this life and this culture is messed up. It’s messed up by sin. Creation groans. Justice gets miscarried. Immigration gets blundered. And so on and so forth. As a Christian, you not only recognize how messed up this world, you recognize why it is. Humanity has lost its hold on the truth. As a result, ever since Adam and Eve, each person thinks that his or her truth is the truth that will

solve the problem and bring the reform that’s needed. But all these truths can’t truly be true. There can only be one truth which sets things free! The rest are just sinful falsehoods which we tire of hearing through the TV.

Thank goodness our church got it right all those years ago, right? Thank goodness that when there were so many things that needed to be reformed in the Catholic Church, Martin Luther



stepped up and cleaned house, right? Thank goodness that we have a perfect hold on the truth that sets us free, right? Thank goodness that the Lutheran church and Living Water will never

ever have to make any changes ever again, right? Wrong.

Ecclesia semper reformanda est. That’s the fancy Latin phrase that reformers like Martin Luther held onto. To them, that was part of the truth of what Jesus meant when he said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then

THIS MONTH’S ISSUE

p.3 Trunk or Treat

p.3 Mission & Ministry Sunday

p.4 Ministry Opportunities

p.6 5 Minutes & Council Corner

you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” *Ecclesia semper reformanda est*, “The church must always be reformed.” Luther and the Reformers thanked God that he had preserved and illumined the truth of his Word – that we are saved by grace alone, as received through faith alone, as taught by Scripture alone, all on account of Christ alone. But Luther and the Reformers also knew that sinner-saints could slip in their grip of Jesus’ true teachings.

As a denomination and congregation, we might get distracted by politics or money, laziness or being busybodies. We might become enslaved to sinful growth methods or to sinful resistance to change. Either way, these are all distractions that threaten the freedom we have by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Scripture alone. That’s part of the reason our Council recently went through the process of evaluation mission statement options.

And so we, too, are people calling for reforms. But we don’t join the chorus of people calling for secular reforms that only affect this world. We call for reform that affects our hearts and our congregation for eternity. We ask the Holy Spirit to daily reform our hearts through Word and sacrament. We ask Jesus to reform our tendency to be lenient in the way we teach and apply his truth. We ask the Father for the discipline and humility to never think that we have become a perfect change that has nothing to reform. Our hearts and our church must always be reformed by God and his Word.

The good news is that God promises to do just that. Martin Luther and the Reformers had that confidence, and so do we. That’s what we celebrate every October 31 on Reformation Day! The justice system may still mess things up. Immigration could still be a hot topic. People may still panic that the world will end in about eight years. In the end, though, we sleep easy knowing that God is never done reforming our hearts by his grace until he takes us to the eternal freedom Jesus Christ won for us in heaven.

In Christ,

Pastor Aaron Voss

Trunk or Treat

We are excited to announce that we’re once again hosting a trunk or treat event on Saturday, October 26, from 1:00-3:30 pm! This event serves our congregation in two important ways by helping to build bridges in our community as we invite families to participate in this free event, and also building fellowship among ourselves. You can get involved in a variety of ways, from donating items beforehand to handing out goodies from your trunk to helping a kids paint

pumpkins to inviting your neighbors and friends. Volunteer opportunities can be found in church’s lobby and a donations list will be coming soon. Contact Pastor Voss with questions and pray that God blesses this part of our outreach!

Mission and Ministry Sunday

Many of you grew up during a time when Americans were fighting in Vietnam. We now all live in a time when our synod is doing mission work there! The official Vietnam government has invited WELS to start a theological training center for Hmong people in Vietnam. Pastor E. Allen Sorum will be our guest preacher on October 20 & 21 and will present during Bible class on this exciting effort in Vietnam. Pastor Sorum currently serves as professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



We had a small group attend our annual planning meeting, but we still enjoyed lots of yummy snacks and managed to come up with lots of good ideas for activities for the coming year.

Our first outing is coming up very soon - on Sunday, October 13! We will be going to the Burlington Malt House Haylofters Theater to see a production of *Nevermore - The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe*. This unique and wildly theatrical musical combines haunting music and poetic storytelling to chronicle the fascinating life of iconic American writer Edgar Allan Poe. A literary rock star of his day, Poe struggles with tragedy and addiction, poverty and loss, yet produces some of the world's most original, visionary and enduring literature before dying in unexplained circumstances at the age of 40. At once gorgeous and grotesque, *Nevermore* explores the events that shape Poe's character and career, blurring the line between fact and fiction. We'll go to lunch following Bible class and then go to the theater. There will be a sign-up sheet beginning September 29 and we'll need to know how many tickets to purchase by October 6. Any questions, talk to Diane Kordus or Julie McGill.

We're still working on exact dates for many of the other activities we've got planned for the coming year, but here's our tentative calendar:

- November 1—Leave church at 9 am for tour of Holy Hill, followed by lunch (possibly at Fox & Hounds). John Wiederhold is planning this.
- December 4—Host Advent Supper (potluck)
- January 25, 3:00 pm at church—Game Day-Bunco, hosted by Duane & Ida Pfaff
- February 26—Host Ash Wednesday Supper (potluck)
- March—TBD
- April (date TBD, possibly April 26?)—Haylofters "Assisted Living" Diane Kordus will plan this.
- May 2, 4:00 pm—Milwaukee Children's Choir Concert at St. Sebastian Parish, Milwaukee
- May 22, 5:00 pm—Fish Fry at Doc's on the Fox
- June (date TBD)—Belle City Brassworks Concert at Union Grove High School. Boyd & Marlene Recknagel will plan this.
- July/August—(dates TBD) East Troy Trolley/Railroad Museum/Elegant Farmer Senior Picnic. Ken & Sue Gawrisch and John & Virginia Wiederhold will plan the picnic.
- September 19, 3:00 pm—Planning Meeting at church
- We're also planning to tour First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Racine. Mark and Colleen Schneider are planning this and as soon as we have a date set, we'll let everyone know.

Senior Moments is a service organization to provide social opportunities for the congregation. All members, 50 and older, are encouraged to join us for fun and fellowship.



Please join us for our "Fast 15" (minute) Women in God's Service (WinGS) meeting on Sunday,

October 6 during fellowship. We will vote for a new vice president, review our finances, and discuss the upcoming calendar of events. All women of the congregation are invited!

Women's Health Night: WinGS be hosting a free cooking demonstration at church on Thursday, October 10 beginning at 6:00 pm. Food will be prepared by a plant based chef and food for life

instructor. Come hungry, we will be eating the delicious food being prepared! There will also be a Kohl's sponsored event called "Conversations with Komen" where women will learn important facts about their health and can earn gift cards for completing appropriate health screenings for their age. Plus every women will go home with a special pink prize. This event is open to the community as well, so feel free to bring any guests that you would like! If you plan to attend please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we have an estimate for ordering the food. There will also be a flyer in the narthex with more information about the event.

Jesus Cares

Living Water is excited to start the 12th year of Jesus Cares! The theme this year is "The God of Living Water." Jesus Cares meets on the third Monday of each month from October through May from 6:00 pm—7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church. We spend the hour hearing a devotion, learning a lesson, singing songs, and making crafts. Our participants are amazing and always love meeting new volunteers or church members. If you are interested in signing up a participant or volunteering, you can contact Kristen Moldenhauer at Moldenhauer.kristen@gmail.com. Prayers for the growth of this amazing program are so appreciated!

Handbell Choir

The handbell season has begun, and there is still plenty of room for new ringers—high school age and older. If you can count to 4 and know your right hand from your left, we'd love to have you give it a try! We play once a month for worship on Sunday mornings.

Questions can be directed to Tracy Hankwitz, 262-492-2426.



Adult Choir

After many years, Neil Hankwitz has stepped down from directing



Adult Choir. We thank him for his years of faithful service! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm beginning October 2. Janeen Roska will serve as the interim choir director for the year. If you enjoy singing and Christian fellowship and can carry a tune, please consider joining Adult Choir. If you have questions, please contact Janeen Roska at jsroska@gmail.com or 414-745-6385. "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." —Psalm 100:2 (NIV)

Every Service Matters TEEN DEVOTION

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. —1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11 (NIV)

"I just want to find a good job someday—you know, doing something that matters and is meaningful."

It seems to be the elusive dream of every teen. Get into a good college or trades program. Find a job that is influential and important. Do something that really makes a difference. After all, who wants to be a low-class person doing low-class work?

The apostle Paul challenges you to think differently today. There is no such thing as doing more important work than others. There is no such thing as being gift-devoid or ability bankrupt, as if everyone else has some special gift (academics, athletics, personality, etc.) but you have nothing. Whether in the world or in the church, all work and all workers are equal. Why is this?

Because it is the same Holy Spirit who distributes gifts to each person. It is the same God who works in and through each person.

So yes, some people may function as leaders in the world or in the church. Some people may have higher profile jobs that get more attention than others. Some people may make more money than others. But what of it? Different does not mean better. Each person has gifts from God and so is an instrument of God with those gifts.

Think of the bread you eat in your home. Some farmer raised and harvested the crops. Someone bought the product. Workers in a factory processed and produced and packaged bread. Truck drivers delivered it. Stock boys (or girls) put it on the shelves. Someone rang up the groceries. And someone in your family purchased it with money earned from their job. Each had a different set of skills used in a different vocation (life-calling), but God used each to provide for you and many others.

Think of a Sunday morning. The pastor often gets the limelight and attention. But what if no one replaced the lightbulbs, turned the lights and AV on, or even paid the light bill for that matter? What if no one greeted you, gave you a service folder, collected and counted the offering? What if no one played an instrument or led the congregation in singing? Or, God forbid, what if no one made coffee or had snacks available?

This is precisely what Paul is teaching. There are many gifts and many kinds of service. Each is valuable and important—both inside and outside the church. You have been given gifts and abilities by God. So friend—get to work! And trust that your service is important and valuable to God and to others. Why? Because God himself is working through you!

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to see the gifts that you have given, to make wise use of them, to be grateful for the opportunities to serve you and others. Amen.

Prayer

Lord, hear as we pray:

- For our brothers and sisters in Christ who share our Lutheran heritage around the world, that they may place their faith on your death, resurrection, and truth, and not on Martin Luther or any man-made tradition.
- For our synod's work in Vietnam as they build a theological training center for the Hmong people, that more and more people's faith lays hold of the truth that Christ sets us free from sin.
- For Pastor Sorum, that God blesses his preaching among us on October 20 and also the work he does on our behalf as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.



- For our trunk or treat event, that it may be a way for us to have fellowship as a congregation and to make connections with people in our community who may not have a handle on your truth.

We pray these things for the sake of Jesus Christ who has set us free from sin and death and has opened our hearts to firmly hold onto that truth. Amen.

Five Minutes, Valuable Help

In just five minutes of your time, you could help provide valuable feedback for our congregation's outreach efforts. Neil Hankwitz is our outreach leader and has overseen the creation of survey which asks for your perceptions of and interest in Living Water's outreach efforts. Please take time to complete it and help our outreach leader evaluate the past and plan for future ways that we can be Christ's witnesses. You can complete the survey online using the link in the email or by scanning this QR code with your phone. It is helpful for us in collecting the information if you do take the survey online. If you do not have internet access, you can fill out a paper copy found in the lobby.



Council Corner

In an effort to be transparent about topics being discussed at the council meetings each month, we will be sharing some highlights and notes from the month's council meeting in the monthly newsletter. The council encourages members to ask questions and offer insight into any of the topics being discussed.

Mission Statement - The church council has completed a Bible Study that was geared to developing a new mission statement. There will be a special Open Forum/Voters' Meeting on October 13 to review portions of the Bible Study as well to as present and adopt a new

Mission Statement. The mission statement is the first step in developing the future ministry plan and site plan.

TV Installation Completed - The projector and screen were removed and replaced with two new TVs.

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 am Seniors Breakfast	2 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:15 am WinGS Meeting 10:30 am Bible Class &	7 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship with Communion	8	9 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	10 6:00 pm Women's Health Night	11	12
13 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Open Forum Senior Moments Outing	14 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 Elders Meeting	15	16 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 <i>Mission & Ministry Sunday</i> 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	21 5:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Church Council Meeting	22	23 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	24	25	26 1:00 Trunk or Treat
27 8:30 am Prayer Group 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School	28 5:00 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Worship	29	30 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	31		



6525 Milwaukee Avenue
Wind Lake, WI 53185

Worship Information

Sunday Worship Service - 9:00 AM
Sunday Education Time - 10:30 AM
Monday Worship Service - 7:00 PM

Contact Us

Pastor: Aaron Voss
Church Office: 262.895.3700
Pastor's Cell Phone: 262.330.3399
E-mail: pastor@livingwaterlutheran.com
Office: church@livingwaterlutheran.com
Website: www.LivingWaterLutheran.com

2019 Church Council

Here is a list of people to contact if you have any questions or suggestions regarding anything happening in our ministry. Also, if you send a single e-mail to council@livingwaterlutheran.com, it will reach all members of our Church Council.

Mike Graffenius—President
Jim Mertz—Treasurer
Craig Scherbarth—Financial Sec.
Bob McGill—Secretary
Jeff Roska—Head Elder
Neil Hankwitz—Outreach
Gary Steffens—Trustee
Brian Haag—Education



Trunk or Treat

Saturday,
October 26
1:00—3:30 pm

