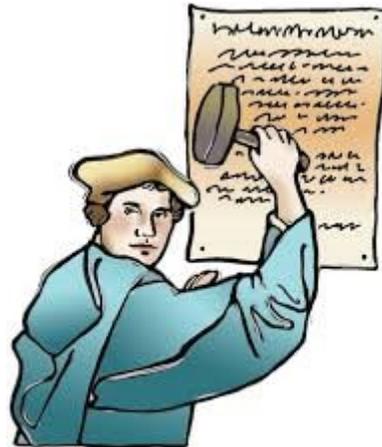


*We are called to be the Body of
Christ for West Cobb*

EST 1984



Christ Lutheran Church - October 2017



REFORMATION 500: SO WHAT? Reformation Day

October 31, 1517, 500 years ago this Halloween, a young German Catholic monk Martin Luther started the Reformation, composing 95 Theses for Christians to debate. Luther had finally come to the conclusion after careful study of the Bible that its main message is that God loves us with no strings attached (justification by grace through faith). Most Catholics were teaching you had to do something to earn God's love first in order to get it. (Many Americans still believe that, polls tell us.) And in 1517 the Church was undergirding that idea by selling Indulgences (encouraging the faithful to purchase certificates of forgiveness which get dead loved ones out of purgatory and into heaven quicker -- to buy God's love with money and works). Luther and some allies at the university where he taught took a stand against this practice in

order to get the Church to take God's unconditional love more seriously. Unfortunately what the young monk did got him in trouble. Instead of following Luther's suggestions about reforming the Church, the Pope kicked him out (and so all the rest of us who agree with him have been kicked out too). Always remember the Lutheran Church is an accident, not what Luther wanted, and he and his followers wanted to be called Evangelical Catholics. (Lutheranism is just a name that was made up by critics of Luther to make fun of him.) While by contrast the other Protestant churches all walked out of Catholicism.

Has the Reformation been worth it? Was it a good thing? How much is believing and teaching that God loves you with no strings attached worth to you? If you want more stress on works, then wouldn't it be better if the Reformation hadn't happened, because then we'd all be one? Luther himself would like us all to be one, as long as the Pope and his Bishops preached justification by grace too. And if you study cutting-edge Catholic theology and ecumenism, that's starting to happen. Oh, but Luther didn't want all that other Catholic stuff. Wrong! He loved Catholic worship, Catholic ways of doing Church, and even called Mary the Mother of God. How about the Bible? Sure Luther stressed Bible study, pretty much like we are now at Christ Lutheran. For him the Bible was a story in which you find yourself in the characters of the Bible stories, see yourself as part of the church to which the Epistles were written. Guess what. Some Catholic Biblical scholars including Pope Benedict XVI read the Bible that way too today. If you like God's no-strings-attached love and think of the Bible as a Story, then don't forget to thank God for the Reformation amidst all the trick-and-treating this month.

Don't forget to wear RED on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29!

Greetings Church Family-

We are off to an outstanding start to Fall programs at our Church! Our journey together thru The Story has been exciting, as have been our fellowship opportunities including a great Church Picnic to kick off the Fall season.

You'll hear from our committee leaders about many more opportunities to come, and I really encourage all of our members to try something new – even if it is just a one-time event. I think you'll see there really is something for everyone.

I also wanted to call your attention to the great work that our constitution/bylaws working group has done on our behalf. Our governing documents needed significant updating to get in line with Synod guidelines and our mission, and the team of Jim Englehart, Rolf Flugstad, and Deb Rogers did an outstanding job drafting a version for the consideration of Council. Council has reviewed, edited, and approved a final version for the consideration of the Congregation. To ensure everyone has time to review before this is voted on at our Annual Congregation meeting in December, we have posted it on our website at clcwestcobb.com for your review.

Thanks again for your continued support and for growing with us in Christ!

God Bless,

Mike Mahler

Stewardship Committee:

1 John 3:18 "Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Here is some hard truth about being a Christian. It is our responsibility not only to love God but to love His people also. Sometimes this is challenging to put into action with a busy schedule. You say you want to serve but before you know it you're caught up in life as it comes at you.

Since serving is a lot more than just talking about it and in your heart, you want to dig in and help, what do you do? Well, you shouldn't just continue to talk. We all know there is a big difference in talking about helping and doing it. The fact of life is you just may not have the time to take on a service project or sit on a committee, and it's okay. It does not mean you don't want to help. Maybe sometime soon your schedule will open, and you will be able to take on a project.

How about looking at what you are doing every day and see if you can fit in something. Keep your hearts open, and you will find ways to serve. Here are a few you might consider:

Prayer: Find someone who needs prayer and pray for them. Don't just say you are going to pray for them, actually do it. Follow up later and see how they are doing.

A Random act of kindness: You are out to lunch or dinner, and you anonymously pay for someone else's meal. Maybe it's to thank someone in the military, a veteran or maybe a police officer or just someone you felt like serving.

Help with disaster Response: In the wake of Hurricane Harvey and Irma what a better way to serve then support those communities affected by these storms. "Lutheran Disaster Response" <https://community.elca.org/ushurricanerelief><https://community.elca.org/ushurricanerelief>

Support/ Fund a Mission: Many of us don't have the time to take a week off work to serve so consider sponsoring someone who does. These types of gifts have a ripple effect, and many people are helped this way.

Donate items to a shelter: When doing your fall or spring clean up's, consider those things that have been hanging around the house and collecting dust. Toys, books and especially clothes and coats are great items to donate.

I hope this gives you some idea of what is possible to serve God as a Christian. When you serve, you worship God by stewarding your time and talents for Him. Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

God's Blessing to all,

Artie Kappel

Fellowship Committee:

As we enter autumn our lives become very busy with all the crazy schedules so many of us have. I look forward to our annual Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat event which has been such a great event for all! It seems like the weeks and days just zoom by now with so much going on for all of us and before you know we are into our 'holiday mode' and our 2nd annual Church Christmas Party. I also want to take this time to say THANK YOU to all who give so much of their time to help with all the events--setting up, cleaning and supplying so much good food! You are all AWESOME!!

Lois and Lisa

Witness/Evangelism Committee:

October brings another New Member Pizza with the Pastor and Congregational Potluck Reception. We are planning the Pizza with the Pastor for Saturday, October 14th, and the Congregational Potluck Reception for Sunday, October 15th following the 11 o'clock service. Thank you in advance to all who make this happen for the newest members of our congregation!

Unleashing Salt and Light,

Tiffany (with Joe, Braden, and Evan's help!) Sorrentino

Social Ministry Committee:

The SMC met on Tuesday, September 12th. Here are the exciting results of our meeting: CLC will once again be sponsoring Blood Drives. Julie Ridings will head up this program. Lisa Long will be in charge of Worship in Pink Sunday which will be held on October 15. Lynne Edwards will be leading our participation in the Cobb County Diaper Day which will be October 23rd. We will be collecting diapers through October 22nd. The goal is 7500 diapers. If 75 people bought a box of 100 diapers that would hit the mark. There is a special surprise if we meet that goal. I know we can do it. For the MUST Ministries food collection we are going to earmark certain foods each month. Keep watch for that announcement. Time and Talent sheets are being distributed soon. Like helping others? Join the Social Ministry Committee!

This year alone, more than
210,000 women
will be diagnosed with
breast cancer.

October is Worship in Pink month and will be held on October 15, we are encouraging all members to wear pink for breast cancer awareness.

Budget & Finance Committee:

Financial Summary (as of August 31, 2017)

Year to date income:	\$181,858
Year to date expenses:	<u>\$177,029</u>
Year to date net income:	\$4,829

Year to date expenses as a percent of annual budget: 68%

Checking/Money Market Balance:	\$93,643
Mission Investment Fund:	<u>\$20,088</u>
Total Cash Balance	\$113,731
Mortgage balance:	\$160,243

Our church is having a Reformation 500 Bookstore!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

Stop by Christ Lutheran Church
on Sunday, October 8th and October 15th
between 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the narthex
to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.

Drive-Thru Dinner Fundraiser to Help Hurricane Victims Benefiting Lutheran Disaster Response

We continue to hold hurricane victims, their families, and all those who responded in our prayers. Christ Lutheran Church will help with the ongoing need by holding a DRIVE-THRU DINNER NIGHT as a fundraiser to benefit Lutheran Disaster Response. Check out the delicious dinner options below. Here is how it works:

- . Decide how many of scrumptious drive-thru dinners you would like to order for your family.
- . Complete the order form below to indicate your requested number of meals. Be sure to indicate your requested **PICK UP TIME** at the bottom.
- . By Sunday, October 15 turn in the form to the offering plate or church office along with cash or check made payable to Christ Lutheran Church and specify Hurricane Relief on the check memo line.
- . Drive-Thru the church parking lot on Friday, October 20 at your delivery time to pick up your order.
- . Go home to enjoy your delicious dinner!

Inserts are in the newsletter and our bulletins for Drive-Thru Pasta Dinner Order Form

After a natural disaster, wanting to help is a natural response....and Lutherans are known for being “helping” people! Here’s a chance to help others by helping yourself to a delicious Friday night dinner with no fuss and no mess to clean up. 100% of proceeds will go to Lutheran Disaster Response. Contact Betsey Ellingsen (770-732-1329) or Julie Ridings (770-349-9258) if you have questions. Thanks for your generosity! Christ Lutheran Church Social Ministry Committee

TV INTERVIEW WITH MARK ELLINGSEN ON REFORMATION 500

Our own Mark Ellingsen will be the featured guest on a **WAIB-TV** show “A Look at the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” on Monday, October 9th. Tune in at **7:00 p.m.** Most of the show will be devoted to an interview Mark did for the station, occasioned by interest in his new book, *Martin Luther’s Legacy: Reforming Reformation Theology for the 21st Century* (which can be ordered online Palgrave Macmillan Publishers). Mark will be explaining what the Reformation was all about as well Martin Luther’s continuing significance for us today.

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Monthly Church Newsletter

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