Cross Words

Pastors' Page

Pastor John De Young



Reaching, Teaching and Living with the Cross of Christ

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> October 2018 Edition





October is the month of the Reformation. So ... now what? I mean, we are one year out from the 500 year of the Reformation and things are even looking bleaker for the "Church" today than it did last year. Yes, pastors will preach on the message of the Reformation (hopefully), but is the Reformation even relevant anymore?

Let's review: Many will tell the exciting story of Luther nailing the Ninetyfive Theses on the door of the Castle church in Wittenberg. He had definitely challenged the church of his day by raising the banner of the Reformation. But the only problem with that understanding is that it really wasn't all that exciting at the time. Luther had no intention of starting the Reformation. He was simply inviting the other priests and scholars of his day to discuss some sentences - the Theses dealing with the nature of the living one's Christian faith and addressing certain errors or abuses that had crept into the practice of the church.

The troubles Luther saw seemed to deal with the bureaucratic "church" and "pope". There were bad teachings and worshiping life in the church. But the Reformation was God's idea, not Luther's. The broad public interest in Luther's theses was unexpected, and not always just theological. Some printers translated Luther's theses from the Latin to the common lan-

guage of German and printed out multiple copies. They saw the controversial nature of what Luther had written and gambled that people would enjoy reading what Luther had to say. Needless to say, they were right.

Soon, the little debate began to interfere with the cash-flow of the capital campaign of the church in Rome for St. Peter's Basilica. The scholar's debate was now a public controversy, and a stumbling block in the path of the "stewardship program" of the Catholic church. Church leaders and Indulgence Peddlers began to see a decline in revenue which led to a debate about: what is the Gospel? How does forgiveness work? What is the source of authority for proper teaching? People began to understand that the "Theses" questioned the fundamentals of the faith. This debate rose to the very highest levels in the Holy Roman Catholic Church itself. People began to choose up sides. Suddenly, we had a Reformation movement on our hands!

Oh, sure, there were others that tried to reform the Roman church before Luther, but their voices were snuffed out by being burned at the stake. But God had a hand in preventing that this time. The Reformation did not spring fully-formed into existence in a day or a week. It consumed the life of Martin Luther from 1517 to 1546. After his death, it was

nearly destroyed by men who wanted peace above all else (Melanchthon), and other men who were willing to kill thousands of people to silence Lutheran theology. Faithful Lutheran Pastors finally collected all the important documents of the Lutheran teachings and published our confession in The Book of Concord of 1580.

Many men and women died for daring to be Lutheran (which was not just a slogan on a Tee-shirt back then). The Thirty Years War was fought over the right to be a Lutheran if that was your faith. Animosity between Lutherans and Catholics lasted for a while because Lutherans had remembered how the Catholics had butchered their relatives and suppressed their religion during that long conflict. When it was over, rulers still controlled what religion was permitted in their lands, and if the ruler changed his religion, he or she would force everyone else in their kingdom to change too. Many of the founders of the Missouri Synod fled to America because the ruler of Prussia decided that Lutherans and other non-Lutheran Protestants all had to join into one church body and use the same liturgies and sing the same hymns and teach the same religious doctrines under penalty of law, and it was not Lutheran doctrine that he supported.

The Reformation is still going on today. Some

"Lutherans" want to imitate the Protestants around us and be generic Christians, forgetting those things that marks us as distinctively Lutheran and which connect us to the Church throughout history. Others want to return to "Holy Mother Church" either in doctrine and practice, or by surrendering our denomination entirely and simply going home to Rome. Liberation theologians have overwhelmed some church bodies, like the ELCA, and want to make Lutheranism all about "social justice" and focus our aspirations on simply improving (as they define improvement) life in the here and now. Then there are those who, like me, want the Lutheran church to return to the foundation of Lutheran doctrine, and practice consistent with what we believe, teach, and confess, and stand united once again in the mainstream of the historic Christian faith and confession.

We are not really trying to reform the Catholic church any longer. Some people are, but their goals are different than a Lutheran's would be, and the Roman Church has proven itself to be pretty resistant to changing their doctrine.

Our goal is not really to reform the Protestant ranks either. They are welcome to the truth, and they are invited to join us at any time, but they have their own agendas, and stepping backwards (as they would perceive it) to the authority of the Word of God, to the creeds and to the historic liturgy is not all that inviting to them. Having no doctrinal foundation as a touchstone has served the ambitious among them for far too long to be tied down to something as mundane as the truth.

Our reformation is ours. Like Luther, we are calling to any and to all who are interested in standing on God's truth back to the Word of God. In a world where bigger is generally accepted to be better, we are about the truth of God's Word and the consistent confession of the faith in all that we do and say. The church usually gets in trouble when it focuses on size, or on income, or on public approbation. Even when we focus on something as essential sounding as "missional", we tend to do the sorts of things that do not serve us well. Our focus needs to be on the Gospel, which is to say,

the Word of God, which is also to say, on Jesus Christ.

What I need is forgiveness, and a church that proclaims it to me honestly. I need the sort of place that encourages me with the truth, and doesn't try to entertain me or meet my "felt needs", but shows me my sin and then brings me to God's grace and fills me up with His gifts. I need to be taught about reality as it is, not as it would be if I had my way. I need to know about God and how He works and what His will for me is like. I need to be reminded to pray, because prayer only comes easily to me when I am in trouble or danger of some sort that I feel and dread. The true danger, the danger of sin, doesn't frighten me until it is too late to turn back. I need regular reminders.

I also need to be reminded of my duty to my neighbor. Selfishness is the easiest thing in the world. The only time being generous feels good to me is when someone is watching and I am getting all the credit and praise. When it makes me feel good about myself, or causes others to admire me, then generosity I can afford is pleasing to do. The sort of generosity that actually costs me something dear, however, is not fun or natural, particularly if no one is noticing that it is being done by me! It is only really possible when'l remember the love of God for me and the price of His generosity in forgiv-ing me and saving me. The refor-mation that we need is the reformation that holds Christ and His cross before our eyes - and not just to make us feel good, but to remind us who it is that we are following and where we are going.

We also need to keep an eye on the church around us, doing our part to keep it on the foundation of God's Word and not merely human opinions about God's Word. It is far too easy to lose one's focus and wander away into self-made religious ideas. The church has been doing that for two thousand years, over and over again. Celebrating the Reformation of Luther's time helps us keep that task in mind.



School Report

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with the Back to School Cleaning. The school is looking better than ever.

We are blessed with daily calls from parents looking for a place for their children. Along with school we started Wednesday Chapel which the children enjoy. Please keep collecting the Box Tops for Education as well as printer ink cartridges for the school. Grand Parents day was August 31 and the children loved having their grandparents here. Out next big event will be Thanksgiving lunch with parents.

Please remember us in your prayers.

Lila Fussell School Director



Board of Properties

We continue to straighten and declutter the Church properties. Items no longer used are either repurposed, recycled, or disposed of. Our Air conditioning units are holding their own at the time of this article.

Greg Fussell

Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! At the time I write this article, the sad news has arrived that Gary Lee, a long time member here, has passed away. Yet, when I think of Gary, it is difficult to really be sad. First, and foremost, I know he was a Christian who had faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, I know that, based on our Savior's sacrifice, he will overcome death.

Second, my memories of Gary only make me smile. He was always happy and quick with a joke or quip. I am sure that those of you who knew

him have a very similar memory. If you asked Gary how he was doing, he would say something like, I am "finer than frog hair." Of course, frog hair is very, very fine indeed. When others are asked the same question, they will say, like Martin Luther supposedly did, "better than I deserve." While that is certainly true, I don't think it conveys the joy we Christians should have and display. And that was a good word ("joy") to apply to Gary—he was fully of iov.

Our Synod president, Matthew Harrison, has prepared a booklet which contains a message to the Church about the challenges we face and how to face them. It is entitled "Joyfully Lutheran." The theme verse is from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, which states, in part, "Rejoice always, . . ., for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." He also cites numerous other passages in the Bible that reference joy, such as:

- Joy in and over creation (Ps. 96)
- Joy in God's presence (Ps. 16:11)
- Joy in repentance (Luke 15:6)
- Joy over salvation (Luke 10:2))
- Joy over life's simple pleasures and gifts (Eccl. 5:18-19; 11:8)
- Joy in worship (Ps. 122)
- Joy in prayer (Rom. 12:12)
- Joy in generous giving (2. Cor. 8
- Joy in the resurrection, Christ is risen! (Matt. 28:6, Mark 16:6, Luke 24:6)

Perhaps the greatest joy—God rejoices in you (Zeph. 3:17-18). In short, the message today and every day is to have joy in being a Christian and a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. We have so much to be joyful about here.

> Peace be with you! Tom

From the President

My brothers and sisters in Christ, last week I announced Cross of Christ faces two particular challenges. Both are centered around stewardship. For those that missed this announcement, I offered that your council promised above all to remain transparent to our congregation. To that end, I reported that our typical summer months remain particularly challenging. Unfortunately our giving is behind schedule and we are consequently behind with some payments. We look forward to regaining momentum in the coming months and ask that each of you prayerfully consider your individual giving opportunities. We will be providing a more in depth summary of our financial situation at our next voter's meeting, so please make plans to attend.

The second issue is of equal, if not more, concern and involves our Sunday School. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are at a crossroad with respect to our Sunday School. Our faithful teachers' terms are up in December and we, as yet, have no replacements. I believe there is no greater stewardship than teaching our children. So I ask each of you to carefully and prayerfully consider sharing your talents by teaching one of our children's Sunday School classes. I know you will be enriched by the opportunity, but am equally certain our precious children will benefit greatly by your commitment.

Yours in Christ, Dan

1 Peter 3:8-10

"8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."



October Birthdays

10-1 Sue Goodrich

10-3 Aria Martin

10-3 Chris Kloess

10-6 Sam Graves

10-8 Frances Sladek 10-9 **Dolores Jirik**

10-15 Roe Bobo

10-21

Cindy Tippie

10-23 Ashley Minick

10-23 Jackie Peńa

10-25 Audrey Peńa

10-26 Elton Kindler

10-28 Vera Watson

We are sorry if we have inadvertently left your name off the birthday list. Please contact the church office by phone, 972-223-9340, or e-mail at: crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com so we can update our list.

Are you in need of prayer?

Complete a prayer request card (found in the back of the pews in the sanctuary), and place in the offering plate.

Send an email to the church office: crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com

Call the church office at 972-223-9340.

Remember our Shut-ins

Charlotte Walker; Nathalie Smith; Dolores Jirik; Joan Symank; Karen Wenzel; Dr. Falke; Lucille Gropp; Sue Riewe

Flamingos make a honking sound like a goose.



Cross Words Page 3

DOW

Recently, a missionary friend brought Disciples of the Way some Bibles in the Arabic language that speak to the needs of Muslims who are open to learning more about Jesus in the Bible. These Bibles have been met with much enthusiasm and curiosity by our refugee neighbors from all nations here in Dallas, at Vickery Meadows, the home of 35,000+ refugees. In order to continue and grow the Kingdom of God and placing the Word of Christ into their hands, we humbly and urgently are asking for more copies. The original Bibles received were published overseas; DOW is now working to print and publish these Bibles here in the US.

DOW prayerfully asks for your help to ensure there is a Bible for every Arabic-speaking person who expresses interest in learning more about Christ. While there are apps available that have Arabic translations, Muslims believe that the Word became a book (the holy Quran) and dwelt among us. Therefore they need a physical book (the Bible) to communicate the authenticity of Christ as the Word of God who dwelt among us in the flesh. As DOW seeks to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19), providing our Muslim refugee neighbors with the Word of God is indispensable as they continue to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

When people from all nations read the Bible in their own language, it shows that God truly is the God of "all tribes and peoples and languages" (Rev. 7:9) and that He sent His Son to save every one of us, no matter our ethnic heritage.

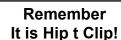
"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" - Romans 10:14

Sewing Seeds of Faith

There are new items available from the Sewing Seeds of Faith. Please take a look and remember all items are available for a free will offering.

Items currently available include:

Teddy bears—dressed
Cosmetic bags
Kleenex covers
Pillow cases
Table runners
Apron
Hand bags
Large pot holders
Adorable little girl dress



Box Tops for Education help the school with the costs of supplies.





Chair caddy

Flamingos find safety in numbers and move in unison when there is a threat.



Mark Your Calendar Saturday October 13, 2018 Country Day on the Hill 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed!
(to hand out material and visit with people about our church and school)

We Need Teachers

Sunday School teachers for all ages are needed in order to keep our Sunday School alive.

We also need a volunteer for the role of Sunday School Superintendent.

Please consider volunteering and impacting the lives of the young people in our congregation as well as young visitors.







When chicks are born they have greyish eyes, when they become adults they have yellow eyes.





October 14, 2018-Fall LWML Metropolitan Zone Rally

WHEN: Sunday, October 14, 2018

WHERE: Faith Lutheran Church 2200 SW 3rd St. Grand Prairie, TX 75051

TIME: Registration 12:45 —1:00
Lunch 1-1:30 p.m.
Program at 1:30 p.m.
(important meeting to follow program –discussion of retaining Metropolitan Zone or merging into other zones)

SPEAKER: Debbie Curry,
President,- LWML Texas
District

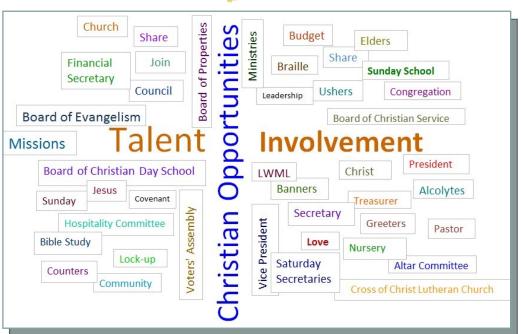
TOPIC: "JOY in the LWML, Lutheran Women in Mission"

Help us keep our records in order:

If you have a change of address
- or - a change or addition of phone
number(s) - or - email address
Please be sure to let our church secretary (Sharon Wilson) know.







Scrip Cards



Shop with Scrip!

If we don't have a gift card for a store or restaurant you would like, ask we can add it to the next order, just for you.

To purchase Scrip Cards:

See Lila Fussell or Carrie Graves after church on Sundays, or call the school at 972-223-9586, or contact Sharon Wilson at the church office during the week.



The largest flamboyance of flamingos contains 1 million members and can be found in East Africa.



Please help keep our church grounds clean and tidy. If you see trash, please pick it up and dispose of it properly.

Thank you!

Pastors Thomas Oberstat (Ebenezer, Manheim, TX) and Matthew Jacobs (Grace, Brenham, TX) are hosting an

11 day Cradle of the Reformation Germany Tour. The travel dates are May 20-30, 2020 and the tour departs from Houston. A brochure is available on the bulletin board in the main hallway, if you would like to learn more.



Did you know the recorded versions of Pastor De Young's sermons are available to listen to via our website?

Simply visit www.crossofchrist.org and click on the SERMONS tab. Select the Sunday you wish to hear.



Volunteers are needed

Greeters - one volunteer needed, serves three (3) times a year, for a month.

Altar Committee - one volunteer needed, serves three (3) times a year.

Ways you can help:

Kroger

Have you re-enrolled this year? Re-enroll your Kroger Community Rewards card to continue to help our Church finances grow!

You can enroll and re-enroll at one of the following: www.Kroger Community Rewards.com, or call 1-800-576-4377, or take this and your card to Kroger and provide our number, **80948**.



Other Ways you can help: donate your old ink cartridges and old cell phones (Place in box on the table in the main hallway.)

Please do not put household trash in the dumpster on the church parking lot. It costs the church over \$100.00 for every special call to have it emptied.

Paper for recycling goes in the green and yellow container.

When to Call Your Pastor

Call When there is a Death in the Family.

- 1. Any time there a death in the family
- 2. Any time you have been told that the death of a family member is imminent
- 3. Any time that you have been told that you or a family member has a terminal disease

Call When Entering the Hospital.

- 1. Hospitals usually do not call the church when someone is admitted
- 2. If surgery is scheduled and you wish to have Holy Communion or a visit from the pastor do not hesitate to call the church office
- 3. If there is an emergency and someone is taken to the hospital
- 4. In any case of an accident or injury requiring hospitalization
- 5. When a baby is born. Often when the information has reached the church office the mother and baby are home.

Call When in Need of Personal or Family Counseling.

- 1. Pastor is willing to listen, encourage, pray and apply a Biblical perspective and help in a crisis, but he is not a licensed counselor.
- 2. Pastor is also happy to assist in finding the right community agency to help with particular kinds of needs, i.e. Professional Counseling, etc...

or

Call When You Need to Talk or Pray.





Flamingos "run" on water, thanks to their webbed feet, to gain speed before lifting up into the sky.



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

By Caitlin Magness

Registration is open for the 2018 Lutherans For Life (LFL) National Conference, to be held Oct. 12–13 in St. Louis.

Under the theme "From Age to Age the Same" (Isaiah 46:3–4), speakers will present on a variety of issues touching on every stage of human life, including the abortion pill, suicide awareness and prevention, sexuality and gender identity, death, grief and end-of-life care.

LFL Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink says, "I'm very much looking forward to the lifeminded fellowship of our national conference. We're going to share worship, interaction, encouragement and education with hundreds of Gospel-motivated Lutherans. We'll be celebrating Lutherans For Life's fortieth year ... as we recognize how God's grace prevails in every age of history and every age of life."

Conference highlights will include:

Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, Mo. Immanuel is also the conference site.

Tours of Concordia Publishin-House, the LCMS International Center and historic Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis.

A banquet with keynote address delivered by the Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, former director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

Plenary addresses from the Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb and the Rev. Edward Fehskens III, both former LFL executive directors, and the Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Tours of Semisaurus, a mobile creation museum.

An all-day children's workshop on Oct. 13, with activities designed to teach children about life issues such as prenatal development and disability awareness.

In addition, pianist and former Life Team Leader Dr. Mark Laverty will perform a preconference recital at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 11. The recital is free and open to the public.

Conference registration is \$125 for adults attending the entire conference (\$60 and \$90 for only Friday or Saturday, respectively), \$50 for students and \$25 for children ages 6 to 12. Children 5 and under attend free.

For more information, or to register, visit lutheransforlife.org/conference.



The largest flamboyance of flamingos contains 1 million members and can be found in East Africa.

Music News

Benjamin Kolodziej played all of Texas's 500 year anniversary of the reformation recitals. The north Texas recital was here at Cross of Christ. He will play two recitals in the near future in the metroplex.

The first one is Friday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Alban's Anglican Church, 911 South Davis, Arlington, TX 76012.

The second is on Friday, November 16th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas. This program is in celebration of the Dallas American Guild of Organists Chapter Centennial. Benjamin will present the history of the chapter at 6:30 in Horchow Hall and also play on the program. The instrument at the Meyerson is a 100 rank Fisk.





An adult flamingo's legs can be 30-50 inches long, which is longer than its entire body

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 2018 Activities

October 4th - 7:00 p.m. Board Meetings

October 11th - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

October 13th - 9:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Country Day on the Hill (see page 4)

October 13th - Open the Eyes of Your Heart" (see page 6)

October 14th - LWML Sunday at Cross of Christ

October 14th - LWML Zone Rally, (see page 6)

October 18th - 7:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

October 19th - Newsletter Articles Due

Monday Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday - Confirmation Classes, 4:30 p.m. Conference Room (Church office)

October 24th - 9:30 a.m. Braille Workers, Grace, Arlington

2

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Anita Strand

GREETERS: Donice Arrington; Chris Kloess; Suette Freerksen

<u>USHERS:</u> David Freerksen; Phil Strand; Arvid Hall

October 7

COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis

ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan

LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell NURSERY - Kay Boelter

SATURDAY SECRETARY (6) - Grace Miller; Verna Geihl; Charlotte Walker

October 14

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler

ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee

LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves

NURSERY - Jackie Peña

SATURDAY SECRETARY (13) - Vic & Charlene Vidmar

October 21

COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker

ELDERS - Robert Flye

LOCK-UP - Paul Tucker

NURSERY - Cassie Martin

SATURDAY SECRETARY (20) - Cynthia Huse

October 28

COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter

ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse

LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand

NURSERY - Jackie Peña

SATURDAY SECRETARY (27) - Polly Braig; Kate Duncan; Patty McKethan



Flamingos are born white, with soft, downy feathers and a straight bill.