

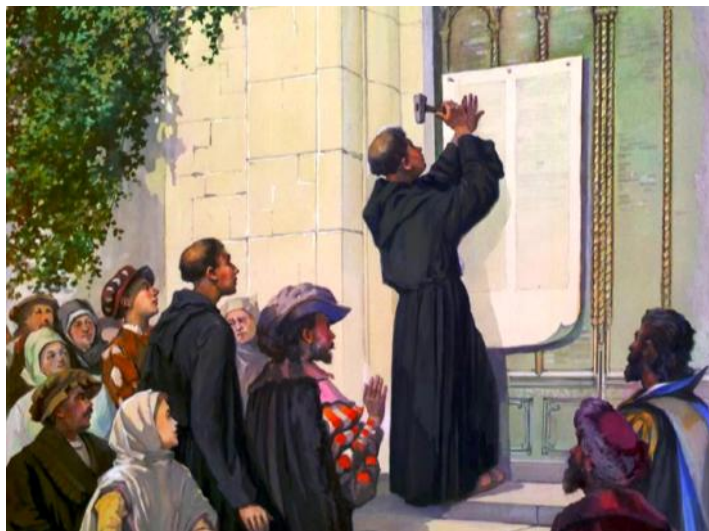


## The Cleansing of the Temple by Pastor Glenn Huebel

During the month of October, we Lutherans celebrate the anniversary of Luther's nailing of the ninety-five theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Although the ninety-five theses fall quite short of the mature Lutheran Confession, this event is considered the spark of the Reformation because Luther's protest against indulgences and the publishing of the theses became widespread and very popular in a very short amount of time. Luther found himself in the middle of a social storm that he did not anticipate or necessarily desire. This was God's plan to break the devil's hold on the institution of the Church.

In one of his commentaries on Matthew 21:13, Luther compares the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus to the reformation in his own day. The Pope and his machine were not at all unlike the corrupt priesthood of Israel. I will use my article this month to share a few paragraphs from Luther in which he describes what he saw and experienced and how God corrected the corruption:

*He (Jesus) said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." (Matthew 21:13)*



*Luther: Likewise, the pope has made the holy Christian Church into such a den of robbers. For once that temple was destroyed and our Lord Jesus Christ had built Himself a Church as wide as the world, and He Himself became the temple in which God hears our prayer, that damned villain, the pope, came along and removed the Lord Christ from our sight. He no longer let Him be our Redeemer, but rather made Him into a wrathful judge whom we had to appease with other mediators, such as the deceased saints and the living monks and priests, as well as through his indulgences and our pilgrimages and other trifles – and all of this for money, with which no one could possibly satiate him.*

*This is also what is happening with us. God has freely give us His Son and all His gifts, such as His Word, the Supper, Baptism, and Absolution. And through Baptism people are supposed to be washed and cleansed of all sins and obtain forgiveness of sins. The Supper was instituted so that those who need consolation would be refreshed by it and strengthened in their faith, and so that we would better appreciate the forgiveness of sins from day to day and be swept clean of the sins and filth remaining in us. Likewise, the Absolution and other parts were all instituted in order that the Christian Church would be strengthened by them, for they are all a house of prayer to strengthen our faith. Then along comes the pope, the devil in Rome, who is supposed to serve our souls with all these gifts, but he makes it all into a business. He seeks his own gain and*

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*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

*profit and sells the forgiveness of sins for money. He cashes in on everything, such as the Sacrament, Baptism, the preaching office, and everything else that has been instituted in the Church. Thus he has also made the Supper into a sacrifice for the living and the dead. He has forbidden the priests to marry. And no one is ordained without having to pay big money. And since all of this could not possibly satiate him – because his heart, as St. Peter says, is exercised with greed (2 Pet 2:14) – he has instituted one law after another according to his own fancy and pleasure.*

(Luther goes on to describe various laws created by the Pope, for which he regularly granted dispensations for payment)

*And this trick of selling everything for money is not human, but demonic. This is how*

*it was with the Jews in Jerusalem, and this is how it still is now in the church of the pope. He can take no profit from teaching the faith, since everything there is given for free. Otherwise he would have made that, too, into some sort of business. But the true Church has been established for prayer. We also have here in Wittenberg our temple, where we gather to hear Christ's Word, receive Baptism, the Supper, and Absolution. And Christ Himself is also here, as He says in chapter 18:20: "Wherever two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them." And the Lord Christ should be sought nowhere except where such a group gathers, where the Gospel is preached purely, and where people have the Sacraments and the power of the keys in the proper understanding and practice. Then it is certain that Christ is there. Apart from that, He has no certain place or*

*location. This is true, for the temple is now as wide as the world. For the Word is being preached and the Sacraments are being administered everywhere. And where these things are done rightly, whether on a ship at sea or in a house in the country, God's house or the Church is there. That is where God is to be sought and also found with certainty. This is how people should preach.*

It is through the courage and determination of Luther that "the temple is now as wide as the world." He was God's instrument to bring the Gospel and Sacraments back into light of day. Come celebrate the Reformation with us on Sunday, October 26, as we join together to receive God's gifts and to sing His praises through the order of Luther's German Mass of 1526.

Happy Reformation!  
Pastor Huebel

## Messiah Altar Guild, by Carol Hibbs

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Have you ever walked into the sanctuary before a church service and thought for a second

that the candles weren't going to light, or that there would be no banners or paraments, or that

under the communion veil placed on the altar there would be no wine and wafers? Or did you ever wonder how and when all that happened?

Throughout the history of the Christian Church there have always been those who have attended to the sanctuary or place of worship, its furnishings, and appointments. Over time, many pastors had taken on these duties and in some small congregations, that still may be the case. But these duties were

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## Altar Guild, cont.

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actually not given to the pastor in the Office of the Holy Ministry. This was an auxiliary service given to others since the earliest days of the Church. Today most congregations have what is known as an *Altar Guild*.

The purpose of the Altar Guild is to serve. There is not a worship service that takes place without its care and attention required. At Messiah, the Altar Guild presently consists of a group of 20 ladies who faithfully and diligently go about their duties of preparing the sanctuary for each and every worship service that takes place. Some of the ways the Altar Guild serves are:

- By making sure the sanctuary is properly maintained, cleaned, and set up for times and seasons of the Church Year.
- By displaying the paraments

and banners appropriate for each particular Sunday and cleaning and storing them.

- By setting out, cleaning, and putting away the communion vessels and linens each communion Sunday.
- By maintaining and filling the candles for Sunday services and also for Chapel throughout the week.
- By ordering supplies such as wine, candle wax, etc.
- By cleaning and caring for acolyte and crucifer robes as well as the Pastors' robes.
- By preparing for baptisms, weddings, and funerals as needed.
- By making sure flowers adorn the altar when appropriate.

The service the Altar Guild provides is needed and valuable. The one special requirement for serving on the Altar Guild is

*spiritual commitment.* Its members are, first and foremost, serving God in His house. And they are serving the people whom God gathers around the Word and Sacrament. Consequently, the members of the Altar Guild should be devoted to their tasks, be reliable in carrying out their duties, and be joyful for the privilege they have in serving their Lord.

Messiah's Altar Guild is made up of ladies ages 20 to 92! Meetings occur monthly on the first Monday of the month. This is a group that works diligently, but also enjoys regular fellowship, which has developed lasting friendships. If this is a ministry that you would like to be a part of, please contact any member of the Guild or the church office at [carol.hibbs@messiahkeller.org](mailto:carol.hibbs@messiahkeller.org).



## Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy's

13th Annual



**Friday, October 31, 2014 at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**See any scholar walker to donate today!**



## Lutheran Braille Center by Pamela Buhler

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Our Braille center could use your help. Our order of "Rainbows are Forever" (the Gospel account in Genesis) has been increased to 10 books per month. This adds about a ½ hour production increase to our already 11 volunteer hours per month. I think this order increase would be a great way for your family to serve the Lord here at Messiah. Would you be interested in spreading the Gospel to Kenya by serving 1 hour each month to produce this book? This task could also be completed if we had one volunteer to lead a group 30 minutes before confirmation at least one time a month, or if someone wants to start a new group for youth who need to complete volunteer hours this year for school. Workshops can be held anytime throughout the month and group sizes can range from 4 to 10 volunteers. The recommended age is 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up.

August's order was not completed on time due to cuts in our summer hours. Thanks to all

of our September volunteers, we are almost caught up with our order (two books shy). Usually we try to stick to the following Member Connect schedule, but sometimes changes need to be made:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday- Messiah's Youth Group (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday- Holy Shepherd's Youth Group (7-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Messiah's Confirmation Students (6-9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Night- Open Family Workshop (everyone welcome)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Afternoon- Joy Bible study group (everyone welcome)

Our monthly Braille expenses have been largely maintained by a grant from LWML. At their last convention the Texas LWML Braille Grant was voted down. We will no longer be receiving donations from LWML. Last month I met with Tim and Jean Webber (pictured): Mission Associates for Texas District



(They have taken over for Peggy Turnipseed, who retired this summer). We discussed fundraising opportunities to support our Braille Center and keep it open. Expenses accrued for our center total \$800-\$1000 per year. Not much considering the impact we have helping to bring forth the Gospel to all nations: Bringing Christ to Those in Darkness. I've decided to become a Thrivent Financial congregational advocate for Messiah Lutheran Church. One of my goals is to help fundraise for our Braille center. I look forward to partnering with you and helping to strengthen our church and community through social events and fundraising. To God be all the glory.



## Save the date for Pigs and Pizza!

**Wednesday, Oct. 22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

- Program uses a stewardship approach to money management for kids and their parents.
- Pizza will be provided for this free event, and each child will get their own piggy bank, which will help them learn how to save, spend, and give.
- See Colin Mildred for more details, or call 817-914-4528 to register.

# Steps to Complete our Monthly Braille Orders

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**Step 1:** Stuff zinc plates with paper



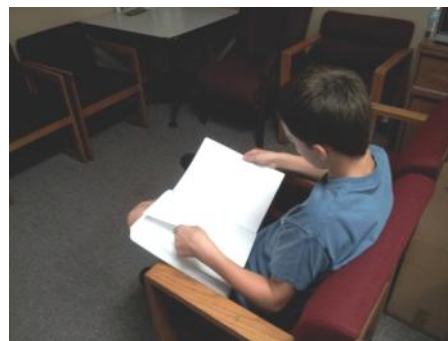
**Step 5:** Bind embossed pages



**Step 2:** Place the plates in numerical order



**Step 6:** Check books for alignment and errors



**Step 3:** Send plates through roller press to emboss the Braille dots



**Step 7:** Make boxes and stamp



**Step 4:** Dump plate and remove paper



**Step 8:** Mail monthly Braille order



## *Sing a new song . . . . .*

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Our last new hymn for 2014 is *Lord of Our Life*, LSB 659. The text was written by **Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern**, 1594-1648. He was born in Neustadt, Silesia, Germany where his father was a saddlemaker. Matthäus became a famous musician and served under several princes and penned thirty some hymns. Several were translated into English (and other languages), and in our case by Philip Pusey, 1799-1855.

The tune name “Iste Confessor” is Latin and was a title within Christianity, originally given a saint who had suffered persecution and torture for the faith, but not to the point of death. Later, it was a title given to saints who lived a holy life and died in peace. In our hymnal we have the information that the tune was from “*Antiphoner*, Poitiers, 1746” – this refers to a particular liturgical book containing the antiphons used in worship services. The version found in our LSB is from the *New English Hymnal* published in 1986.

- 1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,  
Star of our night and hope of ev’ry nation:  
Hear and receive Your Church’s supplication,  
Lord God Almighty.
- 2 See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;  
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling  
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,  
O Lord, preserve us.
- 3 Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;  
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;  
And in the day when hell itself assails us,  
Grant us Your peace, Lord.
- 4 Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,  
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,  
Peace when the world its endless war is waging,  
Peace in your heaven.

In light of all that is happening in our world today, the verses of this hymn are still very relevant.

We will be using this hymn as one of the communion songs on Reformation Sunday as well.

The related scriptural references are:

Psalm 79:9 ESV— *Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake!*

Revelation 12:10 ESV— *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brother has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.*

Psalm 84:11 ESV— *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

Matthew 16:18 ESV— *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Soli Deo Gloria!  
Vicki L. Main, Kantor



## **FAMILY FUN OUTING**

**Sunday, October 19, 3:30—5:30 p.m.**

**See Colin Mildred for more details.**



# FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

*Feeding God's Starving Children, Hungry in Body and Spirit*

CHICKEN. VEGGIE. SOY. RICE! Would you like to volunteer 2 hours of your time and help pack meals? During this MobilePack event, you will join members of your community in packing MannaPack™ meals for starving children around the world. Where: St Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Worth. When: Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm. We have 13 people committed, and there are only 10 spots left for this event (ages 5 and up). See Pamela Buhler for further information. We look forward to serving God's children with you! Next MobilePack event is December 6th in Dallas.



Turning  
Hunger into  
HOPE

Dallas  
August 16,  
2014

Feed My  
Starving  
Children





### **Messiah Lutheran Church & School**

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Steven Cholak, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Erika Mildred, MLCA Headmaster

Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mrs. Shirleen Simek, Financial Director

[www.messiahkeller.org](http://www.messiahkeller.org)

## **Luther's Seal**

Martin Luther designed this seal while he was a professor at Wittenburg. In a letter to his friend, Herr Spengler, Luther explained the seal: "The first thing expressed in my seal in a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us, 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.' Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature - i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith,' - faith in the Savior. But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits. This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed. And around this groundbase is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joy and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

**Color the seal like Luther did, with a red heart, white rose, blue background and gold ring.**

