



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

OCTOBER 2018
NEWSLETTER

Wield the Hammer and Nail Like Luther

Last year, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Martin Luther took a hammer and a nail to post his 95 Theses or statements to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. There were big celebrations all over the world to mark the milestone anniversary. The Reformation had nothing to do with political freedom and the right to speak freely. It wasn't about social reforms. It had everything to do with going back to the Scriptures understanding the most basic and yet the central truth of God's Word. Man is saved by God's grace alone through faith alone. When Luther's hammer pounded the nail into the church door on October 31, 1517, Luther may not have had a full understanding of that truth yet. As time went by Luther grew in his understanding and wielded the two chief teachings of God's Word, Law and Gospel with precision. The Law shows our sins. The Gospel shows our Savior. They were his hammer and nail so that people would know the truth.

Now here we are this year marking the 501st year. It seems like it is a "ho hum" kind of year. There's nothing great about 501. But as we approach October 31, rededicate ourselves to our mission here at First on October 28, and celebrate Reformation Sunday on November 4, I'm wondering to myself if I could wield the hammer and the nail like Luther. Can I make the truth clear so that all could see it? Can I stand in front of someone who doesn't believe the Bible to be God's inerrant Word and considers me foolish and say, "Here I stand."? Could I speak with the same conviction and passion for the Gospel of Christ Jesus as Luther? Do you find yourself asking the very same question. Could you wield the hammer and the nail like Luther?

So often we get nervous about those kind of situations and wonder what we would say. It's easy to be quiet when you think you don't have anything to say, but don't we have something to say? God has said a lot to us about what he has done for us through Jesus. He tells us what we have because of Jesus. He speaks to us nowhere else except from the pages of his Word. He has planted the truth of salvation in our hearts as the Spirit has worked faith in us.

God has put what to say in our hearts. Not only has he given us what to say, in fact he speaks through us. Jesus said to his disciples, *"On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."* (Matthew 10:18-20) To wield the hammer like Luther is to hold on to the Word rightly proclaiming Law and Gospel. It's proclaiming what we have heard knowing God is the one speaking through us so that all may know what he has done.

When it comes to the Reformation, we tend to think about what Luther did. Yet at the end of his life, Luther didn't claim he had done anything great. In fact, Luther said that he did nothing. It was the Word that did everything. Luther nailed it on the head. As we continue into the 501st year and beyond, the Word continues to do everything. God has spoken to us through the Holy Scriptures and he speaks through us when we share what his Word has told us. We are equipped with the only tools necessary - the hammer and nail of Law and Gospel found in Scripture alone.

Since 1871, First Lutheran has faithfully wielded God's Word here in Elkhorn proclaiming Law and Gospel to children and adults, to people within our congregation, to people in our community, to you. Could we as a congregation, could you and I as God's people who have heard his Word wield the hammer and nail like Luther declaring the truth for all to see? We have the truth of God's Word.

We treasure it and hold on to it. We have been given what to say. The answer is, "Yes, we can. Yes, we will." Our vocal chords may be the ones vibrating, but God continues to speak through us. God helps us as we continue to wield the hammer and nail of God's Word, both Law and Gospel, for all to see, hear, and know for themselves. That is our prayer every day. As Martin Luther prayed before preaching a message from God's Word, so we pray in a similar way.

Prayer: Lord God, You have appointed me as one to speak your Word, but you see how unsuited I am to meet so great and difficult a task. If I had lacked your help, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore, I call upon you. I wish to devote my mouth and my heart to you. I myself will learn and ponder diligently upon your Word. Use me as your instrument – but do not forsake me, for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily wreck it all. Amen



The Statue of Martin Luther at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
Christian Book Club – 6:00 p.m.
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Voters' Meeting

Our quarterly voters meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14 at 9:15 a.m. We encourage all members of First to attend.

Thanks & Giving Festival!

First Lutheran Church and School will be hosting our first ever Thanks & Giving Festival on Saturday, November 3rd from 9:30-11:30 am. This new, family friendly event will focus on giving back to and showing our appreciation for the local non-profits that enrich our community. We will have different activities, food, and a special presentation. A silent auction will be held with all proceeds going to the Tree House Family and Child Center. All members are invited – and please invite friends and neighbors! If you are not sure what the Tree House is and does for our community, we invite you to come to a short informational presentation on Monday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. You can also look on their website – treehouseforkids.net for information. We are looking for family-friendly gift baskets for the silent auction. Please see Sara Schramm or Laina Papenfus if you would like to contribute. If you are unable to attend the event, but would still like to support the Tree House, donations can be given to Laina in the office.

LWMS Fall Rally

The LWMS Fall Rally will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21 at Peace, Wilmot. Registration begins at 1:30 with opening devotion at 2:00 pm. Professor Robert Wendland, former missionary in Africa and now serving at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will be our speaker, with the focus on "Sharing God's Word in Africa". The mission offering will be directed towards the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). A door offering will be taken September 30 and October 7 here at church for this world mission.

Church Library News

Recently several volunteers have worked on cleaning the church/school library. Old, outdated books have been given away, donated, or discarded. The remaining materials have been reorganized, and shelves are labeled to assist you in picking out books for your reading pleasure. Feel free to check out items you'd like to read. Just fill in the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog with your name, the date, and book title. When you return the books just put them in the crate provided for returned books, and someone will re-shelve the books in their proper place. Parents – feel free to take books from the specially marked children's book shelves to use with your children during church services. Just put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Feel free to enjoy the materials that are in that room!

Toddler Open Gym

This program is for children age 0 – 5, along with the parent/caregiver and will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school gym in the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from October through May. The program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies, and more! During the hour, we will also have a devotion and snack. As this outreach program is a non-budgeted expense, monetary donations are appreciated!

The Giving Tree

A giving tree will be placed in the narthex early November to collect hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for those in need. All sizes and colors are needed. The tree will be up through December 9th, and all items collected will then be shared between Twin Oaks Homeless Shelter and the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Any questions can be directed to Vickie Mueller at 728-9554. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If *you* have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the “church” box near the tract rack. *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ’s directive to “love one another”. Contributions to this account are appreciated. Designated Gift Envelopes are available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm.

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM “JOY 1340” WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider’s channel listing for more information.

Helping Institutional Ministries

WELS Institutional Ministries accepts Meditations booklets that are no more than one year old, along with hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked “Institutional Ministries” in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. As always, personal contributions are kept in the strictest confidence. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street. Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

The Walworth County WIC Program

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program helps keep you and your family healthy and strong. WIC not only provides a variety of foods, but also employs dietitians and lactation specialists who can provide individualized nutrition counseling, tips for healthy meals, breastfeeding promotion and support and referrals to other services. Pregnant women, new moms, infants and children up to the age of five may be eligible for the program. Many working families qualify and the income guidelines increase every year. Immigration status is not considered when determining WIC eligibility. Contact the Walworth County WIC Program at 262-741-3146 or e-mail walcowic@co.walworth.wi.us to see if you qualify and to set up an appointment. We have a clinic in Delavan once a month at the Head Start facility on Hobbs Drive. Ask the WIC clerk when you call to apply. Brochures/information is located on the bulletin board across of the ladies room.

Pastoral Acts: **Funeral** – Alvin Susina, age 76 – September 6, 2018

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Mon., Oct. 1	NO SCHOOL – SLHS Conference
Tues., Oct. 2	Volleyball @ WLS – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 3	Soccer @ Illinois United – 4:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 5	Soccer vs. Faith @ home – 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 7	Grades 5-6 sing in 10:30 service
Mon., Oct. 8	Picture Day Soccer @ Trinity – 4:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 12 – Sun., Oct. 14	LLAC Soccer & Volleyball Tournaments
Sun., Oct. 14	4K & K sing in 8:00 a.m. service Handbell choir performs in the 8:00 service
Wed., Oct. 17	4K & K to Apple Barn
Thurs., Oct. 18	Grades 1-2 to Busy Barns Adventure Farm Grades 5-8 to Luther Prep Play
Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 25-26	NO SCHOOL – WI State Teachers' Conference
Sun., Oct. 28	Grades 1-2 sing in 8:00 service

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstatthecross.com. – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

Volleyball & Soccer

Our soccer and volleyball season will come to an end with the LLAC Tournaments the second weekend of October. It is a blessing for our children to compete with fellow Christians. Thank you to our coaches: Mr. Trevor Schwartz – soccer and B-Team volleyball – Miss Kristi Stueber. We appreciate their sharing of their time and talents again for this past sports season.

Thanks & Giving Festival!

First Lutheran Church and School will be hosting our first ever Thanks & Giving Festival on Saturday, November 3rd from 9:30-11:30 am. This new, family friendly event will focus on giving back to and showing our appreciation for the local non-profits that enrich our community. We will have different activities, food, and a special presentation. A silent auction will be held with all proceeds going to the Tree House Family and Child Center. All members are invited – and please invite friends and neighbors! If you are not sure what the Tree House is and does for our community, we invite you to come to a short informational presentation on Monday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. You can also look on their website – treehouseforkids.net for information. We are looking for family-friendly gift baskets for the silent auction. Please see Sara Schramm or Laina Papenfus if you would like to contribute. If you are unable to attend the event, but would still like to support the Tree House, donations can be given to Laina in the office.

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school's non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops, General Mills Boxtops, and Frank's Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also are a part of SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchasing. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 2018

www.firststathecross.com

Council Hosts:		Ushers:	
8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Oct. 7 M. Schwark	J. Sulik	D. Mangold	S. Beaver
Oct. 14 T. Stech	B. Holtz	J. Schwark	C. & R. Collins
Oct. 21 J. Voigt	M. Dorn	W. & M. Holder	P. Rote
Oct. 28 B. Brugger	M. Papenfus	D. Hintz	M. Yunker

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30am ~gr. 5-6 sing-10:30 SS/BC-9:15 am	8 MOM-9:30 a.m. Altar - 6:30 p.m.	9 Choir-6:30 p.m.	10 Sparks & Flames - 6-7 pm	11 Bible Class - 9:00 am CBC - 6 pm Worship Service - 7 pm	12 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.	13
14 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am ~4K & K sing- 8:00 ~Handbells - 8:00 Voters' Mtg. - 9:15 am SS - 9:15 am	15 Tree House Presentation - 6 pm Board Meetings- 6:30 p.m.	16 Choir-6:30 p.m.	17 Ladies Book Club-- 7:00 p.m. @	18 TOG - 9:30 am Bible Class - 9:00 am CBC - 6 pm Communion Service - 7 pm	19 Women's Bible Study - 8-9 a.m.	20
21 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30am SS/BC-9:15 am LWMS Fall Rally @ Peace, Wilnot-1:30pm	22 Dartball - here - 7:30 p.m.	23 Choir-6:30 p.m.	24	25 Bible Class - 9:00 am CBC - 6 pm Worship Service - 7 pm	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28 Mission Sunday Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am ~gr. 1-2 sing - 8:00 SS/BC-9:15 am	29	30 Choir-6:30 p.m.	31	TOG-Toddler Open Gym CBC-Christian Book Club SS- Sunday School BC-Bible Class		

October 2018

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Oct. 7	M. Schwark	J. Sulik
Oct. 14	T. Stech	B. Holtz
Oct. 21	J. Voigt	M. Dorn
Oct. 28	B. Brugger	M. Papenfus

Ushers:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
D. Mangold/J. Schwark	S. Beaver
R. Smith/W. & M. Holder	C. & R. Collins
D. Hintz	P. Rote
C. Greving	M. Yunker

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Oct. 7	Beverly Freitag	Steve & Linda Godfrey
Oct. 14	Mike & Marsha Schwark	Bill & Mary Schomburg
Oct. 21	Alice Lembach	Kent & Kay Meyer
Oct. 28	Glenda Schellin	Doreen Grams

Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold print**

1- David L. Filter	17- Harry Romie
Todd Kuehl	Tamara Buol
2- Mark Hoyord	Anne Barry
3- Wendy Peterson	Naomi Schramm
Kayla Collins	Noah Stech
Addison Burgess	18- Patty Lauderdale
4- Alex Drake	19- Ann Olson
Todd Fink	Michael Lambert
David Schiller	22- Roger Klemp
7- Nancy Krueger	Lucas Nolte
8- Paris Barker	23- Nevaeh Silverman
Kari Lanser	25- James Clark
9- Marlene Liner	28- Erica Workman
Michael Bidlack	Robert Sharp
Alice Lembach	Presley Yunker
10- Payton Barker	29- Jenessa Hartwick
11- Denise Fink	31- Richard DeHaan
Bethany Voisin	Mariah Hernandez
12- Donald Willms	Owen Lemke
13- Tessa Voisin	Misty Quinn
14- Peggy Stopple	
Matthew Belanus	
15- David R. Filter	

Anniversaries:

Scott & Sandy Christian, October 2, 2004
 John & Mindy Bartelt, October 3, 1998
 Joey & Katie Sweeney, October 10, 2009
 Brian & Joyce Hammel, October 11, 1986
 Robert & Jennifer Sharp, October 14, 1995
 James & Vickie Mueller, October 15, 1994
 Dale & Renee Mangold, October 16, 1976
 Dan & Allison Lauderdale, October 16, 2010
 Mark & Laina Papenfus, October 19, 1991
 Daniel & Peggy Walbrandt, October 23, 1976
 Chester & Linda Kreft, October 24, 1964
 Harry & Kristine Romie, October 24, 1998
 Mark & Helen Schweinler, October 24, 1992
 Tony & Kimberly Coletti, October 28, 1995