



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
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October, 2014

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

Reformation

Every year near the end of October we celebrate the Reformation. An historical event, the Reformation began in 1517 when Dr. Martin Luther nailed his now famous Ninety-five Theses for debate on indulgences to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. We all know how the story goes from there. Luther is excommunicated from the Roman Catholic church; soon after, Luther and the other reformers establish a new church based on the rediscovery of the Scriptural truth that we are saved by *grace* alone, through *faith* alone as revealed in *Scripture* alone.

So is that it? Is the Reformation over? Did the reforming of God's church end with the publication of the of the pure doctrine of the Christian Faith in Formula of Concord published in 1577?

Webster's defines 'Reformation' as "the act of reforming . . . correction or amendment of life' (1983, p. 1518). It shouldn't surprise any of us then, that the very first of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses states that the life of the Christian should be *a life of repentance*. In other words, for all of this life, you and I are never finished with the task of reformation.

In Romans 12, St. Paul speaks of the life of continual reformation this way: *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"* (Ro 12.1-2 ESV).

Our Reformation, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, includes the daily *presentation* of our bodies, lives and minds to God. We present ourselves to God—holding nothing back—so that He may work in us both to will, and to do according to His good pleasure (Phil 2.13).

Reformation season is a reminder for all of us at Concordia Lutheran Church to examine ourselves and the life of continual, reformation repentance that God desires to work in us.

Do you present yourselves to God, sitting at His feet, humbly receiving His life-giving Word in daily, home, family devotions? Have you given up trying, or are you continuing the repentant struggle to reform the habitual sins in your life? Do you offer your bodies, lives and minds in service to God and His people by cheerfully pitching in at church, in the lives of your fellow believers and especially by inviting un-believers to hear the Word of salvation proclaimed in God's house?

You are not alone if you think this reformation life of continual repentance and transformation sounds terribly hard. It is hard! In fact, it is too hard for lazy, complacent sinners such as all of us are at one time or another! But thanks be to God in Christ Jesus who comes to us through His Word and Sacrament, bringing us the strength, the courage and the means both to will and to do according to His good, reformation pleasure.

The Holy Spirit describes it this way in 2 Corinthians 5: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself"* (vs. 17-18).

"All this is from God!" What sweet, comforting words to sinners in need of God's forgiving and reforming grace. God has done everything required, not only reconciling us to Himself through the death of His Son, but through that same Son, God now makes each of us a *new creation!* As God's new creation in Christ we are now empowered to live the life of continual reformation, God Himself transforming our minds to prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God (cf. Ro 12.2).

Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura—through Grace alone, Faith alone and Scripture alone.

--Pastor Harmon

Happy October Birthdays

Happy October Anniversaries



10-3 Jane Sacher	10-16 Jonathan Rinck
10-6 Jan Fritz	10-18 Mona Entwistle
10-8 Lynn Jones	10-21 Rusty McIntosh
10-8 Charlyn Vance	10-22 Bob Harris
10-9 Ryan Kelley	10-22 Lexi VandenBurg
10-9 Jessica Sandvik	10-25 Dean Duryea
10-16 Barb Illenberger	10-26 Jerry Schmidt
10-16 Zach Holm	

10-1 Don & Judy Sherrod
10-17 Ron & Carlyn Staudt
10-24 George & Janis Noyer
10-24 Randy & Mary Kelley



Concordia Members' Corner.....

Men's Bible Breakfast is October 11th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

S.I.S. Rummage Sale October 17th & 18th.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 22nd Crafters, Cookie Bakers, Specialty Item Makers... we need you!

Confirmation Class— Attention all 7th and 8th grade youth. Confirmation class starts Sunday, October 5th at 6pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary for the first class.

Mission Trip to Denver to help sorting at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center will be December 6th, 2pm-5pm. There will be a sign up in the entryway shortly.

Senior High Youth:

Trip to See Casting Crowns Thursday, October 2nd at Red Rocks! Plan to leave at 2pm!

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 5th -6pm at Gene Carrell's house.



Operation Christmas Child

CONCORDIA'S CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Pack Your Boxes...Start now by collecting materials for your children's Christmas boxes).

Denver Mission Trip: 12/6 (2 to 5pm)



S.I.S. Corner

Fall Rummage Sale: 10/17 & 10/18

Rummage Sorting: 10/13 through 10/16 come daytime or evenings, from 6pm-around 7:30pm. All help is welcome!

Christmas Bazaar : 11/22 We need cookie bakers, craft makers and helpers... Please consider serving!

Concordia's Website

The address is: www.steamboatlutheran.org



Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!