



**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**755 CONCORDIA LANE**  
**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO 80487**  
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***"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"***

***July, 2017***

As you well know, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Thesis. The fundamental question of the Reformation was "how can a human being stand before Christ the King and Judge?" This question, and those related to it, plagued the young Luther. At one point, frustrated, uncertain, guilt-laden and overwhelmed, Luther bluntly declared, "I hate God!"

The solution, advised his pastor, was to get into the Word of God. "Read the Bible," he said, "maybe you will find the comfort you seek." As a monk, reading the Bible was a part of his everyday life, memorizing it, singing it, doing it. Yet, up to this point, Luther still hated God. Imagine, reading the Bible and hating God ... it still happens more than you might think.

What was the problem? The problem was in *how* Luther was reading the Bible! He had been taught to read the Bible through the lenses of humanistic philosophies. In other words, whatever the Bible meant first had to agree with the popular philosophers of his day, primarily Aristotle. He was reading the Bible with lenses, so to speak, so dark, that he couldn't see the Light.

"Read the Bible" sounds so simple, so easy, hardly worth the effort. But this is exactly what Luther did! And, this was not simple or easy. He consistently understood what the Bible was teaching through the filters he had been brought up with. He got stuck on Romans 1:17 – reading it as an impossible demand from God. That is what his lenses forced it to be.

Yet, Luther kept reading, wrestling with the text, chewing on it, mulling it over, searching and seeking the comfort he longed for. In my experience, reading the Bible like this – when you are desperate and hungry, troubled and at your wit's end – takes effort and brings relief. I so appreciate that our Lutheran theology grows out of deep, intense, heart-felt struggle, not comfortable couch-reading.

Luther read for years and, because of his teaching position at the University of Wittenberg, lectured on Psalms, Romans, Galatians and Hebrews before coming to the divine revelation. The "righteousness of God" in Romans 1:17 was not the "righteousness that God demands of us," but the "righteousness that God declares over us." Luther came to realize that God is FOR him, not against him!

This simple, yet truly profound, change in reading one verse – over time – utterly transformed Luther, the University where he taught, the town in which he lived, the church he had grown up in, the education of the people he pastored, the politics of the land, the families of Germany and beyond, etc. In fact, the Reformation still matters and makes a difference today!

Concordia, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I offer the same counsel, making a similar appeal: "read the Bible." Yet, for Luther, it wasn't just the reading. He engaged in regular conversation and dialogue, debate and discussion, seeking to understand and apply what the text says, peeling away the dark lenses that cloud and clutter the Word of the LORD.

How many ways can we do the same!  
Luv ya!  
Pastor Craig



**Happy July Birthdays**

7-4 **Greg Fritz**  
7-5 **Eli Moon**  
7-7 **Jeanne Willman**  
7-27 **Andy Hogrefe**  
7-27 **Leon Vandahl**  
7-28 **Lara Craig**

**Happy July Anniversary**

7-8 **Chris & Rebecca Duryea**  
7-29 **Greg & Jan Fritz**  
7-29 **Brad & Lara Craig**

## Young Faith

**You are invited to join this young adult Bible Study & Fellowship group (ages 21-35)**

**We meet at 6pm at Concordia for Bible Study days and the following is the rest of the summer schedule:**

- ◇ **7/12 & 8/16 Bible Study at Concordia**
- ◇ **7/24 & 8/28 Movie night (time TBD).**

**Couples, singles– all are welcome! Call Kizaray Edmunds (612) 578-8662 or Haley Orton (970) 819-5987 for more information.**



Thank you to all who helped make this summer's Vacation Bible School a great success!

Special thanks to Dawn Moon for being Concordia's VBS Director, Eli Moon for helping and being "Serengeti Eddie" & helping; Pastor Craig for his opening prayers and teachings; Sam Schumacher for helping with snacks and games; Anna Schumacher for decorating; Bonnie Baggenstoss for leading the Pre-K children; Mary Beth Bradfield for helping lead children; Raya Duryea, Kris Tratiak and Barb Illenberger for leading snacks; Melanie Scheer for leading games and Will Scheer for helping with games; also Sheryl Henningfield, Lisa Schumacher, and Bill Padgett for registration and check in!

Also thank you to all of you to all who donated items, decorated, and helped out and to Mo Maloney and the volunteers from Holy Name!

We had about 60 children here at Concordia learning and praising our Great God!

## Concordia Members' Corner.....

**Men's Bible Breakfast is July 8th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.**

**CBSCrafts: Help out on Thursday, July 6th from 9am-11am!**

**The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.**

**One Combined Service: July 30th we will have one service, potluck and a kickball game!**

## Concordia's Website .....

**The address is: [www.steamboatlutheran.org](http://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!**



**Check us out on FaceBook too! Concordia Lutheran Church-Steamboat Springs!**