

St. Paul's Epistle – October 2020

Perhaps Christianity has never been explained more simply and eloquently than in the words Martin Luther wrote to explain the three articles of the Apostles' Creed. Here is his timeless explanation that is a superb summary of what the theology of the Reformation (which we will celebrate on Sunday, October 25th this year) was all about then and is all about today.

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

*Pastor
Poganski*

Worship Committee Notes

In October, we celebrate our congregation's anniversary and praise our Lord for sustaining St. Paul as His body the church. We are blessed to proclaim His saving Word and take part in the best fellowship on earth! It makes me think of a familiar song penned by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh, "**We Are the Church**".

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, All around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple, The church is not a resting place, The church is a people! (Refrain)

We're many kinds of people, With many kinds of faces, All colors and all ages, too, From all times and places. (Refrain)

And when the people gather There's singing and there's praying, There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, All of it saying: (Refrain)

At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit, And told the Good News thru the world to All who would hear it. (Refrain) 😊 (AGPS #252)

Our worship services during October are modified to accommodate our outdoor venue with an adapted Liturgy and selected hymns.

Sunday, October 4th, the 18th Sunday after Pentecost we consider "Grace for All" in our Sermon and service theme based on Matthew 21:33-46. Our Old Testament lesson is from Isaiah 5:1-7, the New Testament from Phil. 3:4b-14. Hymns may include: "Christ Is our Cornerstone" (LSB 912); "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" (LSB 544); and "Christ Be My Leader" (LSB 861).

Sunday, October 11th we will hear from Matthew 22:1-14 and focus on "The Wedding Feast" in the Sermon based on the Gospel reading. The Old Testament reading is again from Isaiah, chapter 25 verses 6-9. The Epistle is Philippians 4:4-13. Hymns may include: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" (LSB 435); "A Multitude Comes from the East and the West" (LSB 510); or "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" (LSB 923).

Sunday, October 18th we will learn of "God's Third Way" with the Sermon text taken from Matthew 22:15-22. Our other lessons include Isaiah 45:1-7 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. We may sing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (LSB 940); "I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name" (LSB 734) and possibly "Spread the Reign of God the Lord" (LSB 830).

Sunday October 25th we observe **Reformation Day** and celebrate "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage". The Sermon is based on the Gospel reading for the day from John 8:31-32. We also share readings from Revelation 14:6-7 and Romans 3:19-28. Our hymns are triumphant with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (LSB 656); "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (LSB 655); and, "Preserve Your Word, O Savior" (LSB 658).

Stay tuned for information about possible indoor worship beginning in November.

We pray for blessings on the Word of our Lord that it may pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip and from the lip to the life that, as our Lord has promised, His Word may achieve the purpose for which He sent it. (paraphrase from prayers in LSB front cover)

Yes, we're the church together,

Karen Broach, Worship Committee member

October Mission of the Month - Lutheran Social Services of Northern CA

LSS of Northern California's mission is to promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services. LSS envisions that our communities have hope, stability and a path to self-sufficiency. Founded in 1883 when money was collected for the care of orphans, today LSS serves nearly 4000 adults, former foster youth and families in their supportive housing programs in Contra Costa, San Francisco, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. If you would like to give a gift, please use your offering envelope which states on it "Designated Gift for October". You may also give an earmarked gift to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. [Please make any checks out to "St Paul Lutheran Church"—Thanks!]