



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

October 2017

Who Are You Listening To?

When it comes to the most important issues of life, to whom are you listening? Is it that infallible inner voice of yours? You know that voice that tells you that you are right about 99% of the time.

Maybe you listen most often to what the majority says. The majority, that is, of whatever community with whom you are aligned. If, for instance, your peer group says it is best to live with a person before marrying – then you accept this as true. Wisdom comes from the collective opinion. Surveys, polls, and the media guide you in what you believe to be true.

Do you listen to the so called “authorities” on a particular topic? Do the book writers, the professors and the “experts” impact you with their opinions and ideas. This would include pastors/preachers and counselors/therapists.

What makes something true and something false? Our pragmatic society would tell you that it’s the results that count. Something is true because it works. But what will the long-term results be? What if in the short term the results are good, but in the long term disastrous?

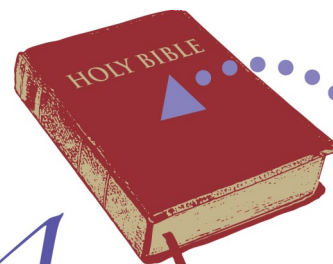
God cares about who you are listening to. He roars against false prophets of any kind. In Jeremiah 23, we see that the false prophets of his day are remarkably like the false prophets of our day, religious or secular.

Here are some of their characteristics.

1. They follow an evil course and use their positions of power unjustly.
2. They are deceptive with people, even those close to them, and frequently commit adultery.
3. They fill people with false hopes – making up things.
4. They give false assurances and condone those who are also lying.
5. They will not only fail to heed God’s Word, but instead pervert it.
6. They pass on to each other their own lies, delusions and dreams.
7. God will hold all accountable and especially those in positions of authority.

Where do we find the truth? To whom shall we listen? Thankfully God has spoken. He spoke through His prophets declaring that His Word was like a fire and like a hammer – words full of fury and wrath against all the evil and lies. His Word too, is good news of a great love coming from a great Savior. In these last days God bypasses prophets and speaks to us directly through His Son Jesus Christ.

Listen to the truth about everything in this world by hearing, reading and studying God’s Word – the Bible. It will help you to discern the lies, false schemes and corruptions of our day. It presents Jesus in all his magnificence to believe, trust and love Him.



Answers
I N S I D E

~ Pastor Rich

Reformation Milestone: Celebration and Repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on a church door in Germany. This wasn't an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ ("the priesthood of all believers"), so there's no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults "with the best of them"; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: "In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years."

Our Grace Family Meet Sandie Harjala

Michigan seems to be represented by a good number of our Grace "out of state" members. Ask Sandie where Laurium, Michigan is located on the "famous mitten" picture of their beloved northern location! She added a pic of a heart when stating her happy state of mind being married to Dave.

Following is listed a loving list of family members: Daughter April, son Allan, "Spiritual Daughter" Kelly, Grandgirls Olivia, Nina, and Natalia.

Sandie hung wallpaper, did "faux" finishes and sewed both in Texas and Tennessee for 25 plus years.

Present her with any fresh fruit, salmon or asparagus, and a bright smile will be affixed to Sandy's countenance. Artistic painting and reading keep her satisfied, but she would have enjoyed being a veterinary assistant to a vet serving many cats and/or horses. Cats seemed to be her favorite choice for "pets" with the last feline having lived 19 years!

An inspirational cruise to Alaska celebrating 50 years to Dave in 2016 with Max Lucado still brings forth fond memories. Yet, if all kinds of time and money were present, she would gladly put it "where the Lord" wanted and just maybe take a Mediterranean cruise. But be not deceived---first salvation through faith in Jesus Christ plus using her time to serve others are very high on her "Wish Tree" Dave, her husband, is her "rock to lean on---next to Jesus". Did you realize Sandie has a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology? But even better than this accolade is her closing statement: "I am blessed that the Lord took me, a broken vessel and remade me into the woman I am today and He isn't finished yet!" Would that we all emulated that attitude!!



~ Pat Kopp

GraceNet is published monthly by
Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by

the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

The logo features the word "UPcoming" in a green, rounded font with a blue outline, and "EVENTS" in a blue, outlined font below it. A green arrow points upwards from the "U" in "UPcoming", and three red stars are positioned above the arrow.

October 17 - Band of Brothers - 7-9 p.m.

October 28 - Chocolate Frolic - 4 p.m.

October 31 - Trunk or Treat - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Watch your Sunday bulletins and website for more details on upcoming events.

Other Events:

*Financial Peace University
Mondays - 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.*

*Pastor's Adult Inquiry Class
Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.*

COMMUNITY-Wide



Tuesday, October 31, 2017

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Grace Parking Lot

The Lutheran Reformation at 500

October of 2017 will bring the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Our lives are affected by it daily. Martin Luther's teaching of the Bible did several things. This article will discuss justification by faith, the Bible in everyone's everyday language and the promotion of education for all, the priesthood of all believers, and the elevation of the individual.

At the beginning of Luther's time, the Roman Catholic Church was the all-powerful and all-important center of life. Everyone believed it alone held the power of salvation or of condemnation for all. God's grace was like a liquid contained in a large vat. The priests controlled an imaginary valve that let it flow to individuals or shut it off from them.

Luther had been raised to believe God's righteousness meant righteous things we must do to appease God. Psalm 71:2* was instrumental in bringing Luther to understand that God's righteousness comes from God to us as a gift because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for us. That shift in understanding the Bible's meaning of God's righteousness changed everything. Believers are priests in their own right and no one has his hand on a valve to open or close God's grace for another.

If each is a priest before God in behalf of himself, the individual may stand boldly before God and in opposition to anyone or anything that would get in the way. So, at the imperial Diet in Worms, Germany; Luther stood before papal authorities and the emperor to declare that he would not and could not change his teaching unless convinced by conscience and the Word of God. People were burned at the stake for less! At that moment, the status of the individual ascended mightily in our world.

Luther produced a translation of the Bible for the common person to read and understand. It was not in Latin, the official language of the Church; but, in the everyday language people spoke in their homes. Then it became necessary for people to know how to read, and education for all became a new emphasis not before seen. Because of Luther, others also translated the Bible into their daily language. That made schools for all necessary in those countries, too.

When William Tyndale was translating the Bible into English, he was persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church in England. He went to Germany and collaborated with Luther. Tyndale borrowed large parts of Luther's translation for his English Bible. E. J. Goodspeed estimated that 90% of the King James Version is really from Tyndale, who borrowed heavily from Luther. In 2011 we observed the 400th anniversary of the King James Version and people wrote about its great influence on Western culture. Much of that goes back to Martin Luther.



REFORMATION

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Be sure to let Pastor Rich and Pastor Travis know how much they are appreciated and how blessed we are to have them lead us. Be especially mindful to keep them in your prayers this month and always.

All Things Martin Luther

500th Anniversary of the Reformation - October 31, 1517-2017



The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is finally here. Luther's beliefs and actions were at the heart of major theological shifts in the 1500's that began a reformation and continue to impact and influence our world today. During this month, materials both new to the library and those from previous years will be on display for your edification on this influential man, his life, and his legacy.

Biographies on Martin and Katharine

Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World by **Eric Metaxas** (921 Lut): Metaxas, in his usual impeccably researched and powerful style, vividly captures the life and times of Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517, Luther posted his 95 Theses igniting a transformation of the medieval church. Metaxas celebrates the ideals of faith, virtue and freedom that Luther expounded so eloquently.

Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet by **Lyndal Roper** (921 Lut): This Oxford professor expertly takes the complex theological issues of the life and times of Martin Luther and makes them clearly understood, as well as entertaining.

Daughter of the Reformation: A Historical Perspective of the Life and Times of the Wife of Martin Luther by **Mary Helene Rasmussen Jackson** (921 Lut): Katherine von Bora (also known as Kitty or Katie) was a nun living in a convent in Tongau, Saxony. A group of nuns contacted Luther for assistance in fleeing the convent in secret in 1523. Luther arranged for their escape and found husbands for all of them except Katherine who said she would marry no one but Luther himself. Though Luther never intended to marry, he and Katherine were married on June 13, 1525. Jackson outlines their life together and the important role Katie played in the Protestant Reformation.

These are among the most recent biographies acquired by the library. Others will also be on display.

Titles on Luther's Theology

Martin Luther's 95 Theses: With Introduction, Commentary and Study Guide by **Timothy Wengert** (270.6 Wen): As a professor of the History of Christianity, Wengert presents the 95 theses with background on their writing, on what the practice of indulgences meant to the parishioners, and the reaction of the church and state to Luther and the posting.

October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day That Changed the World by **Martin E. Marty** (270.6 Mar): A companion to Timothy Wengert's book (above). As a well-respected scholar, Marty sums up the history, influence, and impact of the 95 theses over 500 years of history. Both of these titles include a complete transcript of the 95 Theses.

Other materials on the theology of Luther, his legacy and the Reformation movement can be found in the 230.1, 270.6 and 284.1 sections of the library. Many titles from these sections will be on display throughout the month. Not on display will be Luther's Works, a 52-volume set of the writings and sermons of Luther located in the 220.6 section of the library.

Luther in Fiction

Luther and Katharina by **Judy Hedlund** (Fic Hed): Hedlund tells the story of a proud nun and a headstrong monk who find themselves fighting in a battle against the church and then their own battle for true love.

Loving Luther by **Allison Pittman** (Fic Pit): Meet Katherine von Bora as she tells the story of her romance with Martin Luther in her own words in this historical fiction account. She was left at a Catholic convent as a young child and later took her vows as a nun. When she secretly reads articles written by the excommunicated monk, Martin Luther, she questions her life. Leaving the convent, she longs for a real home, a husband, and a family—wanting that only as Mrs. Martin Luther.

Reformation for Our Children

The following materials can be helpful in teaching our children about their Lutheran heritage:

Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World by **Paul L. Maier** (J 921 Lut): Maier's introduction to the life of Martin Luther is designed for children ages 6 and up.

Reformation ABC's: The People, Places and Things of the Reformation by **Stephen Nichols** (J 270.6 Nic): Just as its title states, Nichols takes his readers through the alphabet assigning a person, place or thing to each letter with an explanation of its significance to the Reformation. Also appropriate for ages 6 and over.

Find these materials and many more on display throughout the month.

The final quote of this Reformation year: Luther on Justification by Faith: "When by the Spirit of God, I understood these words, 'The just shall live by faith,' I felt born again like a new man. I entered through the open doors into the very Paradise of God." (2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar)

~ Mary Schultz

Voices of the Reformation

"There is not — nor can there be! — any reason for tearing oneself away from the church in schism. Rather, the worse things become, the more one should help her and stand by her, for by schism and contempt nothing can be mended."

—Martin Luther, German pastor whose "95 Theses" sparked the Protestant Reformation

"Our confidence in Christ does not make us lazy, negligent or careless, but on the contrary it awakens us, urges us on and makes us active in living righteous lives and doing good. There is no self-confidence to compare with this."

—Ulrich Zwingli, Swiss leader of early Reformation movements

"A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent."

—John Calvin, French reformer who fled to Switzerland; father of the Presbyterian Church

"You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time."

—John Knox, a staunch follower of Calvin who brought Presbyterianism to Scotland

HealthLine is a 30-minute Medical Education television show.

NEW AIR TIME: *Thursday Evenings - 9:00 p.m.*

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Stream for DISH or Direct: Go to CTVKNOX.org. Click on Icon and watch



OCTOBER 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

05 - Traveling Abroad and Immunizations - Dr. Martha Buchanan (taped 3/11/15)

12 - The Aging Face - Dr. Clyde Mathison (taped 9/14/16)

19 - Immunotherapy and Cancer - Dr. Richard Grapski (taped 11/11/15)

26 - Metabolic Syndrome, Prediabetes and Insulin Resistance - Dr. Matthew D. Lowrance (taped 5/11/16)



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

