

October 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk: Re-formed and Re-newed

This month marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31st in 1517, a Roman Catholic Monk named Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-Five Theses" in Wittenburg, Germany. The Ninety-Five Theses were not Luther's attempt to start a split with the Roman Catholic Church; they were merely a place for him to bring church doctrine and dogma into the public arena for discussion and debate. But what started as a desire to debate the church's teachings and practice led to a complete disruption of religious and political norms, changing the landscape Western Christianity in it's entirety.

This month, as we commemorate the 16th century Reformation we may feel a sense of deep pride that our religious heritage is being celebrated and honored on the world stage. Yet we would be doing our religious heritage a disservice if we only commemorate of the Reformation by singing "A Mighty Fortress" and watching documentaries on Luther's life. As

professor and author Christopher Gehrz once wrote, "If we Protestants are 'reformed and always reforming,' then commemorating the Reformation should cause us not so much to celebrate the past as to renew our mission and ministry in the present." Dr. Gehrz's words help us understand that celebrating the Reformation means that we must honor where we've been while working toward what will be.

These words are timely for us as we begin a strategic planning process as a congregation to vision together what renewed mission and ministry in today's world might be. Martin Luther sought reformation 500 years ago because the gifts of God's grace and freedom in Christ were distorted. He protested (where we get our name as protestants!) anything that stood in between the people



and those promises. As Lutherans, it is our religious heritage to do just that-- to protest, reform, and renew ourselves and the church, so that we can more fully trust God's grace and our freedom in Christ. How exactly we do this may look different than it did 5 years ago; certainly it looks different than what it did 500 years ago! But it's the ongoing work of reformation that truly makes for a reformation celebration.

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From the Pastor's Desk—*Continued from page one*

In the coming weeks we will be seeking your insight on values that the church council has curated based on our work last year while we prepared to call a Pr. Brad Froslee.

Last Spring, our consultant, Jim Pence, gave us valuable data about the identity and needs of our congregation based on the congregational survey. Yet it's important that we continue this work and gain additional insight from you, because not only have we welcomed new members since then, but because we have learned much about ourselves over the last year together! It's the ongoing work of reformation that excites us about visioning into the future together.

Throughout our congregation's transition over the last year and a half, I've held deeply to a prayer that perhaps you've heard me say in committee meetings or worship, "O God we give you thanks for all that has been, and all that will be." I have not noticed it before, but it is a prayer of reformation.

Like Martin Luther who cherished his church, we remember and give thanks for all that this faith community has experienced, dreamed, and achieved. And with a spirit of reformation and renewal, we trust that God goes with us into the next chapter of our life together as a community.

"...celebrating the Reformation means that we must honor where we've been while working toward what will be."

Dear ones, we are reformation people!

This does not mean that we passively remember what happened on October 31st so many years ago; it means that we claim our identity as reformers for today!

For all that has been and all that will be, we give thanks!

-Pr. Ali Ferin

Young Adult Care Packages

In early November the High School Sunday School Class will be putting together packages to send to young adults (ages 18-25) affiliated with St. Michael's—this might include college students, Peace Corps volunteers, recent graduates, those on a gap year, those who have just moved to take their first job, etc.

To accomplish this, they would love the congregation's assistance. We are looking for:

25 empty shoe boxes

25 brown paper bags

Treats: granola bars, mini candy bars, gum, life savers, microwave popcorn, ramen noodles, other food items

Pens, pencils, highlighters, sticky notes

25 pairs of fun socks (new), or decks of cards, or other items they might enjoy

For the congregation: Please bring these items, between October 1-27, and place them in the bin outside the Youth Room. All items need to be turned in by Friday, October 27th.

For parents/guardians: we are asking that you e-mail Pastor Brad at brad@stmichaelselca.com with your young adult's name and address to make sure they are included in this group.

Religion in Life

The adult education Religion in Life hour meets each Sunday from 10:00–10:55 a.m. Join us for the following conversations:

October 1

New Vision of the Church

Rev. Jodi Houge was recently featured in *The Atlantic* magazine for her work at Humble Walk, a Lutheran Mission Start Church in the St. Paul Area Synod. Come learn about how the Lutheran Church is forming and reforming itself!

October 8

The Brain on Prayer

Dr. Alice Larson, professor at the University of Minnesota, has done significant study of pain transmission, various hormones and their impacts on the body. She will present on aspects of our body and brain on prayer.

October 15

Here I Walk: Following in the Footsteps of Martin Luther

Andrew Wilson will share his reflections from his journey as he walked 1,000 miles from Germany to Rome 500 years after Martin Luther made the same journey.

Andrew will share the sights he saw that Luther saw and much of what he didn't. Thousands followed Andrew and Sarah's pilgrimage online and through various magazines.

October 22

America and the WW II Internment Camps

John Suzukida will share the powerful history lesson of the Japanese-American relocations and internment camps during World War II. Both of his parents were among over 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were subject to relocations into such camps throughout the western United States following Japan's December 7, 1941 bombing at Pearl Harbor. He invites us to think about how these stories shape and challenge us today.

October 29

The Reformation and the Rise of Science

Dr. Russell Kleckley, Associate Professor at Augsburg College, will delve into the Reformation and its deep ties and connections with science. It is an opportunity to discuss Johannes Kepler, Martin Luther, and the scientific springboard of the Reformation.

Growing Through Loss – Support for Those Experiencing Loss in their Lives

Growing Through Loss is a grief and loss support ministry jointly sponsored by the North Suburban Grief Support Coalition, of which 18 churches and organizations in our area are members. The coalition hosts two six-week series each year at various locations that address both the educational as well as support aspects of a variety of loss and grief issues.

The fall series will be held on Monday evenings, September 18th through October 23rd from 6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W County Rd C2, Roseville, MN 55113.

Each session offers an educational presentation by a professional from the community, followed by peer support groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. Each session is complete in itself, so you may attend any or all sessions. Registration takes place the evening before each session.

There is no cost, although donations are welcome. Free childcare is available, but please call a week in advance so they are prepared for your children. You may call 763-755- 5335 or visit www.growingthroughloss.org for more information.

Musical Christmas Buffet



Mark your calendars for our Christmas Buffet on Monday, December 4th. Your guests are welcome. Plan to bring your favorite dish or dishes to share.

Arrive early between 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. for punch and shopping for Christmas crafts and gifts. Buffet serving will be at 6:00 p.m.

You'll enjoy a program of Christmas music by professional musicians called Oboebass.

Women's Circles

The Sarah Circle will meet on October 3rd at 9:30 a.m. at our church.

The Elisabeth Circle will meet on October 4th at 1:00 p.m. at our church.

If you would like to join a women's circle, simply stop by their meeting or contact Pastor Ali.

Women's Circle Gathering

Join us for a fun evening with Lutheran women's circles from across the Twin Cities! On Thursday, October 26th 2017 at 6:30 pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stillwater (1616 Olive Street) is hosting an event for women's circles from the East and North Metro area. In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation, they will have storyteller Pati Kachel present a costumed tribute to the founding mother of our Lutheran faith, Kathryn Von Bora Luther.

Cost is \$5.00 and they are also accepting donations for at-risk parents and children in Minnesota:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Baby wipes for sensitive skin | Baby Soap |
| Baby Nail Care items | Diaper Rash Ointments |
| New Baby Toys | Baby Books (in Spanish if possible) |
| Burb Cloths | Sippy Cups |

Sign up outside of the church office to carpool with other women! *We will plan to leave church at 5:45 that evening.*

Holden Village Trip Conversation Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 pm

Holden Village is a Lutheran Retreat Center in the remote wilderness of the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. Originally an old copper mining village, it has been transformed into a place of education, nature, programming, and worship that transforms the lives of others. It is a place with activities and experiences for people of all ages.

In the summer of 2018 members and friends of St. Michael's are looking at the possibility of a group trip to Holden. Knowing that it takes time to plan and coordinate (and that registration opens on January 1), we are getting together so that people can hear more about Holden Village, learn what the trip would entail, and think together about dates for next summer.

If you are interested, please mark your calendars for this informational meeting. Additionally, there is a sign-up sheet across from the church office for those who would like to stay connected and learn more about this opportunity.

Strategic Planning Update

- On August 19th the council gathered for a half-day retreat to begin the strategic planning process. Pastor Brad and Pastor Ali created material for this retreat with the strategic planning team (Patty Bales and Chuck Hanson) including a draft of our “Mission, Vision, and Values” by using data from the Holy Cow survey led by Jim Pence in 2016 as well as the St. Michael’s Heart Document created by the congregation and used while we were in the process of calling a new Senior Pastor.
- Pastor Brad and Pastor Ali met with the strategic planning team to discuss findings from the August retreat. On September 12th the council was presented with an updated “Mission, Vision, and Values”.
- On September 17th, church council president and vice president, Becky Sorlien, and Mike Gregory, presented the updated Vision and Mission during the Religion in Life hour, seeking insight and questions from the congregation.
- Starting on September 24th, members of church council will be present on Sunday mornings before and after worship, to seek insight on six values that have been determined by the pastors and council. Each week, we will seek insight from the congregation on a different value. After the 6-week exercise, the pastors will convene with the strategic planning team to determine next steps and present them to the council and congregation.

If you have questions regarding the strategic planning process, please contact one of the pastors or members of the strategic planning team!

Life of the Congregation

On September 2nd, John Leaders passed away. His funeral was held at St. Michael’s on September 7th. Please keep his wife Carol, and their family and friends in your prayers.

A Note from Pastor Ali

My husband Ben and I are happy to share that we are expecting our first child in February. We appreciate your prayers during this exciting time!

I have discussed my maternity leave with Pastor Brad and the Personnel and Administration Committee and will plan to take 12 weeks of leave once the baby arrives.

If you have questions regarding my leave, you may contact me or Pastor Brad. Thank you for your support!

New Member Class November 5 at 12:30 p.m.

Are you new(er) to the St. Michel’s community or wanting to learn more? Are you or your family looking for a church home and place of connection? Or are you simply wanting to make your membership “official”?

On Sunday, November 5, at 12:30 p.m., join Pastors Ali and Brad for the New Member Class. This is a great opportunity to connect with others, hear more about St. Michael’s (past, present, and future), and discern whether you are interested in becoming more involved or joining at this time.

Lunch will be provided. RSVP with the church office at 651-631-1510 or office@stmichaelselca.com so that we can plan for the appropriate amount of food. Additionally, childcare will be provided, if needed (simply indicate this when you RSVP).

Social Ministry

October Social Ministry Calendar

October 2nd
 October 9th & 23rd
 October 9th
 October 10th
 October 11th & 25th
 October 15th- November 5th
 October 15th
 Weekly

Rezek House Meal
 Global Health Ministries
 Blood Drive
 Mobile Food Shelf Distribution
 Quilting and Bandage Rolling
 Winter Clothing Drive
 Sandwich Making and Delivery
 Panera Bread Pick Up and Delivery

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the Blood Drive!

October 9th

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
 Fellowship Hall



Winter Clothing Drive

Social ministry is sponsoring a winter clothing drive from October 15 through November 5. We are accepting clean, gently used or new outerwear: coats, boots, snow pants, gloves/mittens, scarves, and hats. Sizes needed in order of importance are: kindergarten, pre-kindergarten and all other sizes through adult. After these items are collected, they will be delivered to Fairview Community Center in Roseville to be distributed as needed.

Thank You!



A big thank you to the congregation and staff for helping me celebrate twenty years of music ministry at St. Michael's. My mother, Rose, is proud to say that she handed me the want-ad for the pianist position back in 1997. I look forward to continuing our music-making together this year.

~ Jill Schendel

A very successful school supplies drive ended with an overflowing box in our narthex. Thank you to all who participated for your generous contributions. Many supplies have already been distributed to needy students. The Roseville Area Schools and Northern Voices appreciate our contributions for their students.



**God's work.
 Our hands.**

God's Work Our Hands Day

Thank you to all who came to serve the community on September 17th! It was an incredible day of service, joy, and fellowship!

3rd Grade Family Bible Workshop—October 1st

October 1st from 12:30—2:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall for the 3rd Grade Family Bible Workshop.

3rd graders and their families are invited to join us for an afternoon of exploring the new Bibles the youth will be given during worship service on October 8th. Children who are in older grades but have not yet received a Bible are encouraged to attend!



Bible Sunday—October 8th

3rd grade students will receive their Bibles in worship! More information on this worship service will be available later in fall.

1st - 5th Graders: Parents Night Out: Thanksgiving Blast! November 17th

Parents, enjoy a night out while your 1st-5th graders party at a night of Thanksgiving festivities! We will have thanksgiving-themed games, snacks, and movies! This event is FREE! 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

7th -9th Graders

Mark your Calendars for the Moonlight Madness!

November 10th - 11th



7th-9th graders are invited to this special all night event! Don't miss this "lock out" for youth across the Twin Cities. Last year we played laser tag, volleyball, basketball, went swimming, ice skating, and even went to the movie theatre. Cost: TBD More information will be available on the youth bulletin board and on the church website.

Confirmation News

10th Graders being confirmed – Mark your calendars!

On Reformation Sunday, October 29th at the 11:00 am worship service we will celebrate 10th Grade Confirmation Class as they affirm the promises made to them in baptism. Join us following worship in the Courtyard Room for special refreshments!

10th Grade Confirmation students should arrive to church by 10:00 am with their robes and meet in the library. Pictures will be taken in the Sanctuary.

Senior High News

Sr. High Youth Whirly Ball!

November 5th
12:00 -4:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10

Whirly ball is an extremely fun “sport” that combines basketball, hockey, lacrosse and bumper cars. That’s right, bumper cars! In Whirly Ball, two teams of *up to 5 players 9 no minimum*) use scoops to try to toss a ball through elevated backboards at opposite ends of an enclosed court (roughly the size of a basketball court) while driving specially designed bumper-cars.

Please sign-up on the youth board.

Adult drivers needed (you are welcome to join the fun too!). Meet in the youth room.

Upcoming:

December 3rd

Sr. High Christmas Dinner
at Old Spaghetti Factory



8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Updates

Mentor night is on October 25th! We will meet at church at 6pm and then carpool with the mentors to First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights for a night of Reformation Celebration! We will watch a live drama of Martin Luther’s life and visit the Medieval Marketplace to taste German Food and dodge from indulgences from John Tetzel!

There is NO Confirmation on Sunday, October 29th

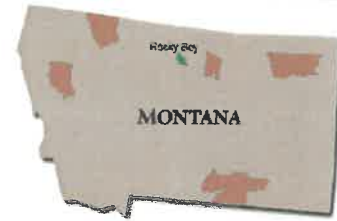
Sunday School has Kicked-Off!

September 10th was the Kick-off for our new Sunday School programming year. We have 135 students on our rolls!

We look forward to our year ahead exploring what it means to be a **Changemaker!**

Sunday school classes run from 10:00 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. Please plan to drop off and pick-up your children in their respective classrooms.

Mission Trip Reflection— Emma Wermager



I am a senior at Moundview High School. This was my third mission trip with St. Michael's, and it was completely different from the last two I've been on.

First, we flew there, which was exciting for me because I, personally, love flying. Secondly, we visited a Native American reservation in northern Montana. I had read a book in English about a reservation, so I knew a little bit about what to expect, but none of it compared to my experience. The houses were a bit run-down, which I did expect, but I expected rural Montana to be somewhat like rural Minnesota. I don't think I could've been more wrong. There were mountains and hills *everywhere* around us. It was very beautiful. I definitely didn't expect the cow crossing signs. That was a little different. Lastly, I didn't expect the deep connections I would make with the community while we were there. When we arrived in Great Falls, we were greeted by Pastor Linda of Our Savior's Lutheran church, who was our host for the week. We then drove the rest of the way to the church on the Rocky Boy reservation. When we arrived, we learned we would be staying in four different cabins with about 5-6 other people, and each one had its own bathroom, which was very cool, compared to other years where we all slept in the same place with one or two bathrooms for everyone. The next thing we discovered was that throughout the week we would mostly be doing various chores around the church, like mowing the lawn or painting the deck, because the church was the main place of gathering for the community. This was interesting, of course, because in previous years we would travel in the community and contribute in various places. This definitely made it feel more like we were there to learn and experience rather than to "help".

A highlight of the trip for me was our lunches. Each day, we walked down the street to the elementary school to spend lunch, recess, and

sometimes even some class time with the kids.

The first day at recess, I connected with one kindergartner who took me into her classroom. That day they were coloring with markers, and a different girl asked if she could draw on my hand, and I said it was okay. Eventually someone else saw, and pretty soon some others caught on and I had about 5 kindergartners drawing on my arms and legs all at the same time. It was very memorable. Over the course of the week, I got very close with a kindergartner named Lillianna. Every day she would run up to me and hug me as soon as she saw me enter the cafeteria. She was super spunky and every recess we would play together, she was the only girl on the whole playground I saw who wanted to play basketball with a bunch of boys. It was amazing to be able to get to know her and all of the kids I met that week.

Throughout the week we went to multiple cultural places to learn more about where we were, including a Lewis & Clark museum, a buffalo jump, and a battlefield where Native Americans fought the American army for their land. My favorite cultural learning experience was with a woman named Elaine who came in and did arts and crafts with us at the church. She makes her own jewelry and taught us how to make our own. She explained how she plucked the authentic porcupine quills herself with a funny anecdote. She then went on to explain the sacred medicine wheel, which has four sections and each has its own color and animal to represent it. She told us so many different little details about it that have significance that I started getting overwhelmed, and that was when she said that a training course on everything about the medicine wheel typically takes two months! It was really cool.

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St. Michael's 38th Annual Hometown Bazaar

Mark your calendars for St. Michael's Annual Hometown Bazaar on Saturday, November 4th!

For 38 years, this amazing event has been part of our church and community.

For 38 years, proceeds from the Bazaar have helped fund needs within our church and in our larger community.

This year, we are inviting St. Michael groups, committees, families, singles, staff, musicians, students, and friends of all ages to help continue this tradition of creativity and caring.

Please consider coming together with your St. Michael group or committee and assembling and donating a "Themed Basket" for the Bazaar Silent Auction.

- We are asking that the value of items assembled for the basket is at least \$25.00 (or more)
- We are asking that your completed basket be delivered to church by Saturday, October 28th
- We are asking that you put your heads together and collaborate with other St. Michael folks on a fun/meaningful/tasty/useful/seasonal or other theme and have fun with this!
- We are asking that you contact Marsha Tofte or Grete Hanson to let us know if you plan to donate a basket.
- We are asking that you join with your church and community friends to celebrate together at the Hometown Bazaar on November 4th!

- What do you need to ask us? Contact Marsha Tofte or Grete Hanson for more information.

Come for a delicious lunch.

Menu: Mushroom or Chicken-filled crepes (mix and match!)

Composed green salad with homemade dressing

Rolls

Beverage

Hot dog/ chips available

Mini cheesecakes

with chocolate or peach topping



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Annual Hometown Bazaar is Saturday, November 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Help is needed in all areas and in all time increments for this amazing event!

Please consider helping in these areas: Event Set up, Sorting and Set Up in individual bazaar areas, preparing and serving the luncheon, staffing during the day of the event, event clean up and take-down.

Look for SIGN-UP SHEETS on the church bulletin boards, in-between Sunday Services, on sign up Genius, or contact Marsha Tofte or Grete Hanson for more information. THANK YOU!

U of M Staff and Faculty Breakfast

Are you a U of M Faculty or Staff Member? Lutheran Campus Ministry Twin Cities wants to host YOU for a breakfast on campus! They are hoping to build connections with Lutheran faculty and staff. Save the date for October 31st and send Lutheran Campus Ministry an email so they can follow up with a detailed invitation. Please contact the Campus Pastor Kate at pastorkate@umnlutheran.org



Keystone FoodMobile Distribution Site at St. Michael's

Starting in October, St. Michael's will become a distribution site for the Keystone Social Services FoodMobile! The FoodMobile provides accessibility to the food shelf for individuals and families who do not have adequate transportation.

This summer, Keystone approached St. Michael's, asking if we would consider strengthening our relationship with them by becoming a distribution site. We are thrilled to share our space and show hospitality to the community in this meaningful way!

The distribution will be the second Tuesday of each month from 3-5:00 pm in the circle drive near the sanctuary entrance.

If you need to access the food shelf but are not sure how, feel free to stop by on October 10th: intake forms will be available.



Two St. Michael's volunteers are needed to help with intake and work with the Keystone staff member on the bus. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please call the church office or head to our website:

<http://www.stmichaelselca.com/local.html>

Mission Trip Reflection — *continued from page nine*

The last night of the trip, we had a presentation of traditional dances (the last one even included us!) and a history of the reservation. I was surprised at how much I didn't know about the people who were here before my ancestors came. As we learned more and more about the struggles the natives went through to keep the land they lived on, I couldn't help feeling angry and the slightest bit guilty about what my ancestors did. However, I felt extremely welcomed by the community of Rocky Boy, who said multiple times that anyone who worships the Creator is accepted. They stressed that the best thing we could do after leaving was to talk to friends and family about our experience, to share stories and ideas of acceptance and welcoming linked to Native Americans rather than ignorance and isolation. This trip definitely opened my eyes, and I hope that by sharing this I opened someone else's as well.



St Michael's

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Youth Choir Director

Molly Raben

Youth Choir Accompanist

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