



The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

October 2017

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

Thoughts from here and there...How Reformed Is Your Life?

This month we are going to hear a great deal about Martin Luther and the reformation. It is the 500th anniversary of the publication of the 95 Theses. It is well that we could hear, because it is said that the Reformation began on the day that Luther posted his 95 Theses.



Luther wrote:

Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be discussed at Wittenberg, under the presidency of the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and of Sacred Theology, and Lecturer in Ordinary on the same at that place. Wherefore he requests that those who are unable to be present and debate orally with us, may do so by letter.¹

Luther sent the Theses enclosed with a letter to Albert of Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz, on 31 October 1517, a date now considered the start of the Reformation and commemorated annually as Reformation Day. Luther may have also posted the Theses on the door of All Saints' Church and other churches in Wittenberg in accordance with University custom on 31 October or in mid-November. The Theses were quickly reprinted, translated, and distributed throughout Germany and Europe.

The struggle that Luther had was seeking a way to God. He knew the basics of God's justice. He desired to know more. This is so profoundly stated in a paragraph from his own writings.

I greatly longed to understand Paul's Epistle to the Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, "The justice of God"... Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that "the just shall live by faith." Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through

faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.²

Read and study Romans and you will discover what Luther discovered in Romans, especially in Romans 1.16-17..

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)

This is the power to change life. Faith in Jesus provides security from justice.

You cannot escape God's justice on your own. We all need to know that the just shall live by faith. It is this empowers the Christian life.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:9-13 (NIV)

Reformation Day reminds us of the need to seek anew what God has provided. Like Luther we find our way into Paradise through faith. The question remains, How strong and true is your faith?

Sermons for October



October 1, World Communion Sunday, Guest Speaker, Pastor Carol Taylor: Lessons: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, Sermon Title: Together for All Time

October 8; Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46, Sermon Title: Stone Rejected

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¹ Retrieved from:

<http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>

² Luther's Works, Weimar Edition, Vol. 54, pp. 179ff., quoted by Bruce, p. 59.

This story (parable) is overflowing with meaning for both Jesus' critics and those who follow. To whom does the vineyard belong, and for what purpose?

October 15, Laity Sunday: Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14, Sermon Title: Many Are Called; Few Chosen

Who are the called? Who are the chosen?

October 22: Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22, Sermon Title: God or Caesar

What is due to God? What is due to Caesar?

October 29, Reformation Sunday, Harvest Dinner after Worship: Lesson: Matthew 22:34-46, Sermon Title: Opposition Silenced.

From that day on did anyone dare to ask him more questions. "They" tried to trap him into a false answer. He always told the truth. The silence of the questioners was deafening.

November 5, All Saints Day, Daylight Savings Time Ends: Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12, Sermon Title: The Practice of Religion

Some boast of their religious condition and practice. It is better to keep silence and practice what you preach



Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

October 1, (S), World Communion Sunday, Communion Sunday

October 8, (S), Laity Sunday, Children's Sabbath

October 12, Columbus Day

October 17, National Boss's Day

October 21, Sweetest Day

October 22, (S), Mother-in-Law Day,

October 24, United Nations Day

October 29, Reformation Sunday, Harvest Dinner after Worship

October 31, Reformation Day, Halloween

A Promise and A Prayer:

David Sustains His Faith by the Power of God



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my Life; of whom shall I be afraid? . . . One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my Life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. Psalm 27:1-3, 4-6 (KJV)

Thoughts

I will sing praises! Trusting in Jesus creates the opportunity to see all in a positive way that leads to praise.

Prayer

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THE GOOD TIDINGS is a monthly publication of the Arena Congregational Church, 383 Oak St., PO Box 125, Arena, WI 53503-0125.

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Dear God, I'll praise your name for the benefits that you provide me that give me a Life unburdened by negatives. Amen.

Spotlight on the family

Kids Advice to Parents



There is a book out of advice kids would give to parents if they were asked about how to raise kids. It has a wonderful subtitle: Instructions on Raising the Perfect Parent (J.S. Salt, compiler, Always Kiss Me Good Night: Instructions on Raising the Perfect Parent (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997). Here are some of the things kids are saying about raising the perfect parent.

Come home early. —Slava

Stop talking on the phone and talk to me. —Erin, 9 yrs. old

Sometimes can you play with me instead of saying no? —Frank, 10

Take care of me till the end of my day. —Clara

I love it when I'm considered as a wonderful kid. —Ryan, 10

Love me for what I am. —Ethan, 10

Be proud of me even if I didn't get all the answers correct. —Sachi, 10

Think wehn (sic) you were a kid and not yell so much. —Joe

If you get mad at me remember to forgive me. —Suzanne

Do you hear it? Over and over again, these kids are saying in a variety of ways: Am I special to you? Show me. Do you desire me in your life? Show me. Do you love me like you say you do? Show me.



Officers for 2017 - 2018

Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, October 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's.

Greeters

October -1 - Joyce Reimann

October -8 - Ray and Colleen and Family



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Recipe of the Month

Apple cake

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz



1 stick unsalted butter

1 cup all-purpose flour

¾ cup white sugar

2 large eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon baking powder

Pinch of salt

Zest of 1 lemon

3 baking apples, peeled, cored and cut into chunks

2 tablespoons brown sugar

½ cup coarsely chopped nuts (pecans are good)

Butter and flour 8 or 9-inch spring pan

Cream butter and white sugar until pale and light, add eggs, one at a time.

Beat until light and fluffy, add vanilla.

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into bowl and mix together with lemon zest Until combined. Scrape batter into prepared pan, smooth on top.

In a separate bowl mix the apples, nuts and brown sugar and sprinkle on top of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35 or 40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

October -15 - Joe and Carol Hodgson
October -22 - Judi Salava
October -29 - Steve and Karen Wilkinson
November -5 - Judith Rouse



Adult Study Group

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena. Right now we are using the study book, "John: The Way to True Life," by Douglas Connelly. This Life Guide Bible Studies guide will help you to understand Jesus in a way that you might have never seen before. We have a book for you.



Worship On Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



Something to Think About

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."

~David Bly



Humor

A woman was at home with her children when the telephone rang.

In going to answer it, she tripped on a rug, grabbed for something to hold on to and seized the telephone table. It fell over with a crash, jarring the receiver off the hook.

As it fell, it hit the family dog, which leaped up, howling and barking. The woman's three-year-old son, startled by this noise, broke into loud screams.

The woman mumbled some colorful words.

She finally managed to pick up the receiver and lift it to her ear, just in time to hear her husband's voice on the other end say, "Nobody's said hello yet, but it certainly sounds as if I have the right number."

Pastor Tim <posts@cybersaltlists.org>



Snarky Quotes

You can do anything if you want it bad enough. That is why we see so many people who can fly. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Of course, so does falling down a flight of stairs. (Richard Doty, Washington)

Never say die. I've tried, and it doesn't actually make people die. (Tom McCudden, Durham, N.C.)

Never underestimate your ability to overestimate your ability. (Donna Lewis, Vienna)

Laughter is the best medicine, but in certain situations the Heimlich maneuver may be more appropriate. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

You have to learn to crawl before you can grovel. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, you're probably the executioner. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Every dog has his day. Of course, his day consists of smelling other dogs' bottoms. (Mark Briscoe, Arlington)

You've got to kiss a lot of frogs before you find the prince. But he probably isn't going to be interested in some frog-kisser. (Amanda Richards, Palatine, Ill.)

Aspire to greatness. But remember that no one ever assassinated a refrigerator repairman. (Bird Waring, New York)

A high tide lifts all boats, except those with a big gaping hole in the bottom.

There are none so blind as those who have been in an accident at a fertilizer factory. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

You can run but you can't hide, except apparently along the Afghan-Pakistani border. (Bob Wallace, Reston)

Say not that honor is the child of boldness, nor believe that the hazard of life alone can pay the price of it; it is not the action that is due, but to the manner of performing it. You got all that? Me neither. (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

Every failure is a step to success up a ladder that will eventually collapse under the weight of all those failures. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Received from Wit and Wisdom. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>



A man is driving down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, "Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" asks the man, puzzled.

"Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."

Mikey's Funnies <funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>



My friend has a lifesaving tool in her car.

It's designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped.

She keeps it in the trunk.

Pastor Tim <posts@cybersaltlists.org>



A first grade teacher asks a little red headed girl: "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which the little redhead girl replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

from Ann F. docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



When I went to get my driver's license renewed, our local motor-vehicle bureau was packed.

The line inched along for almost an hour until the man ahead of me finally got his license.

He inspected his photo for a moment and commented to the clerk, "I was standing in line so long, I ended up looking pretty grouchy in this picture."

The clerk looked at his picture closely. "It's okay," he reassured the man: "That's how you're going to look when the cops pull you over anyway."

from Monday Fodder
docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net



I asked a friend of mine by phone what he was doing. He told me he was working on "aqua-thermal treatment

of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed.

In further conversation, I learned that he was "washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision."

[forwarded by Jerry Lambert] Mikey's Funnies <funnies-owner@lists.MikeysFunnies.com>



After finishing an out-of-town errand, I discovered that my car wouldn't start because it was out of gas.

A passer-by told me there was a service station a half-mile away, so I took a gas can from the trunk and trudged the distance in the sweltering sun.

The attendant filled my two-gallon can, and I lugged it back and poured the gas into the tank. But when I tried to unlock the car door, it wouldn't open. Just then, I noticed an identical old car parked a short distance away. That was my car; I had filled a stranger's gas tank.

Wearily I walked back to the station. "You know," the attendant suggested helpfully, "instead of walking back and forth to fill the tank from the can, you could put a couple of gallons in the tank and then drive the car here."

Received from Da Mouse Tracks. The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net>

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Dolly's not ACTIN' like an angel!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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Communion October 1

If you are unable to attend and would like Communion, please contact Pastor Shultz, 574-0707, and arrangements will be made to deliver communion to you.



Harvest Dinner

We will have our Annual Harvest Dinner after worship on October 29. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entry of the church to indicate what you would like to bring for the dinner.

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