CROSSWORDS

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Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

 This October we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. What was the point of the Reformation?

The point of the Reformation was to return the Catholic Church back to its catholic roots. That would mean going back to the historical teachings of the church of salvation through grace. What happened over the years in the church is that the priesthood and the seat of the Pope became a source of power. Power to influence people, kings, and countries became a powerful attractant to men to lead the church. Over time, this influence corrupted theology into a works base theology.

 Soon after this shift, salvation became to be looked at as something we have a hand in. The church at the time taught we were to do penance for our sins, make satisfaction, and we could do well before God. This is a complete distortion of the scriptures and what Christ came to do with His work on the cross.

 What Luther sought to do was to restore the teaching of the Gospel. Salvation is purely earned by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. It was the sole payment needed for your sins. Our works are what God requires of us a Christians, but they do not earn forgiveness. We are powerless to earn our own salvation.

 As part of the Lutheran Church that holds to the confessions of the reformers, who are we really? We are catholics. We are the true Catholic Church as set up by the church fathers. While the Roman Church has strayed from this teaching, we hold fast to what was handed down by the Apostles and church fathers. We hold that our worship and proclamation of the Gospel is not something that needs ever be changed or done away with, but it is a great treasure that must be guarded and held on to faithfully. The reformers like Luther understood this; we weren’t making a new church, but rather restoring the historic Catholic Church. As the Reformation celebration approaches, celebrate the fact that your church preaches the Gospel and celebrates worship as handed down and entrusted through the centuries.

 Also note, this is a very basic and incomplete summary of the Reformation. If you want to know more attend church during October and join our Bible study before worship as we study Martin Luther’s life.

Have a blessed month,

Pastor Brian

As a P.S., please come out and support the Pig Roast and Silent Auction this October 7th from 3-6. We are trying it on a Saturday this year. All proceeds go to support a good cause and it is a fun time had by all!

 **NEWS AND NOTES:**

* **FAITH SHARING TIPS** (from the Evangelism Committee): 1) Anxiety is a word of unbelief or unreasoning dread. Faith in God relieves it. “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” Hebrews 5:12. 2) God has 2 homes: heaven, and in the heart of a thankful believer. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15
* **OUR GIVING:** Needed each week: $2,574. Received: 8/27 $1,576; 9/3 $3,399; 9/10 $2,210; 9/17 $1,010. As of 9/17/17 we are - $13,392.
* **BOARD OF MISSIONS** is stepping down from packing lunches for the needy. They are looking for another group to take this over. The lunches are done 4 times a year. Please let Sharon, Judy, Ann or Sue know if you are interested.
* **“KNIT WITS”** meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Our knitting helps homeless veterans, Children’s Hospital, Wheaton Hospital and Toys for Tots. Next Meeting is Oct. 25th at 1:00 pm.
* Don’t forget **SCRIP** cards Orders are due the last Sunday of each month. Also, don’t forget to save your **TIMERS** **RECEIPTS**. Shawn Voss has generously offered to pay 5% to Chapel (just like Scrip). An envelope marked “Timers Receipts” is on Pastor’s desk by the Scrip orders bin.
* When you make a purchase on **Amazon.com**, pick Lutheran Chapel of the Cross as your charity and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to church. **The web address is: smile.amazon.com.** Check Lutheran Chapel of the Cross, Mt. Pleasant, as your charity and continue on as usual placing your order.

Items for the November Crosswords need to be submitted by October 22nd.