CROSSWORDS

Volume 48, Number 9 SEPTEMBER 2017

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

As we leave summer and move into the fall it is time to point out that the 500th anniversary of the reformation is upon us. When we speak of the reformation anniversary we are speaking Luther and the nailing of the 95 thesis to the church door. The reformation itself was a process of many years. Our synod is operating on the reformation theme this year of “it is Still About Jesus.”

After all, that is what the reformation was all about, putting the focus of the church back on Christ. The corruption of the church and the scandal was the corruption of the Gospel of Christ. Instead of the free and liberating message of the Gospel to the sinner, the church was teaching a word that was contrary to what Christ and the apostles taught. It was a word of more law instead.

Perhaps we don’t always think about what the words ‘grace alone’ mean when we are in church. These words though are vital for our understanding of the Gospel and what Christ accomplished for us. We are truly saved by grace alone from God. There is nothing we can do. This is good news for us. If there was something we had to do or accomplish, think of the burden that would be on our heads and our hearts as we journey through life wondering if we have done enough. We would die unsure of where we stand before God.

When we look to ourselves for salvation, or even having a small hand in salvation, we leave our conscious in an uncertain state and we minimize the suffering of Christ on the cross. We say Christ’s death wasn’t good enough for us, we need to do more. The Gospel boldly proclaims Christ’s death is the final offering for sins, nothing more is needed! As we continue in the church, the message doesn’t change: It is all about Jesus! His love for us, death for us, advocating for us after the resurrection. All for us!

God’s continued blessings to you as summer wraps us and we head to fall!

Pastor Brian

As a P.S. This year the silent auction and pig roast will be held on October 7th, a Saturday. Please mark that date on your calendar and plan on joining us for a fun day!

**NEWS AND NOTES:**

* **FAITH SHARING TIPS** (from the Evangelism Committee): 1) As Sunday School resumes and Bible study opportunities present themselves, remember that God’s flawless word makes for a fearless faith—“As for God, His way is perfect, the word of the Lord is flawless.” Psalm 18:30. 2) Remind a friend who is hurting physically or mentally that the embrace of our heavenly Father’s arms is very comforting. Share a prayer with him and this verse--”The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” Deut. 33:27
* **OUR GIVING:** Needed each week: $2,574. Received: 7/30 $1,221; 8/6 $2,629; 8/13 $1,679; 8/20 $1,547. As of 8/20/17 we are -$11,291.
* Don’t forget **SCRIP** cards. This is a great way to buy gas, groceries, fast food, gifts, etc. and benefit our Building Program at the same time. 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.
* **CHOIR AND BELLS** will be starting up this month—Thursday, Sept. 14th. Join us at 6:15 pm for Choir and 7:30 pm for bells. We need YOUR help! Join us for choir and/or bells and have an enjoyable time and bring praise our gracious God at the same time.

Items for the October Crosswords need to be submitted by September 17th.