

THE  
VOICE  
OF

*ST. PETER'S*

OCTOBER 2017

**From the Pastor:**

In 1514, Albrecht of Hollenzollern made a corrupt deal with Pope Leo X to purchase the position of Archbishop of Mainz in violation of canon law. The greedy Pope authorized the sale of Indulgences to finance the purchase, with half the revenue going directly to Rome.

In 1517, John Tetzel, Germany's foremost hawker of Indulgences, came to Wittenberg, where Martin Luther was a pastor and professor of theology. As a sales technique, Tetzel made exaggerated claims for the power of Indulgences, convincing many people that purchasing them actually would forgive their sins.

Martin Luther was appalled by Tetzel's false claims and as a professor and pastor felt it was his duty to protest the sale of Indulgences. Luther produced his 95 Theses concerning Indulgences, which criticized the claims and practices of the Indulgence hawkers. On All Saints' Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) it was customary for students and faculty members of Luther's University to debate Theses (short, pointed statements intended to be controversial and spark enthusiastic exchanges). Luther offered his 95 Theses on Indulgences for the debate, and, according to tradition, nailed them to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517.

Before 1517, Luther had written some criticisms of the Roman Catholic theology and Church practices of his day, but his early efforts were ignored. But his 95 Theses were widely circulated in Germany and sparked a storm of protest against the Pope and the Roman Church. Luther suddenly became an international figure, and the Protestant Reformation was born.

Church historians consider October 31, 1517 as the beginning of the Reformation, and we have now reached the point of celebrating its 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on this coming October 31<sup>st</sup>!

**Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard**

## Highlights from the September 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

The Property Committee reported that it has received a bid from Kriner Electric of Orwigsburg for the video hook-up project. A few questions were raised that need to be investigated before acting on the bid. The Church furnace has a new expansion tank, and a new dishwasher has been installed in the Church kitchen and new AC units in the Church office. The parsonage furnace has been replaced. The sidewalk leading to the Church office will be replaced using volunteer labor, for a cost of about \$1,100. Pressure reducing valves will be installed in the Church and the parsonage.

The Worship Committee has dry cleaned the choir robes. The Council approved the committee's recommendation to have special worship service using polka music on October 8<sup>th</sup>. New green paraments will be dedicated on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Evangelism Committee continues to work on coordinating lists of names for Committee outreach.

The Finance Committee will meet in September to begin budget planning and to think about ways to enable electronic giving.

Discussion was held concerning the Youth Ministry Committee, which is presently inactive. Financial Secretary Ben Moyer presented a request to open a separate designated account for Youth Ministry. Preliminary approval was given pending the reactivation of the Youth Ministry Committee and appointment of Committee officers.

The Endowment Fund reported that two bank CD's were opened so that interest can be earned on some designated monies that are not immediately needed.

Under New Business:

Jeremy Zerbe was re-approved to do snow removal for the sidewalks and Bob Rhen was re-approved to plow the parking lot.

The Council voted to participate in a project initiated by St. Mark's (Brown's) Church to send a truck load of supplies to Texas to help hurricane victims.

The fund balances as of August 31<sup>st</sup> were:

General Fund -- \$ 1,954

General Savings -- \$ 140

Capital Improvement Fund -- \$ 20,305 (\$ 6,869 designated for the video and \$1,265 for the Fellowship Committee to use for kitchen improvements)

Memorial Fund -- \$ 9,410

Savings Certificate (Stew Zerbe Scholarship Fund) -- \$ 6,995

The Treasurer reported that all bills have been paid. People have been generous, and our Capital Improvement Fund is doing well.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

To begin celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, in September, 2016, Pastor Richard began teaching an Adult Course on the History of the Christian Church. Right now, we are looking at the movements and people who were forerunners of the Reformation, so that by the October 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary we will be studying Luther and the Reformation!

The sessions are held on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The schedule for October is:

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

### Confirmation Class News

Our Confirmation Classes began the 2017-2018 class year with an orientation session on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone received a “Confirmation Ministry” information sheet, and we discussed our vision and expectations for our Confirmation Ministry.

We will combine our Middlers (Eighth Graders) and Seniors (Ninth Graders) into one class, which will meet in the Youth Room from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Saturdays. This year, Pastor Richard will lead the class in a study of the history of the Christian Church. The Middler-Senior Class will meet on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be no class on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Junior Confirmation Class (Seventh Grade) will meet on a monthly basis. It will have a session on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Social Hall.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

“Christian Education Sunday” was held on August 27<sup>th</sup> this year. Our Sunday School teachers were installed and we presented Bibles to our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders during the 9:00 AM worship service. Two of our 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, Abby Wolfe and Alexa Brown, served as lectors and read Scripture lessons from their new Bibles. We sang Sunday School songs that have been used here for decades, so they were familiar to both children and adults. The Senior Choir presented a special anthem.

During the Sunday School period, we had a special blessing of the children and their school backpacks and supplies, and our students were promoted to their new classes.

The Adult Class, led by Steve Hikes, began a study of Luther’s *Small Catechism* using the resource book *Free to Be* by Gerhard Forde and James Nestigen, retired Professors at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Adult Class meets in the Sanctuary, near the piano, and new members are always welcome!

We have Sunday School classes for all ages from Nursery through Adult. Our teachers prepare Bible-based lessons, and there are crafts for the younger classes. Barb Hikes leads music for all of the classes, with a mixture of old classics and new tunes that the students really enjoy. Everyone is welcome for Sunday School, which runs from 10:30 to 11:30 AM every Sunday. See you there!

## IMPORTANT SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:00 AM – World Communion Sunday and First Communion

October 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM – “Polka Service” – a Service of Holy Communion, using a Lutheran liturgy, but replacing the normal music with polka tunes led by the Heidelberg Brass Band

### October 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM – Harvest Home Service

We invite our church members to share groceries that will be given to our Pine Grove Area Food Pantry. Items for Harvest Home can be set on a table in our Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also, on October 15<sup>th</sup> our Youth Group is planning to participate in a ‘Thrivent Action Team’ event – we will purchase perishable groceries and staple foods to be delivered to several families in need.

October 29<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM – Reformation Day Service,  
commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation,  
with a sermon by our own Luther Scholar, Dr. Richard Schoenleber

October 29<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM – Mission District Reformation Day Service at St. Peter’s,  
with a sermon by Dr. Karl Krueger of the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary  
The service will be preceded by a parade of Church banners, leaving from  
St. John’s Lutheran Church on Tulpehocken Street at 3:00 PM.

## **Saturday Evening Services**

We will have a Service on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

There will be no Saturday Evening Service on October 21<sup>st</sup> because of the Pine Grove Area Parade.

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

✠ Those who were hospitalized, recuperating, ill, or in any need in the months of August, September & October:

Larry Barr & Robert Kroh

✠ Thomas Herbein and Lindsey Halye, who were married on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

✠ The Family of Karlene Hughes, who passed away August 14<sup>th</sup>.

✠ Our Sunday School teachers, staff, and students.

✠ Tia Lyons and Cameron Wise, who were united in marriage August 26<sup>th</sup>.

✠ All the areas and people impacted by Hurricanes Harvey & Irma and by the earthquake in Mexico.

✠ The Family of Eva (Mrs. Lloyd) Zimmerman, who passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Baptisms**

Ciaus Allen Huff, the son of Matt and Renee (Duncan Smith) Huff, who was born on June 9<sup>th</sup> was baptized on August 20<sup>th</sup>. And, Keegan Robert Leffler, the son of Ryan and Theresa (Lemke) Leffler, who was born on June 5<sup>th</sup> was baptized on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

\*The Prayer Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00AM.

## **Memorial Gifts... To the Glory of God**

### *(Capital Improvement Fund)*

\$25 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Betty Miller.

\$50 in memory of Parents, Jean and Leo Beck by Marty and Valerie Beck.

### *(Memorial Fund)*

\$50 in memory of Paul and Gertrude Lengel by The Lengel Family Reunion.

\$50 in memory of Marie Felty by Harold Felty.

### *(General Fund)*

\$25 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Norm and Brenda Kreiser.

\$50 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Terry and Nancy Ditzler.

\$25 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Shirley and Howard Lengel.

\$25 in memory of Karlene Hughes by Kay and Dion Boyer.

### **(Stew Zerbe Fund)**

\$90 in honor of Mom's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday by Donna Zerbe.

\$50 in memory of Shirley Lehman by Donna Zerbe.

-The **Sanctuary Candle** for **October** was given to the Glory of God in memory of Bryan Reichelt Sr. by wife, Nancy.

-The **Candle Oil** for **October** was given to the Glory of God by Ruth McMullen.

## **Bible Journaling**

Our new Bible Journaling Group, led by Nancy Reichelt, will meet on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!