



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

October 2017

THE REFORMATION – THEN AND NOW. **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

In the United States, when October 31 approaches, most people's thoughts turn to pumpkins and goblins and all sorts of costumes. Soon comes that knock on the door and the familiar cry of "Trick or Treat?" October 31, however, is important for another reason. It marks the celebration of an event that set the religious world on its ear.

You see, on October 31, 1517, the church was in terrible shape. Precious few people owned a Bible or had ever laid eyes one. Even if they had, it would have done little good since most Bibles were written in Latin at the time. The study of Scriptures was not encouraged. The laity were told to simply listen to the church and obey. It was a time of spiritual ignorance. Superstition abounded and many abuses existed in the church.

It was at this time a troubled young monk, Martin Luther, was trying to find peace with God. He was also troubled by many of the abuses that abounded in the church. The one that bothered him the most was the sale of indulgences.

Indulgences were slips of paper which granted forgiveness of sins and escape from temporal punishment in this life and in purgatory. The result was that the common man thought that as long as he had an indulgence he need not worry about being punished for his sins.

On October 31, 1517, the pot started to boil. Martin Luther posted a list of 95 theses (statements). They were posted on the church door of Wittenburg. There were many things he wanted to discuss with church leaders. This

event marked the beginning of what is now known as the Reformation.

It is celebrated, not because it caused a split in the church. It is celebrated because this event resulted in a return to the Bible and its message of full and free forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ. Luther stated that man does not need a paper indulgence to receive forgiveness or to be free from the punishment - temporal or eternal. The Bible says that God has forgiven our sins through his Son, Jesus Christ. Our sins were paid for by Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Our punishment, temporal and eternal, were taken away by Jesus. In Romans, Paul writes that "... there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Roman 8:1)

Martin Luther's desire was not to split the church but to bring the church back to the Bible and to the glorious gospel message. That gospel proclaims that we are saved, not by works but by the free and faithful grace of God. Salvation is God's gift to the world. God declared the world righteous for Jesus' sake. Forgiveness and salvation is not something we deserve nor can it be earned. It is God's gift. "Believe in Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Jesus is our only hope! Simply put, that is what the Reformation was about.

Here we must add that the work of reform never ends. We need to daily return to God's Word and hear again of God's wonderful message of salvation. We must take it to heart lest we fall once again into ignorance, superstition and unbelief. God's Word is our great heritage! May we treasure it and may we share it to the glory of God and the good of His church!

October Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

October 1

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship and potluck dinner.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

October 8 and October 22

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship and Bible study

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -

at the Southside Chapel

October 8 and October 22

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday school, and fellowship

Munich, Germany -

No service this month.

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

October 14

Worship is at 11:00.

Zurich (Switzerland Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

October 15

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship and Bible study

Fall Retreat – Nuernburg

Brief overview of hostel and setting

Ancient vaults, thick walls - sleep in a real castle and enjoy the best Youth Hostel standards at Nuremberg Youth Hostel! You can look forward to staying in a fully refurbished Hostel in the imperial stables (Kaiserstallung) of the 500 year-old castle. At the heart of Nuremberg's landmark, in the city centre and centre of Franconia. Excellent amenities and audio-visual systems, 93 ultra-modern rooms, all with en-suite shower and toilet, bar, bistro

and state-of-the art equipment in the conference rooms.

Nuernberg: Friday Oct 27-Sunday Oct 29

- If arriving after 1800 hours (6 p.m.) you must call the hostel between 0800-1800 hours at 0911 2309 360 on Sunday. Their e-mail is: nuernberg@jugendherberge.de.
- Check in after 1500 (3pm) on Friday.
- Come celebrate Reformation 500 with Service, Bible Class, Sunday School and Christian Fellowship.
- Rooms: We ended up with 60 attendees. We were at full capacity. We have ended up with a room for one or two that is open if you wish to attend.
- The list of attendees and costs have been sent out. Payments must be made in Euros. We are locked in to our contract for rooms and meals. So cancelations must be covered.

Sunday School 2017-2018

Sunday School materials are now available ONLY for those who are part of our European church. The copy masters and teacher's guides can be found at the available links at Dropbox.

GRADE 1-2

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sfguf1u8ewmkv2d/AABpsGCrFPqPGWgOkW5IIS1Ca?dl=0>

GRADE 3-4

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/epp5vo3q74vb55j/AADAYGHjIJ3sAum-F7AUPOYHa?dl=0>

GRADE PreK-K

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e579x1q1k9fln0e/AAWGks9slN5PRzKhl9wHr_Ha?dl=0

GRADE 5-6

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zxkpskflemtos7/AAdk6VtoViaO-JeMDeoadGga?dl=0>

Student lessons will be ordered as needed. Contact Pastor Stuppy or Marge Stuppy (mastuppy@gmail.com) if you need anything or have questions.

Women's Bible Class Ramstein Area

Marge Stuppy is starting a women's Bible class this Fall in the Ramstein area.

Topic: Mirror, Mirror (Susan Senechal), the focus is on looking at ourselves as God sees us. The first class will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7 th at 10:30 a.m. with a light lunch to follow.

RSVP to Le Androus.

Tel. +49-151-46-1573-87

Fall Retreat – London

A low number of participants and other factors will make it difficult to hold the retreat as planned. We hope to reschedule it in the spring.

Offerings

As of September 30, 2017 the balance in the church account was €35.107,85. During September we received direct offering equivalent of \$1,717.76. We also received gifts of €2.460,59 in direct bank deposits. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these generous gifts in support of this ministry.

Things to Know – Synod Web Sites

Military Devotions – by Rev. P. Ziemer

<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/>

WELS Church Locator

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<http://welslocator.locatorsearch.com/>

Online Referral – Special Ministries

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to members of the military, prison inmates, special needs individuals. Click on the link below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials.

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

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