



the GLORIA DEI GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2017

Excited about God and doing God's work.



Pastor's Pen

October has come and the temperatures are beginning to change. October has always been a month of change that we recognize in the festival of the Reformation. The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther was well versed in the call by scripture to change our hearts; turn from sin and follow Christ. He was angered with the church of his day which was living counter to this basic teaching. Luther took the church to task calling for change and his stance began a world wide transformation that continues 500 years later.

This re-forming should live in our hearts as well. We too, are called to set our priorities on God's will and not our personal agendas. Remember the basic teachings of faith as recorded in Luther's Small catechism: Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments, the Holy Sacraments and the Office of the Keys (*practicing forgiveness*). We ought to remind ourselves daily and weekly of these teachings so that God's Word may shape our lives and hearts. **How are you doing with this? How is the church doing with this task?**

In the month of October we also prioritize the use of our time and talents through our Annual Stewardship campaign. Actually, we have been talking about Stewardship year round with reminders of weekly pledges, monthly tithes, sharing our talents by cleaning the church, sharing cans of food with the needy, and reaching out to those in financial straights. Our priority at Gloria Dei is to reflect the "graciousness"

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Pastor's Pen continued

of God by offering the unexpected blessings of grace to our neighbors. Now, as we continue with our lifestyle of Stewardship we need to address our intention to continue living as God's disciples in the world. We need to be "All In" with this commitment of faith.

"All In" is the name of our October Campaign helping us to hear from scripture of God's gifts given to his followers. God expects his children to return the commitment. When we are not careful, we can think of our relationship with Jesus in terms of what we get out of it—as consumers. The time comes in each of our lives, however, when Jesus asks us to do something for Him which will probably cost us something—and this is where we make the transition from being a consumer...to being a follower of Jesus. This is the time when disciples go "All In" to what Jesus calls us to become.

We will be listening to sermons to help us prioritize our giving; time and talents that are offered to God and not just a convenience for ourselves. God will be stretching our faith lives as we yield our resources to Him. That is the story of David when he took his sling shot and five smooth stones to go out against Goliath. It is the story of Noah when God told him to build an ark, long before the rains began. And let's not forget Moses who went with staff in hand to tell Pharaoh "Let My People Go". Faith is like that—it only grows when we come to the edge of ourselves and take a step forward—trusting in God.

Your call to discipleship in Christ and my call to be pastor and Spiritual guide is the most consequential event in the life of faith. The steps we take in these days will determine the future path of our lives and this congregation for years to come. I am honored to be your pastor and pray that you and your family are "All In" with our commitment to God. May we continue to be re-formed into the shape of gracious, faithful disciples.

See You in Church,

Pastor John

Luther's Hymns Part 3 by Tony Lippard

These last two months we learned about Luther's impact on worship in the church during the time of the Reformation notably the role of the congregation and looked at three hymns of Luther. Luther wanted everyone to be part of the worship not just the priest or choir, but the whole congregation. He also believed hymns are a means to proclaim the gospel.

The last hymn that we are going to learn about is the one he is most known , "A Mighty Fortress is Our God". The *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* has three hymn numbers devoted to this great hymn: # 503, # 504, and # 505. Most Lutheran congregations use # 504. Martin wrote "A Mighty Fortress" in either 1528 or 1529. The earliest printed version remaining today appeared in 1531. For a lot of his hymns, Luther gained inspiration from the Psalms. This hymn is based on the 46th Psalm, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." He wanted to convey the struggle Christians have with Satan and how we cannot win without Christ. Luther would sing this hymn in times of danger and difficulty and ask his colleague, Phillip Melancthon to sing with him, "Come, Phillip, let us sing the 46th Psalm." (from *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert Morgan, page 14).

Last Saturday evening, Paula and I attended the Salisbury Symphony concert at St. John's. The St. John's Luther Ringers, chancel choir, Men's Chorus, and the newly formed Symphony Chorale participated with the Salisbury Symphony in playing and singing arrangements of this great hymn. To think, "A Mighty Fortress" has survived 500 years and is sung in over 200 languages including 63 English versions. The concert began with a handbell arrangement, two stirring arrangements by the St. John's chancel choir and Men's Chorus, and then sung by a packed audience accompanied by organ, brass, and drums. Breathtaking! After the intermission, we heard how this hymn influenced three composers to write powerful music for orchestra and choirs: Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and a local composer, Davis Brown.

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, we thank God for Luther's determination, faith, and his love of music to create hymns to proclaim God's loving grace.

Katharina Von Bora

PREFACE:

“The love story between Katharina and Martin Luther has all the makings of a best selling novel or a five-star movie. As we touch on the highlights of their years, look for drama, sorrow, rebellion, faith, intrigue, surprise, criticism, humor, a hero, a heroine, a dilemma, an unlikely marriage and a bitter sweet ending. Above all, feel their love for one another.”

THE SWEETEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD

The Martin and Katharina story is one of a great mutual friendship between them, evidence that such a friendship, by the grace of God, can happen in unlikely circumstances and scenarios. Besides love, friendship is an important and sometimes overlooked aspect of marriage.

KATHARINA'S EARLY YEARS

Katherine was only 6 years of age when her mother died and she was sent to a Benedictine cloister to be educated. At age 9, she moved to a convent, and at 16, she became a nun.

At this same time, Luther, some miles away, was beginning to disagree with the Catholic's teaching on the celibacy in honoring God above marriage and began teaching and writing on marriage from a Biblical standpoint.

Katharina and other nuns in the convent were following his writings. In their desire to be wed and have children, they wrote to Martin, asking him for assistance in helping them escape the convent.

THE ESCAPE

Around Easter, in the early morning hours, Katharina and 11 other young runaway nuns climbed into fish barrels and were smuggled out of the convent. Their unlikely hero was a renegade monk named Martin Luther who brought them to Wittenberg where he found them homes, husbands, and jobs. Luther was unaware that one of the nuns he had rescued would, in God's providence, become his wife.

THE MARRIAGE

All the nuns married except Katharina. Unfortunately her devout Catholic family did not want her back, and Martin was not successful in finding a suitable husband for her. Being quite bold, she let it be known to him that she expected him to step up to the plate. Martin at first rejected the idea of marriage, reasoning, “*I daily expect the*

death decreed to a heretic”, and “Good God. . . they will never thrust a wife on me.”

But they eventually married, to everyone’s surprise, after he left the. The marriage at first was not based on love so much but rather a commitment to the principles of the Bible and service to God. Luther even stated that his marriage was done ‘to spite the devil.’ He certainly was not a romantic.

CRITICS

As if marriages don’t have enough problems, the critics were relentless. A false rumor was spread that Katharina was pregnant by Luther prior to the marriage. Other critics cried, “*You have sinned . . . “Heresy” . . . “Condemned to eternal damnation*

BLISSFUL YEARS

Because neither had spent much time in the presence of the opposite sex, their early years together were awkward but they held each other in high regard and their marriage flourished. Although Luther’s earlier teachings portrayed marriage as a necessary evil to stave off sexual temptation, his loving marital friendship with Katherine grew and his perspective matured. Despite the odds against them, they adapted well to married life. He wrote, “*The greatest gift of grace a man can have is a pious, God-fearing, home-loving wife, whom he can trust with all his goods, body, and life itself, as well as having her as the mother of his children.*”

SAVING A MARRIAGE

A sense of humor often saved their awkward moments and in addition to being brutally honest with each other, they were known to dish out and take a joke. When Martin suffered from episodes of depression, Katie once dressed in black like a grieving widow in mourning and greeted him at the door. “*Are you going to a funeral?*” he asked. “*No,*” she replied, “*but since you act as though God is dead, I wanted to join you in mourning.*” When his depression was more severe, she held and comforted him, read scripture to him, and prayed for his health to return.

THEIR YEARS TOGETHER

A deep friendship prevailed throughout their marriage. He wrote her letters tenderly addressed to “Lord Kate”, and often referred to her as his “dear rib”, “Sir Katie”, “the empress”, “my true love”, “my sweetheart”, and “a gift of God”. The tenderness he felt was evidenced in his writing, “I am a happy husband and may God continue to send me happiness from that most gracious woman.”

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Katharina Von Bora continued from page 5

As he suffered many physical ailments, Katie nursed him back to health. She was an incredibly hard worker, taking over the hard labor. She drove the wagon, looked after the fields and gardens, purchased the livestock, brewed beer, sold linen, helped with his writings, prepared meals, kept house, raised the children, and entertained guests. The many hardships drew the couple closer together and deepened their walk with the Lord.

Although Katharina mostly loomed in the background of Martin's works, she was an ever present influence in his life. Because she had such a keen theological mind, Martin often urged her to sit with him and other theologians to discuss and debate theology, something unheard of at the time.

THE END

Martin died at age 62 while away from his beloved Katie. In his will, he said, "My Katharina has always been a gentle, pious, and faithful wife to me, and has loved me dearly."

Katharina lived seven difficult years after Martin's death. She fled Wittenberg to avoid the plague. At age 53, she died, in poverty, as a result of an accident in which she was thrown from a cart into a watery ditch. Through all life's ordeals, she remained steadfast in her love for and faithfulness to her God.

This marriage between two unlikely people flourishes through God's love and grace. It speaks volumes about a love that evolved from trust, understanding, respect, and the often overlooked and much needed aspect of friendship.



Thanks to Edith Julian for the background work. She made a presentation about Katharina Von Bora at the last WELCA meeting.

Gloria Dei Notes

Gloria Dei Hosts Breakfast to Help Fultons

The Gloria Dei congregational council is hosting a breakfast on Saturday, October 21, 6:30 a.m.— 10:30 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee, juice, and tea will be served. The council is requesting donations for the meal. There will be a free will offering taken up to assist Charles and Cindy Fulton with medical expenses.

Potluck German Meal to Celebrate Reformation

The last Sunday in October will be a big Sunday as we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation during the Sunday worship service. Following the service, we will have a potluck German feast. Do you know any good German recipes? Bring it with you! Meat will be provided. After the meal, we will have our all committees meet.

Meetings for the Month of October:

Congregational Council—Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m.

All Committees Meeting—Sunday, October 29 following German Potluck Meal

WELCA

WELCA will host a birthday party at the Lutheran Home at Trinity Oaks on Tuesday Oct. 10 at 7:00pm. We will help the residents play Bingo, serve cake, give out gifts, and just visit and talk with those at the party. We will meet there between 6:30 and 7:00. If you are helping shop for birthday presents, you can bring them that night or bring them to church on the 8th. The same with any Bingo prizes you have collected.

WELCA will hold its regular meeting on Oct. 15 after church. Marcia Smith will be the hostess. As part of the program we will work on organizing the church's scrap books and photo albums. It will be fun taking a walk down memory lane or learning things you didn't know about the church and its people. Bring a snack to share if you like and join us.

Evangelism Committee Report

Pastor suggested the Evangelism Committee request budgeted funds to pay for ads in the Salisbury Post relative to upcoming events.

Marketing techniques and exposure in various media sources may be the key in reaching the public and potential new members. Although there is no charge for the Saturday church announcements, they are very small and limited in wording. Paid ads will give us the freedom of more space and verbiage. The committee determined its need for funds throughout the year in its quest to reach new members. Unused funds would be returned to the general budget at the end of the fiscal year.

A suggestion was made to appoint a media person to serve as a liaison between the church and the Salisbury Post. This person would coordinate church sponsored events with a newspaper staff person in hopes of getting coverage of church events and activities. This person would also be responsible for coordinating events on other social media sites.

We discussed other ways to reach out:

Send information relative to special events to other Lutheran churches for publication in their bulletin;

Host a "Trunk or Treat" for families in the parking lot behind the church on Saturday night before Halloween. Jeff Hoffner is willing to help and lend us Halloween decorations. A festival with games and activities could be offered in the fellowship hall or in the parking lot. Involve the youth of the church in planning and carrying out, and inviting their friends. Get the information to the media sites early. Also, ensure church members mingle and welcome the participants, and invite them to church.

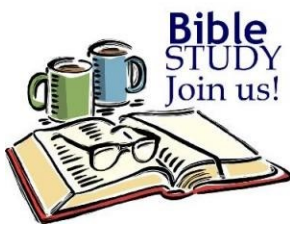
Advertise events as they are happening by placing temporary/non-permanent signs outside the church, staying in compliance with the city's sign ordinance.

Follow up:

NOW: Plan Trunk & Treat.

Request budget funding for advertising.

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Wednesday Evening Bible Study

The Wednesday evening bible study is held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. except for the fourth Wednesday. Come early with a bag meal at 6 p.m. for a time of fellowship. The fellowship time and bible study are in the fellowship building. The next topic will be on generosity using a curriculum entitled "All In".

Monthly healing service is on the fourth Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. in the church. **The healing service for October is Wednesday, October 25.**

Thank You from the Mallinsons

To our Gloria Dei Family,

Thank you all for the warm send off you gave us last week! The Service of Godspeed, the beautiful framed print, and the wonderful lunch after church meant more than we can say.

Words cannot express what Gloria Dei has meant to us for the past 40+ years. We knew this was a special congregation when we walked in the door all those years ago and you continue to be to this day.

We promise not to be strangers and we would love to have visitors if you are in the Raleigh area. Our new address:

1306 Pearces Road

Zebulon, NC 27597

Jim's cell phone is 704-213-2770

Carla's cell phone is 704-647-8799

And we do want to stay in touch. E-mail and Facebook friends are welcome as well! We so much appreciate your good wishes as we start this new chapter in our lives, and we will keep you in our prayers.

In God's Love,
Jim and Carla

LOCAL MINISTRIES

Rowan Helping Ministries



For September, Gloria Dei gave 52 pounds of food to Rowan Helping Ministries Food pantry.

Thanks to Bob Meacham for delivering the food donations!

Order Book about the Reformation

If you want to learn more about the Reformation, there is a book coming out from Concordia Publishing House. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you are interested. We need to sign up by October 11 to receive a special price. Ask Pastor John about the sample.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

October 8—18th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon:

Hymns: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult*
If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Reader: Julia Hibbard

Ushers: Dave and Julia Hibbard

Preparing for Worship continued

October 15—19th Sunday after Pentecost—Holy Communion

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

Hymns: *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* *Softly and Tenderly*
Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Reader: Carrie Parker

Need Ushers!

Altar Guild: Dave and Julia Hibbard

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October 22—20th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-9

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Hymns: *Oh, Worship the King* *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*
God of Grace and God of Glory

Reader: Edith Julian

Need Ushers

October 29—Reformation Sunday—Holy Communion

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Hymns: *The Church's One Foundation* *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word *Thy Strong*

Word

Reader: Brad Kluttz

Need Ushers!

Altar Guild: Dave and Julia Hibbard

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October 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----|-----|
| <p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11 a.m. — Women's Luncheon will be celebrated on October</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>2 p.m. Blessing</p> | | <p>6:30 p.m. Connecto Support</p> | <p>6 p.m. Sand</p> <p>6:30 Bible</p> | <p>6:30-30 p.m. Scouts</p> | | |
| | <p>Pastor Lutherid</p> <p>Clergy C</p> <p>Educator through day</p> | <p>6:30 p.m. Birthday Trinity</p> | <p>6 p.m. Meal</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Scouts</p> | <p>6:30-30 p.m. Scouts</p> | | |
| <p>12:15 p.m. WEL</p> <p>2-5 p.m. Girl</p> | | <p>7 p.m. N</p> <p>7 p.m. C</p> | <p>6 p.m. Meal</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Egational Co</p> | <p>6:30-30 p.m. Scouts</p> | | # |
| <p>2:30 p.m. Girl</p> | | | <p>6 p.m. Meal</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Scouts in Sanctuar</p> | <p>6:30-30 p.m. Scouts</p> | | |
| <p><u>Reformation</u></p> <p>12:15 Potluck</p> <p><u>and All Commi</u></p> <p>3 p.m. Girl Sc</p> <p>V</p> | | | <p>Fellows h</p> <p>Lunch —</p> | <p>Monday</p> <p>Wednesd</p> <p>Thursd</p> | | |

