



# CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

## OCTOBER 2020

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Danita Broders
- 1 Daniel Kowalski (1)
- 2 Steve Morton
- 11 Wendell Muhs
- 12 Kay Jaeger
- 14 Vernon Krause
- 16 Delilah Broders (12)
- 16 Mary Ann Knee
- 17 Cherlyn Hillrichs
- 18 Dylan Hall (13)
- 20 Pat Witte
- 22 Ethan Olson (19)
- 31 Jerry Shaffer

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Steve & Julie Freese, 16 years
- 5 Jeff & Connie Petersen, 24 years
- 12 Steve Morton & Jo Roberts, 29 years
- 17 Nevin & Tara Peters, 5 years
- 24 Dean & Doris Hoffart, 67 years
- 25 Orlin & Carol Olson, 62 years
- 26 Ron & Korrie Hall, 24 years
- 26 Jeremy & Sharel Olson, 24 years

### CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to all who remembered me in so many ways for my 90th birthday. Also for the prayers and well wishes last winter when I was in the hospital. May God bless you and Christ the Servant.

*Arlis Lind*

### LOCAL BENEVOLENCE

Thank you for your gift of \$282.13! We believe that together, we will make a difference!

*Pastor Will Perrigan, Executive Director  
Norfolk Rescue Mission*

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

We will return to using a Volunteer Schedule in October, minus greeters and coffee service. Watch your mailbox and email. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out a sign-up sheet (from the back table) and turn in to the office.

We need offering counters (two teams of two). Training will be provided. Contact the office.

We also need Sunday school teachers. Contact Laura Kowalski.

### Office hours

Monday--Thursday 8:30 to 4:30  
(closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)  
Friday 8:30 to 12:30  
phone 379-1775

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# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 Piece-Makers 6 quilting class	2 6:30 Girl Scouts	3
4 9 Sunday school 10 worship	5	6	7 6 Confirmation class	8 9 Agape 6 quilting class	9	10
11 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck 1130 auction 4 Boy scouts	12	13	14 6 Confirmation class	15 2 Card club 6 quilting class 6 MOPS	16 6:30 Girl Scouts	17
18 9 Sunday school 10 worship	19 630 Council meeting	20	21 6 Confirmation class	22 6 quilting class	23	24
25 9 Sunday school 10 worship	26	27	28 6 Confirmation class	29	30 Set up for boutique	31 Holiday Boutique

# MARTIN LUTHER ~ *Father of the Reformation*

Martin Luther (1483-1546) stands as a truly unique force in history, an individual who by his ideas and by his sheer force of will fundamentally changed the course of history. There are several ironies incumbent on Luther's pivotal role in history: 1) he doesn't really represent a break with the past, but rather a flash point where ideas and trends which had been smoldering in Europe for several centuries suddenly burst aflame; 2) Luther initially saw himself as a great reformer of the Roman Catholic Church, a simple monk who thought his ideas would single-handedly redirect the Leviathan of the church; however, in the end he divided Christianity into two separate churches and that second division, Protestantism, would divide over the next four centuries into a near infinity of separate churches; 3) finally, Luther (and all the other reformers) saw themselves as returning Christianity to its roots, they believed that they were setting the clock back; in reality, their ideas irreparably changed the world and pushed it kicking and screaming, not into some ideal past, but into the modern era.

Luther was not necessarily a person you would want to have dinner with; he was temperamental, peevish, egomaniacal, and argumentative. But his single-mindedness and enormous self-confidence, combined with a strident belief in the rightness of his arguments, allowed him to stand against opposition. In fact, these very things hardened his position in the face of death by fire, the usual punishment for heretics. Luther became an Augustinian monk in 1505, disappointing his equally strong-willed father, who wished him to become a lawyer. He earned a doctorate in theology from the University of Wittenberg, but instead of settling down to a placid and scholarly monkish life or an uneventful university career teaching theology, he began to develop his own personal theology, which erupted into what was seen by the Roman Catholic Church as outright blasphemy when he protested the use of indulgences in his 95 Theses.

Indulgences, which were granted by the pope, forgave individual sinners not their sins, but the temporal punishment applied to those sins. These indulgences had become big business in much the same way pledge drives have become big business for public television in modern America. Luther's Theses, which outlined his theological argument against the use of indulgences, were based on the notion that Christianity is fundamentally a phenomenon of the inner world of human beings and had little or nothing to do with the outer world, such as temporal punishments. It is this fundamental argument, not the controversy of the indulgences themselves, that most Roman Catholic theologians in the church disapproved of and that led to Luther's being hauled into court in 1518 to defend his arguments against the cardinal Cajetan. When the interview focused on the spiritual value of "good works," that is according to the Roman Catholic Church, the actions that people do in this world to benefit others and to pay off the debts they've incurred against God by sinning, Cajetan lost his temper and demanded that Luther recant. Luther refused, and his separation from the Roman Catholic Church was set in motion.

## MARTIN LUTHER ~ *Father of the Reformation*

Following Luther's encounter with Cardinal Cajetan, he wrote *The Sermon on Good Works*, in which he argued that good works do not benefit the soul; only faith could do that. Things took a turn for the worse: Pope Leo declared 41 articles of Luther's teachings as heretical teachings, and Luther's books were publicly burned in Rome. Luther became more passionate in his effort to reform the church. His treatise, "Address to the Christian Nobility of Germany," pressed for the German nation to use military means to force the church to discuss grievances and reform; "A Prelude concerning the Babylonian Captivity of the Church" literally called for clergy in the church to openly revolt against Rome.

In 1521, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, demanded that Luther appear before the diet of the Holy Roman Empire at Worms. Luther was asked to explain his views and Charles ordered him to recant. Luther refused and he was placed under an imperial ban as an outlaw. He managed to escape and he was hidden away in a castle in Wartburg where he continued to develop his ideas and translated the Bible into German so the laity could read it in their own language.

In a more conciliatory effort, Luther wrote a letter to Pope Leo explaining the substance of his ideas, *Von der Freiheit des Christenmenschen*, "On the Freedom of the Christian." This conciliation didn't work (the treatise is not very conciliatory), and Luther was formally excommunicated from the church in 1521. What had started as an attempt to reform the Catholic theology turned into a new church independent of the Roman Catholic Church.

Nevertheless, this small work, "On the Freedom of the Christian," is the theological and ideological core of Luther's thinking. The concept of ***Freiheit***, "freedom," or "liberty" is the foundational term of value; every other aspect of Luther's thought has at its center the concept of ***Freiheit***. This concept of "freedom" eventually gave rise to the notion of "individual freedom," and later "political freedom," and finally "economic freedom." Luther's theological reformation was a precursor of the European Enlightenment which revolved around freedom and the liberation of people from the Dark Ages—liberating them from false beliefs, from false religion, from arbitrary authority, and etc. This "liberation" process continued as people migrated from Europe to North America and, in fact, continues even today. The idea of "liberating" people from things such as poverty, oppression, and marginalization is not only a common theme in international politics but in our own American politics as well. Luther's foundational concept of ***Freiheit*** was the beginning of something that completely changed the course of world history.

*Part of this article is reprinted and edited from an article by Richard Hooker.*

If you are interested in reading Luther's treatise, "On the Freedom of the Christian," call the office and we will get a copy to you. You never know, it may start a whole new "reformation." When you read this treatise, ask yourself the following questions: What precisely does this freedom consist of? What is the nature of the individual? What are the two divisions of a human being? What value is attached to the "internal" part of the human being? How is this "internal" part free? Finally, how do you see this concept working in the world around you? **A discussion session will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Reformation Sunday.**

**Christ the Servant Council Meeting**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Dennis, Steve Jessen, Warren Bennett, Sharon Koeppe, Brian Anderson, Tara Peters, Laura Kowalski, Linda Shaffer

Absent: Chuck Nicholson, Emily Svitak

Sharon opened the meeting with a devotion from “God Time for Women”, which centered around James 2:10. It spoke of following God’s rules and receiving the gift of grace when we fail the rules.

**Receiving of Minutes/Financial Reports**

With no amendments to the reports, Warren Bennett moved and Bob Lutz seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the past council meeting and the congregational meeting. Motion carried.

**Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Dennis says confirmation planning is moving along. Classes will start on the 30<sup>th</sup> at ~~6:30~~ 6:00 p.m. There will be a total of five students. Transition team is halfway through the cottage meetings. Things are going well. Worship team will need to meet soon to plan Advent and Epiphany. We will return to communion at the front of the church on Sunday, September 27. Dishwasher and stove have been delivered at the parsonage. Dishwasher is installed.

**Committee Reports**

**Building/Grounds:** Warren Bennett says the stove is delivered at the parsonage but not installed. Work is being done to accommodate the install which includes a carpenter and electrician. Dishwasher is installed at the parsonage.

**Mission/Outreach:** Sharon Koeppe shared that the Northeast Nebraska Community Action Program reports that those in the area living below 100 percent of the poverty level is 15%, while those living below 200 percent of the poverty level is 36%. 10,434 people have low food access. Instability is growing. There is a need to be filled here. NENCAP works to provide free food on a regular basis to those in need along with Salvation Army and Northeast Nebraska food pantry. There is research being done as to how CTS may be able to be involved in this effort, both financially and physically.

**Worship:** Brian Anderson mentioned that the most recent health directive will allow for the return to “normal” communion distribution, beginning Sunday, September 27. Starting in October would also be a good time to bring back the volunteers of ushers, lectors and acolytes. Pastor Dennis will speak with Kathy about getting the volunteer list going again.

**Discipleship:** Laura Kowalski reports that there are low numbers for Sunday school students, but energy is high. Laura is seeking volunteers for those who would like to teach a Sunday school class. Laura says the curriculum is very simple and easy to navigate through. Anyone interested in teaching (even one or two Sundays) should contact Laura. We’re also looking for someone to teach the Jr High and High School age group. She would like to return to using Sunday School rooms.

**Stewardship:** A discussion was held regarding the possibility of providing online giving opportunities and using debit/credit card information in submitting weekly/monthly tithing and offerings. Bob Lutz says he will look into the possibilities and options.

**Fellowship/Hospitality:** Tara Peters shared that there will be a first fruits auction and potluck held on Sunday, October 11. The money from the first fruits auction will be used for current and future parsonage needs. There will also be a free-will offering basket for those who do not wish to bid on items.

Steve Jessen shares that there were \$600 in deposits made to Ingham Okoboji for a day camp and confirmation camp that did not happen in 2020. Leaders at the camp say we can either ask for a refund, use it for 2021 day camp and confirmation camp or donate it. It was unanimously decided that the money should be donated to the camp.

Steve Jessen says cottage meetings are going good. The transition team is meeting multiple times per week. Once the cottage meetings are over, the data and information will be used to help build a CTS profile for use in the calling process. The information will also be made available to the congregation. Advisors have told the transition team we should not be in a hurry to call a new pastor. It was also noted that there are not a lot of available candidates.

Steve Jessen handed out a budget worksheet that provided budgeted amounts for the past two years. Jessen says we need to set a date for the annual meeting in November. Financial reports from Greg Moen were reviewed and explained. It was asked of the council to review the areas they are responsible for (and the entire document) and see if any changes are needed. Changes should be submitted by the October council meeting. The congregational meeting was set for November 8.

Linda Shaffer closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting will be October 19, 2020. The council will also have a special budget workshop on Sunday, October 18 following worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Anderson  
Council Member

	Sep 4, 20
<b>Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>	
DG Church Emergency Fund	\$8,619.35
DG Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,505.00
DG Memorials	\$12,018.42
DG Missions/Growth	\$3,790.71
DG Parsonage Projects(Kitchen)	\$545.00
DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	\$5,080.21
DG Tanzania Travel	\$8,643.20
DG Worship Fund	\$2,323.47
<b>Interest-Designated Checking</b>	<b>\$78.90</b>
<b>Total Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>	<b>\$42,604.26</b>
<b>General Checking</b>	<b>\$66,322.61</b>