

FROM THE PASTOR

WHAT IS THE REFORMATION?

On October 31, we celebrate the anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The Reformation was a time of profound change in the Christian Church during the 16th century. On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther nailed a piece of paper on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. On that piece of paper, were 95 Theses, or statements, to object to what was going on in the church of his day.

In Martin Luther's day, the church was charging money for pieces of paper called indulgences. When you paid money for these indulgences, supposedly God would forgive your sins. People were taught that they could earn their way into heaven. But Martin Luther came to realize that we could not buy or earn our own way to heaven. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven is a gift that God gives.

Martin Luther said, "Forgiveness of sins is not something which we can earn for ourselves by our own good deeds. Rather, it is a free gift which God gives to us as a result of all that Jesus did for us as our Savior. Salvation, therefore, is completely and only by faith in Jesus."

God used Martin Luther to "reform" the church by bringing people back to the understanding of the basic truths of the Bible. The most important truth was that our salvation is a gift from God earned by what Jesus did for us – living a perfect life for us and dying on the cross to pay for our sins. We receive this gift by faith in Jesus. Those who followed this Bible truth became known as "Lutherans."

But the Reformation brought to light many other truths that changed the world. It empowered the "barbarian" Germans who received little credit from the intellectuals in more "civilized" settlements. It also ended the flow of money from the paupers in Germany to the coffers in Rome. Some economists even say that the Reformation changed the economic patterns of the world. Before Luther, the noblest professions were church work or royalty. Monks, nuns, priests and princes had a better shot at heaven, according to the wisdom of the time. When God led Luther to unearth the idea that God approved of all professions practiced to his glory, silversmiths, musicians, lawyers, farmers, and merchants were freed to follow their hearts' desires for satisfaction and fulfillment.

The Reformation had an effect in people's hearts and lives. It replaced fear with comfort. The Reformation is really about faithful church members trying to recover the teachings of the historic Christian church built on the Bible alone. The triumph of God through overwhelming odds to get the Gospel to your heart is comforting and encouraging. We become bolder because we know that God will never let his Gospel become a lost cause. The good news of Jesus' forgiveness will always remain God's victory song.

When you feel the world of today is losing the purity of God's Word, as if all Christians might disappear, remember the triumph God achieved in the Reformation. We Christians, true to the Word, are carrying on this valiant effort with the help and strength of God. That is the real effect of the Reformation.

-- Pastor Kehren

Thanksgiving Feast

Join our Jerusalem School family on Thursday, November 21st, at noon, for a home-cooked, traditional Thanksgiving Feast in our downstairs auditorium. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP to the church secretary. Due to limited seating, a ticket is required for this event.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event possible. If you would like to help, contact Becca Vance (vance.becca@gmail.com).

GIVE Thanks
to the LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD:
HIS Love ENDURES
FOREVER!

Psalms 107:2

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Pie Fellowship

Our Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be here at Jerusalem on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm. The children of our Elementary School, Sunday School, and Early Learning Center will sing.

All are invited to a special pie fellowship hour immediately following Wednesday's service. If you are attending the fellowship after the service, please bring a pie to share.

Thanksgiving Day Worship

Thursday, November 28th

10:00 am

at St. Matthew's

9081 N Maryland Street, Niles

Women's Advent Prayer Breakfast

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 7th 9:00 am

All women, confirmation age and older, are invited to come and enjoy a morning of Word and song, along with fellowship and food, as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth! Our theme this year is "Anticipating His Presence"

Midweek Advent Services

Begin Wednesday, December 4th

Services will be held on

December 4th, 11th and 18th at
2:15 and 7:00 pm



Henry Pelligrino McGuire, son of Samantha and Peter McGuire, was baptized on September 29th. Henry is the little brother of Nola.

May God bless and keep Henry strong in faith throughout his life.

Jean Mayer was called to her heavenly home to be with her Savior on September 27th at the age of 87.

Gertraud Weber, age 90, was called to her heavenly home to be at her Savior's side on October 6th.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“Prepared to Answer” This study is designed to help equip us to answer the various challenges and questions people may have when it comes to the Christian faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, “Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have.” Join us in the church sanctuary at 9:15 am.

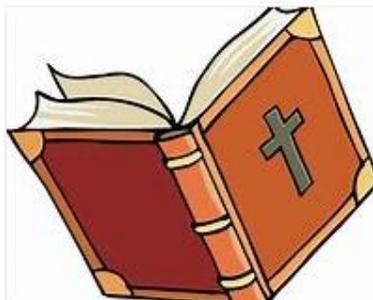
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children age 3 through 6th grade starts at 9:15 am. Students meet in the kindergarten classroom for music before dispersing to their classrooms. The teen group (7th-12th grade) meets in the 5th-6th grade classroom.

“Toddlin’ to Jesus” is a new class this year during Sunday school hour for our youngest children - newborn through age two with a parent. The class will include a short bible story, music, games, and a snack. This class meets in Ms. Tanya’s 4K room.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY “One Christ, Many Creeds”

We continue the study of the teachings of other Christian denominations from a Lutheran perspective to develop a deeper understanding of the similarities as well as the differences. As always, we will test every teaching in light of what God’s Word says. Join us at 10:00 am in the downstairs auditorium.



THANK YOU

Bill and Shirley Sonne thank all those who provided meals for them during Shirley's time of recovery. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.



**Set your Clocks back the night of
Saturday, November 3rd!
Daylight Saving Time Ends.**

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

We will be collecting donations for care packages for our College/High school kid members who go away for school. Let's keep them connected to their Congregation! A collection bin will soon be available in the narthex with a list of ideas for items to buy. If you would like to make a cash donation to help buy more items for the packages and pay for postage, please speak to Carol Ruehrdanz, Marian Schoephoester, or Amanda Browder. Donations will be accepted thru October 27th. And please always keep all our College/High school kids in your prayers! Thanks for your help!"

DEBT REDUCTION

We continue to be truly blessed with offerings in our congregation. The Lord has motivated our members through their thankfulness for their Savior to continue to faithfully contribute to our congregation. Unfortunately, due to lower than expected enrollment in our school, we had to borrow on our line of credit to make ends meet. Thankfully, some members have stepped up to offer a matching gift to help us reduce our debt. From October 1st through the end of November, every dollar in excess of our budgeted weekly offerings will be matched, up to \$10K!!! If we can get that full match, we should be able to clean out our current debt. No special envelopes required, just add it to your already generous weekly gift!

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The WELS is hosting a national leadership conference at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in downtown Chicago from Tuesday, January 21st (1:00 pm) to Thursday, January 23rd (Noon), 2020. Pastors, called workers, male and female lay leaders, and young people are encouraged to attend. The conference will focus on issues such as ministry to millennials, equipping laypeople to engage in gospel ministry, developing a servant mentality rather than a consumer mentality among members, utilizing the gifts of women, contextualizing ministry to the specific community in which a congregation is situated. Before October 31, registration is \$249 per person with a discount for congregations sending three or more individuals. More information can be found at www.lutheranleadership.com.



School News

Precious Child Early Learning Center and Jerusalem School Kindergarten will be holding two Open House events. The first one will be Tuesday, December 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The second will be Friday, February 7th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. **Applications will be accepted beginning December 3rd at the Open House.**

Invite your friends and neighbors with small children to visit and learn about our programs.

Talent Fest

Celebrate the God given talents of our students at the JELS Talent Fest on Friday, November 15th at 7:00 pm in the downstairs auditorium. Join us for an evening of entertainment as the children in grades K-8 demonstrate their skills in music, art, dance, collecting, model building, baking, and more!



Congratulations to the Eagle's soccer team! 2019 CALAC champions!

Eagles of the Week

PK-8th grade students are recognized each week for their Christ-like attitude and academic effort. October Eagles of the week were:

Anastasia Botten
 Max Ludwig
 Edessa Gorgis
 Claire Benemerito
 Alex Monroy
 CJ Reding

Savannah Streiff
 Ryan Jackson
 Eunae Ra
 Nick Kalbach
 Kara Jackson
 Lillian Dawood

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6218 Capulina Ave
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Pastor Jonathan Kehren
Phone: 847-965-7340
Email: pastor@jerusalemchurch.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 am

*“Our purpose is to serve all people
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on
the basis of Holy Scripture”*

Thanksgiving Worship Schedule

*Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 27th
Jerusalem Lutheran Church*

All are invited to a special pie fellowship following the service



*Thanksgiving Day Worship 10:00 am
Thursday, November 28th
St. Matthews, Niles*