

Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church - 1338 Clay Street - Morris, IL 60450

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Come Worship with us!

Saturday Evenings ...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings ...	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study ...	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study ...	9:00 a.m.
(via online ZOOM)	

 **LWML SUNDAY** is October 10th!
Northern Illinois District

How It Turns Out That Halloween and Reformation Day Actually Fit Together Really Well After All

When you first think about it Reformation Day and Halloween might seem like complete opposites:

The one is about religion; the other is about partying.

The one is about Church; the other is about candy.

For the one we come before God and confess our sins; for the other the kids come to the door and ask for candy.

But look deeper:

The whole theme of the Reformation was formed as one simple German monk reading his Bible got hit right between the eyes with a certain specific truth. He had spent his life up to that point trying to figure out how to please God, win Him over and earn his way into forgiveness and eternal life; when all of a sudden BAM!

- After years of trying to do enough good works (BAM) it was not Luther's good works. It was the good works of Jesus covering him that mattered.
- After years of trying to sufficiently confess his sins, and do penance for them (BAM) it was not Luther's confession, or repentance, or anything else. It was that Jesus carried all of his and our sins to the cross. And there on the cross Jesus offered Himself in our place, to take the full measure of the judgment we deserved. When Jesus was done there was nothing left over. There is that Greek word from the cross *tetelestai* "It is finished." (Also translated, "Paid in full.")
- There is an interesting double aspect to how we confess our sins. The first is that we do confess and we do take our sins seriously. The second is knowing that we are bringing sins that have already been forgiven. The forgiveness was earned almost 2000 years ago at the cross. Part of why we confess is because God calls us, saying, "You need to know forgiveness. You really! need to hear that you are forgiven." So, I come to church,

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Save the Date:

OCT 5:	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
OCT 6:	LWML Meeting	10:00 a.m.
OCT 10:	LWML Sunday	9:30 a.m.
OCT 16:	LWML Zone 7 Fall Rally	8:30 a.m.
OCT 28:	Church Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
OCT 31:	Reformation Sunday	<i>(both worship services)</i>

Looking Ahead:

NOV 14: Voters' Assembly Meeting 10:30 a.m.

Halloween and Reformation Day... (Continued from front page)

Sunday by Sunday so to speak, bringing all the garbage of my soul and all the garbage of my life. Jesus said, "Come to Me all who are weary and burdened ..." (how about a paraphrase of the rest of the verse) "cause I got all that! I came to carry your sins and burdens to the cross. And now go, be free from your sin and punishment (did I mention I got that?). Go and have actual rest for your soul!"

Psst! Watch for the Crossover!

After years of fearing the devil and trying to hold onto faith and the kingdom of God (BAM!) Luther did not have to get himself free because Jesus already did that! He de-fanged the devil and left him as a "powerless form." (v. 4 of "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness LSB # 467) Luther said later that the devil roams about as a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. When he saw Jesus on the cross, he saw a tender Lamb of God. So he leapt on Him to devour Him. But he had forgotten that Jesus is also the Rock of Ages; and when the devil bit down he broke all his teeth out! Jesus held the devil up to mockery (Colossians 2:15); he actually is a "powerless form." All he can do is try to fake us out, and go "Woooooooooooo! Aren't I scary?!" But we belong to Jesus! So we laugh at him. "Toothless lion! Who you gonna gum? Who you gonna gum? Neeneer, neener!"

And *that* is actually, historically, the intended theme of Halloween. It is a day for mockery and ridicule. Evil has been defeated. The devil is powerless against God's people ("He can harm us none, He's judged, the deed is done! One little word can fell him.") {That "one little word", Luther said, is "Liar! Devil, you lie!"}

Living in the Grace of God!

Christ is Risen; and the victory has been won! No matter what happens day to day, the victory is won. Jesus lives and we shall live, and that is forever.

Think about the disciples in the upper room realizing how much had changed! Surprise!

Think about the 2 walking the road to Emmaus talking with Jesus and asking Him: If He was the only one in all Jerusalem who didn't realize that He was dead? Surprise!

Think about the devil in the last few moments of the dying on the cross, exulting in his fantastic victory! Surprise! Devil, you lose!

And now think about our lives, how much Jesus has opened it up for us to live in. It is the life of Grace, and Easter, and knowing that there is eternal life. It is life lived in the shadow of the cross, with Jesus having taken and carried away all that has threatened and frightened us.

Years ago one of my aunts asked for some advice. A friend of hers was deeply into astrology and horoscopes; and wanted to know her birthdate and time so she could cast a personal horoscope and tell her how the signs and stars were guiding her life.

"What should I tell her?" she asked.

"Tell her that you live your life under a different sign. It's the sign of the cross and none of those other signs have any power in your life."

"That's pretty good. I'll do that," she said.

With Jesus:

It is true. When we are with Jesus, the forces of evil are powerless. We celebrate, running free with Jesus. As the song ("Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" – LSB 467) says, "Now hell, it's prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn; Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn. Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright; It is a pow'rless form, Howe'er it rave and storm."

The world and this life present us with a wide range of troubles and worries: evidence of evil all around in the world; the deep inward struggle with sin; mortality; fear and doubt; and so on. But then (BAM!), the new and everlasting reality hits. Jesus is risen, with promises that He will raise us and transform us to be glorious like Him and live forever. And suddenly one of the great confessions of faith is to celebrate and simply enjoy that we are living forever!

I do believe the disciples needed a period of adjustment to this new reality. Everything, absolutely *everything* had shifted under their feet and it took a while to get used to. Didn't Jesus take the 40 days after Easter to help them adjust? I can see them looking back over the time before, how many fears and worries filled their days,

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LWML Mission Grant #2 - Central Maine — \$95,000 “Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses.”

Maine is among the list of “least churchd” states in the nation. It has only three LCMS churches in the entire state and has only five Veteran Administration Chaplains. Deaconess Kim Slininger was called to Hope Lutheran Church to reach

Important Dates:

Our next LWML meeting:

Wednesday

October 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Servers: Norma Carlson
& Earlene Enervold

LWML Sunday:

Sunday

October 10th at 9:00 a.m.

LWML Members will actively be participating in all aspects of the Service.

LWML Fall Rally:

Saturday

October 16th

8:30 am – 11:30 am

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church

*(63 Fernwood Road
Montgomery, IL 60538)*



(Clockwise from left)

Equine Therapists and their handlers. From left to right: Emma, Program Manager Judy Cross-Strehlke, Coal, Fancy and volunteer Sue Osgood

Fancy, Coal and Emma are waiting for guests to arrive for the Veterans Day Open House. Temperature that day was in the 30s.

Deaconess Kim Slininger dressed for the weather. Even during the coldest of weather, the horses still need to be fed and cared for!



It's that time of year to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child!

If you fill a box, (or boxes,) please bring them to the church any time before - but no later than - Sunday, November 14. The boxes will be picked up the 14th and taken to the drop off site.

There are a few different ways to help with this Mission project:

- 1. Pack a box yourself.** Boxes are provided at the back of the church with a list of "DOs" and "DON'Ts" for packing. When you pack your box, please include a check for \$9.00 (for shipping) made out to *Operation Christmas Child*.
- 2. Pack your box online.** For \$25.00 (plus \$9.00 for shipping) you can go to the website and create a box to send. Simply visit their website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child> . Click on the BUILD A SHOEBOX green icon (image below) and start building!
- 3. Make a donation to Operation Christmas Child** If you include it with Your weekly offering at church, please mark it clearly.
- 4. Pray** ...that the little ones and their families come to know Jesus as their one and only Savior through this mission work.

Thank you for working on this special mission!

If you have any questions, contact Vicki Kahn or Deb in the office.



October Birthdays

- 2nd Ray Carlson
- 4th Jerry Laesch
- 8th Aubree Castleberry
- 10th Signey Carter
- 12th Tina Nighsonger
- 15th Dolores Wiegand
- 16th Barbara Pope
- 23rd Mark Stevens
- 25th Lori Stevens
- 31st Terry Carter

October Anniversaries

- 10/18
Chris & Stephanie Willig
13 years
- 10/28
Mark & Lori Stevens
5 years



It's also time to sign up for

Poinsettias!

- 8" plants will be \$22
- 6½" plants will be \$15.

(But hold on! . . . aren't we still in October?!)

YES! Due to possible shortages and delivery issues, we need to have our order in for Christmas poinsettias **no later than October 17th**.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table or you may call Deb in the office (815/941-1255) to place your order.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church
2021

Thank you for your continued support of our church during the pandemic

General Fund	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 17,193.67	\$ 9,174.76	\$ 14,442.67	\$ 8,977.67	\$ 12,826.26	\$ 97,307.62	\$ 93,560.00
Expenses	\$ 9,138.28	\$ 7,888.97	\$ 12,752.72	\$ 11,199.27	\$ 8,894.46	\$ 81,650.92	\$ 93,528.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 8,055.39	\$ 1,285.79	\$ 1,689.95	\$ (2,221.60)	\$ 3,931.80	\$ 15,656.70	

Halloween and Reformation Day... (Continued from page 2)

and laughing over so many of those things they had left behind. For the rest of their lives they lived in the moment of their first encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus – that moment when all of reality changed for them.

Words from a pretty cool professor:

Years ago, Prof. H. Armin Moellering (who one day in class lamented that seminarians had lost the ability to plan and carry out a truly great prank on “Senior Prank Day,” and told us about some that were done in his day) (I never did find out what the “H.” stood for) wrote an article, “Long Live Halloween!” (Lutheran Witness, October 1992):

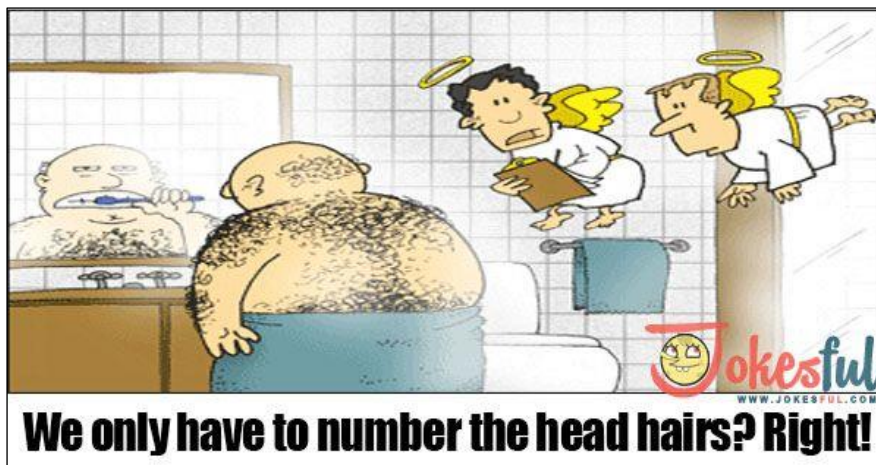
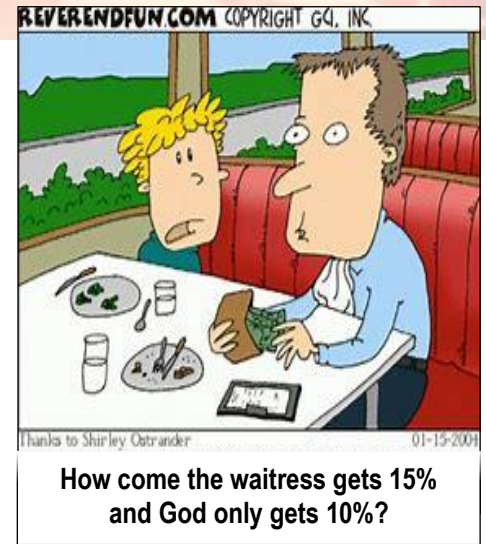
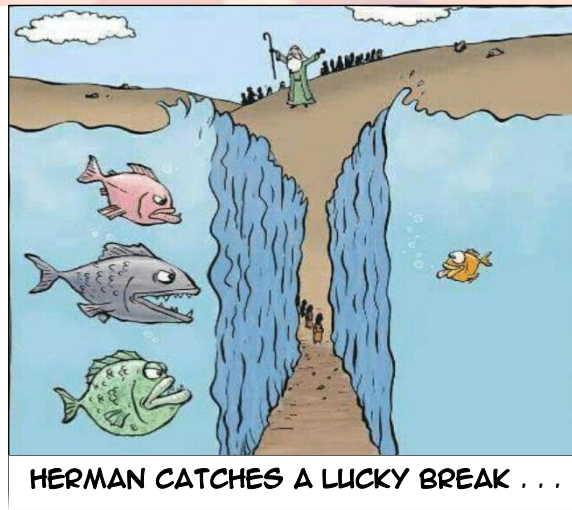
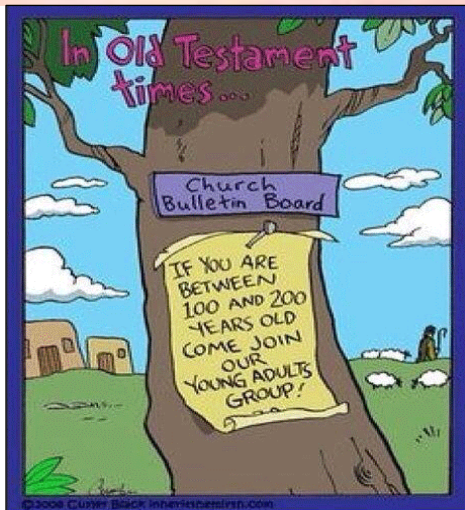
“...Is it permitted a Christian to intone only “Hallelujah!,” or can he also shout out a “Whoopee!” now and then? ... Is there not a Christian witness in the sheer exuberance of the *joie de vivre*?

Why not let it be known that the Christian is glad not to be inert moon dust, but dust of the earth into which God has breathed the breath of life? That animated, redeemed dust will, indeed, shout “Hallelujah!” (Perhaps even during Lent). But it will also shout “Whoopee!” And if one listens closely, he should hear echoings of the hallelujahs in the whoopees.”

Live boldly the exuberance of those who live in the grace of the eternal life of God!

God bless your Reformation and your Halloween.


Pastor Mark
1 Corinthians 2:2



Prayer Calendar

OCTOBER 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Faber, Alex Castleberry and their families. Pray for those who are fighting covid. Pray for the people that need help in Afghanistan. Pray for deaf ministry around the world. Pray for Missionaries around the world.	Dear Lord give me understanding and I will obey your law, I will put it into practice with all my heart.
Lord make church a priority weekly in our lives. Help us to remember to be a light for You daily so others can tell we are Christians by our actions and words.	Lord please bless our new and existing ministries we have in and outside the church.	We pray Lord that You would bless our friends and family in the military and keep them out of harms way.	Lord, Thank You for being our refuge and strength, and for being a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1	Lord, when we feel that we are at our lowest we know You are there to pick us up and bless us.	Lord, we feel at times that we are wandering in the wilderness. Be with us and help us to know You are with us as a congregation in every step we take.	Lord, Thank You for blessing us with friends and family who love, encourage, comfort, and rejoice with us. Luke 1:58
Lord, help us to prepare for church as we come together to worship You.	Lord, let all that I am wait quietly before You for my hope is in You oh Lord.	Lord give us a passion to be a light to unreached people. Rom. 9:1-3 10:1	Lord, we pray for parents who struggle to keep their children in Your Word. We ask You to be with our children and help them to come to faith in You.	Lord, please wrap Your arms around those who are hurting, let them feel Your love and be comforted in knowing You are in control.	God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your only Son so that we may have eternal life. John 3:16	Lord, open my eyes to those around me so that I might be a friend to someone who is feeling alone. Eph. 4: 32
Lord, grant us hope, even in the midst of our suffering. Lam. 3:25	Lord, as our farmers harvest keep them safe and bless them with good crops and good weather while they gather the gifts You have blessed them with.	Thank You Lord for blessing our congregation.	God, only You know the exact day Christ will come. Keep us alert and vigilant. Mark 13:24-37	God, reveal to me opportunities to tell others the story of the birth of You Son. Romans 10:14	Lord, thank You for being near and comforting me when I pray to You. Deut. 4:7	God, open our ears to hear Your words with a fresh perspective. 2 Tim. 3:16
God, we thank You for the opportunity to worship together in public.	Lord, be with teachers and students in school and keep them safe from Covid. Watch over them Lord.	We pray for Pastors and Christians living in Afghanistan. Help them to spread Your Word while the country is in turmoil. Keep them safe Lord.	Be with the leaders of our nation Lord. Give them wisdom when making decisions for our country. Bless them Lord.	Be with those from St. Paul Lutheran church in Beecher Illinois. Help them to be faithful as the church has burned. Please help them to be patient as they think about rebuilding.	Lord, lead us in the path You would have us go in.	Lord help us to live our lives in a manner worthy of Your love. Mark 13:24-37
Lord, as You know many of our family members need to come back to having faith in You. Be with them and bring them back to faith in You O Lord.						

October, 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
3 COMMUNION 19 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	4	5 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	6 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League	7	8	9 5:30 PM – Worship
10 20 th Sunday After Pentecost LWML Sunday 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	11	12 << District Pastors’ 9:00 AM Tuesday –	13 Conference >> 11:30 AM Wednesday	14	15	16 8:30-11:30 AM LWML Fall Zone Rally @ St. Luke’s, Montgomery COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
17 COMMUNION 21 st Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	18	19 9:00 AM – Bible Study	20	21	22	23 5:30 PM – Worship
24 22 nd Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	25	26 9:00 AM – Bible Study	27	28 7:00 PM – Church Council	29	30 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
31 Reformation Sunday COMMUNION 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	November Notes – Voters’ Assembly November 14 – 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving is Thursday November 25 Worship with Communion, Wednesday November 24, 7:00 PM					