

## The Gift of God

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:8-**

**10**

October 31, 1517 is an important day for Lutherans. History says that on that day, Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic priest walked across the town square and nailed 95 theses or disputes on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, the location of the University at which he taught. The disputes were written against the teachings of indulgences, purgatory, and other beliefs and practices of the church that were inconsistent with the clear teaching of God's Word. As a pastor of Wittenberg's City Church, Luther was concerned about the large number of believers who no longer came to confession and would justify this with the "indulgence" that they purchased. Indulgences, slips of paper sold by officials of the church and signed by the pope, granted God's forgiveness of sins and reduced time in purgatory for the purchaser. In short, the church was selling God's gift of forgiveness of sins that is free!

Luther's strong resistance to the practice of indulgences was seen as a threat by the leaders of the church and led many in the church to disagree with him. For his words and views, the church of the day, labeled Luther a heretic and excommunicated from the church (threw him out of the church). He went into hiding for his safety. At this point Luther took this reformation movement outside of the church in order to preserve the true teachings of Scripture. Luther's Reformation movement produced several "pillars" which the church held up for centuries and still does today.

These pillars are as follows:

**Grace alone**— the center of the Christian faith is the assurance that salvation is based on the free gift of God. Though we are sinners, disobedient children, deserving of God's wrath and anger; God gives us the riches of his love and forgiveness.

**Faith alone**—God's gift of grace is received through faith in His beloved Son, Jesus. When it comes to our relationship with God, our good deeds are powerless. We do good deeds because God, in love, has established a relationship with us. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) This teaching distinguishes Christianity from all other world religions. Whereas other religions point to what we have to do in order to be made right with God; only Christianity points to what Jesus has done for us to make us right with God.

**Scripture alone**— God's Word is the inspired and only source of what we believe, teach and confess in the Christian church.

**Christ alone**—This final pillar, although not clearly stated, is inherent in Luther's theology. Our salvation rests solely on the person of and work of Jesus Christ. This teaching makes Christianity both inclusive (anyone can believe) and exclusive (only those who trust in Jesus are saved). "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (3:16) Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

This month we will celebrate the 506th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. There are no celebrations planned that mirror what took place at the 500th. We, therefore, must never get to the time that we fail to recall what happened on October 31, 1517. I encourage all of us to take time to mediate and remember Reformation Day and the core teachings of Christianity preserved by God through Martin Luther. Be comforted by the fact that God continues this work through us. The church is always in a state of reform. **What never changes is the pillars that show us God's love and God's gift.**



**Blessed Reformation Pastor Bill**



Hello Pastor Bill and everyone at St. Pauls

First – Thank you for bringing Elvis back!! Bard Boice is a wonderful entertainment for the community. His gospel songs truly raise people up! More important, thank you so much for offering a good will collection for HOPE. Trauma is so tough to work through, thank you so much for making it a bit easier. Very sincerely, Linda – Hope Coalition

Dear St. Pauls Lutheran

Thank you very much for your donation of \$550 to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf. With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet the temporary hunger needs of families in our area. Sincerely Deb Drotos for the RWAFS

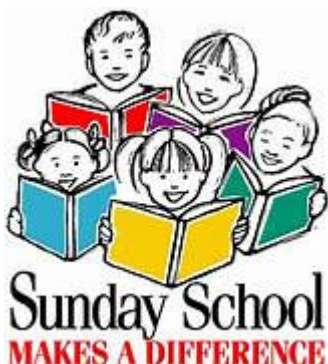
Thank you so much once again for all your help with the block party again. I'm still just beaming from ear to ear seeing all the families and students simply having a blast. Thank everybody at St Paul's for me! ~Dave

## Ruth Anna Circle Meeting October 12, 2023 1pm Gathering Area

Continuing our study of “**Belonging**” by **Karoline M. Lewis**, we will discuss “**Letting Go**”. Based on the gospel passage relating the woman at the well who meets Jesus during the day, the author ends with this prayer “Dear Jesus, help us to let go – of *all the things*. You know all the things because you see us. You know all the things because you know about us. You know everything we have done to try to be someone we are not. Those things that serve expectations and judgments. Those things that placate so as to please others, all the while forgetting that you seek us out wherever we are. Thank you, Jesus, for going out of your way to seek us. Amen”



All are welcome to join us. Contact LouAnne Gaalaas or Lois Hesford to obtain a copy this study.



## October

1<sup>st</sup>- God Promise Abram a son – Music

8<sup>th</sup> – God Sends Miriam to Protect Moses

15<sup>th</sup> - God Rescues the Israelites

22<sup>nd</sup> - God Gives Moses the 10  
Commandments

29<sup>th</sup> - God Sees Aaron make a Golden Calf



Join Us for a Family Knitting Night!

Learn how to knit using a loom. All ages/levels are welcome!

October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the church library.

Please register so we know how many looms are needed. At

<https://forms.gle/EG9FqDNH7Xqg2KK27> or



Join Us for Knitting or Crocheting

Wednesdays at 2pm in the Gathering Area. All skill levels welcome!



## The Lectionary

<b>October 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Ezek 19:1- 4.25-32</b>	<b>Psalm 25:1- 9</b>	<b>Phil 2:1-13</b>	<b>Matt 21:23- 32</b>
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------

<b>October 8th</b>	<b>Isa 5:1-7</b>	<b>Psalm 80:7-15</b>	<b>Phil 3:4b-14</b>	<b>Matt 21:33-46</b>
<b>October 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Isa 25:1-9</b>	<b>Psalm 23</b>	<b>Phil 4:1-9</b>	<b>Matt 22:1-14</b>
<b>October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Isa 45:1-7</b>	<b>Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]</b>	<b>1 Thess 1:1-10</b>	<b>Matt 22:15-22</b>
<b>October 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jer 31:31-34</b>	<b>Psalm 46</b>	<b>Rom. 3:19-28</b>	<b>John 8:31-36</b>

**We gave our noisy offering to this week to the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Thank you for your generosity. We Earned \$50.56 to help them continue their purpose.**



**Does anyone have a heavy picnic table and/or a lawn chair they would like to donate? We are looking for one to be used in our church garden area. Thank you! Call Al Risberg for details**



We need helpers!  
 If you are interested in baking cookies, serving cookies, greeting members, reading, or helping with communion, please contact the office to when you are able or fill out form in gathering area.  
**THANK YOU!**



We Will be going to Feed My Starving Children on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested, please sign up in the gathering area. Transportation will be forth coming.



## Foundation Update

The Foundation Board met on July 27, 2023 with two Request for Funds reviewed and approved.

~One request was from the Worship and Music for sponsoring “Elvis in the Park” on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Funds were distributed from the Music &

Choir Memorial fund.

~The second was for Project Neighbor (Cannon River Conference of the SEMN Synod).

The funds came from Endowment.

**Next meeting is October 26, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Please submit any Request for Funds by Tuesday, October 10, 2023.**

This is the final Foundation Board meeting of 2023.

Feel free to reach out to me or any of the other board members if questions.

Margie Thoma

---



If you are able please bring in a bag of candy. The Study team is going to help out with Trunk or Treat on October 28<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your generosity.



## Merry Martha Quilters

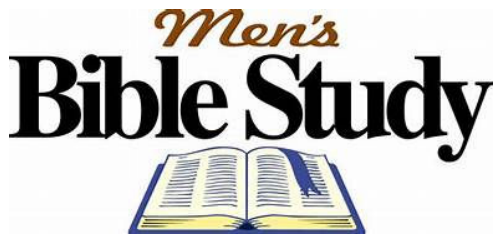
We wrapped up our “School Kits” project on September 17 when with the help of some of the youth from the youth group and some children from Sunday School we assembled about 60 kits which we will deliver to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul for distribution to children around the world. Thank you to everyone who

so generously donated supplies and to the Youth & Sunday Schoolers for their help in assembling the kits. We will be taking a load of quilts to the warehouse at the same time to clear some room in our storage area.



We have tentatively set November 11 & 12 as the dates for our Fall Craft Sale so mark your calendars. We invite anyone in the congregation who likes doing any type of crafts to join our group as we work on our projects (we’ll be at church every Tuesday morning from 9 to 11:30) or bring items they have produced elsewhere and would like to donate to be sold. The proceeds from our sales are not only used to buy quilting supplies but also help fund other church or community projects.

Any questions can be directed to Maggie Sprick (715)594-3944, Elaine Scharpen (651)380-1503 or any of the quilters.



Join Us Tuesdays at 7:00am in fellowship hall Hot Breakfast is served with a free will offering followed by Bible Study that focuses on upcoming lessons



Grief share is a Christian based support group. These meeting are on Mondays from 6:30pm-8:00pm at First Covenant church in Red Wing.