



**500th Anniversary of  
the Reformation  
October 31, 2017**



## Grace Notes

### Of Soccer Balls and Saints

A number of years ago, our family experienced a time of great change. It began in early October, 1999, with Cindy heading back to paid employment one day a week. For various reasons this one day schedule fluctuated to as many as 4 and 5 days a week and instantly I was Mr. Mom (I tip my hat to all you women who raise kids!!!). Juggle schedules became the sport of choice in our home as the girls began their careers in Basketball, T-Ball, Swimming and now Soccer. We had officially joined the “passing like ships in the night” crowd.

The most interesting change took place with the last of these sports. Kjarista and Kari were now part of AYSO. After the beginning of the season we learned that each team had to provide 2 people who would be trained as referees before the team could get their uniforms. Two weeks before the start of the season **THE** call came, “I’m desperate!!! Will you volunteer to be a ref?” All I could think about was how desperate the couch must be if he was calling me. I know “American Football,” not this world sport known as “Futball.” Well, I did know a little: Ricky Martin had sung the theme song, *La Copa de Vida*, for World Cup in ‘98 and the American Women had just won World Cup and made the cover of every magazine, but I didn’t know anything else!

So there I was, sitting at a cold picnic table with 30 other people as we went through a crash certification course over two nights in order to ref a bunch of bumblebees (the politically correct way of talking about the younger groups who are just beginning to play the sport). We talked lines, and flags, and whistles and yellow cards and red cards, and shin guards and, and, and...

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Of Soccer Balls and Saints*

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#### Special points of interest

- How can we guide them in that direction? Since children learn by example, we need to demonstrate how God is a part of the decision making process. the quiet that can come with “place” has been disturbed
- “This is the sum of the matter: let everything be done so that the Word may have free course.”

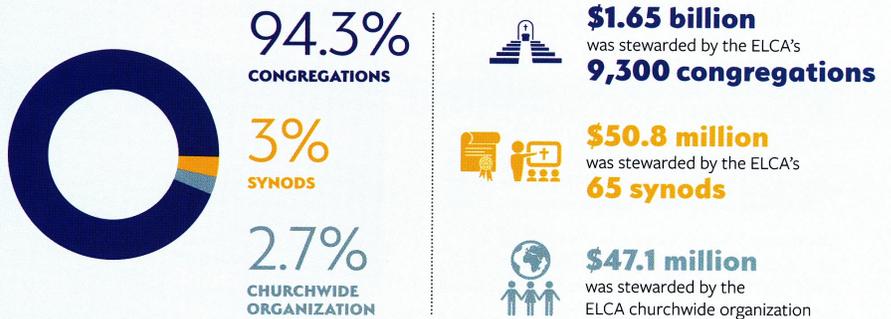


## Working Together

### In 2015, ELCA members gave \$1.75 billion

in unrestricted offerings\* to support God's mission and ministry through the three expressions of the ELCA.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



\*Unrestricted offerings do not include special offerings (e.g., congregational capital improvements or gifts to ministries like Lutheran Disaster Response).

### Making Choices

We all hope that our children will make wise decisions throughout their lives. How can we guide them in that direction? Since children learn by example, we need to demonstrate how God is a part of the decision making process. Include children in appropriate family decisions. Begin the decision making process with a prayer asking for God's guidance.

In the upper elementary grades, your child will learn that choices that are pleasing to God are not always the choices of his or her peers. Your child will need encouragement and support to help him or her stay with the right choice in spite of what "everyone else" might be doing. Make family Bible story reading and devotions part of your household routine. Tell your child about times when your faith made it possible for you to stand firm on a decision that was unpopular with your friends. Don't be afraid to share your mistakes as well. As your child's faith matures, so will the ability to discern which choices are compatible with his or her faith.

## Local Outreach

A total of 29 personal care kits and 44 school kits were assembled during August. Good Job everyone! Let's keep the good work going. Don't forget that the focus for September is the Domestic Violence Shelter (**Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, 13 gal. garbage bags, Paper products, Bleach, Children's socks and underwear, Women's socks and underwear, Bra's, Sweats—all sizes, Baby diapers—all sizes, Phone and Gas cards, Frozen meats, Lunch meats, Frozen dinners, Juices**) and in October it will be hats, gloves and more school supplies!



## Be a friend of the Triennial Gathering



Join the conversation as we explore the triennial gathering theme "All Anew." Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship and praise; learn by attending workshops, viewing films and engaging in servant events. Visit the exhibit hall where you can gather, shop and connect. And don't forget our special events where women in their 20s and 30s can eat chocolate and join others to run it off later. And where's it all happening? In Minneapolis, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

While this is an official event of Women of the ELCA, all women in the church are invited to attend. One need not be a participant in Women of the ELCA. In fact, we invite all our ecumenical partners to attend as well, so share this invitation.

Mark your calendars for the Tenth Triennial Gathering, **July 13-16, 2017**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

We are real women talking about our faith. About our doubts and challenges. About joy and what inspires us. We'll experience simple conversations between friends—old and new—that will develop into a movement sweeping the church, inspired and infused with the Holy Spirit.

### Oregon SWO Convention

Women of the ELCA

Bend, Oregon

October 7-8, 2016



Please see the reader board for information about registration and theme.

## Church Happenings

### *Tapping Into Faith*

Scheduled for the last Friday of the month, that would be October 27th we gather at the Hermiston Tavern @ 7pm to engage in a lively discussion and friendship. Topics run the gamut from what is currently in the news to the 2nd Amendment to the meaning of fulfilled. Join us. Bring your friends. Join the patrons of the Hermiston Tavern as we tap into faith.

### *Novel Ideas Book Club*

*Sentence of Marriage* by Shayne Parkinson will be the book of discussion to be led by Michelle Niems Hedgepeth.

In nineteenth century New Zealand, there are few choices for a farm girl like Amy. Her life seems mapped out for her by the time she is twelve. Amy dreams of an exciting life in the world beyond her narrow boundaries. But it is the two people who come to the farm from outside the valley who change her life forever, and Amy learns the high cost of making the wrong choice.

Join us Tuesday evening, October 25th @ 5:30 ish for Novel Ideas.

### *Local Action*

A wonderful opportunity exists for each month as we lift up a need in our community. Through our prayers and gifts we are able to touch the lives of another in unspeakable ways. Please consider you part in this needed ministry. For the month of October we will focus on some of the needs for local school children. Winter is coming so consider a gift of hats or gloves as well as the ever needed school supplies.

### *Ministry Review*

October 14-16 we will host a group of folk from the Synod that will guide us through our 2 year ministry review. This is a time to look backwards and forwards; to remember what we said we wanted to do and to explore ways to fulfill or reshape the ministry we are called to. Consider signing up for a time of conversation, about 30-45 minutes in length, as we consider our next chapter together in ministry.

# We've Been Busy!!!

## Leadership Team Update

Minutes from August 9, 2016:  
Approved

Treasurer Report: Cindy submitted and accepted as printed. We received \$100 donation for the funeral which will be put in hospitality budget. Michelle will buy more moving boxes.

Ministry Review: Phone conference with Pastor Michael Keyes.

Leadership Team completed LEAD Survey.

Sunday School: Dot

Rally Day Sept 18, Bibles for children will be presented.

No Sunday School Thanksgiving weekend.

December 18 will be Christmas Program

Worship committee: Rosaline

Worship averages for August:  
Sunday 28, Vesper at prison 22,  
Foot Care Clinic 3

Steve Anderson will lead chime choir practice.

Benevolence: Sept - Domestic Violence Shelter, Oct - Local school students: hats, gloves, socks, school supplies

Prison Ministry: MOTION:  
Michelle moved, Cindy 2nd to increase Pearls of Prayer to 50 copies so we can share with the prisoners. So moved.

Reformation Sunday at Two Rivers: October 16 3:30 PM  
Octoberfest with dinner and worship

Refocusing Grace and Mercy:  
Jerry  
Congregational workshop on October 30th to narrow our focus. Jerry would like a couple of other people to help plan and facilitate this project.

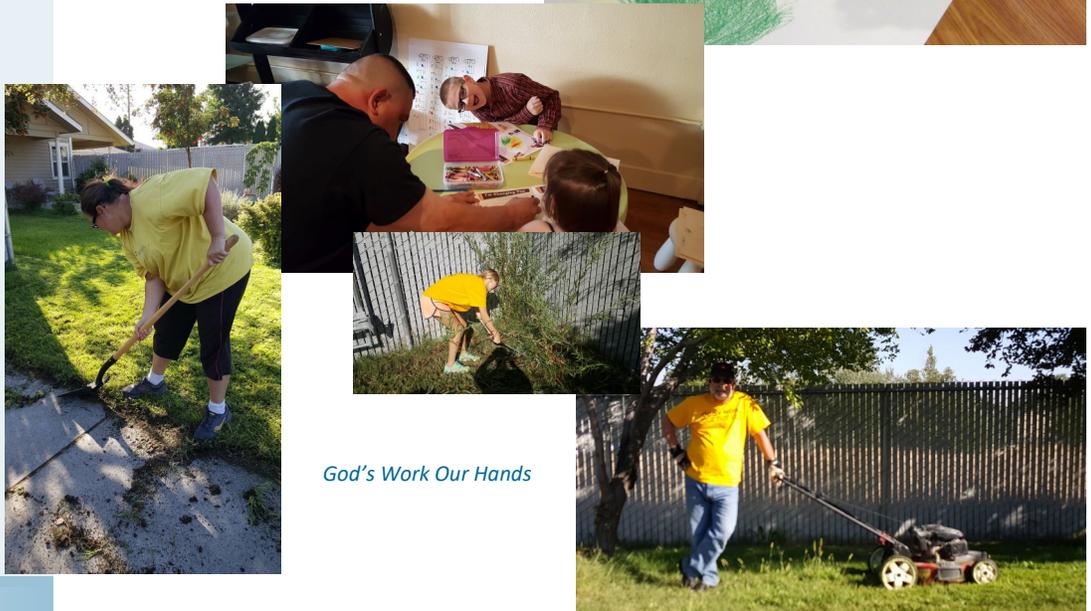
Transformational Ministry Workshop: October 1st at Peace Lutheran in Pendleton  
9:30 AM - 1 PM



*Calla Marie Baptism*



*New Bibles and Artistic Church*



*God's Work Our Hands*

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Dwelling In The Word*

collector they show themselves to be the lost. That's my take. Whenever we do the "us and them" thing I believe we stand judged. Jesus may well be defending himself against charges that he consorts with the wrong people, but ... "These, too, are of great value to God!" However, such a claim doesn't really change perceptions, does it? "Alright, hang with the little people if you want. I guess somebody needs to." If that's the point I'd say Jesus' teaching here is pretty weak!

Whoever "the other" is for us they are not lesser beings! I believe the framing of "good church folk" and "the lost" is really, really, not helpful. The "other" has God living and breathing through their being as much as I do. There is so much to learn from them, so many ways we might be blessed by them, so much that neither they nor we can do alone, but only together.

This is why we search for the lost. The lost are an essential part of the flock. They are the coin that rounds out the collection. It is the whole that Jesus seeks, and without you, or me, or the immigrant, or the homeless and hungry - without us all, Shalom will never be complete and we will all be less than God intends.

If this is true . . . if this is the text for the week . . . then what does it mean for us?

Bp. Dave



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## **500 Years of Evangelical Reformation 1517-2017**

When Martin Luther posted his "Ninety-five Theses" on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, no one expected the breadth of evangelical reforms in Christian teaching and practice that followed. In every dimension of Christian faith a renewed trust in God's forgiving mercy replaced a reliance on teachings and practices that, like the sale of indulgences, were vulnerable to abuse and corruption.

Preaching a few years later, Luther said, "I opposed indulgences ... but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. I did nothing; the Word did everything." When he began to propose reforms in worship, he wrote similar words. "This is the sum of the matter: let everything be done so that the Word may have free course."

Nearly 500 years later, the results of this evangelical confidence in God's forgiving and liberating Word are evident today in Christian communities of all types. In the years leading to 2017 ELCA members, congregations and synods will observe the anniversary of this evangelical reformation in a variety of ways with numerous partners.

**Freed**  
& RENEWED  
**in Christ**  
500 YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

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Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

## Dwelling in the Word

17th Sunday after Pentecost -  
September 6, 2016

"This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:2.

Our Gospel Lesson for this Sunday is about the lost sheep and the lost coin. Most preachers have waded through these waters several times. I've preached sermons on my personal "lost and found" story. We might talk about going out to find the lost, sort of an evangelism sermon. And, of course, we always want to talk about how Jesus loves us (me) so much that he leaves all in love and concern for me. But why does Jesus actually tell these parables? Jesus tells these parables not because the sinners and tax collectors are uniquely lost, but because as the religious folks shun the sinner and the tax



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Dwelling In The Word*

*(Continued from page 1)  
Of Soccer Balls and Saints*

They are really desperate if I am going to ref a game! My attention picked up a little when the discussion turned to the uniform of the referees. We were the men/women in black. What a cool color! We get to run around in these cute little knickers: black shorts, shoes, shirts and socks with three, count them, 3 white stripes!!! When asked why the specificity of color and stripes, the answer was, "So people can identify you."

Identity is very important to us. We often joke, but we don't, when we get mixed up with another person, or more-so when our names are not remembered at all. I am still amazed when I return to my father's home town in Maine, I am not called by my first name, even though my brothers are. At first this was of concern to me until I realized that to many of the folk, though my name is known, to them my identity is wrapped up in the name they use. I am "Morris' boy." In this simple way I am identified as the son of one of the community, who can be traced back through Morris, and through his father Clarence. I am known in relation to my father, my grandfather, my aunts and uncles, and family that I have never met and only know by photo and name. My identity is not mine alone, but known in my relation to others. It is through my identity/relationship with my family that I am related and identified with this community. These folk have helped me to see that my identity is larger than just me. At the end of this month we will celebrate a day of identity. Though intended to be a day to be celebrated by the whole of the church, this particular day has become one that is near and dear to the hearts of Lutherans. It is Reformation Day, this year on Sunday, October 30. We celebrate this day not only for the work of Luther and his desire to see the Church return to her gospel roots, we also celebrate this day as one that defines us, identifies us as a group uniquely linked to the Reformation and one who was central to it. From this man and movement we take, at least in part, our identity. Like the ref who wears black and a certain type of sock, like the eldest son and his lineage, there are unique characteristics that identify us as "Lutheran" Christians. We are inheritors of the cry of the Reformation, "Grace alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone;" we continue the struggle to call the Church back to her gospel roots, and in this way remain a movement within the Church catholic. Our identity is bound up with that of the Church, in all its flavors and shades. We come together under one Name, confess but one Name, experience one baptism, participate in one meal. It is this that identifies us as unique, as Christian.

I begin my referee career secure in the knowledge of who I am as identified by my black shirt and shorts, don't forget the black socks with three white stripes. We continue our common life secure in our identity as children of the same Father, under the name of Christ.



### Serving God's People

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Reader</i>   | <i>Refreshments</i> | <i>Acolyte</i>       |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Oct 2       | Dot Hensley     | Hensleys            | Micha and Chloé      |
| Oct 9       | Mystery Reader  | Flora Larson        | Mickenzie and Karlee |
| Oct 16      | Janet Boyd      | Lee, Boyd, Wendling | Joseph and Lucas     |
| Oct 23      | Dawn Largé      | Hertenstein, Largé  |                      |
| Oct 30      | Kevin Hedgepeth | Kevin & Michele     |                      |

### Celebrations

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Celebration</i> | <i>Celebrant</i>         |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Oct 2       | Birthday           | George Luciani           |
| Oct 5       | Birthday           | Dennise Larson           |
| Oct 10      | Birthday           | Caleb Knutzen            |
| Oct 14      | Birthday           | Chloé Madore             |
| Oct 19      | Birthday           | Ivan Ford                |
| Oct 20      | Anniversary        | Rochelle & George Meyers |
| Oct 20      | Birthday           | Matt Largé               |
| Oct 27      | Birthday           | Michael Armstrong        |
| Oct 31      | Baptism            | Chloé Madore             |

LWR Health Kits are readied for shipping. Thanks to everyone who helped support this vital ministry.