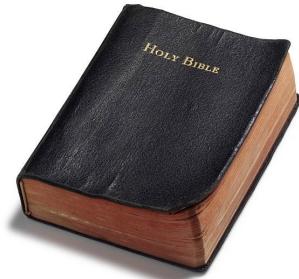




Christ the King Lutheran Church continues to host a **Sunday morning radio program** where Pastor Larson delivers a sermon. This is a wonderful outreach overseen by the Evangelism Committee. The Evangelism Committee would like to ask you to prayerfully consider helping fund this outreach program. It's \$75.00 a week to have the program broadcasted. If you would like to sponsor a week or month, or maybe give a few dollars to go towards the fees, please put your donation labeled Evangelism Fund in the offering plate or mail it to Christ the King Lutheran church. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support!

BETHEL BIBLE SERIES IS BACK THIS FALL! This 50-year-old Bible series is designed for lay adults, is taught by lay teachers, and provides, in only forty class hours spread over a two-year period (we break over Advent, Lent & Summer), a comprehensive overview of the Bible and its concepts. Using a lecture format with lots of opportunity for discussion, lessons are strictly held to ONE hour ... an alarmed timer is used to ensure that we don't go over the one-hour time limit, because we know your time is valuable and consistency is important.

We encourage you to tell others of your experience if you were a former student and, of course, repeat students are welcomed. Given the personal commitment of time and energy that teaching this series requires, we are hoping to get at least 20 students to enroll. **The deadline for signing up is Sunday, October 3rd.** Please contact Greg or Naomi Easton at neaston4@mchsi.com or 507-835-4748 for further questions or information. **Come and learn the eternal truths and the amazing unity of God's Word!**



Year-Round Stewardship: Electronic Giving is a Convenient, Consistent Way to Help Our Church Year Round. Are you tired of writing checks, or maybe forgetting to bring your offering envelope with to church? Or maybe you were one of many who had to mail or physically deliver your General Fund Offering to the Church during the Pandemic? We have a simple solution to make this easier for you — it's "electronics giving". Our "**Simply Giving**" electronic giving program offers convenience and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you're traveling, ill, a Pandemic or other circumstance prevents you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. What this means is 1) Greater financial stability for the church. 2) Reduced administrative cost. 3) Reduced mistakes due to illegible checks. Your "Simply Giving" donations can be set up on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis, and having the consistent giving is vital to sustaining our General Fund revenues during yearly challenges! You maybe already know how easy it is to have other bills done electronically — why not support your church in the same convenient and consistent way. Get started today.



THANK YOU TO ALL who so generously contributed to **school supplies for Hartley Elementary School** and other Waseca area schools. The total tally is: 17 boxes of tissues, 21 notebooks, 20 packages of colored markers, 46 boxes of crayons, 30 packages of colored pencils, 12 packages of scissors, 17 packages of pencils, 14 hand sanitizers, 44 packages of glue sticks (with a package containing anywhere from 2 to 12 glue sticks), 12 bottles of Elmer's glue, 26 packages of erasers, 3 pencil boxes, and 4 miscellaneous packages of paper (sketch pads and colored paper). Additionally, we received \$428.00 in monetary donations. Principal Ben O'Brien could only say, "Thank you. This is AWE-SOME!!!!" Your generosity is overwhelming and can probably only be matched by the joy you have given countless children and their teachers. Blessings to you all!

The **Rite of Confirmation** will be on Sunday, October 31st, Reformation Sunday. The Confirmation Service will be held at the 10:45 Contemporary Worship Service.



The New Vanco App is now available to download on your phone or other electronic device.

This is a great way to manage your Simply Giving. You can set up a new Simply Giving account if you don't have one, change your giving current amount, or set up an additional donation. You can also contribute to one of our designated funds or the general fund.

Simply download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App from your app store. Look for the above logo.

Search for Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waseca. Click on it. At this screen you can set up or log into your account. If you use Simply Giving already, you will still need to set up an account through the app. Choose how much you would like to donate, the frequency, and to which fund. If you need help navigating the app, please see Kristy.



Exciting News!

Christ the King has been invited to join St. Paul and St. John Lutheran churches in their presentation of a drive-through Live Nativity in December. We are in the initial planning stages so will only give only one detail now: we need your **empty, clean one-GALLON milk jugs**, which will be used as luminaries along the sidewalk to guide viewers between each of the church's live presentations. There will be a box in our Gathering area for collecting these jugs and we'll keep you posted on the number of jugs accumulated. A goal of 100 jugs is set – this is just the beginning of something big and fun, and a way to meet new folks as we work with the other churches to share the Christmas spirit with others in our community. Let's start collecting NOW!!!!

Sign up now!!!! Your opportunity to join a committee (if you haven't already done so) is here! Please look at the sign-up sheets in the Gathering area and determine where your interest and abilities would best serve your Lord and church. It's also a great way to get to know your church family better. There are a variety of ways you can serve (and you don't have to limit it to just one) If you're already on a committee or in a group, **please sign up anyway.** We have an exciting year ahead and would like each of you to be a part of that excitement and joy. Sign-up sheets will be out through October 31. Remember, **we are all blest to be a blessing.** . . .



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas child will once again be part of our Christmas joy. As we have done in past years, the boxes will be put out for you to take and fill. A brochure of suggestions will accompany these boxes. When you've completed filling the box, please bring it to our church by **November 15**. One hundred of these Christmas "shoe boxes" have arrived, and are just waiting to be filled and distributed to kids who may otherwise receive **NOTHING** for Christmas. It is fun to shop for these gifts and your doing so will just add to the joy of celebrating the gift of the Christ child. Thank you for being part of this uplifting evangelistic project!



Our Sunday School students need you to help with the Christmas program. The children have already started to sing some of the songs but we need you to be a part of their growth in Christ at Christmas time. This is a short commitment to help to pick out the program and lead the program for practice and during their Christmas program. We tentatively set the program for Sun., Dec. 12. The practices would be on Sun., Nov. 28 and Sun., Dec. 5. These dates can be changed if necessary. Please contact Connie Larson, Megan Johnson or Pastor Cary to express interest.



The King's Letter

October, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Recently I got an email from a Lutheran pastor, a classmate from seminary, expressing his frustrations. The congregation he serves in northern Minnesota observes the same tradition as ours, that is, observing the Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday. This year, Reformation Sunday falls on October 31st. What frustrated my friend was that he got an email from a mother expressing her deep concern that they were confirming students on Halloween.

October 31st (1517) is the day that Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church and initiated what would be known as the Reformation. This significant event that kicked off 504 years ago still matters in spite of the fact that most Christians, including Lutherans, know the 31st of October as the Halloween and not the most significant event in the church perhaps since Pentecost. I would like to draw your attention to three facts that the Reformation still matters here in 2021.

1. THE REFORMATION STILL MATTERS TODAY BECAUSE SCRIPTURE ALONE IS STILL OUR SUPREME AUTHORITY FOR FAITH AND PRACTICE.

In the time of Martin Luther, Scripture, church tradition, and the authority of the church were treated as more or less equal authorities. In fact, when it came to certain medieval doctrines and practices, tradition was often functionally *more* authoritative than holy Scripture. Luther and those who championed the Reformation agreed that the Scripture alone is our ultimate authority in the Christian life, standing in judgment over all traditions, practices, priorities, and opinions.

In the constitution of this congregation, we are committed to the same confession that was distilled from the Reformation. Our constitution says that we as Christian believers "accept without exception all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole, and in all their parts, as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and submit to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life."

The Reformation will still matter as long as the Bible isn't recognized by all Christians as our final authority for faithfulness and flourishing—for individuals, families, churches, and denominations.

2. THE REFORMATION STILL MATTERS TODAY BECAUSE THE GOSPEL ALONE IS STILL THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE SALVATION OF SINNERS.

During the time of Martin Luther, the Roman Catholic Church came to embrace the idea that justification is a gradual process that is tied to ongoing faithful participation in a variety of sacraments. Being made right before God was assumed to be based upon a combination of faith AND works. During the Reformation, Luther and others argued this position confused the relationship between justification and sanctification, constituting a threat to the Gospel itself. This serious error was rooted in the previously mentioned position of the Roman Catholic Church's commitment to elevate tradition or church authority over Scripture. The reformers countered that the Scriptures teach that justification is by grace alone (*sola gratia*), through faith alone (*sola fide*), in Christ alone (*sola Christus*). The Reformation still matters as long as the Gospel is threatened by errors that distort, confuse, downplay, and sometimes even reject the good news that "our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

3. THE REFORMATION STILL MATTERS TODAY BECAUSE THE CHURCH STILL NEEDS TO BE REFORMED.

One of the principles that came out of the Reformation is that the Church is always in need of reforming (*semper reformatio*). That is not to say that churches should keep reforming for the sake of further change, as if change itself is virtuous. Rather, it means a church that is committed to the transforming power of the Gospel and grounded in the supreme authority of Scripture will always be scrutinizing its practices through these truths.

No church is perfectly conformed to the Scripture, and no church's Gospel message is wholly unthreatened by heresy, neglect, or spiritual drift. Churches are communities of sinners who have been redeemed and are saints of God, but they remain sinners. Because of this reality, a stalwart commitment to examining every doctrine, practice, and priority under the microscope of Scripture and alongside the measuring stick of the Gospel is a necessity. The Reformation will still matter as long as churches remain in need of further reform. And that need will remain until that day when "the great church victorious shall be the church at rest" with the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Blessed Reformation Day to you all!

In the name of Jesus,

Pastor Cary