



Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”

October 2021

“...the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31) Every once in a while, on a Reformation Sunday, we ought to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to be Lutheran?” Not so that we lift Lutheranism higher than other faith traditions but to be clear about our beliefs, where we stand, and what we are to preach, teach, and confess. Some days we are not clear about who we are as Lutherans. Sometimes we think of Lutheranism in cultural, ethnic, or “we’re not Roman Catholic” terms, instead of Biblical and theological terms.

Being Lutheran means believing, proclaiming, and living out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are righteous because we are saved by faith and not by living according to a set of rules. We are not saved by something that we do nor by something we think we can earn. Rather it is a free gift given to us without any restrictions or price. This salvation is given in freedom for freedom is from Jesus Christ.

God wants us to live our lives, not in bondage to striving, not enslaved by our need to succeed at all costs, not driven by money, or our desire for acceptance, recognition, and fame, but rather as having salvation as a free gift. That way we might finally be free to live lives of joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. We are free to live without self-centeredness or self-gratification and be free to live lives of love and service to others, not to earn God’s love or earthly rewards, but simply to receive the joy and satisfaction that comes from a relationship with Jesus. To live in the freedom that comes from living, not by faith in ourselves, but by faith in Jesus! With this faith, we live, not by confidence in our own power, abilities, or personal strength, but by faith in the Christ who lives in us! We can live trusting the power, love, and forgiveness of Jesus, and that one day he will bring us to eternal life! What it means to be Lutheran is that we constantly proclaim and live out this good news.

Like Martin Luther, let us resolve to stand here, on God’s Word. Not on a church growth program, or a mission or vision statement, political correctness, or cultural pressure. Let us stand on salvation by grace through faith. Let us build the Church, our ministry, and our lives, on this good news. Amen.

Pr.

“Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evening, now for October eves!” - Humbert Wolfe

Ah – it’s finally Fall! I know, it officially started in September, but I don’t feel like it’s really Fall until the pumpkins and scarecrows show up in stores and I get my little things out to decorate. Sadly, Christmas stuff is already out as well. Why? I want to savor this season and not rush through. I want to enjoy the wonderful weather, the gorgeous leaf colors, the lucky chance to see a flock of migrating geese. I want to savor the flavors of the season, (you can keep the pumpkin spice...) and make stews, eat muscadines, candy apples, and pomegranates. I want to go to Fall Festivals and markets. Just slow down and take it all in. The frantic rush of “The Holidays” will be here soon enough. As it says in Ecclesiastes: “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Let’s take time to appreciate this season that God has set aside for its particular beauty and purpose.

Peace be with you, Gabi

Treasurer's Report: Thank you to those who are keeping up with their tithes. We've still been holding our own overall. Blessing to you, Judy

Fellowship: The German Food truck will be here on the 10th. That will be a fun time of fellowship for us and hopefully some folks who come to visit! Let's think about a potluck maybe on Reformation Sunday – October 31st. All ideas are welcome for events!

Property: We are in the process of getting the leaking roof repaired. Our October clean-up day will be Saturday, the 30th, 9:00 a.m.

Education: We have completed our Wednesday Bible Study, Being Lutheran, via ZOOM. Another Bible study will be scheduled after the holidays.

Portals of Prayer for October – December are on the table at the back of the church.

Worship and Music: September 19 was National Back to Church Sunday. We didn't have many take advantage of that special day, but every Sunday is a special day with its opportunity to hear God's word and partake of His sacraments. We are so lucky that we live in a country where we are free to worship at the church of our choice, hear the message of forgiveness from the Gospel and receive that forgiveness when we walk to the front of the church for communion. We are open for business, so we hope to see more of you on Sunday mornings and hope you will also bring a friend.

Hopefully, you will all enjoy reading from the Book of Concord in our Monday devotions. It is a special book for Lutherans, and most of us have never read it. It's a big book, so you will get it each Monday for quite a while.

And talking about special days...Don't forget...Reformation Sunday is October 31.

The October-December Portals of Prayer have arrived and are located on the table at the back of the church. Please feel free to take one. It contains a day-by-day devotion and makes a great way to begin each day...take one for a friend as well.

Mission and Ministry: Our Thrivent shopping for The Hope Center is almost completed. (Finally!) All ideas for other projects are welcome! Please keep an ear out for where there may be other needs in our community.



October 16th – Ingrid Hanson

October 23rd – Pat Hunsaker

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday – October 10th – German Deli Food Truck – Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday – October 16th – Community document shredding (FREE) from 8:30 – 11:30 – Columbus Technical College

Sunday – October 17th – Council

Saturday – October 30th – Clean-up day beginning around 9:00 a.m.

Sunday – October 31st – Reformation Sunday (Maybe a Potluck after service?)

	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31
Altar Guild	Junior	Judy	Junior	Judy	Junior
Usher	Judy	Junior	Judy	Junior	Judy
Lector	Lynne	Tammy	Karen	Lynne	Junior
Sermon	Gabi	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor
Thrive	Gabi	Gabi	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor
Oaks		Pastor		Chuck	

WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH “Father Heyer: On the Move for the Lord”

There are those Christians who simply cannot see a need somewhere, without trying to do something about it. When their people on the margins who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed to them, these Christians jump in without any thought of themselves-they just know that there is a need and someone who needs the proclamation of God's love. An outstanding example of such a Christian was Pastor John Christian Frederick Heyer (1793-187~), commonly known as Father Heyer. He was always on the move, bringing God's Word to those in need, literally around the world.

Heyer migrated from Germany to the United States at the age of fourteen, in 1807. Inspired by Pastor J. H. C. Helmuth, Heyer began his theological studies with him, later returning to Europe to continue his work at the University of Goettingen. Returning to America in 1816, he was immediately assigned to several congregations and was ordained in 1819. For the next decade Heyer served several congregations in western Pennsylvania and by all accounts was a very effective pastor, even learning enough English to become proficient preacher in that new language – quite an accomplishment. Yet Heyer knew that there were Lutherans all over the nation who had neither congregations nor pastors, and that was not acceptable to him.

At this time, early in the nineteenth century, there was an immense shortage of Lutheran pastors in America, made worse by the fact that Americans of all varieties were headed out to new lands of the West, where there were no towns and no churches. On the frontier scattered knots of Lutherans gathered for devotions as best they could, but it

might be months or years between visits from Lutheran pastors. Many joined the local Methodist or Baptist congregations instead. During his early pastoral career Heyer had attempted to meet these needs locally, but he knew that something more was required. Although by all accounts he was a highly successful parish pastor and could have had his choice of comfortable and established Lutheran congregations, he was drawn to the frontier and to the needs of the people there. From 1830 to 1837 Heyer was commissioned as a wandering Lutheran home missionary, forgoing the comforts of home for the rigors of the frontier. He traveled thousands of miles through wilderness and prairies, meeting constantly with groups of Lutherans and founding dozens of congregations in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. In a typical report to Lutherans "back East" he wrote, "In April I have traveled 600 miles, preached fourteen or fifteen times, baptized thirteen, and administered the Lord's Supper to more than a hundred communicants." After years of service, Heyer returned to Pittsburgh, where he founded three Lutheran congregations in a three-year period. No one would have blamed him if he had then settled in for a comfortable parish-he had earned it. But not so Father Heyer.

Even though they had a difficult time simply meeting the religious needs in their own country, American Lutherans were also aware of the need for missionaries around the world; among them was Father Heyer. In 1840 an American Lutheran organization was looking Father Heyer to send a missionary to India; they chose Heyer, who accepted the call. After studying medicine and Sanskrit, he headed to India, working on the eastern side of the country at Guntur and later Rajahmundry where German Lutheran missionaries had started work. He worked there from 1842 to 1857, and despite a of support he developed a thriving mission church.

In 1857 he was Sixty-four years old and could have eased into retirement, but that was not his way. Another frontier beckoned. This time it was the upper Mississippi valley, where he spent another decade traveling to distant settlements, ministering to scattered people, and forming new congregations, especially in Minnesota. In a number of different trips to the region, he gathered together dozens of congregations and helped form the Minnesota Synod. In 1868, at age seventy-five, Heyer attempted again to retire. However, acute problems at Rajahmundry, India, had developed, so he went in 1870 and was able to revitalize the mission there. Returning to the United States, he spent his last years as a chaplain at the Lutheran seminary in Philadelphia. His mission work finally ended upon his death, November 7, 1873, at age eighty.

Had Heyer accomplished just one of these jobs-pastor, home missionary, or foreign missionary-he would have been well remembered. But it was his constant attention to the religious needs of those without the consolation of the gospel that made him truly remarkable. He gave his life and his whole energy to doing God's work in this world.

“THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE”