



# MARK TIMES

October 29, 2017 + Reformation Sunday



***Celebrating 40 Years in God's Grace + Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future***

From your Pastor...

*It's finally here!* **Reformation Sunday 2017:** 500 years (minus a couple of days) since Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, the action which precipitated the Protestant Reformation.



The phrase *ecclesia semper reformanda* ("The church always being reformed") is often thrown about in Lutheran/Reformation settings (the Reformed theologian Karl Barth actually coined the phrase, in 1947). And though that may indeed be true and necessary, I believe that this should refer not only to the *institution* that is the "Church," but also the *people* who make up the Church. **We as individuals should be in a process of "always being reformed."**

Martin Luther reminds us that this life is more about the journey than a destination. He wrote:

*This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.*<sup>1</sup>

**Let us celebrate the reformation of the church and of ourselves** by committing to whatever we need to do to **live our best lives possible** and to **help others do the same** while on this journey. Let us be good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us – our health, relationships, and finances – by changing harmful habits and prejudices, leaving behind past hurts, embracing words and actions that are loving, kind, and peaceful. We honor God when we honor the divine in ourselves and in one another.

<sup>1</sup> *An Argument in Defense of All the Articles of Martin Luther Wrongly Condemned in the Roman Bull, 1521*

*Pastor Brian*

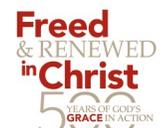
## Reformation Sunday Services

Today is Reformation Sunday, and in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, there are **two special services** in addition to our regular 9AM service:

**4:00PM at Faith-O'Fallon (Metro-East ELCA);**

**7:00PM at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica** (joint Lutheran/Catholic). \*We will meet in the big parking lot at 5:30PM to carpool for anyone who is interested in doing so.

Please check with Pastor Brian for more information on either service.



**MARTIN LUTHER** himself will make an appearance during today's 9:00AM service for an **interview** with Pastor Brian during the sermon time. Don't miss it!!!



## All Saints Sunday

Our **All Saints worship service** will take place **NEXT Sunday, November 5** at 9:00AM.



Today is the last opportunity to enter the **names of deceased loved ones** into our **Book of Remembrance**, on the St. Mark table in the Welcome Area. **You are welcome and encouraged to write names of any deceased loved ones you wish to remember.**

All written names will be included in the worship folder, but **only the names of those who have died over the past year** will be read during the service, with a single toll of a bell after each name. Please mark a **star** or an **asterisk** next to the names to indicate a loved one who has died in the last year.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @ Westfield Place
	7:00PM	Bell Choir
	8:00PM	Adult Choir
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
Saturday	6:00PM	<b>SHINE Worship</b>
Sunday, 11/5	9:00AM	<b>The Divine Liturgy</b>
	10:20AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Adult Forum: <i>"We Must Plant the Church: Lutherans in America, Pt. 6: The Future of the Lutheran Church"</i>

**Offerings for October 22, 2017**

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$3,553</b>
<b>Coffee Fund</b>	<b>\$138</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$5</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
10/1-10/7	\$2,044	\$112.95	\$1,931.05
10/8-10/14	\$2,699	\$4,229.02	-\$1,530.02
10/15-10/21	\$1,869	\$5,547.74	-\$3,678.74
10/22-10/28	\$3,553	\$719.48	\$2,833.52
YTD	\$128,378.20	\$135,407.32	-\$7,029.12

**Randi Out of the Office**

Randi will be out of the office this week beginning **Tuesday, October 31**. She will return Monday, November 6.

Please ensure that any additions to the *Mark Times* or the bulletin are submitted by 10AM on Monday, October 30.

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**Sunday, November 5, 2017**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**READINGS:**

Revelation 7:9-17  
 Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
 1 John 3:1-3  
 Matthew 5:1-12

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison  
**Assisting Minister:** Greg Martens  
**Acolyte:** Renee Southers  
**Crucifer:** Frank Dressel  
**Chalice Bearer:** TBD  
**Lector:** Andrea Moeller  
**Ushers:** Rick Crosby & Cody Buck

**Pumpkin-Palooza!**

The St. Mark/St. George's Food Pantry would like folks to **bake something delicious** and **bring the item(s) to church** for the **Pumpkin-Palooza BAKE SALE** on **Sunday, November 12** from **9:00AM to 12:00PM**. Proceeds will benefit the Food Pantry. Your imagination is the limit!



**\*\*Please note:** Thanks to the extraordinary response from both congregations, **the Pantry has run out of canned pumpkin**. Bake Sale items without pumpkin are more than welcome!

**SHINE Worship on Saturday**

Join us **NEXT Saturday, November 4** at **6:00PM** for less-formal worship with contemporary Christian music in the **chapel**.



**Sack Lunches for Franklin School**

A **sign-up sheet** is on the counter in the **Parish Hall** by the coffee stand to **make sandwiches** and **pack lunch bags** for **12 needy Franklin School students**. With **3 weekend lunches** for Franklin School in **November**, we also need **donations of protein items** such as individual servings of mac 'n cheese; chicken salad and crackers; cheese and crackers; peanut butter and crackers; Slim Jims, etc. **There are 12 children, so 12 of anything helps us greatly**. All of the food & materials will be ready and waiting in the church kitchen.



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