



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



October 2020

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October is one of my favorite months. The weather is getting cooler. The leaves are changing colors, at least in some parts of the country. It is getting to be harvest time. There is pumpkin in everything. But the best reason why I like October is because October 31 is the day we celebrate the Reformation of the Church and the work of God through the man, Martin Luther.

The work of Martin Luther not only brought reforms to the Church such as a reminder that we are saved by grace, through faith, as a gift of God, but also his work brought reforms to the education system, the financial system and the political system. As we have been studying in our Wednesday morning class, it was the writing of Martin Luther and his understanding of the two kingdoms that were influential in the founding fathers' understanding of the separation of church and state.

The Bill of Rights of our country reminds us that our country was founded on the principles of freedom, and in order to maintain such freedom, the Bill of Rights instructs that "in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added." In other words, the Bill of Rights further restricts the power of the government beyond what has been given to them by the Declaration of Independence which are "their just powers from the consent of the governed," that is the powers the people consent to give the government. Thus, the third article of the Bill of Rights is that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or the prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This "separation of church and state" as it has been deemed was intended to keep the government from establishing a national church which was done in other countries and why many from those countries left and came to the United States, and to keep the government out of the affairs of the church. Nowhere was it ever intended that we free citizens should not be allowed to participate in government, nor be barred from expressing our Christian faith as pertains to the actions of the government.

As we celebrate the work of Martin Luther and his work to reform the church, perhaps as individual Christians we might seek to work to reform those parts of our government, society and culture which are clearly against what God speaks to us in His Word even if it means being mocked. As Peter encourages us, "14But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3:14-15).

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

Don't forget, if you miss a Sunday, you can read the sermon on my blog:
<http://rabswritings.blogspot.com>.

Happy Birthday to You!



10/01	Nancy Arimond & Brend Pali
10/02	Korey Clark
10/10	Charles Baumgartner
10/14	Becky Reyes
10/22	Shirley Michka
10/23	Sharol Aikman
10/27	Gary Lawrence
10/29	Nancy Baeza

Baptismal Birthdays

10/01	Sharon Gace	10/22	Pamela Lilley
10/07	Phillip Williamson	10/24	Becky Reyes
10/12	Eugene Meyer & Steve Nitz	10/27	Junah Arimond
10/14	Virginia Lawrence		
10/15	James Pierce & Mary Pierce		
10/21	Edna Ehrhardt		



Confirmation Anniversaries



10/14	David Honerkamp
10/15	Vanessa Rivera
10/26	Jane McElroy
10/27	Jack Lutsch
10/29	Pamela Lilley

Wedding Anniversaries

10/02	John & Janis Stayton	49 years
10/13	Daniel & Christina Cross	19 years
10/21	Bill & Brenda Pali	42 years



Holy Days and Holidays in October

October 12th - Columbus Day

October 16th - National Boss Day

October 18th - St. Luke, Evangelist

October 23rd - St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr

October 28th - St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

October 31st - Reformation Day

October 31st - All Hallows Eve (the eve of All Saint Day a.k.a. Halloween)

From Pastor Mendez

COME FOLLOW ME

"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.

"Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed. And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain, The crown of heav'nly life obtain."

"Deny yourselves, the world forsake." That may not be popular advice. Contemporary culture is not necessarily known for self-denial. Yet in a world of self-gratification and self-centeredness, there stands Jesus, calling to us, "Come, follow Me ... Deny yourselves, the world forsake ... bear the cross." It is not a cross of our own making, a cross created out of our own invented piety and pride. The cross we are to take up is more like that borne by Simon of Cyrene on the first Good Friday. Simon was quite literally the first to take up the cross and follow in Jesus' steps. It was not Simon's idea; Scripture tells us that soldiers "seized" him and "compelled" him to take up Jesus' cross and carry it to Golgotha.

"Take My example for your guide." The apostle Peter writes, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). As Simon of Cyrene no doubt learned, to follow closely in the steps of Jesus may well mean that cross-bearers will be splattered with the dust and blood of suffering. Jesus left us His example of suffering, but His death on the cross was much more than an example to follow. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Healed and forgiven by His wounds, we take up the cross and follow. In many places around the world, cross-bearers suffer the loss of homes and employment, imprisonment or death. In other places those who follow Jesus may only endure the ridicule or disdain of others. But in every place, taking up the cross calls for self-denial and the forsaking of the world's temptations. Our sinful and self-centered demands are to be laid aside so that we might better love our neighbor as ourselves. In this, too, we follow Jesus: "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me'" (Romans 15:2-3).

In the strength of the Spirit, we take up the cross and follow Jesus, bearing up under the strain of battle against the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful self-centeredness. By faith we cling firmly to the Word—to Jesus, the Word made flesh, and to the written Word of Scripture. Undaunted in suffering and in service, one day we will bear, not a cross, but a crown. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10b).

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	5	86	7 10am - Bible Class 5:30pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	8 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	9 Church Office Closed	10 8am - Men's Brkfst 10am - Elder's Mtg
11 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	12 Columbus Day	13	14 10am - Bible Class 5:30pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	15 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	16 Church Office Closed	17
18 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	19	20	21 10am - Bible Class 5:30pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	22 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	23 Church Office Closed	24
25 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	26	27	28 10am - Bible Class 5:30pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	29 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	30 Church Office Closed	31