

From Our Pastor

Reformation Day (October 31) is especially important to Lutherans, because it is associated with Martin Luther, the sixteenth-century German Christian whose name has been given to us as our name.

It was on October 31 of 1517 that Luther nailed ninety-five theses to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg. Written in Latin and posted in a place where scholars who came to worship on All Saints Day were sure to see them, the theses were Luther's call for discussion and debate on the sale of indulgences, a church practice that he found to be objectionable on both pastoral and theological grounds.

What Luther saw as being at stake was the Gospel, the Good News of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. From Luther's study of scripture, he had come to understand and believe that our being right with God is a matter solely of God's grace. We do not merit such favor, and we can neither earn it nor purchase it. Luther's intent was not to divide the church, but to reform it by God's Good News. Division, however, is what ensued; and not only was the church fractured; in addition, both sides eventually issued strongly worded anathemas against the other, anathemas that would stand for centuries.

Just in the last (i.e., the twentieth) century, the way toward a breakthrough finally was prepared. International missionary conferences, Christian churches' cooperation in relief work after two world wars, and the Second Vatican Council all helped to bring Christians and Christian churches together and to generate an interest in the exploration of their sameness and the re-examination of their differences.

Intentional Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues began in 1965. Thirty-four years later, following the issuance of other studies and statements, they produced the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which, on October 31, 1999, was signed by representatives of the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation. The declaration reads in part: "Together we confess: By grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works." (par 5) Differences between our two traditions remain, but on the matter that was church-dividing in the sixteenth century we are in agreement; and in 2006, the World Methodist Council joined in affirming that which the Joint Declaration proclaims.

October 25 will be Reformation Sunday. Come, join us in celebrating this common, renewing confession and in offering ourselves and our church as instruments for the ongoing reform of both church and world by God's merciful love.

Blessings in this mid-terms season.

Pastor Kittlaus



Every year on the 31st of October, we commemorate the act that is said to have precipitated the Protestant Reformation, i.e., Martin Luther's having posted ninety-five theses on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg in 1517. In those theses, offered for discussion and debate, Luther called into question a practice of the church which he believed to be contrary to the scriptural witness that God is gracious and, in Christ, has freely forgiven humans' sin, making possible our reconciliation to God, when we repent and simply trust that what God has done was done for us, too. When October 31 does not fall on a Sunday (as it does not this year), the Sunday prior becomes Reformation Sunday.

When we gather at 10:30 a.m. on October 25, the paraments will be red; and the liturgy will be a Festival Setting of the Holy Communion with brass. Three of the hymns will be Luther's: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," and "O Lord, We Praise You." To mark homecoming weekend at NU, the sending hymn will be "Earth and All Stars!"

DINNER AND PUMPKIN-CARVING



On Friday evening, October 30, come to the Center for dinner at 6:30 and for pumpkin-carving afterwards. Carved pumpkins may be taken home or left to be put on the Center's front porch to greet the children who come by during Evanston trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Games (ping-pong, billiards, and board games) will follow, if there is interest. ULC's peer ministers, Alex Hurd (hurd.alex@gmail.com) and Kayce Gentry (kaycegentry2007@u.northwestern.edu) are the planners.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 1



Don't forget: Daylight Saving Time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. On Saturday night, October 31st, therefore, you may set your clock back one hour, enjoy an extra sixty minutes of precious sleep, and still get to worship on time on Sunday morning. ☺

ALL SAINTS DAY: November 1



It was in the third century that a day each year first was set aside for the commemoration of the church's martyrs. By the ninth century, November 1 had come to be that day. Since then, the focus of All Saints Day has expanded to encompass all who have lived and died in the faith. Today, congregations often use it as the occasion for remembering their members who have passed away during the previous year. When November 1 does not fall on a Sunday, the Sunday nearest becomes All Saints Sunday.

All Saints Day is, indeed, a prompt toward our remembering with joy and thanksgiving the women and men of faith and faithful living who have preceded us--*including* family, friends, and congregational members who have helped to teach us the faith and to model for us faithful living. In the Prayers on November 1, there will be a space of silence in which worshipers may name (silently or aloud) those who have been such persons for them. The paraments will be white, and the hymns will include "For All the Saints" and "Behold the Host Arrayed in White."

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY ON NOVEMBER 7



The first Saturday morning of the month is our day to work at the Greater Chicago Food Depository; and thus, November 7th should be our next time to serve. Some Novembers, however, the food depository is closed to volunteers on the first Saturday; and at this writing, we're awaiting word. When received, it will be incorporated into our calendar for the week of November 1, which you may find in our Sunday bulletin or posted at www.northwestern.edu/lutheran/twalc.html. On October 3, twelve of us sorted and boxed 4,099 lbs. of breads and buns. An added benefit is that for every hour that each of us works, our beneficiary, the Evanston Women's Shelter, always receives five dollars in purchasing credit. Grad students Dave Kosnik (dek@middlefork.net) and Travis Zupfer (traviszupfer2009@u.northwestern.edu) coordinate our serving.

PULPIT EXCHANGE WITH GRACE, EVANSTON



On Sunday, November 8, Pastor Kittlaus and Pastor Daniel Ruen of Grace Lutheran Church, Evanston, will be trading places. Daniel will preside and preach at ULC, and Lloyd will preside and preach at Grace. Several students will accompany Lloyd to lead, prior to worship, an adult education hour on campus ministry. The idea for the exchange surfaced last spring, when Grace Church was one of the congregations that provided food for the Lutheran Student Movement regional retreat that we hosted. It meshes with one of ULC's building relationships goals for 2009-10, viz., that, once each quarter, we will send a team of ULC visitors to an area ELCA congregation to share about our work.

DISCUSSION OF ULC'S FALL QUARTER BOOK, *HOT, FLAT, AND CROWDED*: Sunday, November 8, 12:30 p.m.



Another of our goals for this academic year is to form and promote a book club that will read and discuss one book per quarter. Our fall choice is this year's One Book One Northwestern selection, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America*, by New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman, who spoke at President Schapiro's October 9th inauguration. Members of the Class of 2013 received a complimentary copy this summer, and the book is readily available from Amazon.com or one of the local book stores. Get a copy, and

stay or come after brunch on November 8 to participate in the discussion. It will be led by Jess Spanier, who is a research associate for the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago.

WE HELP TO CARE FOR GOD'S GOOD CREATION: Forest Preserve Habitat Restoration Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



The work consists of cutting invasive buckthorn trees and gathering the cuttings into piles for burning. We meet at the Center at 9:30 a.m., drive to the site, and work from 10 until 2. Tools and gloves are provided. Wear grubby clothes, and bring a water bottle. Grad student Dave Kosnik is the ULC coordinator for this monthly service and the site steward, too. Write Dave (dek@middlefork.net) if you intend to go, so that he may arrange adequate transportation.

HELP US TO PREPARE DINNER FOR PERSONS WITHOUT A HOME Thursday, November 19, 5:45 to 8 p.m.



November 19 will be the third Thursday of November and, thus, our evening to prepare and serve dinner to the guests of Hilda's Place, the shelter in Evanston for persons without a home. Since our coordinator, Matt Reuter, will be out of town, write Pastor Kittlaus (l-kittlaus@northwestern.edu) if you're able to go along and help. A crew of four or five is needed.

WE'RE AGAIN HELPING WITH NEW ELCA CAMPUS MINISTERS' ORIENTATION



Our ministry often is asked to help, when churchwide staff lead an orientation for those who are new to campus ministry service in the ELCA. This year, the orientation group will be at the Center on Friday afternoon, November 20, for conversation with an NU student affairs staff person and a faculty member. We're glad to be able to make this contribution to the orientation of persons who now serve in the ELCA's ministry to higher education on other campuses.

FALL CLEAN-UP: Saturday, November 21, beginning at 9 a.m.



The main focus will be the raking, mulching, and bagging of the many, many leaves that will have accumulated in the Center's large yard. But there will be other yard tasks too, as well as some inside cleaning. Please come and give us at least an hour of your time. If you can't work on Saturday, the 21st, speak with Parish Operations chair Jim Dossa (james_dossa@yahoo.com) or Pastor K. (l-kittlaus@northwestern.edu), and you will be given a job that you may complete at your convenience. As always, we'll provide juice, coffee, and munchkins at 9 a.m. and then lunch in the early afternoon.