

**REFORMATION** – Reformation Sunday is October 28, the 495<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event that is recognized as the beginning of Luther’s effort at reform: October 31, 1517, and his nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg. The following are passages from scripture and items from Luther germane to the occasion:

*“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.” --Jeremiah 31:33-34*

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” - Ephesians 2:8-10*

*“The true treasure of the Church is the holy Gospel of the glory and the grace of God.” Martin Luther, Thesis 62 in *The Ninety-five Theses*, 1517*

*“If works are sought after as a means of righteousness . . . and are done under the false impression that through them one is justified, they are made necessary and freedom and faith are destroyed; and this addition to them makes them no longer good but truly damnable works.” Martin Luther in *The Freedom of a Christian*, 1520.*

On hypocrisy: “No man’s really any good till he knows how bad he is, or might be; till he’s realized exactly how much right he has to all this talk about ‘criminals,’ as though they were apes in a forest 10,000 miles away. Till he’s got rid of all the dirty self-deception of talking about low types and deficient skills; till he’s squeezed out the last drop of the oil or the Pharisees. Till his only hope is somehow or other to have captured one criminal, and kept him safe and sane under his own hat.”— G. K. Chesterton, in *The Secret of Father Brown*, cited by Martin Marty in *Context*, 9.15.99

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Ushers for October** are Allen Biggerstaff, Pate Brendle, Randy Fulbright, and Tim Leatherman. Joe Biggerstaff is the Communion Assistant. Joanne Heavner is the Greeter. Nancy Leonard and Stephanie Fulbright care for the Communion Ware. Stephanie Fulbright conducts Children’s Church and Kim Parker conducts Children’s Bible Study. Nursery Attendants are Bobbie Jo Wright and Marianne Yoder. Mike Pisko is the Lector and Doug Jarrett is the Cantor for October.

**The Flower Chart for October is:**

October 7th – Stephanie S. Ratts

October 14th – Rhyan & Kara Causby

October 21st – Martha Young

October 28th – **AVAILABLE**

**The Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** will meet on Friday, October 5th at Bakers Mountain

**The Congregation is Invited:** The congregation of Grace is invited to Lori's Lickin' Leukemia Barbeque Plate Benefit on Friday, October 5th from 10:30am until 6:00pm at West Lincoln Shrine Club, 1470 Cat Square Road, Vale. Plates include BBQ, bun, slaw, beans, chips, and sauce. Plates are \$7.00. Delivery is available for 10 or more plates. Show your support for Lori Wilson. Please see Glennie Beam for advance tickets.

**First Sunday Lunches** will resume on October 7th at Noon. The Christian Education Committee will host the meal. The menu is lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and dessert.

**The Women of Grace** will meet Sunday, October 7th after the First Sunday Lunch.

**The Grace Adult/Seniors Activities Group** will meet on Wednesday, October 17th from noon until 2:00. Lunch will be barbecue, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, desserts, and drinks. Attendees are invited to wear costumes or dress in orange or black, and participate in several activities centered around Halloween. Come join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

**Grace Youth/Congregation Fall Festival:** The Grace Youth will have a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 27th from 4-7pm. The festival will start with a hayride at 4pm, followed by games, soup and sandwich supper, and trunk or treat. Congregation members are all invited to eat starting around 5:30pm and participate in the trunk or treat. Decorate your trunk and the best one wins a prize! Come out for a great night of fun and fellowship. Don't forget to wear your costume!

**Memorial Garden and Columbarium Project:** Currently we have 112 of the 4"x8" bricks requested and 14 requests for the 12"x12" size. An order will be placed within the next week; however, there is still time to order additional bricks. There will be 24 bricks included in the project for Pastors and Associate Pastors that have served the Grace Congregation. Any donations towards this aspect of the project would be appreciated. Thanks to all who have participated in the Memorial Garden project. We look forward to seeing the memorials and those names being honored lining the walkway leading to the Columbarium.

**Family Reunions** in October:

October 26-Recreation Building reserved by the Yoder's

October 28th -1:00pm - Yoder Reunion

**Thank You Note:** I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given to you by Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:4). I wish to thank the members of Grace Lutheran Church for your cards, gifts, and notes on my recent birthday. It is a true joy to be able to live, worship and serve together with you.

Richard Mazak

**Thank You** to the choir members who assisted in sprucing up the Union Church building prior to the Sept. 23rd Sunday service. Our next event in the building will be the Hymn Sing on Sunday, Oct. 21st at 4:00pm.

**October Hymn Sing:** Our annual October hymn sing is just a few weeks away. It is scheduled for Sunday, October 21st at 4:00pm in the Union Church. We are delighted to have several of the Biggerstaff musicians join us again this year. Submit your favorite hymn requests as soon as possible, and come out and enjoy a little of that “old time” music on a Sunday afternoon at the Union Church. Invite friends, family and neighbors. The afternoon will conclude with light refreshments. Anyone that would like to sing solo, duets, etc., let the Worship/Music Committee know.

**Recreation Building:** There are new table covers in the Recreation Building. If removed from the tables, the new red and white covers should be rolled up versus folded. There are cardboard forms available to use for rolling the material. Several new tables were purchased recently to replace broken ones. Anyone that needs to borrow tables, please use the older tables at this time.

**Woman to Woman Conference:** The Woman to Woman Conference will be held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center on Friday, Feb. 8 and Saturday, Feb. 9. The times are Friday 7pm till 9pm and Saturday 9am till 4:30pm. Lunch is included on Saturday. The guest speakers are Ann Graham Lotz and her daughter Rachel Ruth Wright. Tickets will be \$49.99. If you are interested in attending or have any questions please contact Jo Doris Frye or Nancy Leonard.

**Valentine Dinner:** Plans are underway for a Valentine Dinner again next year. We are looking for volunteers to help. A meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14th immediately after worship for anyone interested in volunteering. If you have any questions, please see Nancy Leonard or Herb Travis.

**PRACTICE SESSIONS FOR CANTORS** – This fall several practice sessions will be held for potential new Cantors to help with the service. Both men, women, and youth volunteers are welcomed. Cantors will be able to remain at their regular seats in the congregation when performing the Cantor duties. The organist will play the lines of music along with the cantors in order to simplify the process. Perfect voices not required!

**Choir Practice and Evening Prayer:** We invite members of the congregation to join the choir this season as practice begins for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Practice is held each Wednesday at 6:30pm for approximately 45 minutes. Evening prayer is held each Wednesday at 7:30pm.

**Items for the Recreation Building:** If special items are needed for events in the Recreation Building, please contact Jackie Jarrett with your requirements. Jackie has volunteered to assist with purchasing items as needed.

**Children’s Choir Sign-Up:** Sign-ups are still available for Youth Choir. Only a few children have expressed an interest to date. If transportation to and from practice is a concern, please contact Joy Heavner.

**Communion set up/break down:** We could use a few more people to help with communion set up and break down. Please contact Joy Heavner if you can assist or if you have any questions.

**Note on bulletins:** As new names are added to the prayer list each week they will be underlined for the 1st week only to note them as new additions to the list.

**Church Secretary-** Please call or send any information you have for the bulletin, newsletter, prayer list including additions/deletions, or announcements to Brenda McConnell at 704-732-2665 or 704-472-1354 or email at [Brenda.gracechurch@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.gracechurch@gmail.com). **Items for the bulletin should be sent to Brenda by Thursday at 1pm. Any items you may want to include in the monthly newsletter, please give the information to Brenda by the 20th of each month.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **North American Lutheran Church Application for Full Membership in the Lutheran World Federation Questions and Answers**

**Why is the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) applying for membership in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)?** Because the Constitution of the NALC states, “the NALC shall participate in inter-Lutheran, ecumenical and inter-religious relationships as a part of its ministry and mission,” the Executive Council of the NALC has recommended that we apply for full membership in LWF with voice and vote.

**How did this process begin?** In fact, the NALC affirmed application for membership in LWF at the August 2011 Convocation when it unanimously approved “An Initial Statement on the Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran Commitment of the North American Lutheran Church”, which affirms: "As an initial strategy the North American Lutheran Church will...apply for membership in the Lutheran World Federation..."

**What is the Lutheran World Federation?** The LWF is, by self-definition, “a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1957 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 145 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing over 70 million Christians.”

**What is the purpose of LWF?** According to its constitution, the LWF “furthers the united witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthens the member churches in carrying out the missionary command and in their efforts toward Christian unity worldwide;

furthers worldwide among the member churches diaconic action, alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God’s creation and sharing of resources;

furthers through cooperative study the self-understanding and the communion of member churches and helps them to act jointly in common tasks.”

**What does the LWF believe?** LWF consists of member churches which accept the “Doctrinal Basis” as stated in the LWF constitution: “The Lutheran World Federation confesses the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only source and norm of its doctrine, life and service. It sees in the three Ecumenical Creeds and in the Confessions of the Lutheran Church,

especially in the unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism of Martin Luther, a pure exposition of the Word of God.”

**Why would we want to belong to the LWF?** We believe that being part of this global Lutheran communion will provide us with an important voice and vote in this international association of Lutherans. It is the only truly global fellowship of Lutherans with member churches in the global south as well as the north. Our fellow Lutherans in Ethiopia and Tanzania, in particular, have asked us to become full members of the LWF to provide an orthodox and confessional Lutheran partner in North America.

**Does full membership in the LWF provide us with anything that can't be gained apart from it?**

The LWF is the primary Lutheran partner in international ecumenical relations between Lutherans and other Christian bodies, including the worldwide Anglican Communion, the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church. All international dialogues and activities happen between the LWF and these organizations. Apart from the LWF, we can have no involvement in official ecumenical interaction between Lutherans and others at the international level. Similarly, the LWF fosters regional relationships and activities between member churches. We want to have both voice and vote for the sake of this regional cooperation as well as at the international level.

**Does full membership in the LWF imply or require full communion between member Lutheran churches?**

The LWF constitution does not use the words “full communion,” but rather states, “The Lutheran World Federation is a communion of churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.” LWF representatives recognize that this is a goal, but not a reality as many member churches are in what has been described as “impaired communion.” This means while we are part of the global Lutheran communion, that communion has been impaired at times between member churches. Lutheran member churches in Ethiopia and Tanzania explain their full membership in the LWF in a similar way. In any case, NALC congregations retain the responsibility for determining who shall preach and preside within their local congregation and for establishing practices regarding the reception of the sacrament in their own congregations.

**We've heard that the LWF is an extremely “liberal” organization, politically. Is this the case?**

Many Lutherans have had concerns about the direction of the LWF within the last two or three decades. In recent years, the LWF has engaged in an intentional redirecting of focus, beginning with the proposals made by the Renewal Committee (2007-2009), incorporated into a new *LWF Strategy 2012-2017: The LWF Communion—With Passion for the Church and for the World*. The first part of this strategy addresses “Who We Are As A Communion,” lifting up first and foremost that to be Lutheran is to be evangelical, proclaiming the good news of Christ's life, his death on the cross and his resurrection...” While this LWF work of renewal is ongoing, we believe we have gifts and perspective to contribute to this continuing reform.

**What is the process of application for membership into the LWF?**

An application, as approved by the Executive Council of the NALC has been submitted, with required supporting documentation. An initial consultation has taken place. Now a recommendation has come to the NALC 2012 Convocation from the Executive Council for approval. If approved, this action requires ratification by 2/3 of our NALC congregations, as provided by NALC Constitution 13.03 “All inter-Lutheran and ecumenical church-to-church relationships of an official character shall require the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast at a Convocation, and shall require ratification by congregations...” If

ratified, the LWF will act on our application, either by reception into membership by the Federation in the Assembly, or in the interim, by the LWF Council.

**What if the resolution for full LWF membership fails in the Convocation vote, or fails to be ratified by the required 2/3 NALC congregations voting?** Our application for membership will be withdrawn. **Are other Lutheran bodies in North America full members in the LWF?** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church-Canada are not members of the Lutheran World Federation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada are full members. Other North American members are: Lutheran Costa Rican Church; Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope; Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras; Salvadoran Lutheran Church.

**How can we get more information, or have our other questions answered?** You can find answers at [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org), or by e-mailing NALC Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism,

[dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org), or NALC General Secretary, [mchavez@thenalc.org](mailto:mchavez@thenalc.org).

### October Birthday List

3rd-	Juanita Haas Zachary Speagle	9th-	Emilee Bumgardner Don Jarrett	18th-	Stephanie Fulbright
4th-	Pate Brendle Marianne Yoder	10th-	Joy Heavner Cooper Johnson	19th-	Riley Leatherman
5th-	Geraldine Jarrett	13th-	Catrina Jarrett	21st-	Donna Biggerstaff
7th-	Stephen Pisko	14th-	Emma Causby	24th-	Madison Speagle
8th-	David Lane	17th-	Ann Campbell	25th-	Bryan Hood Matt Speagle
		18th-	Jan Beaudin	27th-	Kylee Waldrop
				28th-	Todd Setzer