

“Sola Fide”

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law – Romans 3:28.

In our celebration of the 501st anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, we remember the three solas of this important theological movement. Two years ago, in the October, 2016 newsletter, we meditated on “Sola Scriptura” (“Scripture Alone”). In last year’s edition of the October church newsletter, we considered “Sola Gratia” (“Grace Alone”). This year, we will complete our three part discussion by focusing on the phrase “Sola Fide” (“Faith Alone”).

Numerous questions abound with regard to the Christian faith. How do I get it? Can I buy it? Can I earn it? May I have it? Can I even find it? Where is it? When I know where it is, how does it benefit me? These are all serious questions. But we are not the first to ask them. God anticipates our questions and has given us the answer in the words of Holy Scripture. In John 3:16 our Savior says to Nicodemus *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas respond to the Jailer in Philippi *“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”* In his Letter to the Romans Paul writes *“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”*

People talk about faith as a leap but certainly not into the unknown or into the dark. When you make the leap, God has first made the leap to us. He has made Himself known to us in His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Faith, then, is a leap, but a leap into the waiting arms of a loving God. Faith is

believing God’s truth and revelation at face value. Faith is trust. Faith is knowledge. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Faith, as Martin Luther described it, is like glue – it glues the heart to God’s promises.

The knowledge that all humans are sinful and that God is loving and gracious and loves the sinner is a gift. The knowledge of God’s amazing grace and love in Jesus Christ, when spoken or given to people by the power of the Holy Spirit through the written Word or through the Living Word, is planted in an individual’s heart and faith is created. The Holy Spirit enables a person to believe this Word. He /she trusts it. He/she knows it to be true about him/herself, about God, about the cross, and about the atonement in Jesus Christ. Then he/she has made the leap. God gives him/her what he/she believes. God gives him/her their faith. All is a precious gift. Martin Luther used to ask: “How can I find a gracious God?” God revealed Himself to be a gracious God. Not all questions are answered when we have faith, but this question is answered. God is gracious to me in Jesus Christ. My sins are forgiven. I am a child of God. God looks at me and sees only Christ’s perfect righteousness. He tells me I am justified. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. That is justifying faith. Our Lutheran Confessions have this to say: “Faith does not justify because it is so good a work and so God-pleasing a virtue, but because it lays hold on and accepts the merit of Christ in the promise of the holy Gospel.”

There was a woman in a community who was well known for her simple faith and great calm in the midst of many trials.

Another woman who had never met her but had heard of her came to visit one day. “I must find out the secret of her calm, happy life,” she thought to herself. As she met her she said “So you are the woman with the great faith that I have heard so much about.” “Oh, no”, came the reply. “I am not the woman with the great faith, but I am the woman with the little faith in the promises of our great God.”

A Faithfully Believing Servant of God,

Pastor Riley

REFORMATION DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the discernment You gave the great reformer Martin Luther. You opened his eyes to faithfully preach Your inspired Word. Grant us that same discernment in our own day and age. Bless those who have followed in Dr. Luther’s footsteps by faithfully preaching Your Word. Help us to understand and apply the message of Law and Gospel to our daily life. Remind us that grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone lead to eternal salvation. Amen.

CELEBRATE THE 501ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION AT ST. JOHN'S ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH!

A Divine Service with Communion Using Luther's Order of the German Mass at 10:00a.m.

A Reformation Vespers in the Lutheran Tradition with a Combined Choir from the surrounding LCMS Churches at 3:00 p.m. with a potluck supper to follow.

GERMAN FALL FEAST

Friday, October 26, 2018

Tickets are available for this wonderful menu of German wurst, pulled pork, hot dogs, corn chowder, German potato salad, red cabbage, pickled beets and delicious homemade desserts. Seating from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children (6-12 years), and free for 5 years old and under. Please invite your family and friends to join in the fellowship and great food. Reserve your tickets by calling the church at 568-1417 or Sally Sienkiewicz at 562-3186.

TAKE OUT is available**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** October 21.

A Note from our President:



During the annual meeting we are to elect members to serve on the church council for the following year. All positions on the council need to be voted on whether the incumbent is willing to serve again or not. We are called to give of our time, talents, and treasures. Some of these positions are less demanding on your time and some are more. The offices of church Council are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Auditors, and a Trustee are up for election. Please prayerfully consider having your name placed on the ballot. If you or you know someone willing to run for election, please contact Bill Schneeloch, or call the church (568-1417).

ELDERS NEWS

Lay Readers for October:

October 7 - Paul Brose

October 14 - Linda Slozak

October 21 - Matt Talmadge

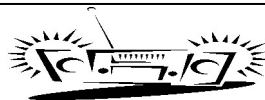
October 28 - Robin Greenspan

If you are interested in being a reader for worship, please talk with Paul Brose. Paul Brose is the elder of the month for October, Bill Schneeloch is November and Gary Wolfe is December. Thank you for your service to St. Johns!

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Riley is continuing a Midweek Bible Study open to everyone. They meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The study will last about one hour. Come to know the person and the works of Jesus better through the unique eyes of this Gospel writer. Mark witnesses for us Christ's life from birth to death and resurrection. He also gives us insights into all the miracles – great and small – which were a part of His life here on earth.

“How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 3:15

**Radio Broadcast**

If you have missed church due to illness or another commitment you can still enjoy the service. Log onto <http://stjohnswestfield.org>; links to the broadcasts and the weekly bulletins are on the main page.

Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the Program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations of any amount are welcome. Additionally, we have posted previous weeks' broadcasts on our website along with the associated bulletin.

If anyone would like a CD copy of any radio broadcast, please contact Bill Schneeloch at 860-604-5264 or e-mail at radio@stjohnswestfield.org with any questions.

Thanks to all who support this ministry!

**Reformation Vespers & Potluck In Honor Of The 501st Anniversary Of The Reformation**

Sunday The 28th of October, 2018
At 3:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the 501st anniversary of the Reformation! The Reformation festival is one of the major annual events in the Lutheran calendar; it is a celebration of the day on which Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the castle church at Wittenburg in 1517. In honor of this historic event, we will be hosting a Reformation Vespers followed by a potluck on Sunday October 28th at 3:00PM. The music for the Vespers will reflect this noble theme: featuring congregational chorales for all to sing accompanied by improvisations in the German Baroque tradition as well as various choral pieces performed by a combined choir from the surrounding LCMS churches. Following the Vespers, be sure to bring your favorite dish to share and join us in the fellowship hall for a potluck reception. We hope you will join us to celebrate this historic day in the musical tradition of the Lutheran church!

The following have signed up for flowers for the months of

October and November:

October 7– McLeavy (1)

October 14 & 21 - Sienkiewicz (1)

October 28 – Riley (1)

November 4– Sienkiewicz (1)

November 11 - Riley (1)

November 18 - Caba (1)

November 25 - Ferst (1)

If you would like to sign up in the 2018 FLOWER BOOK . We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. The cost per bouquet is \$21.00. Please make checks payable to St. John's Flower Fund.



MASTERING THE LUTHERAN HYMNODY IN OUR HOMES AND WORSHIP SERVICES

It is Sunday morning, the announcements have been made and Pastor Riley announces the opening hymn. As the introduction is completed and the hymn begins you look at the hymnal wondering, "Have we sung this before? Do I know this hymn?" The Lutheran church has long been known as the 'singing church' for its rich hymnody and singing in both the home and church. Every Sunday evening Jeff Windoloski, our director of music, emails those who have expressed an interest one verse of the upcoming Sundays hymns to look over at home with a hymnal handy. This not only is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for Sunday service, but also serves as a personal or family devotion in our homes. If you do not already have a Lutheran Service Book hymnal in your home, be sure to let Jeff know so he can get you one. Following Sunday services please talk with Jeff or email him at jeffrey.windoloski@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this ministry as a way to prepare for Sunday mornings Divine Service!

TAG SALE and RUMMAGE SALE

A church tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 20 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Preview night will be Friday, October 19 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. with a donation of \$1.00. Your saleable items in good, clean condition and clean used clothing may be brought to the church as soon as possible. Take this opportunity to clean your homes and help the church at the same time. If you have large items for pick-up questions or want to volunteer some time to help, call Ali Talmadge at 413-627-0800.



Orphan Grain Train, New England Branch

Our branch has been very active recently. With the recent impact of Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas, we are partnering with the mid Atlantic branch as well as our headquarters in Nebraska to help the victims in need.

Our next quarterly meeting is November 10 and will be at the NED office in Springfield. During this meeting we will be electing officers to serve on our board. If you feel the need to serve in this capacity and want to have your name placed in nomination, please contact Bill Schneeloch or Brenda Bacon. We will be electing an assistant branch manager and branch secretary. Our meetings are open and welcome to all. Please contact Bill Schneeloch if you would like to carpool. He will be leaving St John's parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

If you would like to support us financially, Donations can be mailed to: Orphan Grain Train – New England c/o LCMS – NED 400 Wilbraham Road Springfield, MA 01109-2723 Attn: Branch Manager – Bill Schneeloch.

Please keep OGT in your prayers.

Flourish! Spiritually & Vocationally LWML – NED 2018 RETREAT November 2 & 3, 2018

Key Note Speaker:

Rev. Victor Belton from Concordia College in Bronxville, NY

Retreat registration: \$40
(includes Saturday Lunch)

WHERE: Holiday Inn, 1 Bright Meadow Blvd, Enfield, CT 06082
Registration forms are available at church. Please speak to Linda Slezak for questions.



October looks to be a very busy month for WinGS. LWML Sunday will be celebrated on October 14th. Please proudly wear your LWML purple! Doris Love has started our fleece blanket project. See her if you would to help tie them or cut them out. The Tag Sale will be on Friday night 10/19 and all day Saturday 10/20. If anyone can help sort, price or set up, please contact Jane. The Fall Feast is scheduled for Friday, October 26th. If you have any Christmas cards at home that you have been working on, please bring them into church. Mission envelopes collected by November 11, will be put toward our Military projects: Stockings for Soldiers, Wreaths Across America and LCC Karre 9 and Comfort dogs.



STOCKINGS for SOLDIERS

During the month of October, the WINGS group will be collecting items that will be donated to the USO. The items needed are:



- Baby/Foot Powder
- White Socks
- Winter Hats and Gloves
- Lip Balm
- Sunscreen and/or Bug Spray
- Individual Coffee Packets
- Individual Jerky
- Individual Nuts
- Pringles
- Hard Candy
- DVD's (Comedy/Adventure)
- Computer Games (Wii/Xbox)
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Floss
- Toothpicks
- Shampoo
- Cotton Swabs
- Bathroom Style Flip Flops
- Kleenex/Hankies
- Individual Package of Wipes
- Playing Cards
- Game Books
- Clean Reading Material
- Small Board Games
- Batteries
- Duct/Electrical Tape
- Pens/Pencils/Pads

NEWEST CHURCH MEMBER

About 10 minute before worship service on September 23 was to begin, a gray squirrel (must have been an out-of-towner since our locals are black) ran into the church thru the open glass doors. Immediately everyone tried to corral our little guest. The little squirrel darted under the stairway of the choir loft and then made his way into the sanctuary. He/she (we didn't have time to verify the gender)- we'll say "he" for purposes of this story, ran throughout the sanctuary periodically hiding under the kneelers, going from left to right and front to back.

At one point he made his way up the US flag and then crawled up the brick wall. Only when he reached the smooth wood did he have

difficulty maintain a grasp and then fell to the floor. We thought he was dazed or stunned enough to capture him, but he ran up towards the altar and eventually into the sacristy. The door was immediately shut and we thought we had the little guy trapped. Efforts to contain him were unsuccessful, so it was decided to just open the window and hope he would go back outside to where he would be more comfortable.

Again all of this happened about 10 minutes before the Worship service was to begin.

Worship went on as usual. We celebrated Holy Communion, heard the Word, enjoyed a very nice sermon, sang hymns and heard our choir offered great vocal praise.

After Worship, the communion

ware was cleaned. Those cleaning did not hear our new visitor in the sacristy and assumed he had gone out the window. Vicki closed the window. We greeted each other and left to go about our day to enjoy time with family and friends.

About 2 p.m., Bill went into the sacristy to prepare the weekly radio broadcast. Bill was startled by movement of our new friend. The squirrel was still in the sacristy - guess he didn't leave after all. Text messages were sent and a plan was formulated. We called the Westfield ACO (Animal Control Officer). Rene showed up and upon her arrival the squirrel jumped out the window.

So, the lesson to this story is please be watchful for critters as you enter and leave our church building.

