



June 2017

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From Pastor Aleese

From now until October 29, we'll journey together on a "Road to the Reformation." We'll follow Martin Luther and learn how his work would eventually reform the medieval Roman Catholic Church. We'll hear about Luther as a monk, a professor, a scholar, a writer, and a leader of change. But Luther, in his core, wanted nothing more than to be a pastor. Because more than anything, he wanted people to know that God really loved them. Given Luther's context in medieval Germany, this meant changes to the church, the Holy Roman Empire, economics and even politics. But the only reason he ever suggested any of these reforms was to share with people to the true message of the Gospel.

As we head into the summer months, we'll not only begin our Road to the Reformation but also the season of Pentecost. On June 4, we'll celebrate the coming of the Spirit upon us as God's chosen people (remember to wear red!). Then, for 26 weeks, we'll have the opportunity to consider what this Spirit of God means for us today. Our paraments will change from red - the color of the Spirit, to green - symbolizing our growth in discipleship. For 26 weeks, we'll be challenged to consider how we, as disciples of Jesus, are being sent to be the very body of Christ in the world today by the power of the Spirit. Though Jesus no longer walks alongside us, we trust that the Spirit of Truth will continue to lead us to be that body of Christ wherever we go.

That's one reason why we're inviting everyone to take a "flat Luther" with you this summer. Because just as Luther wanted all people to know the love of God, we too are charged with the mission to share this good news of Jesus. Let Luther be a reminder to you of that deep calling to share God's love wherever you go and whatever you do. And as you travel with Luther, be on the lookout for God's love revealed around you in new and exciting ways and pay attention to where the Spirit is bringing newness of life. Because though the Reformation happened nearly 500 years ago, we believe that the work of the reformation is not complete. Why? Because the Spirit *continues* to blow through us, moving us to consider new ways to share this old, old story of God's love.

Here at Shepherd of the Cross, this congregation has had the opportunity to share this story for the past 30 years. On Sept. 17, we'll celebrate this milestone by remembering how the Spirit has been at work in this community. Though September might seem like months away, it will be here before we know it! So, just as we will intentionally remember the story of the Reformation this summer and fall, I also invite you to remember *our own* story here at Shepherd. Because just as the story of the Reformation has shaped us as people of faith, the story of Shepherd continues to shape who we are and who we are called to be for the sake of this community.

Later this summer and into the fall, you'll have an opportunity to share your stories of what God has been up to in this place. In the meantime, find those old pictures of times past. Talk to someone in the congregation who you don't know as well. Share your stories with each other of where and how you've seen the Spirit moving in this community: reforming us so that *all* might know the good news of Jesus Christ. Journey with us this summer in worship, fellowship, education and prayer as we grow *together* as disciples of Jesus. But most of all, come and rest in the good news that Luther wanted everyone to know and believe: that God's grace is given *for* you.

Peace, Pastor Aleese Baldwin



Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Fuz Miller
6th	Heather Allen
12th	Arthur Lurndal Heather & Josh Allen
17th	Abigail Burger
21st	Dallas & Gage LeGrand
22nd	Leslie & Daryl Eichelberger
24th	Bryson Hill
26th	Hannah Wilke Joanne & Terry Drinkall Sue & Konrad Wilke
27th	Bill LeGrand
28th	Kaia & Mark Petersen
29th	Melanie Wachtel
30th	Kim Ordway



Board Meetings

- Stewardship
May 30 @ 6:30
- Lay Ministers
June 6 @ 5:30
- Education
June 6 @ 6:30
- Evangelism
June 8 @ 6:00
- PPC
June 18 @ 10:30
- Property
June 27 @ 5:30

Upcoming Events

SOTC Family Fun Night and Euchre

Join us on **Fri., June 2** for a night of hot dogs, s'mores, games and a blessing of flip-flops! Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Games for children and adults will be both outside and inside. The monthly Euchre night will be moved to this Friday so that adults who wish to play cards can do so inside. Sign up sheet for food needs is on the sign up table. ALL are invited. This is an evening intended for the entire family of SOTC

Spring Cleaning

As stewards of all that God has given us, we have a special responsibility to care for the building and property of SOTC. Part of that responsibility includes annual "deep cleaning" and yard work. Spring cleaning day will be **Sat., June 3rd, 8 a.m. - ?**. We will start outside and work our way inside. Busy in the morning? No problem, come and go as it works into your schedule. There will be a light lunch provided, snacks, and beverages. Cleaning supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your favorite items to use. With many hands we should have things cleaned up fairly quickly and enjoy our clean building Sunday morning.

Wear Red on Sunday, June 4!

On June 4, we celebrate the coming of the Spirit upon the disciples on Pentecost. To capture the fire of the Spirit among us, find your red and wear it to worship! We'll also celebrate with Mitchell Rogers as he affirms his baptism. As Mitchell prepared to affirm his baptism, here's a bit of what he wrote about his faith:

"If someone came up to me and said, "So, I hear you are a Christian," this is how I could respond: First, I would tell that person that I believe in God. For me, to believe in God means that God is my Lord and Savior, my protector and caretaker. When I feel like I am in 'hot water' because I did not make the right choice, He forgives me. When I pray, I think God pays attention to me, hears my prayer and listens to me. Being a Christian means respecting your neighbors and friends and becoming a better soul."

Be sure to congratulate Mitchell on this step on his journey of discipleship and welcome him into the mission that we share at SOTC!

Loaves and Fishes

Shepherd of the Cross will be preparing the meal for Loaves and Fishes Saturday, **June 10th**. Help is needed with meal preparation, serving, cleanup, baking bars or cookies, or providing milk. Volunteers may sign up in the narthex.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Faith Formation Opportunities for Summer

Bible at the Brew (BATB): 1st Thurs. of the month, 5:30 p.m. at Missipi Brewing Company
Women's Group: 2nd Sat. of the month, 8:30 a.m. at SOTC

River Bandits Baseball Game

Join us on Fri., **June 23** for a baseball game with your SOTC family! Game starts at 6:35 pm; we'll carpool from SOTC at 5:15 pm. Tickets will be about \$7-10/person. Please sign up on the table in the narthex if you're interested. And be sure to come back on Saturday for our first-ever SOTC campout!

Camp Out at SOTC!

You're invited to camp out at SOTC from Sat., **June 24** – Sun., June 25 as we explore God's "water of life!" Bring your campers/tents and join us for an overnight event with games, food, crafts, worship...and of course, a little water! Don't want to stay overnight? Simply join us starting at 5:30 pm and be sure to stick around long enough for a campfire worship at 8 pm. Sunday morning worship will remain at 9 am but will be outside. On both Sat. and Sun., ALL are welcome to participate as we learn more about God's gift of living water!

Semi-Annual Meeting

After worship on Sun., **June 25**, we'll gather for a brief Semi-Annual meeting of the congregation. The primary item on the agenda will be to elect new board members. If you feel your time and talents could be of value to any of our boards, please let the office know of your interest.

Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14

This year, we will join with Grace Lutheran as we explore the "Victory" of God! Mon.-Thurs. will be hosted at Grace, with a blow-out party at SOTC on Friday! Dinner will be served at 5:30, with rotations of music, Bible story, crafts and sports to follow from 6-8pm. Registration information to come soon. If you are interested in volunteering, talk to Leslie Eichelberger.

Volunteers Needed

The Summer Food Service Program is designed to support families during the summer months when school is not in session. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please visit www.volunteermuscatine.org or contact Nichole at United Way at 563.263.5963 or at nichole@unitedwaymuscatine.org. You may also talk to Al Oestmann.

A Word from Luther

As we embark on the road to the reformation, we'll hear each month a bit more about who Martin Luther was and what he taught and wrote. This month we focus on Martin Luther's famed 95 Theses. Though most of us have heard of the 95 Theses, few of us have actually read them or even have a clear idea of what they say. The best way to read the theses is in the context of all the theses. However, for the sake of space, printed here are a few of Luther's points.

42. Christians are to be taught that the pope does not intend the acquiring of indulgences to be compared in any way with works of mercy.

43. Christians are to be taught that the one who gives to the poor person or lends to the needy does a better deed than if a person acquires indulgences,

44. because love grows through works of love and a person is made better; but through indulgences one is not made better but only freer from penalty [for sin].

Luther didn't intend to start a split with the Roman Catholic Church. He merely drew up this list of points for discussion. But those points struck chords that affected not only the church, but politics, economics, and the whole of society. Before long, these "points of discussion" became not only threatening to church hierarchy, but also to the world as people knew it.



LSI Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

In our Early Childhood fatherhood program, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our residential programs have never had a positive male role model in their lives. But our volunteer mentors are there to help guide them.

At a gathering of mentors and mentees, a few of these children introduced their mentors to each other. When a boy from Beloit spoke, you could hear the quiet pride in his voice.

"This is Josh," he said simply. "And he's the mentor I've always wanted."

You are making all of this possible through your support of LSI. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Breaking Barriers

After years of living in fear, surrounded by violence in his home country of Burundi, Firmin wanted to create a better life for the family he and his wife, Emma, dreamed of.

They fled to Tanzania, where they lived in a refugee camp for 13 years. While there, Firmin worked as a principal in the camp's school and he and Emma welcomed two baby boys, Dan and Joshua. But when the Tanzanian government closed the camp, he and his family were sent to live in the U.S. as refugees. When he arrived in the U.S., Firmin came to LSI's Refugee Community Services to attend English classes and become familiar with his new home.

Firmin and Emma have spent the last 10 years raising their family in Des Moines, and Firmin is finding ways to give back and support more Iowa kids and families. During the school year, Firmin can be found in the halls and classrooms of public schools across the Des Moines district. He is one of several bilingual outreach community workers in the schools, translating for families who speak Swahili, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Kinyamulenge, and French.

In his free time, Firmin works as a direct support caregiver in the Des Moines area, and he spends his weekends as a pastor at a local church. He loves that he can help ease the congregation's daily stresses and lingering trauma through prayer and worship.

Dan and Joshua are now in high school and Firmin and Emma have welcomed two daughters, Grace and Selah, in Iowa.

Community Events

Pub Theology

Pub Theology will be taking a summer hiatus in order to look toward the fall. Per the request of some regulars, we will have a few informal gatherings throughout the summer for people to bring their own questions of faith and life. There will not be a structure topic but open time for conversation. Time, date and location TBD. As always, people of all backgrounds are invited. Like "Pub Theology – Muscatine" for more updates.

Food Pantry Donations

Every time you do your grocery shopping, please consider purchasing an item or two that can be donated. Bring it to church and add it to the collection box in the narthex. We will be sure that donated items are taken to the Food Pantry on a consistent basis.

For the month of June you are invited to bring cereal, peanut butter, and jelly.

Upcoming Mission Trips

The Adult Mission Trip will be sent forth from worship on Sun., June 11 as they head out on a 6-day journey to Missouri. Please keep them in your prayers as they do God's work with their hands! Later in July, the Eichelberger's, Allen's and Pastor Aleese will travel to Madison as a part of the YouthWorks! Family Mission Trip. Pray for the communities that our people will serve, and pray for transformational experiences of faith and service!

Update from the Musician Sub-Committee

Because of a lack of applicants for the accompanist position, the committee has revised its original plan. Rather than hiring one person to consistently play, we have contacted various musicians who are willing to lead Sunday morning worship on a scheduled rotation. Patti Oestmann has graciously agreed to facilitate the scheduling of these musicians. Be on the lookout for some new and old faces leading us in worship!

Members of the committee are still pursuing a few people to serve as either choir director and/or tone chimes director. Our hope is to have a clearer direction for choir and tone chimes by the beginning of the fall. If you have any connections to music leaders in the community, please share with them that SOTC would be interested in utilizing their skills! As always, if there are any questions, please contact Heather Allen or Pastor Aleese.

Weekly Giving

April

April 2	\$2906.00
April 9	\$1967.00
April 16	\$1965.00
April 23	\$1403.15
April 30	\$1402.00
Total	\$9643.15

May

May 7	\$2739.00
May 14	\$1299.00
May 21	\$1405.00
May 28	not available
Total	not available

Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this week:

Concerns

Sara Guhn, following a stroke
Bernice Stalkfleet, dealing with health issues
Ruth Reist, dealing with health issues
Rose Howard, dealing with health issues
Thelma Pendleton, dealing with health issues
Judy Braun, dealing with health issues
Steve Anderson, nephew of Joanne & Terry Drinkall, diagnosed with prostate cancer
Margaret Hildebrandt, dealing with health issues
Gary Grete, recovering from a fall
Doug Bunn, recovering from back surgery
Parke McConnaha, dealing with health issues
Robert Ludwig, father of Amy Bakke, as he gains his strength back following health issues
Bea Stratton, mother of Joe Corman, dealing with health issues
Frank Hill, father of Dave Hill, dealing with health issues

Joys

Thanks to your donations, we dropped off 15 Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits to be sent abroad. Thank you for your generosity!
Doug & Bobbi Bunn, awarded legal guardianship of Jenyka Graves
In celebration of mothers and all leaders on our faith journeys
Ryan LaRue, grandson of Margaret Hildebrandt, who has made significant progress. He will continue to cope with lifelong effects, but has received a good prognosis.
For all graduates at SOTC!
For all who have served in the armed forces.

Sunday Fellowship Teams

June 4 ~ Team 2

Heather Allen, Cathy Bermel, Leslie Eichelberger, & Patti Oestmann

June 11 ~ Team 3

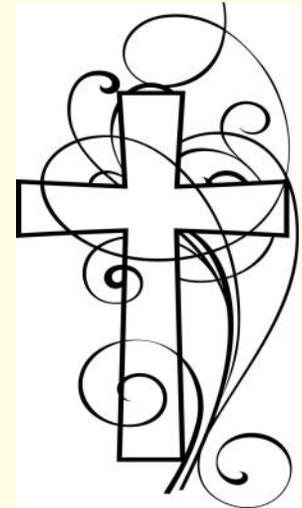
Judy Bartling, Gladys Reif, Michele Rogers, & Barb Williams

June 18 ~ Team 4

Shelly Corman, Melanie Drake, Kathy Dunham, & Roger Luft

June 25 ~ Team 5

Joanne Drinkall, Marlys Grete, Elizabeth Hill, & Sandy Hill



Take Flat Luther with you this summer!

Summer is nearly upon us, which means different family routines and a different schedule here at SOTC! But wherever you find yourself this summer, be sure to take "flat Luther" with you and capture some pictures of all the places he'll go! Print your pictures and add them to our "Road to the Reformation" on the sanctuary glass windows and/or post them to our Facebook page. Families with children 6th grade and under may pick up a "Take Out Church" bag with various activities/questions related to the Reformation to use on long car rides. Though we may scatter this summer, we go forth as the body of Christ, reminded that God's love goes with us wherever we go and that we are always connected by the gift of the Spirit.

Summer SOTC Hours

Pastor Aleese: Tues.: 8-10 a.m.
Wed.: 8-12 a.m.
Fri.: 10-12 a.m.

Office Hours: Mon.: 1-5 p.m.
Wed.: 8-12 a.m.
Fri. 10-12 a.m.

For clarification, we will be working throughout the week, these are the times that you can expect to find us in the office. Monday is Pastor Aleese's day off.

Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Children's Sermon	Communion Assistants	Communion Set-Up	Fellowship	Acolyte
Sunday June 4 @ 9:00 a.m.			Roger Luft		2 needed Roger & _____	Glendola, Ruth, and Margaret	Team 2	
Sunday June 11 @ 9:00 a.m.					2 needed	Becky DeBlaey	Team 3	
Sunday June 18 @ 9:00 a.m.					2 needed	Glendola, Ruth, and Margaret	Team 4	
Sunday June 25 @ 9:00 a.m.			Marlys & Gary		2 needed	Becky DeBlaey	Team 5	

**We are in need of Worship Assistants for the month of June.
Please take time to volunteer where you are able.**

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Bible @ the Brew 6:30 Stitching Group	2 6:00 Family Fun Night Euchre Group	3 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:00 Spring Cleaning Day!
4 9:00 Worship Service	5 5:00 Weight Watchers	6 5:30 Lay Ministers 6:30 Education	7 9:00 Altar Guild 5:00 The Way	8 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stitching Group	9	10 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group Loaves and Fishes
11 9:00 Worship Service	12 5:00 Weight Watchers	13 Wonder Years Summer	14 5:00 The Way Science Camp AM only Adult Mission Trip with	15 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group Pastor Aleese	16	17 7:30 Weight Watchers
18 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 PPC Meeting	19 5:00 Weight Watchers	20 Pastor on vacation	21 5:00 The Way	22 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	23 River Bandits Game Leave SOTC @ 5:15 Game starts @ 6:35	24 7:30 Weight Watchers 5:30 Camp Out Event 8:00 Campfire Worship
25 9:00 Worship Service (Outdoor) Semi-Annual Meeting	26 5:00 Weight Watchers Newsletter deadline	27 5:30 Property	28 5:00 The Way	29 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	30	
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>July 10-14 Vacation Bible School with Grace Lutheran</p> <p>July 27-30 YouthWorks! Family Mission Trip</p> </div>						