



October 2017

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OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Led by Christ,
and transformed by his
love and grace,
we welcome all to join
us as shepherds,
in praise, worship and
compassionate service
to others.

From Pastor Aleese

On Sunday, September 17, Christians in the greater Muscatine area were invited to gather at Zion Lutheran Church for a service of Common Prayer as we commemorated the reformation. That afternoon, Christians of many denominations gathered with one purpose: to confess our universal faith in the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In worship, we gave thanks and sought repentance for our sins. In song and prayer, we commemorated the gifts of the reformation and asked forgiveness for the division that we have perpetuated. But thanksgiving and lament, did not stand by themselves. They led us to a common witness and commitment to each other in the body of Christ.

Each Sunday, when we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles or Nicene Creed, we join with the church “catholic.” Not the “Catholic Church” with a capital “C.” Rather, we join the whole church of Jesus Christ – with a small “c” – as we confess that God, one-in-three and three-in-one, is God of all. Regardless of denomination, place, or time, we embody what Jesus prayed in John 17: that we might be *one*, as God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is *one*.

Even as Lutherans, today, we are called to repent of the things which have divided us for far too long. Rather than focusing on what unites us in Christ, we have often focused on what separates us. As communities and as individuals, we have built walls: mental, spiritual, physical, and political walls, that have only resulted in discrimination and violence.

This is not a history to be proud of. But thanks be to God that Christ – our Way, our Truth, and our Life – breaks down these walls that divide us. And through the Holy Spirit, we are given new beginnings and are strengthened for a faithful and common witness in our time.

Before closing our worship on September 17, we committed ourselves to five commitments written by Lutherans and Catholics in the document *From Conflict to Communion*. Though each of those commitments are important to the church catholic, the fourth commitment seemed to encompass the central message. It stated – “Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.” Try as we might, on our own, we are not united. Nor will we ever be. But in Christ, we are redeemed. In Christ, we are given life. In Christ, we are set free to live in God’s kingdom in this world and in the next. By the power of *this* Gospel – this Word of life – we rest our hope in God’s vision, not our own. A vision in which “at the name of Jesus, every knee will bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil. 2:10-11).

As we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I invite you to rediscover the power of this Gospel message. A message that never grows old, and a message that *still* has the power to give communities, individuals, and the whole world *new life*. God is still speaking; Jesus Christ is still giving us new life; and the Holy Spirit is still making all things new. As we gather in worship this month, we’ll give thanks for this message, and we’ll pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to be present within *all* our communities - drawing us nearer to the Triune God and nearer to each other. Join us in this body of Christ, as we experience God’s Gospel message anew each week and are sent into the world to be God’s people, bringing light into even the darkest corners. You are welcome here. And our neighbors are welcome here too. In Christ, we are one. And in Christ, we trust that all things *will be made one*.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st Barbara Lurndal
Bryan Walton
9th Trent Rogers
10th Elizabeth Hill
Joshua & Samantha Jordan
11th Kaia Petersen
16th Andrew Eichelberger
18th Bruce Owens
20th Connie Stalheim
Joe & Shelly Corman
22nd Macey Rogers
29th Austin Cavazos



Board Meetings

- Evangelism
October 1 after worship
- Lay Ministers
October 3 @ 5:30
- Education
October 3 @ 6:30
- Property
October 10 @ 5:30
- Stewardship
October 19 @ 6:30
- PPC
October 10 @ 6:30

Upcoming Events

SOTC Monthly Faith Formation and Worship Schedule

Worship and Music

Worship - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
The Way - Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

Education

Sunday School and Adult Education - Sunday, 10:20-11:30 a.m.
FINK (more information below) Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
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



FINK Schedule

October 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Theme Night @ Grace
October 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Service Night @ Library
October 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Theme Night @ SOTC
October 25, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Congregation Night @ SOTC

Ye Olde Country Store, Bake Sale

New Era Lutheran Church (3455 New Era Road, Muscatine) will hold it's annual bazaar **Wednesday, October 4th, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Hopefully the scent of fresh baked goods are wafting through your home, if not yet, soon as October 4th is quickly approaching. Please have your items at SOTC by *Tuesday, October 3rd @ 5:30* to allow for pricing and set up that evening. Baked goods need to be packaged and marked as to what it is and if nuts are an ingredient. There will be a quilt raffle and, as in the past, carry-outs for food will be available. If you have time to do some baking for this event, we still need cookies, fruit crisps, fudge, and candies. Please keep in mind that items can not be refrigerated. If you have questions, contact Marlys Grete.

Reformation Bookstore – Sun., Oct 1 - 15

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! For the past few months, we've heard from Luther himself in worship, and have even learned a few of the hymns that he wrote. But are you looking to learn more about Luther, his writings and their impact on Christianity and the world today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages (kids through adults!) and interests! Books will include bestselling biographies, an atlas of European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers and a pop-up book for our young kids! Because SOTC is hosting the bookstore on behalf of Augsburg Fortress, all books will be 50% off retail price and shipping is free. AND...SOTC will be able to keep all the display books to add to our library! Orders will be due by *Friday, Oct. 20*. Be sure to check it out!

Upcoming Events

Children's Books Collection

Have you noticed those "Little Free Libraries" around town? And have you noticed that there are always plenty of adult books but no children's books? Our kids and Ed Board have noticed, and in light of our Road to the Reformation, we want to get books into the hands of kids. Until Sun., Oct. 15, we'll be collecting new or gently used children's books. Kids out of the house and grandkids too far away? Consider going through your bookshelf and donating a few. After worship on Oct. 15, Sunday School kids will travel around the city to deliver the books. Questions? Talk to an Education Board member.

Trunk or Treat — Sun., Oct. 29

Last year, we joined with Grace Lutheran for our first ever "Trunk or Treat," and it was such a success that we're doing it again! Join us on Sun., Oct. 29 from 4-6pm with your best costume and decorated trunk. This year we also hope to include some Halloween games—with a Reformation twist! Details for a campfire, hot dogs and apple bobbing pending. For now, mark your calendar and start thinking of those creative costumes and trunk ideas!

Harvest Fest — Sun., Nov. 5

Preparations are beginning to take shape for the Harvest Fest on Sunday, November 5th from 4-7pm. Project coordinators are Delene McConnaha and Melanie Wachtel. Pastor Cindy Breed, chaplain of Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach (LCO), will be preaching that morning, and will be present with us that evening. Traditionally, a portion of proceeds from the Harvest Fest have benefited LCO. Mark your calendars *now* and stay tuned for more information!

Congregational Budget Meeting and Report

A congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the 2018 budget will be held on Sun., Nov. 19 immediately after worship. A copy of the budget will be available by Sun., Nov. 5. Boards are to submit their budget proposals to the Stewardship Board by Oct. 19.

Hurricane Harvey Response

During years of financial struggle at Shepherd, it was not uncommon for "mysterious" checks to come when needed most. Now, we have the opportunity to pay it forward as we continue to share the Spirit and share our story with others in the body of Christ. We continue to collect a special offering for Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, TX. They were one of the top five hardest hit congregations in the Gulf Coast Synod (TX-LA area). Unfortunately, they have no flood insurance. Though they have submitted an application for a FEMA Small Business Loan, they are relying solely on donations and support. For more information on the congregation, see the poster in the narthex and/or talk to Pastor Aleese. Thank you for your support and for your commitment to the whole church of Jesus Christ.

A Word from Luther

This month, we finish our Road to the Reformation. Since April, we've heard about Luther's life, have read selections from his writings, and have considered what the reformation means for the church today.

But what would Luther think of all this today? First, he'd probably be surprised. He never intended to start a "new" church, and he would likely be surprised to see how his writings have informed so many other facets of our world outside the church.

Though Luther's words have been used in so many places, at the core, Luther's words were about the Word of God—the Inspired Word of Scripture and the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Luther's prime motive was to turn the church of his day back to the clear teachings revealed in God's Word. Instead of relying on the church's sacramental system, Luther firmly believed that we are merely to trust God's gracious mercy. Luther, while explaining the First Commandment in the *Large Catechism*, says this about what it means to trust God:

"A 'god' is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart...Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God."

As we commemorate the day Luther posted the 95 Theses in 1517, who do we say that our "god" is? How might we be called to reform our minds and hearts to believe in Jesus Christ with *our whole heart*? And how might a renewed, radical trust in Jesus Christ as our *Word of life* transform our lives and our world...even today?

Look What's Happened!

Share the Spirit, Share the Story—30th Anniversary of SOTC

For the past three months, as a congregation we dedicated ourselves to “sharing the Spirit” and “sharing our story” of SOTC. On Sun., Sept. 17, we celebrated where we've been, where we're at, and how God is leading us forward. Pastor Paul Ostrem, assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, reminded us that first and foremost, we are gathered together because of one story: the story of Jesus Christ. *Thank you* to all who joined us for this special occasion and made it a memorable day!



“Gods Work. Our Hands.”

On Sun., Sept. 10, SOTC joined with Grace Lutheran and Zion Lutheran to collect non-perishable food and toiletry items for the local Muscatine Food Pantry and money to support the CROP Walk. 3,352 pounds of food was collected and \$847.11 was donated for the CROP Walk. *Thank you* to all who volunteered and all who gave!

Rally Day!

Who's gonna win? *God's gonna win!* On Sun., Sept. 10, we remembered that we have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ who sets us free to live as people of God. Many joined the spirit by wearing their favorite sports apparel, and after worship, adults and kids had a friendly kickball game in the field. During worship, our 3-year-olds, 3rd graders, and 7th graders also received Bibles as they grow in faith and learning.



FINK

This fall, we've adapted our “confirmation” curriculum to include service nights and all-church learning nights. Throughout the month, our youth and leaders have been learning about the Bible: God's Word of life. On Wed., Sept 12, the FINK Youth gathered at Discovery Park to decorate rocks for the “Muscatine Rocks” project and made milkweed balls with the help of our own Dave Bakke! The Ask Jake Walton, Brynn Eichelberger, Noah Jorgensen and Kelsey Drake what they've been learning and what they've been up to!

Parish Planning Council

PPC Minutes
September 22, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Present: Heather Allen, Pastor Aleese Baldwin, Roger Luft, Amy Bakke, Al Oestmann, Barb Williams, and Kathy Dunham.

Devotion: Devotion was led by Pastor Aleese with the Share the Spirit meeting themes - God's presence and faithfulness, energy and enthusiasm. Psalm 46 was read and discussion was held on where we have felt the presence of God.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Aleese provided the board with a report on how her time has been spent over the past month at SOTC. This included the beginning of FINK, Sunday morning education, Rally Day and the 30th Anniversary.

Treasurer's Report: Roger provided the board with a financial report. It was mentioned that offerings have dropped over the summer months and funds have needed to be moved from the resurrection fund to pay bills. A motion was made by Al, seconded by Amy to approve the report. All in favor, the motion passed.

Board Reports:

Board Reports were sent out via email to PPC members for review prior to the meeting. Discussion was held on replacing the roof as SOTC received a check for \$25,198.52 from our insurance provider. An announcement will be made following worship Sunday of this blessing and suggestions how we move forward.

The Stewardship board has come up with a time line for the Congregational Meeting, it is as follows

October 19 – Boards submit budget to Stewardship board

October 25 – Budget submitted to Treasurer

November 5 – Budgets are published (2 weeks before budget meeting)

November 19 – Congregational Budget Meeting

Old Business:

New Business:

Pastor Aleese had a phone conversation with the Pastor and Secretary of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, TX. Their need is great (see poster in narthex). In addition to funds collected after worship some ideas of where/how monies could be raised for this church were discussed. Each member of PPC will take said ideas back to their respective boards to see what fundraisers could help with this effort.

Review for Kathy will be Sunday, October 8th, after education with Pastor Aleese, Heather, and Roger.

Up coming meetings will be October 10th at 6:30 p.m. (Budget meeting) and November 28th at 6:30 p.m.

All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Community Events

Pub Theology Muscatine

PTM is a place for all to gather for open conversation about God, life and faith...however you think about those things. PTM is held *twice a month* on the first Thurs. and third Tues. at 6:30p.m. at Wine Nutz (Pearl Plaza, downtown). Each night begins with some questions, as provided by leaders. From there, where the conversation heads us up to you! Like "Pub Theology Muscatine" on Facebook for more updates or talk to Pastor Aleese.



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 October you are invited to bring cleaning supplies.

Roof Replacement

Earlier this summer, Muscatine had a significant hail storm which damaged many buildings. Though not noticing imminent damage, the Property Board decided to ask our insurance adjuster look at the roof for possible damage. Following his assessment, we were informed that we did have damage to all sides of the roof. Further, we were blessed with a check for \$25,198.52 to replace the roof and repair a few other minor dents on the building. The Property Board is currently reviewing bids to determine the final cost of the roof replacement.

The original goal for the first year of fundraising for the roof fund was to raise \$20,000 by Dec. 31, 2017. Then, that money would be matched with another \$10,000. Though we have a significant base for the funds needed for the roof, we are still asking the congregation to raise \$20,000. As of Sept. 24th, we have raised approximately \$12,100.

What will we do with the "left over" funds? After some discussion, members of the congregation expressed a percentage should be sent to the Salem congregation in Texas. The Roof Fundraising sub-committee will make a proposal to the Stewardship Board to consider in how to divide these funds.

If you have any questions, talk to Kim Bartling—Roof Fundraising chair, or Kathy Dunham, Property Board chair.

Weekly Giving

August

August 6	\$3262.00
August 13	\$1769.00
August 20	\$1763.00
August 27	\$1410.00
Total	\$8204.00

September

September 3	\$2260.53
September 10	\$1950.00
September 17	\$1695.00
September 24	\$1356.00
Total	\$7261.53

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of Shepherd of the Cross! Because of your generosity, we continue to share the Spirit and share the story of Jesus! Thank you!

Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

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
Margaret Hildebrandt, dealing with health issues
Colby DeBlaey, sister-in-law of Becky DeBlaey, diagnosed with breast cancer
Those affected by natural disasters
For all who lack daily food

Joys

In thanksgiving for God's work don through our hands in service to the community
For the work of the Spirit in this congregation for the past 30 years
For all who have partnered with SOTC to uphold God's mission in this place



Sunday Fellowship Teams

October 1 ~ Team 6

Amy & Dave Bakke, Margaret Hildebrandt, Glendola Reinier, and Ruth Reist

October 8 ~ Team 1

Betty Burch, Becky DeBlaey, Kaia Petesen, Melanie Wachtel

October 15 ~ Team 2

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

October 22 ~ Team 3

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

October 29 ~ Team 4

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



Road to the Reformation

October is our last hurrah! To wrap us up, we will:

1. Read portions of the 95 Theses within worship each Sun.
2. Focus on Luther and what the Reformation means for the church today in Adult Education
3. Host a Reformation Bookstore
4. Engage in an all-church FINK Night on Wed., Oct. 25 focusing on Luther and the Reformation
5. Celebrate with an intergenerational education hour on Sun., Oct. 29 for children and adults
6. And have a festival worship service for Reformation Sunday on Sun., Oct. 29

SOTC Hours

Pastor Aleese: Tues.: 8-10 a.m.

Wed.: 2-5 p.m.

Fri.: 3-5 p.m.

Office Hours: Mon.: 1-5 p.m.

Tues. 4-6 p.m.

Wed.: 4-6 p.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 October 1 @ 9:00 a.m.	Mark & Kaia Petersen	Roger Luft	Tom Atkinson	Patti Oestmann	2 needed Bryan & Jake Walton	Shelly Corman	Team 6	Jake Walton
Sunday October 8 @ 9:00 a.m.	Doug & Bobbi Bunn	Tom & Penny Burger	Roger Luft	Pastor Aleese	2 needed Roger & Brynn	Bryan Walton	Team 1	Brynn Eichelberger
Sunday October 15 @ 9:00 a.m.	Kim Bartling	Roger Luft	Josh Allen	Dave Bakke	2 needed Josh & Zach Allen	Shelly Corman	Team 2	Zach Allen
Sunday October 22 @ 9:00 a.m.	Dave & Sandy Hill	Drinkalls	Al Oestmann	Judy Bartling	2 needed Judy &	Bryan Walton	Team 3	
Sunday October 29 @ 9:00 a.m.	LeGrands	Mike & Cathy Bermel			2 needed Gary & Marlys Grete	Shelly Corman	Team 4	Violet LeGrand

October 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Reformation Book Store 2:00 CROP Walk	2 5:00 Weight Watchers	3 5:30 Lay Ministers 6:30 Education	4 11-5:30 New Era "Ye Olde Country Store" Bake Sale 6-8 FINK @ Grace	5 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Bible @ the Brew 6:30 Stitching Group 6:30 Pub Theology	6	7 7:30 Weight Watchers
8 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Reformation Book Store	9 5:00 Weight Watchers	10 5:30 Property 6:30 PPC Budget Meeting	11 6-8 FINK Service Night	12 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stitching Group	13	14 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group
15 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Reformation Book Store	16 5:00 Weight Watchers	17 6:30 Pub Theology	18 6-8 FINK @ SOTC	19 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group 6:30 Stewardship	20	21 7:30 Weight Watchers
22 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	23 5:00 Weight Watchers	24	25 5:00 The Way 6-8 FINK @ SOTC (All-Church)	26 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	27	28 7:30 Weight Watchers 9:00 Worship and Music Team
29 Reformation Sunday "500 Years Celebration" 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Reformation Education Event	30 5:00 Weight Watchers	31				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>November 5 Harvest Festival</p> <p>November 11 Loaves and Fishes</p> <p>November 19 Congregational Budget Meeting</p> </div>						