



Acts of Faith

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Kewanee, Illinois

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The Continuing Reformation

On October 31st, 1517, a solitary monk approached the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. There, he posted a sheet of paper by nailing it to the door, then he left. His actions weren't particularly unusual, for in the days before radio, TV, the computer—and even the printing press was still a new innovation—it was customary to post notices on the door of the church for everyone to see. The monk, as you know, was Martin Luther, and the notice was the 95 Theses.

This act is seen by many as the beginning of the Reformation. It's the reason that we celebrate Reformation Sunday at the end of every October (an event of infinitely more importance than Halloween!). Yet, it was never Luther's intention to start a new church, or to even start a great conflict in the church. The 95 Theses weren't intended for general reading—they were written in Latin and were supposed to be the topic for scholarly debate. If Luther had known ahead of time what a great tumult these would start, he may never have publicly posted them. But, God works in His own way as He calls the church to repentance and reformation.

Luther wasn't the first to call for a reformation within the church. The history of the church is filled with a continuous stream of people calling upon the leaders and people of the church to reformation. These, prophets, apostles, pastors, theologians and laypeople called the church to repent and return to the true teachings of Christ, to lead a life that reflected true Christian piety, and to stand before God in worship which is faithful and true. Indeed, because the Church is filled with sin-filled human beings, it's in continuous need of reformation. That's why the first of Luther's 95 Theses read: *"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."*

The great blessing of the Reformation is found in

Romans 3:28, *"The just shall live by faith."* We're the children of God, certain of eternal life, not because we lead particularly good lives, or because we've tried to do our best; but because our hope, our faith is in Christ. It's for the sake of Christ, the One who suffered and died on our behalf, that God calls us His own and we're assured of eternal life.

Reformation is more than a historic event that took place over 400 years ago. It's the work of God which He accomplishes in each one of us. In Baptism we were re-formed from being children of sin, death and the devil, lost under the wrath and condemnation of God; to being children of God. God continually calls us to a daily reformation through contrition and repentance where the Old Man is drowned and dies with all sins and evil lust and daily a new man comes forth and arises, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Pastor Fischer

Why I Am a Lutheran
by Rev. Paul T. McCain

I love the Gospel. That is why I love Lutheranism. I don't receive Jesus and His Word and His teachings (doctrine) anywhere else like I do in Lutheranism. I don't get nearly enough of the Gospel in Roman Catholicism or Eastern Orthodoxy, neither of which is fully catholic or orthodox. I don't get enough of the Gospel in Calvinism, with its fixation on God's "sovereignty" instead of God's love in Christ. I don't get enough of the Gospel in Arminianism, which throws me always back on my "decisions for Jesus." I don't get it enough in the Charismatic movement with tongue-speaking emotionalism. I surely don't get enough "Evangel" in Evangelicalism, that's for sure, with hand-waving nonsense and endless legalisms. I'm not saying the Gospel is not to be found in these places, and I'm certainly not saying that only Lutherans are Christians, or only Lutherans are going to heaven, it is simply that I don't get enough of the Gospel from these sources. I don't get enough of the water of life and the bread of life in those places. I'm told sometimes by well intentioned people, "You just don't understand, the Gospel is really at the heart of these confessions." I wish that were so. I've seen enough of all of these to know what I want. I want Jesus. I want the Gospel. I want pure doctrine. That's why I want Lutheranism.

I can almost hear some people saying, "But doesn't Lutheranism have problems?" Of course it does. Welcome to life in this fallen world! Welcome to the result of the fall into sin. The last time I checked the church is full of people who are just like you and like me. You know, full of people who are poor, miserable sinners, just like us. We make mistakes. Sometimes incredibly stupid mistakes. Indeed, more than mistakes, we daily sin much and are in need of forgiveness.

When I talk about Lutheranism, I'm talking about the real deal, the good stuff, the 100% proof, unvarnished, unfiltered, pure Lutheranism as we find it so powerfully confessed in the Book of Concord and in the many wonderful doctrinal and devotional writings of the Orthodox Lutheran fathers which offer the burning the blazing hot, glowing fire of Lutheranism, in all its spectacular glory and truth, the truth of the very Word of God itself, the Gospel of Jesus.

I was reading recently in a collection of essays by Robert Preus titled "*Doctrine is Life: Essays on*

Justification and the Lutheran Confessions." Preus provides a powerfully beautiful quotation from Johannes Quenstedt, the great Orthodox Lutheran dogmatician. Quenstedt is buried on the grounds of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, where precisely is now unknown, but on the wall, faded and almost unrecognizable, on the northeast corner of the church, is a large memorial stone, and in the Luther House in Wittenberg, now the world's greatest Luther museum, you can enter the room used as a lecture hall when the house was converted into a seminary, and you will find there a portrait of Quenstedt, staring out at you with all seriousness.

Here is that quote. Quenstedt was commenting on 1 John 3:16: "This is how we know love: that Christ laid down His life for us."

This is the love of God; rather than banish men eternally from heaven He removed Himself from heaven, clothed Himself with flesh, became the Creature of a creature, enclosed Himself in the womb of the virgin, was wrapped in rags, laid in hay and housed in a barn. Nor does His love stop here; but after a life spent in poverty and adversities this love drives Christ to the ground on Olivet, binds Him in chains, delivers Him to jailers, cuts Him with the lash, crowns Him with thorns, fastens Him with nails to the Cross, and gives Him to drink the cup of bitterness. And finally this love compels Him to die, to die for adversaries and enemies (Rom. 5:6). Continuously and in these sundry ways Christ, who thirsts so greatly for our salvation, declares His love and mercy toward the human race. (p. 44).

This is what preaching Jesus is all about. If you want something other than Jesus, there are lots of options. If you want as much of Jesus as He gives to you, then Lutheranism is where you need to be. I love Jesus. I love His Word and His doctrine. That's why I love Lutheranism. And I believe you will too, my friend. God grant it! Amen.

-- Rev. Paul T. McCain
Concordia Publishing House
September 1, 2007

***Kewanee's Oktoberfest
Thursday, October 18***

Faith Lutheran will again sponsor a food booth for Kewanee's Oktoberfest celebration. It will be on Thursday, October 18th, from 4:00 PM until we run out of bratwurst. A change for this year is that we will be serving from the church Fellowship Hall instead of from downtown. We welcome any helpers, and we need some homemade pies donated. If you can't bake, monetary support is appreciated. Contact Donna Becker if you can help or donate pies.

We will be selling bratwurst sandwiches, sauerkraut, potato salad, and pie for dessert. *Schmecks gut, jah?*

From Psalm 46: *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."*

October's Calendar

- Oct. 3 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 4 Evangelism Comm., 6:30 PM
- **Oct. 7 19th Sunday after Pentecost**
Voters' Assembly, 3rd Qtr.
- Oct. 10 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 12 Building Comm. 7 PM
- **Oct. 14 20th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Oct. 14-16 CID Fall Pastors' Conference
- Oct. 16 Women of Faith Meeting, 1 PM
- Oct. 17 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 18 Oktoberfest, 4:00 PM
- **Oct. 21 LWML Sunday**
Courtyard Estates Worship, 3 PM
- Oct. 24 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 25 Building Comm., 7 PM
- **Oct. 28 Reformation Sunday**
Nursing Home Services, 2 & 3 PM
- Oct. 31 Reformation Day
Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM

Women of Faith

LWML Sunday

October 21st will be *LWML Sunday*. There will be a special sermon and order of service for the day recognizing the gifts and contributions of the women of our Synod and congregation.

Please remember to bring your collected Mites as the Mite Offering can will be available on that Sunday.

October Meeting

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, Oct 16th, 1:00 PM, in the church Fellowship Hall. The hostess will be Carol Schwefel. The program will be Kewanee Social Services.

Together in Prayer

As the members of the LWML join *Together in Prayer* every Monday at noon, we reflect on being content in whatever circumstances we may be, fully relying on the Lord, our Rock, as we serve Him in spreading the Gospel so all may come to faith. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it"* I Timothy 6:6-7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lois Novotny	10/01
Jane Davis	10/02
Wayne Becker	10/07
Ted Sturtevant	10/08
Michael Leezer	10/11
Beverly Felten	10/18
Judy Bridgewater	10/19
Myrene Carper	10/20
Sharon Larson	10/20
Paul Estes	10/22
Connie Gustafson	10/22
Elaine Price	10/22
Evan Becker	10/24
Sandra Heinrich	10/27
Robert Weber	10/27
Gary Hahn	10/28
Jacob Hernandez	10/31

Anniversaries

Claudia & Bill Croegaert	10/02
Mona & Walter Kubiak	10/09
Kristin & Sean McDonald	10/14
Sharon & Ron Larson	10/18

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School, 10:15 A.M.

7:00 PM, Wednesday

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor
309-852-2787 (Church Phone)
309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)
309-853-5394 (Home Phone)
E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org

620 Hepner Dr.
Kewanee IL 61443

Address Correction Requested

**“A Mighty Fortress is our
God, a trusty Shield and
Weapon.”**

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT—LCMS
100th Anniversary Service

The worship service celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held October 14, 5:00 p.m., at: Trinity Lutheran Church, 801 South Madison, Bloomington. The preacher will be Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, former CID and LCMS President.

Significant Dates in Lutheranism

by Rev. David J. Bueltmann, CID President
reprinted from *The GatePost* July/August 2007 Issue

Most Lutherans will recognize 1517 as the year that Luther nailed the Ninety-five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Many have traveled to Germany to see this church and the reconstructed doors which replaced the original doors. The reason for Luther's work was to point people to the Word of God which states that salvation "is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." Up to that point the people had the idea they could earn salvation by what they did or even purchase forgiveness.

Another significant date in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is April 26, 1847 (330 years after the nailing of the 95 Theses). On this day the Synod was established with the name "*Die Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Synode von Missouri, Ohio un andern Staaten.*" There are a number of interesting books telling the story of how the Lutherans from Saxony, Germany, started out for America in 1838 with five ships and arrived in New Orleans with four ships. You can also read about their struggles until they finally organized in 1847. It is also interesting to note that the Synod changed its name to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in 1947.

The organizing of the Synod into districts is interesting to follow. At the first convention of the Synod the territory was divided into six "conference districts," 1) St. Louis, MO; 2) Chicago, IL; 3) Ft. Wayne, IN; 4) Monroe, MI; 5) Fairfield, OH; 6) New York, NY. In 1854 Synod was reorganized into four larger districts: 1) Eastern, 2) Central, 3) Northern, 4) Western (which included Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Louisiana). By 1887 the Western District became six districts, one of them being the Illinois District which came into being in 1874.

In 1907, 60 years after the Synod was first organized and 390 years after the Reformation, the Illinois District became three: 1) Southern, 2) Central and 3) Northern. It was on May 24, 1907, that this division was officially completed. Thus in 2007 (this year) we are celebrating 100 years that our Central Illinois District has existed. To commemorate this occasion and celebrate with thanksgiving the blessings given to us by our Lord, an anniversary committee has been established which is at work planning events. One of these events is a worship service scheduled for October 14, at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Our Centennial Celebration will remind us what God has done for us and continues to do for us in Christ Jesus. As we who are alive now realize, it is not always easy to remain faithful to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. This faith has been brought to us by the grace of God. We pray that we can pass that Word of God on to many generations to come. We pray that God will continue to bless our efforts in "Telling the Good News About Jesus". Join us in celebrating and thank the Lord for His continued blessings.

(Much of the information for this article was gleaned from "His Story" written for the 75th Anniversary of our district by the Rev. Herbert C. Pragman.)

What's Your IQ?

Here's a test that measures not your Intelligence Quotient, but rather your Invitation Quotient. Use this as a guide and encouragement in your willing response to the Gospel.

- ◆ Since your worship services last Sunday, have you spoken to anyone about Jesus and his forgiveness? (Hebrews 13:15)
- ◆ Do you think of speaking to members who may have been absent from Sunday worship to express your concern and encourage them? (Hebrews 10:25)
- ◆ Have you invited a newcomer in the neighborhood to your church anytime within the past four months? The past year? (1 Peter 3:13-16)
- ◆ Have you encouraged or invited anyone who does not attend Sunday School or church to visit yours with you? (James 5:19,20)
- ◆ During the past month have you introduced yourself before or after worship to anyone you did not know and extended your personal word of greeting and welcome? (Galatians 6:10)
- ◆ Did you take time last Sunday to greet the people who sit near you in worship? (James 2: 1-4)
- ◆ Do you pray for the ability to use opportunities God presents to you? (Ephesians 2:10)
- ◆ Do you pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your outreach concerns? (Romans 8:26,27)

What is your *Invitation Quotient*? May the Holy Spirit who leads our hearts to believe that we are justified also move our mouths to confess our salvation! (Romans 10:10)

From: WELS Evangelism
(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Paying-Off the Mortgage

Now that that our church building is substantially completed, we're phasing from a "Building Program" to a "Pay-Off the Mortgage" program. We would like to see the mortgage paid-off well ahead of time to reduce the overall amount of interest we'll pay. Your "Facing the Future with Faith" pledges or intentions are still an important part of this. If you've completed your "Facing the Future with Faith" commitments, you're encouraged to look at our "Pay-Off the Mortgage" needs, and assist with sacrificial gifts or pledges toward this effort. Is a "Reformation" needed in your personal giving to the congregation and toward our new church building? Please prayerfully evaluate your giving, evaluating also the precious gift of salvation through "Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone" which our Lord has given to you through the church. Please contact Otto Schwefel or Nancy Tudder for more information on how you can help.

* **Thank You!** *
* Dear Faith Lutheran Church, *
* Thank you for the wonderful gifts to the Tri- *
* County Pregnancy Resource Center. The *
* formula is the exact kind that some of the *
* babies need right now—a true blessing. Your *
* many diapers, outfits, bath items, etc., will all *
* be used. The samples have been a wonderful *
* tool as we reach out to prospective and current *
* clients. Many thanks for your giving and your *
* prayers. *
* Sincerely, *
* *Tri-County Pregnancy Resource Center* *
* 200 E. Williams St. *
* Wyoming, Illinois 61491 *
* 309-695-5052 *
