

Bethany Lutheran Church

25430 Bison Road

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Cushing, MN 56443

October 2021



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REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER

On the last day of October, 1517, the sound of a pounding hammer was heard on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany - and in years after that throughout the world. The reason for the pounding sound was the theological considerations offered by a Roman Catholic priest who had had enough of the corruption and false teachings that had been streaming out of the Rome church for centuries. The name of the hammer wielding priest was Martin Luther, and on a Wednesday afternoon, on October 31, 1517, he took a bold and dangerous step as he nailed a paper to the door of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg, Germany. On that piece of paper were written 95 Theses or complaints against the only Christian community of his day - his own church. But the words on that paper began the reformation of Christianity and western thought.

It didn't take many days after Luther nailed the complaints to that church door for discontent to grow into conflict in the northeastern German states. Soon, after the posting of the complaints, some of the German princes and theologians felt compelled to speak out on the same issues that Luther had listed while others were willing to take up arms and fight against the proposed reforms. It was while this was taking place, that there were those that feared that Martin Luther's life might be threatened because of the growing discontent of many in the eastern German states, so a sympathetic friend with powerful connections whisked him to the protection of Wartburg Castle.

It was during his time in the castle that Luther reaffirmed the strength and comfort of a mighty God in his writings and in song. Within the protective walls, the words of Psalm 46:1 came alive for him. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble." And it was during those days of solitude, prayer, and Bible study that Luther began a translation of the Bible into the people's language, German. He firmly believed that *"all people must be able to read God's word for themselves,"* even though it was the accepted norm of the Church that the Bible be written and read only in Latin by the clergy. Likewise, he believed that church music was for everyone to sing. *"The devil who is the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless trouble, flees before the sound of God's music almost as much as before the Word of God,"* Luther wrote in his Table Talks. And from that inspiration came some of the great Lutheran hymns like, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (ELW 504), Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word (ELW 517), and Out Of The Depths I Cry To You (ELW 600).

As the reform movement started to make its way through many of the German states, Martin Luther's determination to change the church continued to grow, especially after numerous struggles with the papacy that led to his excommunication in 1520. The actions of the church in Rome only made Luther push even harder for the reform of the church, approaching each consideration with zeal that led to numerous transcripts that were posted questioning the efficacy of the papal office as well as other instituted policies of the church. Luther's proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ began in private with small gatherings, but soon developed into new larger fellowships of believers who grew in the fervor of faith. Yet, there were also many who scoffed at Luther and his followers and as a means of insult called them "Lutherans".

Martin Luther continued his teaching and preaching of the reform movement until his death in 1546 when he was 63 years old. He died in the town he was born in, Eisleben, Germany and yet he impacted the world. He saw himself as an imperfect man, as he was at times crass and harsh, and sometimes held within prejudices against various groups of people. And yet, he saw himself as he understood all people to be both “Saint and Sinner”. But, because of his convictions to his faith, he ultimately changed the world, reforming theological, political, and economic ideas that continue to guide the world today. And that’s why we will take time at Faith and Bethany during the month of October, to turn our attention toward the pounding hammer of this man who understood that all need to put our faith in God’s Word.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Carl

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship/Sunday School Pastor Chris	4	5 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	6 6:00 PM Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl	11	12 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	13 6:00 PM Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship/Sunday School Pastor Chris	18	19 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls 6:00 PM Council Meeting	20 6:00 PM Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Annual Mtg/Fellowship/ Meal Pastor Carl	25	26 9:00 AM Quilting & Prayer Shawls	27 6:00 PM Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Chris Food Shelf Sunday						

October 2021

Team LuConic: Mike LuConic, Darlene Molde, Chuck & Char Stockman, Randy & Janet Beinhorn, Joanie Miller, Steve Ahlrich and Barb Anderson, Bob Miller and Becky Wetch, Wendy Richmond, Dorothy Radke

November 2021

Team Sandbakken: Wade & Kayla Sandbakken, Bill & Linda Bates, Marilyn Mueller, David & Maggie Peterson, Dave & Sharon Cina, Kathy Wray, Doug & Jackie Wiherski, Jim & Elizabeth Oberton, Gary & Tracy Statema



Oct 6th Charlie & Anna Hansen
Oct 12th Andy & Kourtney Frank
Oct 23rd Randy & Janet Beinhorn

Oct 6th Gary Bellamy
Oct 7th Levi Sandbakken
Oct 12th Alexander Oberton
Oct 12th Don Flicek
Oct 29th Cindy Zetah
Oct 29th Lynn Bushinger

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

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Roxie Flicek 320-749-2026

Wade Sandbakken 320-749-2311
Bruce Ford 218-575-2335
Harvey Bloom 320-749-2929

Welcome Pastor Chris: Sunday, October 3, will be Pastor Chris Mathiason's first official day at Bethany. Let's make him feel welcomed! Donuts will be provided during fellowship.

Sunday School Kick Off: After the service on Sunday, October 3rd, all youth ages 3 to grade 5 will meet in the sanctuary of the church for the start of Sunday School. This year's theme is "I Love to Tell the Story". The Sunday School will go on a yearlong journey through the Old Testament. Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month there will be a time for Song and Story followed by an activity that is tied to the story.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, October 24th, after the worship service. The classes will be every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Immediately following the 9:00 am Worship Service on October 24th we will have our annual meeting, with a lunch after the meeting. If your last name begins with an A thru L, please bring a salad or vegetable side dish. If your last name begins with a M thru Z, please bring a dessert item.

Quilt Raffle: The winner of the 2021 Bethany Quilt Raffle was Tom Crawford's daughter, Lisa Guzek.

