



## P.C.A. Witness

(Preaching Christ Always)

This month marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation of the Church, a movement sparked by Martin Luther's posting of his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Church of Wittenberg, Germany. These theses, while primarily attacking the selling of indulgences (letters of absolution for sins), opened the doorway for the return to God's Word as the ultimate authority for faith and life. In honor of the Reformation, I wanted to share some highlights from Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*.

One thing, and only one thing, is necessary for Christian life, righteousness, and freedom. That one thing is the most holy Word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ... Let us consider it certain and firmly established that the soul can do without anything except the Word of God and where that Word of God is missing there is no help at all for the soul. If it has the Word of God it is rich and lacks nothing, since it is the Word of life, truth, light, peace, righteousness, salvation, joy, liberty, wisdom, power, grace, glory, and of every incalculable blessing. On the other hand, there is no more terrible disaster with which the wrath of God can afflict men than a famine of the hearing of his Word.

The Word of God cannot be received and cherished by any works whatever but only by faith. So [the soul] is justified by faith alone and not any works; for if it could be justified by anything else, it would not need the Word, and consequently it would not need faith. Wherefore it ought to be the first concern of every Christian to lay aside all confidence in works and increasingly to strengthen faith alone and through faith to grow in the knowledge, not of works, but of Christ Jesus, who suffered and rose for him. No other work makes a Christian.

To those who ask, "If faith does all things and is alone sufficient unto righteousness, why then are good works commanded?" Although a man is abundantly and sufficiently justified by faith inwardly, in his spirit, and so has all that he needs... yet he remains in this mortal life on earth. In this life he must control his own body and have dealings with men. Here the works begin, here a man cannot enjoy leisure; here he must indeed take care to discipline his body by fastings, watchings, labors, and other reasonable discipline and to subject it to the Spirit so that it will obey and conform to the inner man and faith and not revolt against faith and hinder the inner man, as it is the nature of the body to do if it is not held in check. Since by faith the soul is cleansed and made to love God, it desires that all things, and especially its own body, shall be purified so that all things may join with it in loving and praising God. Nevertheless the works themselves do not justify him before God, but he does the works out of spontaneous love in obedience to God and considers nothing except the approval of God, whom he would most scrupulously obey in all things.

The following statements are therefore true: "Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works; evil works do not make a wicked man, but a wicked man does evil works."

*Semper Reformanda,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ethan".

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## October

### Anniversaries

- 6 Ken & Laurie Shaffer
- 11 Michael & Karen Tolliver
- 16 Justin & Jill Carlson

*Congratulations!*

### Birthdays

- 1 Lucy Carlson
- 3 Marge Miller
- 4 Brock Rops
- 6 Ron Heibult, Marne Strasser
- 11 Ava Marts, Christi Saylor
- 12 Twila Sinning
- 13 Chad Breck
- 15 Amanda Miller, Stefani Zimmerman
- 16 Sami Gier, Loretta Hill, Darlene Miller
- 20 Ryan Strege
- 21 Russ Nelson
- 24 Don Kuper
- 25 Holdyn Breck, Billie Valentin
- 26 Kaleb Van Ruler
- 27 Corey Lundquist
- 29 Arlon Knock, Isaiah Saylor
- 30 John Carlson
- 31 Marin Bartscher

### Christian Ed News

#### Adult Sunday School

##### Class in Adult #1:

This class will continue the series *"We Believe in The Holy Spirit"* from Third Mill.

Lesson one will conclude on Oct 1st.



Richard and Charlotte Lounsbury, live at 28667 459<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Davis. Charlotte has lived on the family farm her entire life. Richard left a landscaping business and started farming when they were married in 1973.

Their children and grandchildren are a big part of their lives. Amanda (41) is a Physical Therapist at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and is married to Jerry Marts, who works at Poet Biorefining-Chancellor. Their children are Ava, who is in third grade, and Ethan who is a first grader.

Jessica (39) is a Speech Language Pathologist for the Southeast Area Cooperative

Oct 8th & 15th: Focuses on the Holy Spirit's activity in the creation as a whole.  
 Oct. 22nd & 29th: Explores the Holy Spirit's work within the community of God's covenant people.

#### Class in the library:

The fall topic for this class is "Covenant with God". In October the unit is "Called into Covenant with God." looking at passages in the Old Testament.

## FAMILY CORNER

and is married to Shawn Vannorsdel, who farms with his family and is an Ag banker with Security State Bank. They have one son, River, who is almost 2.

Jason (37) heads the family farm and is married to Jackie, who works at Valley Exchange Bank in Lennox. They have 3 children: Samantha, a graduate of SDSU, Lucas, a graduate of Lake Area Technical Institute, and Stetson who is in first grade at Viborg-Hurley.

Richard enjoys farming, snowmobiling, watching NASCAR and cruising in his Mustang convertible or 1956 Ford Pickup. Charlotte keeps busy watching the grandkids, doing

bookkeeping for the farm, reading, gardening, local theater, music and church activities.

Charlotte has been a part of Ebenezer since birth and Richard joined after they were married. Richard has been an Elder, a Deacon of Building and Property and is currently serving as a Deacon of Mercy and Finance. Charlotte helps out at the piano, leads an exercise/Bible study, sings in choir, works with VBS, and is part of many church committees. They state, "We appreciate our friendly church family and feel blessed that Pastor Ethan leads our congregation in following God's Word."

#### S.S. offering:

The last quarter mission project will go to Brandon Haan, the RUF minister, at the University of Minnesota as well as our monthly support of our Compassion child, Yariel, at \$38 per month.

#### Women's Ministries News

- Rachel Bible study will meet on Monday, October 9th, at 7:00 pm

at the home of Rose Haan.

•October 25th the ladies of Ebenezer will provide lunch for the residents at Welco and visit with them.

Sweet breads will be served. If you are able to make a loaf and/or help serve, please call Linda Cramer at 647-5967 or Lois DeVries at 647-0023.

## MISSION NEWS



**Chris & Josephine Hatch  
Serge  
London, England**

**Updates and prayer requests:**

1. It's been a good summer together in London but the goodbyes are always difficult. Ask the Lord to bless the upcoming school year - Rahel's junior year at Calvin College and Kaleb's junior year of high school in Chicago.
2. Our men's and women's Bible studies resumed in September. In addition, New City Church will be preparing to accept members for the first time on October 8. Please pray for us as we will have many teaching responsibilities.
3. Please pray for "S" whom we met this summer and has been investigating the claims of Christ. Raised in a secular home with a Muslim father and Christian mother, S is coming to church activities, reading the Bible and asking questions about baptism.
4. There will be many changes to the Shepherds Bush team this fall as two apprentices are leaving, one is returning briefly to the US, another is returning for several months and

a new apprentice starts in October. Pray that we can encourage the staff through the comings and goings.

5. The youth and children's work of our team has had some encouraging activities (summer Kids Club with 80 children and weekly high school Bible study) but there are many opportunities we are not addressing. Please pray for wisdom as we re-evaluate our outreach to children and teens.
6. On October 6th, New City will host the first New City Conference in which to learn and discuss God's design for the multi-ethnic church. Please pray that the Lord continue to raise up gospel driven leaders for multicultural London.

**Jim & Sue Akovenko  
The Seed Company  
Arlington, TX**

Recently several of our team members represented the Seed Company in Nigeria where 63 church leaders and Bible translators gathered to discuss new ways to meet the need in their country for the 325 remaining languages that do not have God's Word. They acknowledged their dependence on God and the partnership

with organizations that can compliment the resources that are within Nigeria. They are seeing the future as their own and defining solutions that match well.

**Rick & Pam Box  
Third Mill  
Pflugerville, TX**

As many of you know I (Pam) have been on a trial treatment. I have now stopped being part of that trial due to the side effects I had been dealing with after being on it for six weeks. Last week, we had our first appointment with my new oncologist at MD Anderson. I honestly hope I can weather the storm here with this doctor.

We talked and talked about options for me and he has recommended another clinical trail that has had positive results so far. Fortunately, my cancer is growing slowly, so we have time to explore other options. I think right now, it is my favorite word.

We filled out the forms and just today I received a call to schedule my preliminary tests. I am enjoying a day in the sunshine. I have learned to

enjoy the sun while it is shining.

**Union Gospel Mission  
Lamplighters Auxiliary**

First English Lutheran Church hosted the September meeting. Thank you to those who donated coffee for the Love Gift on a short notice.

The Auxiliary project remains the same which is purchasing the grand piano for the chapel.

Fran Stenberg shared that they had a lot of challenges before being able to open the new chapel. All have been met and they are now enjoying the new facilities for the chapel services. A lot of chairs have been donated to be used in the chapel. They give praise for that. Besides the evening chapel services they also have Bible study on Wednesday mornings.

A prayer need is funds to pay for the new addition.

The next meeting will be at 2nd Reformed Church in Lennox. The Love Gift for October is adult scarves, hats, and insulated gloves which will be used for Christmas gifts.

**Sioux Empire Life Chain  
Sunday, October 1st  
2-3 pm**

Be a witness to the sacredness and dignity of *LIFE* by taking part in Life Chain as we join others to pray for a renewed respect for *LIFE* in our city, our state, and our country. Ebenezer has been assigned the south side of 41st Street near Cathy Ave which is a block east of Marion Road. Each person will hold a sign and pray silently during the hour. The signs will be available at 1:30 pm in the parking lot of First Assembly of God Church at 6400 W 41st St. If you have any questions, call the Bungers at 647-5991.

**All Church Eat-Out**

On Monday, October 2nd, from 5:00-7:00 pm there will be an all church eat-out at the Pizza Ranch

**Fall Festival of  
Gospel Music**

The annual Festival of Music will be held on October 8th from 2:30 pm-8:30 pm. An of-

fering will be taken in the afternoon and evening for the music groups.

There will be a light supper served about 5:30 pm with a free-will donation for the meal. After expenses the rest will go towards Youth Short-Term Mission trips.

**Officers' Meetings**

The Deacons' will meet on October 3rd at 7:00 pm and the Session on the 10th at 7:00 pm.

**Adult Choir**

The choir will practice on October 11th and 18th at 7:45 pm and will sing on the 22nd. Come join us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

**Rise With the Guys**

Rise with the Guys will meet on October 14 at 7:00 am. They will be studying Genesis 28.

**Christmas Shoe Boxes**

If you have been buying some fun gifts to get ready for Operation Christmas Child, come to the packing party on Sunday, October 29, at 2:00 p.m. The

age group choices for boys or girls are 2-4yrs, 5-9yrs and 10-14yrs. Please keep in mind the guidelines of no liquids, military related toys, medications, food items or glass containers (just to mention a few). We have a print-out available with more info and ideas if you want to take one home with you. This information can also be found online at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org). If you have completed a box, it can also be dropped off during that week or day. Please hang on to any empty shoe boxes you have. We will need additional boxes besides the approximate 70 pre-printed boxes on hand. There will be labels available and Christmas paper for wrapping the boxes. As a reminder, the shipping fee is now \$9 per box.

Current donations to cover the costs are at \$825.75 . Any further donations can be brought to the packing party. If you have questions, contact Karen Mossefin.

Please remember to pray for the children who will be receiving these gifts.

*"Reaching Christ Always"*

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LENNOX  
EBENEZER  
PRESBYTERIAN