



SUMMERLIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1911 Pueblo Vista Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128
 www.summerlinlutheran.org



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 October 22, 2017

Good Morning and Welcome: We hope your worship this morning will be a good experience for you. Many of those sitting around you were in your position once. They walked through the doors of the church and didn't know anyone. They felt a little awkward to be in a new place. Yet, they found a home here and we hope that you will too. If you would like information on how to become a member, if you have questions about worship, or if you are just curious, make sure to speak with Pastor Buch as you leave. Please fill out our friendship register so that we have a record of your visit with us. If you have any questions please ask one of the ushers that handed you your worship folder. God's blessings on your week and we hope to see you again soon!!

Little children are welcome in worship. Children are future pastors, teachers and members of God's church. They need to meet Jesus and hear his Word too. **We have reserved the back row of chairs on the organ side of the church for families with small children.** We have a quiet room, located off the narthex, for infants, toddlers and their parents if the children get too active during worship.

Please silence phones during the service. Thanks!!

If you need a large print copy of the bulletin please ask an usher for assistance.

Willing Hands This Morning:

Organist: *Computer*

Tellers: *Dick and Cathy Yeakel*

Ushers: *Tom Johnson & Noah Longworth*

Altar Care: *Kelley Buch*

Kitchen Helpers: *Kelley Buch*

Suggestions Before Worship: This morning we have a little different order of service. While we always have a confession of sins in our service, this morning's service is more in depth. It helps us to think about our confession of sins, our confession of faith and the forgiveness that Jesus gives. This in-depth look at ourselves should not be new to us, this is something that we should be doing every day of our life. As we prepare for worship this morning, take a look at yourself and your life, what are your sins? What has Jesus done for you?



Pastor's Welcome and Prayer

Opening Hymn: 391

God Loved the World So that He Gave

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe Should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ is the solid rock of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die—His Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word does teach How we the blessed goal may reach.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood; Baptized, you are a child of God.
- 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death—This is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Please rise for the Invocation and Confession of Sins.

Minister In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**
Minister We trust the Lord's gracious promise that "wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, He is in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).
Congregation **"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17)!**

We Confess Our Sins To The Lord:

M We have come into the house of the Lord. Let us bow before the Lord and humbly confess the sins that we have committed.
Do you believe that you are a sinner?
C **Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.**

- M** How do you know that you are a sinner?
C **I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept, and which I have sinned against in thoughts, words and actions. The Bible also shows me that I am a sinner since I have a sinful nature which I was born with.**
- M** Are you sorry for your sins?
C **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against my loving and gracious God.**
- M** What do you deserve from God because of your sins?
C **I deserve punishment from God both here on earth and forever in hell.**
- C** *We sing the printed verses of confession and repentance. (CW #306)*

**Before you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I humbly fall.
 I see my sins against you Lord, My sins of thought and deed and word,
 They press me sore; to you I flee: O God, be merciful to me!**

**Oh Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh cast me not in wrath away!
 Let your Spirit ne'er depart, But let him draw to you my heart
 That truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!**

**O Jesus, let your precious blood Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
 Turn not, O Lord your guest away. But grant that justified I may
 Go to my house at peace to be: O God, be merciful to me!**

God Announces His Forgiveness to us:

- M** Our God loves us, he wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Do you believe that you will be saved even though you are a sinner?
C **Yes, I believe I will be saved even though I sin every day.**
- M** Why do we have the assurance of being saved in spite of our many sins?
C **I have this confidence because God promises me that Jesus has taken away all of my sins.**
- M** What has Jesus Christ done for us that we are so confident of salvation?
C **Jesus willingly walked to the cross. He took my sins on himself and paid for them when he gave his own body and shed his own blood. He suffered my punishment and died for me.**

- M** How do you know you are forgiven?
C **God says in his Word, "God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them." The Word assures me that "God made Christ, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." This is the good news that Jesus has forgiven all my sins.**
- M** On this your confession, by the authority of our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I have the joy of announcing your sins are forgiven. Jesus has taken your sins forever. Through Christ, you are God's child and an heir of eternal life with him.
C **Amen**

We sing the printed verses of thanksgiving (CW #376)

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
 I dare to make no other claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
 On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, His covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;
 When eve'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

The Prayer Of The Day

- M:** Let us pray.
 Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

We Listen To The Word Of God

The First Lesson: Isaiah 55:6-9

The grace of the Lord is shown in his mercy. His love and mercy are greater than we can imagine or know.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD,

and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Songs and Prayers for Children

These songs and prayers are ones that, for many years, parents and grandparents have taught to their children. We take the time to remember the simple truths that are in these songs that we now teach our children. Please help your children to follow along as we sing these songs that provide the Gospel in a simple way.

Jesus Shepherd of the Sheep

1. Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep, who thy Father’s flock does keep
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, guided still by thee.
2. In thy promise firm we stand, none can take us from your hand,
Speak, oh Lord at thy command, we will follow you.

M: Let us fold our hands, bow our heads and ask Jesus our loving Savior to hear us as we pray together:

**Lord teach a little child to pray
And, Oh, accept my prayer
You hear all the words I say
You are everywhere.**

**Teach me to do whate’er is right
And when I sin, forgive;
And make it still my chief delight
To love You while I live. Amen**

God Loves me Dearly

1. God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

Refrain:

Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

2. He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. *Refrain*

The Second Lesson: Romans 9:6b-16

Israel thought their blood made them children of the God’s promises. Paul shows it is through faith that we are called God’s children and are made part of his promise.

For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ⁸ In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

M: Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

C: Thanks be to you, Oh Lord.

Please rise for the reading of our Gospel, the words and works of our Savior, Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

God is not fair, this is a good thing. He gives us his precious gifts of faith, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation whether we have been a believer all of our lives or if we are new to the faith. We do not earn or deserve anything from God, but he still gives them anyway.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵ So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶ About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

⁷ "Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

⁸ "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

⁹ "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

¹³ "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

¹⁶ "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Hymn Of The Day: 365

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

1 Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us your humble dwelling, All your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion, Boundless mercy from above.
us with benediction; Comfort us with heav'nly love.

2 Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
We would ever seek your blessing, Serve you as your hosts above,
Pray and praise you without ceasing, Glory in your perfect love.

3 Sanctify your new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us trust your great salvation, Won for us on Calvary,
Till we lay our crowns before you, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till in glory we adore you, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Sermon Text: Jonah 4: 5-11

Sermon Theme: God is attached to us.

⁵ Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?"

"I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

Please rise after the sermon is completed and we sing together Create in Me.



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -



tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Apostles' Creed ~ *Credo*

P: We confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed as printed for you.

Let us confess our faith in God the Father who created us, preserves us and protects us from the attacks of the devil and all evil:

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P: Let us confess our faith in God the Son, sent from the Father to be our Savior from sin, to live a perfect life and suffer and die that we might be holy:

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From here He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Let us confess our faith in God the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to bring us to faith, to strengthen our faith when we are weak and to keep us firm in that faith when doubts and troubles come:

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit - the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Offering

Our Lord gives us the opportunity to praise and thank him with our offerings. During the offering, please sign the friendship register that is located at the outside end of the aisle.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

P: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

P: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

P: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

P: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

P: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing of the Lord

M The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.

- 2 The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

- 4 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.



We pray your worship was blessed. Please come again!

Good morning and welcome.

Whether you are family and friends, or first-time guests and visitors it is a pleasure and a privilege to share the message of Jesus resurrection and to celebrate the forgiveness and eternal life that is ours through Jesus. God's blessings to you until we see you again.

Please leave your information so that we can keep in contact!!

News and Notes (and other things):
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Today	10/22	9 AM	Worship & WELS connection video
		10:15 AM	Bible Study
Tuesday	10/24	6:30 PM	Ministry Team Meets
Wednesday	10/25	10:00 AM	AM Bible Study
		1:00 PM	Back to the Basics
Thursday	10/26	6:30 PM	Luther Movie Downtown
Saturday	10/28	10:00 AM	Joint Choir Practice GVLEL
Sunday	10/29	9 AM	Reformation Worship
		10:15 AM	Bible Study
		3:00 PM	Joint Reformation Service
			Potluck to follow

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, Nov. 4 th	9:00 AM	Relighting the church
	9:00 AM	Staging, Sorting and Setting for the Garage sale
		<i>Many Hands are Needed for Short Work!!</i>

November 10, 11 ...7-4 &7-3

Garage Sale. Please sign up to help!!

- **Ministry Team meets Tuesday Night.** Wanna take part in the discussion? Ministry Team is open to anyone from our congregation. Come to the Ministry meeting on Tuesday evening. If you come, roll up your sleeves, we will digging into some issues and finding solutions.

- **November 4th.** We have a day of action planned for November 4. We will be changing the lights in the Sanctuary. We will need extra hands to move and reset chairs and change the light bulbs.
We will also need hands for the final Garage Sale Sort & Stage. Saturday Nov 4 begins our week of final preparations for the Garage Sale November 10,11. We will need hands on the 4th to help sort & stage some final items that have come in.
Both activities begin at 9:00AM. A lunch will be provided.

- **Final call for donations.** We will be accepting donations until Sunday, October 29, 2017. Please have all your sellable donations to church by Sunday.

- **Garage Sale: November 10,11..... 7-4, 7-3.** If you have an hour or two either day to help sell, re-sort, or straighten tables and items, there are plenty of time to choose from. Please take a moment to sign up in the narthex and tell us when you can help.

- **A Moment of Thanks:**

Thanks to everyone who took part in our Listening Sunday last week. We counted 35-40 people who were involved. The Ministry Team gathered some valuable information and is in the process of compiling it now. While nobody can promise to do everything that was suggested, the Ministry Team and the Council look forward to discussing, working on, and implementing some of the things suggested. Thank you for your help and feedback. We look forward to doing it again.

We thank all those who helped out with Trunk or Treat yesterday. We never know how these community events will go, but it always seems as if God blesses us with some children and some conversations where we can do some outreach and evangelism. May God continue to bless our efforts.

- **Luther: A Return to Grace** will be available for purchase soon. This is the more religious version of the Luther films. More information will be coming when it is available.
- **Serving next week:**
Ushers: Cliff Talgo & Larry Wiersum Altar: Kelley Buch Kitchen: None signed up
- **Jean Dove's Birthday:** Jack tells me it is Jean's birthday. She may very well be the oldest member of our congregation who is still able to attend. Happy Birthday Jean!
- **Services in Spanish:** Misa en español: todos los domingos a las 11:30 a.m. en La Iglesia Luterana Monte de los Olivos. 3975 S Sandhill Road Las Vegas, NV 89121 (702) 969-7911.
- **We pray for those who carry heavy loads.** Please pray for June Danweber. June is still in the hospital and tests are still being run. She has had slow, consistent improvement, but still needs our prayers.
- **Our thanks to the Lord:** To God be the Glory!! He works through us, his people, to do his work on earth. Our current budget calls for approx. \$3800 per week. Last week 68 people worshipped the Lord and brought \$2368 to the Lord. May God bless those offerings and use them to his glory.



Conference of Presidents holds its fall meeting

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met Oct. 10-13 at the Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis., for its regular fall meeting. Included in the discussions and decisions:

- The COP noted with thanks to God that Congregation Mission Offerings are up 1.6% over last year (\$231,000). As congregations begin planning for next year, a video communication from each district president will encourage and guide congregations in that process.
- Last year the COP determined that pastors teaching at Lutheran high schools and prep schools fall under the same calling guidelines that restrict the calling of teachers (Nov. 1 through the first week of June, with two calls possible during that time). The COP clarified this policy by determining that pastors serving in primarily administrative roles (presidents/principals, deans, etc.) at the schools can be called at any time.
- The COP extended divine calls to Rev. Jerry Ewings to serve as a Christian giving counselor and to Rev. Mark Gabb to serve as the director of the Commission on Evangelism.
- The COP appointed Rev. Doug Tomhave to serve as the chairman of the Commission on Evangelism.
- Earlier this year the COP established a standing committee to work with WELS parasynodical organizations. This committee is in the process of determining its specific role and establishing the procedures it will follow. The purpose of the committee is to foster good communication and cooperation between the synod and WELS parasynodical organizations. The committee reported that it had begun its work and will continue to develop its goals and policies.
- The COP concurred with the request of Northwestern Publishing House to conduct a review of the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) as soon as the complete translation is available. This review will be similar to reviews of the New International Version, the English Standard Version, and the Christian Standard Bible, which have already been done.

- The COP continues to monitor closely the pastoral vacancy rate and how the calling process can best serve the needs of congregations and workers in a time of a shortage of pastors.
- The COP discussed the workload of district presidents who serve in the large districts. The COP asked the synod president to investigate various options to provide needed assistance.
- The COP discussed how the certification process for teachers can be improved and, if possible, streamlined. The COP asked Martin Luther College to review certification requirements for all teachers and to bring its proposals to the January meeting of the COP.
- The COP will ask the Synodical Council to establish an ad hoc committee to study future options for the WELS Pension Plan. No change in the plan is anticipated in the near future, but the COP agreed that such a study would be beneficial for future decisions.
- The COP is encouraging all congregations to designate one Sunday in November as a Mission and Ministry Sunday to encourage greater awareness of, and support for, the work we do together as a synod. In the future, congregations will be encouraged to plan a Mission and Ministry Sunday for October.
- The COP asked for the appointment of a special committee to discuss possible alternative models for congregational constitutions and bylaws.
- The COP approved a request from Martin Luther College (MLC) for permission to conduct an appeal for MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP). The CPGP gives congregations the opportunity to provide direct financial support for students at MLC preparing for the public ministry of WELS.

Serving with you in Christ,

President Mark Schroeder

New Set Of "Theses" Highlights The Basic Teachings Of Lutheranism

As part of its triennial convention in Grimma, Germany, this past summer, the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) approved a new set of Ninety-five theses to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

While Luther's theses focused on the abuse of indulgences in the church at the time, Ninety-Five Theses for the 21st Century has a different theme. "It's really the basic teaching of the Lutheran faith organized according to the Small Catechism," says Rev. Thomas Nass, professor at Martin Luther College and one of the men leading the development of the theses.

"I think it's what every Lutheran layperson should know." Fifteen pastors from sister churches around the world put together the document. "It's something that the churches of our fellowship have done together to show how they're united in the Lutheran faith," says Nass.

Mr. Greg Vandermause, production studio manager at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., produced a video of leaders from our sister church bodies reading these contemporary statements of faith at the CELC convention in Grimma interspersed between the readings. The video can be viewed online.

"We pray that you are encouraged in the faith that has been passed down and that you find joy in seeing how that faith is shared by many around the world," says Nass.

Purchase a print copy of the booklet at nph.net. Watch the October WELS Connection to learn more about the CELC convention in Germany. Learn more about the CELC at celc.info

New Form Makes Connecting College Students With Churches Easier

WELS Campus Ministry is introducing a new student management system. It is now live for pastors and college students.

With this new system, pastors and churches can now manage student lists online. This includes viewing, sorting, editing, adding, and deleting student profiles as well as managing a student's free subscription to Forward in Christ and Meditations. Pastors can access the form via their My WELS Cloud account.

For college students, the form is available at wels.net/campus-ministry.

The new form will enable students to easily manage their campus ministry profiles, including updating addresses, expected graduation date, subscription preferences, and more. Students will need an e-mail address to register and will be given a pin number for their personal log-in. By registering, students will also be able to stay in contact with their campus pastor.

Currently, about 460 WELS pastors serve one or more campuses, and nearly 6,000 students are signed up with WELS Campus Ministry. WELS Campus Ministry Chairman Rev. Charlie Vannieuwenhoven says, "The only way for our pastors to know the WELS students who are attending the university they serve is if their name is submitted with WELS Campus Ministry. This information allows the pastor not only to know which WELS students are attending the university he serves, but it gives him the information he needs to make contact with the student to invite them to worship or any other activities and to share with the student what's happening with the campus ministry.

Learn more at wels.net/campus-ministry.

OWLS Are “Filled With The Gospel”

The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) met in Pewaukee, Wis., Oct. 10-12, under the theme “Filled with the gospel.” About 175 members from around the United States attended.

The convention was hosted by the Dodge-Washington OWLS. This was the first convention directed by new convention chairman Mr. Werner Lemke.

For a decade, the OWLS have used their offerings to support the WELS European Civilian chaplaincy, which serves military personnel and WELS civilians in Europe. This year, the OWLS presented Military Services with a check for \$50,000 for work in Europe. The convention offering and proceeds from a silent auction were directed for next year’s gift to the work of the chaplain in Europe as well.

For four years, the OWLS have provided scholarships to Martin Luther College students. This year, Lailah Thabatah, Heidi Moldenhauer, Tristan Pankow, and Hannah Rundgren received scholarships.

With the convention in Pewaukee this year, attendees were given the opportunity to tour the WELS visitors’ center at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry (CMM), along with a tour of the CMM to learn more about WELS ministry. They were also treated to several presentations about Lutheran traditions and WELS ministry.

Rev. Jim Behringer, director of the WELS Commission on Special Ministries, says, “All the presenters were excellent. Rev. Aaron Christie’s presentation on Luther’s principles that led to the Lutheran fine arts tradition today was full of interesting examples. The OWLS were moved to hear a presentation by former European Civilian Chaplain Josh Martin and his wife, who received OWLS support during their nine years overseas. Seminary Professor Brad Wordell amazed the audience with the opportunities the Lord is giving us to train pastors around the world through the Pastoral Studies Institute, and Rev. Tony Schultz had the OWLS chuckling with recognition as he talked about opportunities to talk about Jesus.”

This year, the convention elected a new OWLS president, Pastor Em. Norman Schell from Omaha, Neb. Schell has been involved with the convention for years helping with the technology needs.

Next year’s convention will be at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart, Wis., under the theme “Finish

Your Race.” All WELS members are invited, even those who aren’t part of an OWLS Chapter. Learn more about the OWLS and all the ministries under the WELS Commission on Special Ministries at wels.net/special-ministries.



REFORMATION 500 1517 – 2017

A CELEBRATION OF GOD’S GOSPEL

On October 31, 1517, a monk nailed a piece of paper to a church door in the town of Wittenberg. While this may not seem like a world-changing event, it was. This paper, called the 95 Theses, brought about a huge change in one of the largest institutions in the world: the church.

God worked through those 95 Theses, in order to show the church that it had erred in preaching and teaching his saving Gospel. God wanted those who were preaching and teaching in error to repent of their sin of false teaching and return to the truth of Scripture.

God used a young monk named Martin Luther as his chief reformer. Some call Martin headstrong, some call him brilliant, some call him stubborn, he was all of those things. What set him apart, though, was his trust in the Lord.

God gave Martin the strength of faith to stand on Scripture alone as Biblical authority. Through that stand, God was able to bring his Gospel back to the light so that we would know the saving love of our Savior.

Martin was also influential in bringing this Gospel to us through teaching. He wrote a Small Catechism which has the teachings of the Bible and simple explanations so that parents could teach their children about the Bible. Please take a moment to look at those teachings on the back of this insert.

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Preface: *As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household
The Bible gives the primary responsibility for the spiritual growth of children to parents and
especially to the father as the head of the household.*

The Table of Duties: What does God ask of us in this World?

Pastors

A pastor [overseer NIV] must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to much wine, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. He must not be a recent convert. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (See 1 Timothy 3:2,3,4,6; Titus 1:9.)

God sets the bar very high for those who seek to be shepherds handling his Word. He must hold firmly to the Word as the cornerstone of his life and teaching.

What We Owe To Our Pastors And Teachers

Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor. (See Galatians 6:6.) In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. (See 1 Corinthians 9:14.) The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, [...] "The worker deserves his wages." (See 1 Timothy 5:17,18.) Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (See Hebrews 13:17.)

God directs that congregations support their pastor with prayers, encouragement, and financial compensation. We thank God, by thanking his representatives.

For more information about the 95 thesis for today go to www.celc.info and click on the links on the right side of the page for an audio version or a printed version.

