

GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2022



The 500th Anniversary of Luther's New Testament Translation



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving
Jesus with you."*

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This last September was the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament into German. This was a major victory for the Gospel, which could be, for the first time, heard and understood by the common people. It was also the single greatest influence on the written German language and helped form a common language (German has had many different dialects).

To protect Luther from being murdered or tried and executed by the orders of Emperor Charles V, Luther was hidden by his prince, Frederick the Great, in Wartburg Castle. Under disguise and going by "Knight George," almost no one knew whether Luther was alive for nearly two years! During this time, Luther did not remain idle, but was determined to have a translation made of the New Testament utilizing not only the Latin, but the original Greek. In order to make the Bible understandable, Luther would, from time to time, wander about the nearby town and marketplace to come up with common words and expressions which he could use for his translation. He also took some small liberties with his translation in order to make its meaning clear that salvation was by grace through faith, adding "alone" to Romans 3:28: "So now we hold, that man is justified without the help of works of the law, *alone* through faith." This, of course, was the meaning of the text, but the extra emphasis was given by Luther because of the prevailing false teaching of his day that one is saved by faith and works.

Celebrate this anniversary by a renewed commitment to reading, studying, and memorizing the Scriptures. Give thanks to God for the gift of being able to understand and believe His Word, which is the way of life and salvation through Jesus Christ, and pray that God's Word would continue to be translated into new languages and taught and preached throughout the world.

Pastor

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...



We Are All Beggars

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: "We are all beggars. This is true." And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars.

This is true." We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the

other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

-- LCMS Stewardship Ministry, October 2022

OCTOBER IS . . .



This provides a wonderful opportunity for congregation members to recognize and encourage those whom God has called to proclaim His message and lead His people, and to commit to pray for and encourage their pastor.

"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other." (1 Thess. 5:12-13)





Confirmed in Christ

On Sunday, October 30th, at 8:45 a.m., the congregation is invited to join this year's Confirmation candidates in the sanctuary to pray for them and listen to them recite selections from the Small Catechism. They will be confirmed at the 10:00 a.m. Divine Service the same day.

You are invited to be there on Oct. 30th to witness the confession of faith given by these young people, renew your own confession of faith with them, and give them the benefit of your blessing and prayers that our Loving Lord will always keep them strong in the Faith they will profess! Encourage them as they continue to grow in this Faith and live out God's plan for their lives!



Increase My Love for Others

Increase my love for others, Lord;
O, hear my earnest prayer!
May I be sensitive to pain
And truly love and care.
Brighten my smile, dear Lord;
May I more fervent be,
Going willingly out of my way,
A lonely heart to see.
And let my greeting be warm and true,
Lovingly meeting the eyes;
Let no one go from my presence today
With lonely tears or sighs.
May I be quick to share my time
With anyone having a need;
May Christ be filling my heart today,
And be glorified indeed!

--Helen Neimy

From *Peace and Quiet*
A Salesian Mission Publication



ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to attend the LWML Fall Rally on October 2 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kouts.

Registration is at 1:30 p.m. and the program is from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. The speaker will be Dale Huhnke, who is preparing for his mission trip for MOST Ministries. To carpool, check with Pat Potratz or any other LWML member.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

"COZY WINTRY RETREAT" is the theme for the basket being prepared for the upcoming Silent Auction benefit for Ascension Lutheran School in Gary. The basket will be lined with a cozy hand-made afghan and we want to fill the rest with items to enjoy on a cold night, such as a good book, gourmet hot chocolate or tea, jigsaw puzzle, etc. The items should be new, please. Just leave your items in the basket in the Gathering Place! Thank you for helping the LWML to support Ascension Lutheran School!



The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation study is underway, and it's not too late to join us. There are two opportunities to attend: Sunday mornings 8:45-9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall or Tuesday evenings 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Simeon Square.

The Tree of Life: God's Promise of Salvation is all about answering the question of how this world God created came to be in such a terrible, confused state and how God stepped forward with a plan and a promise to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to fix it all. Each week we explore Bible accounts that guide us through this epic story of salvation from creation to the cross, to Christ's return on the Last Day.



Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School Newsletter October 2022

On Rally Day, August 28, we awarded seven students with outstanding attendance during the past year. Congratulations to these students! This is a big deal!!



Our six 3rd grade students received their own Bible on Rally Day. We pray that these children will dig into God's Word, realize the depth of His love, and apply the Word to their lives.

We're off to a good start for our new series *The Tree of Life-God's Promises of Salvation*. We had a "picnic" under the tree on the back hallway, painted beautifully by Janet Solum. Each child put their name on a leaf on the tree and made their own family tree craft. We thank Janet so much for sharing her art skills drawing our tree. Be sure to check it out, it's beautiful!!



I have found a good article for raising children which I'd like to share parts of in the next several months. The first one was written about the author's own children. "For about six months, my oldest son kept putting hints on my nightstand about a new video game he wanted—that is until I told him that

doing so made me less likely even to consider it. Giving our kids everything they want teaches them there is no boundary to wanting. If they want something, they get it. But unrestrained desire is deadly. Instead, we need to help them learn how to be satisfied, which means setting boundaries for how much stuff we allow them to get. And yes, we might have to tell them no from time to time."

We will be investigating Christmas programs shortly. Golly, Christmas will be here before you know it. When we select a program, we'll be announcing it and begin working with our students to again share and worship our baby Lord Jesus.



Sunday School will again sponsor Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child.



Since we put school supplies in shoe boxes which are sent to children around the world at Christmas time, if you'd like to help us fill these boxes, now is a good time to purchase these items since they are ON SALE. Crayons, colored pencils, pencils, markers, spiral notebooks, coloring books, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, and scissors are school items needed. Check out the table in the Gathering Place to get a suggestion sheet for the age group you would like to buy for. Take a box if you are completing an entire box, sign your name on the sheet and what child you select. If you choose not to pack a complete box, you may just buy individual items and place them in the box below the card table. Our collection deadline is November 7. The children will assemble the boxes on November 14. You may also help by paying the \$10.00 fee to ship the box. Cash may be given to Lynette Johnston-Martin for shipping fees. Thanks for your help!

HAVE A GREAT FALL!!



Lynette Johnston-Martin
Superintendent

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit items for the November *Gazette* is **Monday, October 3.**





Martin Luther Quiz

- At the Diet of Worms, Luther said that he would not recant his writings and beliefs unless convinced of his error by:
(A) Scripture (B) The Pope (C) Elector Frederick the Wise
- How many children did Luther and his wife, Katherine, have?
(A) Two (B) Six (C) Twelve
- This art form is credited with greatly spreading Luther's Theology to ordinary people:
(A) Poetry (B) Painting (C) Hymns/music
- In Luther's treatise on Christian liberty (Freedom of a Christian), Luther states there is one thing, and only one thing, necessary for Christian life, righteousness, and freedom. What is it?
(A) Prayer (B) The Word of God (C) Holiness
- Luther affectionately referred to his wife, Katherine, as both "my rib" and this:
(A) My dumpling (B) My lord (C) Sweet momma
- After marrying, Luther learned this skill in case he needed more money to support his family:
(A) Sewing (B) Woodworking (C) Masonry
- In his commentary on Galatians, Luther wrote that a Christian man (person) is both righteous and this:
(A) A Sinner (B) Perfect (C) Under judgment
- At what age was Luther married to Katherine von Bora:
(A) 22 (B) 32 (C) 42
- In his sermons on the catechism, Luther wrote that baptism is not dependent upon faith but upon this:
(A) Grace (B) God's Word (C) Repentance
- Luther believed that music in church worship:
(A) Should be very limited (B) Is a good way to serve Him who created it
(B) Is necessary to keep the congregation awake

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

