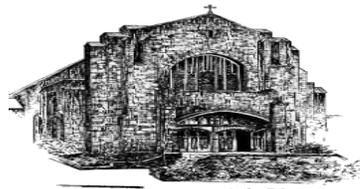


First Lutheran Church
92 W. Walnut Street
Washington, PA 15301



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

OCTOBER 2017

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVES OCTOBER 2017

Grace and peace to you from God the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, amen.

While many will be running around in costumes and shouting out, "Trick or Treat" on October 31st Lutherans, in their millions, will remember the importance of this day as the beginning of the Reformation!

On Saturday of October 31st in 1517, Dr. Martin Luther—a priest and professor—nailed the 95 Theses onto the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) doors for a theological debate. Kimberly and I have both stood at the very spot where Luther posted his Theses at the Castle Church which is also known as All Saints Church.

Luther deliberately chose the day before All Saints Day (Nov. 1st) to post his theses which focused on the selling of indulgences. Luther was strongly against the practice of the selling such indulgences. His own patron, Frederick the Wise, had amassed a collection of over 17,443 holy relics which would be on display on November 1st! Each relic was accompanied by paperwork to verify its authenticity and included such items like a thumb of St. Anne; a twig from Moses' burning bush; hay from the holy manger; and even a vial of the Virgin Mary's breast milk!

Wittenberg, the second principedom of Frederick the Wise (first being Torgau) was an important pilgrimage site; if one prayed and visited all the holy relics it was said that a person could earn 1,902,202 years out of purgatory! The paper that was officially stamped by the Church of Rome was called an "indulgence". In fact this money-making scheme for Rome became so lucrative that the Indulgences could even get family members out of purgatory who had already died! The Dominican Friar Johann Tetzel had his merry band sing out, "When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs"!

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Martin Luther saw this idea of being able to buy one's way into heaven as a very dangerous form of false assurance; if one relies upon works and the buying of indulgences then they are trying to save themselves. If so, then where was the need for Jesus Christ then to be our Lord and Saviour?

What was problematic for Martin Luther about these indulgences wasn't anything new for those serving in the Roman Catholic Church, Jan Hus (1359-1415) from what is now the Czech Republic was another Roman Catholic priest who, 100 years earlier had voiced much of what Luther had posted!

Tragically for Hus, he had no strong patron like Frederick the Wise to protect him from the powers of the Vatican and he was burned at the stake for heresy. Oddly enough, Luther had never heard of this former priest and what he had condemned until after Luther posted his 95 Theses for debate!

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ there is not enough space in our church newsletter to tell you the entire reformation story but this is what we learn through watching our monthly movies, reading and studying in our adult catechism classes and what is taught in the confirmation classes for our youth and in our Sunday schools.

Besides the reading of the Augsburg Confession to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V on June 25th In 1530, there is little doubt as to how important and critical the nailing of the 95 Theses on October 31st in 1517, is to our Lutheran heritage and to Luther's understanding of God's Holy Word!

I invite you to join us for our special service on October 29th when we will celebrate our Reformation Sunday service. Who knows, perhaps Luther himself, might show up! After the service there will be a catered luncheon provided and a presentation of my Reformation Tour that I took through Germany, France and Switzerland. If you miss out on the festivities you'll have to wait another 500 years!

Peace in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

First Lutheran
Evangelism Report
October 2017

This summer, we took a trip out to the Midwest, and on a Sunday morning, had the opportunity of attending a Cowboy Church Service. It was 'entertaining', great guitar work, and the preacher had a nice message. It was fun. We couldn't help wanting to get back to First Lutheran, missing Pastor Rob's service, and biblical message to us through Christ Jesus, our Savior and our Tuesday catechism classes, teaching us Luther's word to us, through Christ Jesus, Luther, always pointing to Christ, never to himself. So, I was reading.....

A Biblical Work

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

"Over the past half century," observed a pastor, "evangelicals have devoted vast quantities of energy and resources to the invention of novel church growth strategies that tend to discount biblical preachingMany have borrowed their management philosophies from the corporate world;...their fashion cues from the entertainment industry;....imitated the communications styles of secular mass media.....; and employed technology designed mainly to amaze and impress rather than to reach and edify." [Recommended reading- 1 Cor. 1:18 – 25].

That's a fair critique of some of today's ministries. While we should use every legitimate tool at our disposal, we must pursue God's work in God's way. We can't win the victory in worldly dress any more than David could confront Goliath in Saul's armor.

God's way is: Prayer: preaching of the Word of God, rightly divided; and the power of the Holy Spirit filling the one who is committed to Christ. That's the only way to build a biblical work.

Provision and Protection

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.
John 10:9

In biblical times, sheep and goats were a primary source of wealth, food and trade. The owner of a small flock counted his sheep, searched for any that were missing, and protected them at night in a corral or enclosure. Such an enclosure had a gate, or doorway, through which the flock would enter in the evening and go out in the morning. Pasture during the day and protection during the night --- made possible by passing through the gate. [Recommended reading *Acts 4:12*]

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Jesus took advantage of that common cultural image by describing Himself as the “door” or “gate.” Through Him would His sheep, His followers, find abundant pastoral provision, and through Him they would be protected. There had been gateways before Him, Jesus said. But they were “thieves and robbers” (John 10:8) who left them spiritually hungry and unprotected. While the thief comes “to steal and to kill, and to destroy,” Jesus came that His sheep “may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (verse 10).

Jesus’ sheep have provision and protection through Him. He and only He (Acts 4:12), is the doorway to both. Beware of open doors and false promises.

God Bless
George Salvucci

From Council Chimney Repair

It turns out that our chimney is in need of repair. Indeed, the exterior portion is so far gone as to require replacement. Because the chimney is the one and only source of ventilation for our boiler and all other mechanical equipment in the basement, the work cannot be postponed. In fact, by the time this newsletter is published, the work may have already begun. The problem with big, old, beautiful buildings such as ours is that there’s always repair/replacement work to be done.

Parking Lot

Doubtless, you have seen the bright red chain across the entrance to our parking lot. The reason for this is to keep the big Waste Management trucks from crossing our lot on their pickup routes and damaging our pavement. So, if you are coming to church during the week, enter the lot from the rear, off the alley. If, for any reason, our lot needs to be opened, a key is available in the church office.

Angel Tree

We will again participate with the Salvation Army in the Angel Tree project using the mixed group option with shoes.

Adult Catechism

It has been so exciting, intellectually invigorating and just plain fun, to attend Pastor Rob’s Adult Catechism class. We have learned so much more about Lutheranism as a result; what it means, how it works, how it is both similar and different from other religions. Classes are one hour long and are held on every Tuesday at 11 am and 7 pm. There is no way you can spend a more rewarding hour once a week.

Robert R. Tracht

October Lay Readers

1st Lisa Hagar
8th Kris Briggs
15th Chiquita Pearson
22nd Kyle Glozier
29th Kimberly Grewe

October Altar Flowers

1st Linda Coleman
8th Judd Lacko
15th Lisa Hager
22nd Kimberly Luketich
29th Joann Reck

October Acolytes

1st Bailey & Aiden DeWalt
8th Brice & Collin Berry
15th A.J. Chadwick & Logan Williams
22nd Brice & Lyndsay Berry
29th Bailey DeWalt & Andrew Serbak

October Altar Team

Billie Sue Serbak
Sonie Rea

October Ushers

1st N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
8th K. Carl; R. Fritz; C. & CR Group; T. Wright
15th C. Burda: A. Chadwick; M. Mazzotti; G. Salvucci; J. Sarver
22nd K. Behrens; T. Fritz; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
29th J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/5 Laurie Carl	10/18 Paul Umbach
Tammy Streator	Janine Dyson
10/6 Eveline Reihner	10/19 Jim Conkle
Alexandria Savage	10/20 Vicki Davidson
10/8 Jensen Maxwell	10/21 Joan Sakerka
10/9 Brandon Boring	Kim Luketich
Shelby Kubacki	Janet Burke
10/10 Stephen Reihner	10/23 Neil Bassi
10/12 Jim McArthur	Michael Sulerud, Jr.
10/13 Bonnie Johnson	10/24 Jane Fischer
Gertie Sten	George Walz
Lauren Conkle	Charles P. Morrison
Cassandra Throckmorton	Jonathan Comfort
10/14 Scott Berry	10/25 Caitlyn Group
10/15 Kristine Briggs	10/27 James Benney
10/16 Kara Clark	10/28 Dennis Schmidt
Richard Hager	Karen Coleman
10/17 Michele Reihner	Diane Fisher
	10/29 Joshua Hoffer
	10/31 Jaime Harvilla

Adult Catechism meets on Tuesday, at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM; you may choose which time is best for you.

Adult Choir practice is on Wednesday's at 7:00 PM and Sunday's at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join the choir!

Bell Choir practice is on Sunday's following the Worship Service and on Thursday's at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Youth Group will meet on Friday, October 27th at 7PM - 9PM.

Movie & Meal will be on Sunday, October 22nd following the Worship Service.

Two Fund Raisers will be starting now! "That's My Pan" and Rada Cutlery.

See the Chadwick Family for an order form.

Gift Card Orders are being taken, please see Kim Chadwick.

ORGAN RECITAL- NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Please keep this date open, November 12th at 3:00 PM for an organ recital by Jerry Anderson in memory his mother, Naomi Anderson, on the 100th anniversary of her birth. The ladies of the church will serve tea and cookies following the recital.

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The Operation Christmas Child "Wish List" has been posted on the bulletin board across from the lounge and in the Narthex. Please take a look, and consider purchasing a gift for a shoebox. See Michelle Williams if you have any questions.

Described below is my review of our 2017 budget performance and a proposed budget for 2018.

We have been fortunate for the last two years as our heating and snow removal costs have been minimal. I expect this winter to be colder and these costs to increase for 2018. Our office supply costs have been significantly lower than budgeted due to less printing and mailing. I have included a 3% raise in salaries as these have not increased since 2015.

For 2017 we proposed a deficit budget of \$173,850. This was an increase from our budget of 2016 at \$167,750 to reflect our actual expenses for 2016. In 2017, due to exemplary cost cutting efforts, our expected spending for 2017 is less than budget at \$162,749.11.

Our income that is not directed to specific funds is \$122,299.82 as of Aug 31 and is forecast to be \$167,725.47 for the year. This is the fund we use to pay budgeted items.

Our directed income is \$17,928.55 as of Aug 31 and is forecast to be \$24,587.73 for the year.

This brings our total income to \$140,228.37 through Aug 31 and forecast to be \$192,313.19 for the year.

See the draft budget attached for more details. Please review and comment.

Chris Gosnell

Treasurer

	Annual Budget 2017	Actual 2017 thru August	Actual 2017 Annualized	Planned Budget 2018	CHG
Personnel		\$8.00			
1 - Pastor	\$39,000.00	\$26,390.00	\$39,780.00	\$40,170.00	3.0%
2 - Secretary	\$8,568.00	\$5,712.00	\$8,568.00	\$8,825.00	3.0%
3 - Handbell Director	\$0.00				
4 - Organist	\$12,710.00	\$8,473.28	\$12,709.92	\$13,090.00	3.0%
6 - Janitor	\$13,506.00	\$9,004.16	\$13,506.24	\$13,900.00	3.0%
7 - Adult Choir Director	\$0.00				
8 - Child Choir Director	\$0.00				
Total Salary	\$73,784.00		\$74,564.16	\$75,985.00	
Benefits					
Pastor Vacation	\$3,252.00	\$0.00	\$3,252.00	\$3,252.00	0.0%
Car / House	\$20,904.00	\$13,933.33	\$20,900.00	\$20,904.00	0.0%
Retirement Fund	\$3,900.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	0.0%
Health Insurance	\$19,000.00	\$13,480.06	\$20,220.09	\$20,000.00	5.3%
Matching Soc.Sec.&Medicare	\$6,000.00	\$3,315.17	\$4,997.51	\$6,000.00	0.0%
Sub-total	\$53,056.00		\$53,269.60	\$54,056.00	
Operational Costs					
Utilities	\$15,600.00	\$9,402.72	\$14,104.08	\$15,600.00	0.0%
Winter Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$1,632.40	\$1,632.40	\$3,000.00	0.0%
Summer Maintenance	\$600.00	\$0.00			
Trash Removal	\$360.00	\$0.00			
Maintenance Agreements	\$0.00	\$0.00			
NALC Conference	\$750.00				
Music & Honorariums	\$750.00	\$240.00	\$360.00	\$750.00	0.0%
Insurance	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,287.00	\$8,500.00	0.0%
Real Estate Tax	\$2,200.00	\$585.41	\$878.12	\$2,200.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	\$10,000.00	\$4,695.62	\$7,043.43	\$8,500.00	-15.0%
Church Picnic	\$400.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$400.00	0.0%
Vacation Replacement	\$750.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$750.00	0.0%
Vacation Bible School	\$1,000.00	\$938.63	\$938.63	\$1,000.00	0.0%
Worship Supplies	\$2,100.00	\$781.13	\$1,171.70	\$1,800.00	-14.3%
Youth Fellowship	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00	0.0%
Sub-total	\$47,010.00		\$34,915.35	\$43,500.00	-7.5%
Benevolence					
Total NALC Benevolence	3%				
NALC	3%	\$2,206.02	\$3,309.03		
Mission Benevolence	0%	\$1,088.00	\$1,632.00		
Local Benevolence	0%				
Pastor's Benevolence	\$1,200.00	\$1,355.00	\$1,355.00	\$1,200.00	
Sub-total					
GRAND TOTAL	\$173,850.00		\$162,749.11	\$173,541.00	

St. Mark 12:31

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The second of Jesus is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these”

Our women’s group here at First Lutheran Church recently asked me if there were any NALC churches that were directly affected by Hurricane Irma in Texas or in Florida. I contacted the NALC Disaster Response Fund and spoke to the director Mary Bates.

Sadly, the news she passed on to me was not good and that St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church (NALC) in Portland Texas (near Corpus Christi) was completely destroyed.

Rev. Mike Gabby’s house was also damaged and a power surge had fried all the appliances in his home as well. Disaster relief, for reasons only they justify, will not cover these appliances.

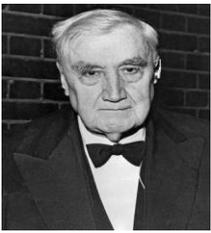
The question I ask you, as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, do we as a congregation want to reach out and offer support to St. Stephen’s and their pastor?

I understand that our own church building is in much need of much repair from the roof to the boiler room.

If we would like to assist in this mission and fulfill Jesus’ new commandment please put the word into our council member’s ears.

In Christ Jesus

Pr. Rob



MUSIC HISTORY

Ralph Vaughan Williams

British Composer

(1872—1958)

Ralph Vaughan Williams, (born October 12, 1872, Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, [England](#)—died [August](#) 26, 1958, [London](#), England), English composer in the first half of the 20th century, founder of the [nationalist movement](#) in English [music](#).

Vaughan Williams studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, and in London at the Royal College of Music under two major figures of the late 19th-century renaissance of English music, [Sir Charles](#) Stanford and Sir Hubert Parry. In 1897–98 he studied in Berlin under the noted composer [Max Bruch](#) and in 1909 in Paris under [Maurice Ravel](#). About 1903 he began to collect folk songs, and in 1904–06 he was musical editor of *The English Hymnal*, for which he wrote his celebrated “Sine Nomine” (“For All the Saints”). After artillery service in World War I, he became professor of [composition](#) at the Royal College of Music.

His studies of English [folk song](#) and his interest in English music of the Tudor period fertilized his talent, enabling him to incorporate modal elements (i.e., based on folk song and [medieval](#) scales) and rhythmic freedom into a musical style at once highly personal and deeply English.

Vaughan Williams’s [compositions](#) include orchestral, stage, chamber, and vocal works. His three *Norfolk Rhapsodies* (numbers 2 and 3 later withdrawn), notably the first in E minor (first performed, 1906), were the first works to show his assimilation of folk song [contours](#) into a distinctive melodic and harmonic style. His nine symphonies cover a vast expressive range. Especially popular are the second, *A London Symphony* (1914; rewritten 1915; rev. 1918, 1920, 1934), and the seventh, *Sinfonia Antartica* (1953), an [adaptation](#) of his music for the [film](#) *Scott of the Antarctic* (1949). Other orchestral works include the *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* (1910); concerti for piano (later arranged for two pianos and orchestra), [oboe](#), and tuba; and the *Romance* for [harmonica](#) and [orchestra](#) (1952).

Of his stage works, *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (1951) and *Job* (1931), a masque for dancing, reflect his serious, mystical side. *Hugh the Drover* (1924), a [ballad opera](#), stems from his folk song interest. *Riders to the Sea* (1937) is a [poignant](#) setting of [John Millington Synge’s](#) play.

He wrote many songs of great beauty, including *On Wenlock Edge* (1909), set to poems of A.E. Housman and consisting of a cycle for tenor, [string quartet](#), and piano (later arranged for tenor and orchestra) and *Five Mystical Songs* (1911), set to poems of [George Herbert](#). Particularly notable among his choral works are the *Mass in G Minor*, the cantatas *Toward the Unknown Region* (1907) and *Dona Nobis Pacem* (1936; *Grant Us Peace*), and the [oratorio](#) *Sancta Civitas* (1926; *The Holy City*). He also wrote many part-songs, as well as [hymn](#) and folk song settings.

Vaughan Williams broke the ties with continental Europe that for two centuries through [George Frideric Handel](#), [Felix Mendelssohn](#), and lesser German composers had made Britain virtually a musical province of Germany. Although his predecessors in the English musical renaissance, [Sir Edward Elgar](#), Sir Hubert Parry, and Sir Charles Stanford, remained within the Continental tradition, Vaughan Williams, like such nationalist composers as the Russian [Modest Mussorgsky](#), the Czech Bedřich Smetana, and the Spanish [Manuel de Falla](#), turned to folk song as a wellspring of native musical style.

WNALC

Thank you, Kim Chadwick and family for the successful Vendor/Yard Sale. The kitchen did very well and a big thank you for our many delicious pies.

Refreshments will be provided for AMI in October.

We will host the women from Bethlehem Lutheran Church at our Circle Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 26th. A covered dish luncheon will be served.

Oct .29th we will hold a covered dish dinner following Church Service in the social room for Reformation Sunday. Meat will be provided. Covered dishes and dessert to be provided by the congregation.

The Holiday Happening will be held Saturday, November 4th from 9 AM to 2 PM.

All crafters are encouraged to make items for our holiday and general item tables. Trash and Treasure items are always a big hit. Everyone looks forward to the bake sale table. We encourage everyone to bring friends and shop for Christmas gifts.

Operation Christmas Child

Happy Fall all Brothers and Sisters at First Lutheran Church! Shoebox packing time is almost near. This year, National Collection Week is November 13-20. We did a great job this summer. We collected a number of items such as flip-flops, plastic cups and crayons. Let's keep this going!

This week, I've posted our Operation Christmas Child "Wish List" on the bulletin boards outside the lounge and in the Narthex. Please take a look at them, and consider purchasing an item for a shoebox.

Each wish list has several tags. Each tag has a gift item and the number of items to buy. I have tried to keep each tag to about \$5. All of these items can easily be found at the dollar store or other discount stores. If you're like me, you are at these stores at least once per week, so it's as easy as to pick up a few extra things!

Once you chose an item(s), take the tag(s), and write your name or initials in the box above it. These items need to be new and unused. Once you've purchased your items, put the tag in the bag, and return them to me or drop them off at the office. We will collect throughout the month, with all items due by October 29th.

We will need some help packing the boxes as well. I'll set a date for that later. However, I'd like to have the boxes packed and ready to go by November 12th so that we can pray over them, and have them blessed by Pastor Rob that Sunday before I drop them off.

This is our third year participating in Operation Christmas Child! It is a wonderful mission that provides children around the world the opportunity to hear The Gospel and grow God's Kingdom! Our shoeboxes are the "seeds"! Thank you so much for your participation and love.

Many Blessings,

Michelle Williams

