

St. James News

Volume 54 Issue 9

Rev. Michael Nirva – Rev. Martin Schenfeld, Pastors

October 2009

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG

Web site: www.stjameshl.org

SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG

320-543-2766

secretary@stjameshl.org

320-543-2630

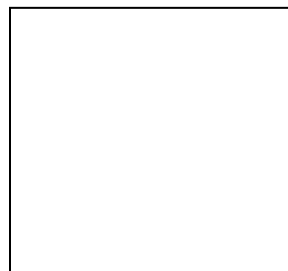
The Freedom That Is Ours in Jesus Christ

The Word of the Lord: II Corinthians 3:17: *Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

Again this month of October, we celebrate the many blessings of the Reformation which remind Christians of the freedom that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. When Dr. Martin Luther posted the 95 theses on the Wittenberg church door, he made a public confession that the truth of God's word was the sole basis of salvation.

All people by nature are slaves to sin. There is a triple alliance of tyrants, under which the souls of people slave and toil with fear and trembling, without peace or rest or hope. They are sin, death, and the devil. For "whoever commits sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). There is no exception. All people by nature are the slaves of this tyrant and are born under this rule. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The Reformer himself suffered under the strain of sin. Luther tried by most humble obedience to keep the ordinances of the Church, by fasting and monkish rules, to quiet his conscience. But the more he tried, the harder he labored, the greater became his fear, his terror, and his hopelessness. Martin Luther could not see the truth, that by the works of the Law no one will be justified before God. Then by the grace of God, Luther was led to the Bible, to the Word of Christ, where the Spirit of the Lord speaks to the hearts of His people. In the Bible the Spirit pointed away from people, from man's own effort, and pointed to the Cross of Christ, where the battle of freedom for the sin-bound souls of the world had been fought and won. In this Word of the Cross, Christ is revealed as humanity's substitute, who died on the cross, and on the Cross created the cloak of righteousness which covers our sins in the sight of God. Therefore, Jesus has purchased and won the liberty of the soul from sin and death and hell for everyone who believes. We are saved by faith alone apart from the deeds of the Law.



The unspeakable joy that comes with this freedom filled Luther's heart, and what he experienced he wanted to bring to others. So God moved him to translate the Word, the salvation for the souls of humanity, into the language of his people and thus make it revealed to them. Luther dug the Bible out again and brought it to light after it had been buried by the church of his day, so that the Spirit of the Lord could again bring the powers of the Gospel to bear upon the hearts of people, removed the veil, and let the freedom of faith in Christ brightly shine forth.

The freedom and liberty of the Gospel must be brought to people's souls today if there is to be any hope to save humanity now and for eternity. Look at the resources God has given us. We are all members of a church which has had possession of the unadulterated precious Gospel of Jesus Christ, in a land of religious freedom. Gospel-filled congregations, numbering thousands, are spread out over our country. Every church, every Christian day school, is a production plant constantly supplying our members with the whole armor of God. Many large and powerful institutions of training Christian leadership stretch out from coast to coast, among them our beautiful seminaries and colleges, also Concordia Publishing House, from which flow streams of Christian literature and books. Add to this The Lutheran Hour, which brings Christ to the nations. We have numerous resources for the spreading of the Holy Gospel.

If you have tasted the freedom with which Christ has made you free, the Spirit of the Lord will urge you to speak of it as Peter and John who said: "We cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). You must realize that the Lord has placed you--wherever you may be--at work or at play, in the shop, in the office, on the street, in the home--everywhere you can reach out. Yes, each one can reach one.

May the Holy Spirit so move us all, every one of us, to reach out, to bring His liberty to souls still enslaved. Tell others of the Gospel with which Christ has made us free.

Pastor Nirva

Church Attendance

Sunday, August 30	187 & 134
Wednesday, September 2	30
Sunday, September 6	118 & 150
Wednesday, September 9	25
Rally Sunday, September 13	400
Wednesday, September 16	15
Sunday, September 20	174 & 214
Wednesday, September 23	22
Sunday, September 27	233 & 195

Communion Attendance

Wednesday, September 2	27
Sunday, September 6	101
Sunday, September 20	141
Sunday, September 27	88

Baptism

Mason Richard Gerber infant son of William and Angela Gerber on September 27, 2009 by Pastor Schoenfeld.

Adult Confirmation

Timothy Boese on September 10, 2009 by Pastor Schoenfeld.

Profession of Faith

Bridey Boese on September 10, 2009.

April Stueven on May 18, 2009.

Transfers In

Joseph and Alicia Wernette from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Watertown, Minnesota.

Transfer Out

LuAnn Madson to Concordia Lutheran Church, Fair Haven, Minnesota

Funerals

Vivian Westphal on September 19, 2009. She had died on September 16 at the age of 75 years, 6 months and 25 days.

Burial

Victor Gruenhagen at the Howard Lake Cemetery on September 25, 2009. He had died on September 22 at the age of 78 years, 4 months and 24 days.

Youth News

Come to the Reformation Breakfast being served by the Youth on Sunday, October 25 in the school cafeteria from 7 to 10 AM. The menu includes Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, delicious homemade desserts and beverages.

A free will offering will be received.

You are all welcome!

MARTIN LUTHER QUIZ

(answers below)

1. Between the years 1534 and 1575 A.D., Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible sold: (A) Almost 2,500 copies (B) More than 100,000 (C) 1 million copies
2. In today's dollars, how much did Luther receive through the sale of his German translation of the Bible? (A) Nothing, (B) \$100,000, (C) \$1 million,
3. After the Diet at Worms, Lutheran was "kidnapped" for his own protection and taken to Wartburg Castle by this long-time friend: (A) Philipp Melanchthon, (B) Elector Frederick the Wise, (C) John Eck,
4. Luther believed that music in church worship: (A) should be very limited, (B) Is a good way to serve Him who created it, (C) Is necessary to keep the congregation awake.
5. The first of Luther's 95 theses claimed that: (A) Indulgences are a central part of repentance, (B) Repentance involves the whole life of a Christian, (C) Christians should repent at church once a week.
6. Luther believed God is: (A) An important philosophical idea, (B) A judge who determines our fate after life, (C) A real spiritual being with a divine personality.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Our September meeting featured Lisa (Schmiege) Erickson presenting a slide show about the Mission trip she participated in this past summer to Kenya, Africa. She truly answered the call:

"Send me; Send me." They had VBS with some 380+ children, moved children from the slums to a new orphanage, and brought bags of food to an impoverished area where it hasn't rained in 3 years. What a truly inspiring message she presented. Please keep this mission in your prayers.

A mini fall retreat at the Lowry Nature Center is planned for October 24th. Its title is "Seasoned with Love." See the next page for more information.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 4th. Women of the congregation are always welcome to join us.

Serving the Lord with Gladness.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in October: Jim Ittel, (5), Audrey Thiesse, Martin Latzig (6), Woody Engel (8), Virgil Birkholz (10), Lucille Greenhagen (14), Marcella Yager (18), Alice Wolfsteller, Grace Stoll (20), Orlin Doering (27), and Jerry Tyson (29).

Answers: 1. B, 2. A, 3. B, 4. B, 5. B, 6. C

In Order That **We** Might Understand

In Acts chapter 8, we learn that there was an Ethiopian court official who was reading from the bible when God the Holy spirit sent Philip to him. When Philip asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading the Ethiopian answered by saying: "How can I understand this, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:31). Philip was then led by God to explain to the Ethiopian what the Scriptures were teaching.

The Ethiopian's dilemma is one that affects all of us. We too, need to be guided by God through others in order to correctly understand the message the Lord reveals in Holy Scripture. Ever since Martin Luther began translating the Bible into German in 1521, a tradition has existed in the Lutheran church of providing people with a Bible that they will be able to understand. Throughout the history of the Lutheran church there have been study Bibles produced with some interpretive notes in order to help guide us in understanding the fullness of Scripture.

In our time, this tradition takes another step forward. Concordia Publishing House has announced the production of the Lutheran Study Bible. It is the first, and only, study Bible in English prepared entirely from the ground up by Lutherans, offering a uniquely keen focus on the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, shining a brilliant light on the heard and center of the Scriptures: Christ and Him crucified, risen and ascended for your salvation. The Lutheran Study Bible has:

- More than 26,500 study notes
- Over 120 diagrams and charts
- Over 220 thematic articles
- 36 custom-designed maps
- More than 31,000 concordance entries
- Book introductions
- A reading plan
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Early Church Father insights
- And much more...

It is important that as Christians we study god's Word and grow in our understanding of it (Joshua 1:8) for it is the Word of God that gives us faith in Jesus (John 20:31) and makes us wise for salvation (II Timothy 3:15). Furthermore in the Bible God teaches, corrects, rebukes, and trains us in righteousness so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17).

As we celebrate the Reformation of the church this month we are reminded again of the importance to correctly study the Word of God so that we will not be led astray into false belief or false hope. If you would like to order a copy of the Lutheran Study Bible, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church or you can Concordia Publishing House directly. Check out the sample pages provided and make an informed decision. Also, please note that this study Bible uses the English Standard Version (ESV) translation, which is also what we use in our Sunday Worship Services. Whether you order a new Bible or no, may God inspire us all to study His Word so that we may "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Chris (II Peter 3:18).

Pastor Schoenfeld

Women of ALL Ages

are welcome to a Fall Mini -
Retreat at the Lowry Nature
Center in the Carver Park
Reserve on Saturday, October 24
from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Marnie Glessing will share her experiences of
having the Lord seasoning her life.

Season with Love

will be the topic.

Bring your Bible and a Friend

Carpooling can be arranged

Babysitting available

Registration of \$15 includes soup/salad lunch

Bring sack lunch for children. Please Pre-

Register with Janice (543-3148) **soon.**

Front Yard Evangelism

Colossians 4:5

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

Just a couple weeks ago, it had been a full day and I was on my way home to meet up with my family for dinner. I was eager to get the car in the garage and head inside, but as I came down the street towards our house I just had to smile. Outside was my 5½ year old son playing baseball with his friend, Terry, a man in his late 30's who sacks groceries and daily walks his dog down our street and stops by the house. He has become one of my son's best friends. I pulled into the garage and paused for just a moment to thank God for this relationship and for others we have formed recently in our neighborhood. It has not always been this way.

We have lived in our home for eight years, but honestly, it has only been over the last 18 months that we have gotten to know our neighbors. I was a "get home, close the garage door, stay in the back yard" neighbor for the longest time. Sure, I would pray for God to open doors for us to talk with our neighbors and share the Gospel, but I never did anything about it. To be honest, I mentally told God that I wasn't getting a paycheck for that mission field and so I did not have time for it. Thanks to my kids and my wife, we have become much more of a "front yard family." We see that time as a time to goof and play or do yard work, but it is not really about that. It is about being available to interact with the people living around us. What is your front yard? Have you compromised being salt and light somewhere where you journey between

Sundays because it is not in your job description? Who is one person that God has placed in your path that you need "front yard time" with this week?

Lord, thank you for your patience with me. I can get so narrowly focused on programs and ministry I am paid to do, that I neglect the relationships that are right around me. May I see that all the daily tasks are not the main point, but building authentic relationships and showing Christ's love are what you have called me to do. Amen!

Today's devotion was prepared by Peter Couser, an LCMS mission planter who recently launched "The Summit" in Aledo, TX. The Summit is a satellite ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ft. Worth Texas.

MISSIONS

News from Nyla

Missionaries in Timor (Indonesia) sent me this follow-up from the audio workshop I lead this spring: "Today we ran into one of the workshop participants from a local radio station. He said they are doing programs in local languages differently and more creatively now than before the workshop. Also, we were in the grocery store that always has Christian radio on. This time it was a very good creative program, interspersed with music, obviously targeted at children. That was very encouraging and very evident that you really made an ongoing contribution."

It's good to hear that my time and energy was not wasted. It's your time and energy too, your prayers and financial gifts, which are now producing fruit among the workshop participants and the Timor listening audience. Thank you.

Nyla Nelson, Pacific Area Vernacular Media Liaison Wycliffe Bible Translators

Our mission is to enhance and encourage access to Scripture and related materials in useable media which are appropriate for the situation, with a special focus on media that meet the needs of oral communicators.

704-843-6570 (office)

Skype me at jaars-1, jaars-2, jaars-3, or jaars-4, then dial 6570

Learn more about Vernacular Media at <http://www.jaars.org/whatwedo/vms>

Music and Worship Notes

For many years our school has had a practice of using a "Hymn of the Month". Each month a particular hymn is chosen for many reasons.

Maybe it supports the season of the church year we are in...or maybe it was just a new hymn worthy of being taught and learned by the children. Some of our congregation's new favorite hymns such as "Father Welcomes" or "Lamb of God" began their introduction to our congregation as a school Hymn of the Month.

In the past months we have begun a similar practice at church. Maybe you noticed *The Tree of Life* or *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise* were sung almost weekly during various months this past summer. It was exciting to hear the congregation's perspective regarding a particular hymn grow from uncertainty into enthusiastic and vigorous singing of the hymn by the end of the month. Practice makes perfect. And those hymns which seemed frustratingly impossible transitioned into a new favorite for many.

During the month of October our hymn of the month is LSB (Lutheran Service Book) #664: *Fight the Good Fight*. This hymn was chosen, as it supports the Reformation theme we encounter during October. This hymn was a standard favorite for many when it was included in the 1941 Lutheran Hymnal. So we are not exactly learning a new hymn but rather reacquainting ourselves with an old friend. Sometimes you will hear it at the beginning or end of Sunday's worship...or maybe it will just serve as a distribution hymn on another Sunday.

We are doing this to grow in our faith and musical knowledge. During the Divine Service the Lord comes to us in Word and Sacrament, and we return our praise to Him by actively and joyously singing our praise and thanksgiving back to Him!

Sunday School

Summer Sunday School went by very quickly. It was fun and faith building to do different sharing activities and watch the Focus on the Family *McGee and Me* series in the Preschool through 3rd grade department. Making puppets and singing with them was a fun summer activity as well as drawing with sidewalk chalk, blowing bubbles, and playing with beach balls.

Rally Day was great. We began with doughnuts and juice, sang our "Hello" song and then went to our new classrooms. We are learning about David and how a little shepherd boy became a great king. There is so much to learn from the Bible. We are very busy throughout the hour.

Reformation Day will be our next special event. All the students will want to see what the teachers have planned for this year on Sunday, October 25.

In the Nursery Department, Book attendance awards were given to: Alex Zimmerman, Kaity Bickmann, Joey Bickmann, Robert Heuer and Landyn Hatcher.

Certificates of attendance were given to: Isabelle Hoffman and Gracie Gabbert.

All our St. James members ages 3 to high school are invited to attend Sunday School. Visitors are always welcome too!

From Our Parish Nurse

We are heading into weather that requires longer sleeves and heavier weight clothing, for most of us, than we have been comfortable wearing through the summer season. As we think about changes in weather, clothing etc., we also need to be observant of our skin, especially watching for signs of skin cancers. Melanoma in moles is the most serious skin cancer. It can be detected early because of its distinctive appearance making it treatable and curable. It should be a once-a-month check on arms and face to detect changes, especially if you are prone to moles and skin tags. Check with your medical provider if you identify any of the following:

Assymetry – one half is unlike the other half.

Border irregularity – the border is scalloped, uneven or blurred.

Color varies from one area to another: shades of tan and brown; black; sometimes white, red or blue.

Diameter is larger than the diameter of a pencil.

Evolving or changing; different than it was last month.

Source: American Academy of Dermatology

Remember the Hula Hoop? It is being re-introduced as a method of healthy exercise. It will tone abdomen, buttocks and thighs and burn 200 calories in just 20 minutes. I think we still have one around somewhere- it might be interesting to see if I could keep it moving for more than a couple of seconds.

A study in the Journal Menopause, found that women of all ages who suffer from frequent bouts of hot flashes and night sweats have lower bone density which increases their risk for Osteoporosis. If you haven't had a bone density test you should consider it- it's a pain free, simple test. To avoid bone fractures and Osteoporosis it is important to take calcium with Vitamin D daily in the evening. You may experience hot flashes and ? or night sweats and not have lower bone-density. Know your bone density and you can be assured of avoiding Osteoporosis.

Are you a doodler? Interestingly, according to British researchers you will remember 29% more information while at a meeting, telephone call or listening to a presentation if you draw or scribble. It is thought you prevent daydreaming by doodling and drawing various squiggles. The article did not include Church sermons though-wonder if it is true for them as well???

Did you know that using a few spoonfuls of extra-virgin Olive Oil will help with restoring dry hair. Just rub the Olive Oil into the hair and scalp, let it set for a few minutes and then wash as normal. It is amazing what regular, simple household products can do without spending lots of money.

Did you know that most Americans consume approximately 250 pounds of meat each year. How about the fruits and vegetables? Remember a well-balanced diet will insure a healthy body.

Have a safe and healthy fall.

Your parish nurse,
Darlene Lind, RN

Here is a brain-teaser crossword puzzle- see how many you can complete without looking at the answers on the next page.

Clues for the crossword puzzle:

Across

1. Helps with lowering cholesterol, prevents constipation and aids in digestion.
2. Disease, if identified early can often be treated with diet and exercise.
3. Small intestinal disease with destructive reaction to gluten.
4. Something you do without thinking.
5. Another name for the Swine flu.

Down

1. To have a friend you must be a _____.
2. Fruit high in antioxidants.
3. This can raise your energy , relieve sluggishness, prevent insomnia and helps in overall health.
4. Vegetable that is very versatile-some do not like it.
5. Low on Vitamin D could cause this feeling.

Stewardship

October is a great time of the year. In many parts of our country the leaves are changing colors and providing some beautiful scenery to delight our eyes. The harvesting of grain (corn, beans and the like) is either completed or in the process of being completed. Many fruits, like apples, and vegetables like pumpkins, are also being harvested and stored away.

Farmers, orchard owners and gardeners are God's stewards who prepare the fields, orchards and gardens, plant the seeds, cultivate and fertilize the plants, and then wait for the Lord's blessings of sunshine, rain, and seasonable weather so that the harvest may be gathered in to provide food for all of God's creatures. God blesses this faithful stewardship.

The Apostle James writes: *"See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains."* (James 5:7 NIV) Those who work in fields, orchards and gardens know that while they contribute much to a good harvest, but they also know that without the Lord's blessings there would be no harvest. They can do their best to get the fields, orchards and gardens ready for seedtime and harvest but the good harvest will take place only if the Lord blesses the fields, orchards and gardens with the kind of weather necessary for a bountiful harvest. After doing all they can, God's stewards must wait upon the Lord who *"opens his hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing."* Psalm 145:16 NIV)

We who have been called to faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit are also called to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us to manage wisely and well. On October 31st we celebrate Reformation Day--a day to remember and give thanks for all the beautiful spiritual blessings God has given to us through the work and ministry of his faithful steward, Dr. Martin Luther. Through Luther God called the church back to **Scripture Alone**, **Grace Alone** and **Faith Alone** so we can know for sure what his will is for our Christian living and giving.

As stewards of the Gospel of Jesus as well as all the rest of life and life's resources, we are called to patiently and faithfully give of our time, talents, financial resources and Christian witness for God's glory and the welfare of people whose lives we touch.

Maturing stewards really do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do.

Have a joy-filled October!

Answers to the crossword puzzle:

Across- 1. Fiber 2. Diabetes 3. Celiac 4. Habit 5. H1N1

Down- 1. Friend 2. Blueberries 3. Exercise 4. Zucchini 5. Tired

School News

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

The above passage is our verse of the month for October, with an emphasis on the word "kind." This coincides with part of our theme for the year "Love Is Kind" from I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13. We pray that our student continue to grow spiritually in displaying love and kindness to one another.

October Events:

- 2 -- Start of our Christmas Fund Raiser
- 5-8 -- Fire Prevention Week
- 9 -- School Pictures
- 15-16 -- No School (MEA)

Volleyball is in full swing. The girls have already been to one tournament and have played several matches. Home games in October are scheduled for the 8th, 13th, 20th, 22nd, and 27th. Game times are anywhere from 3:30 to 4:00 PM depending on the visiting team's arrival. Come and cheer them on.

A Scrapbooking date has been set up for in the school on Saturday, November 14 from 9 AM to 9 PM. Come whenever you can, stay as long as you like. Registration forms are available from the school office.

Please note that the school secretary's office hours are 7:45 AM to 12:45 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We welcome Karen Drusch back to this very important position.

*Please Note: You may pick up the weekly School Newsletter at church for additional news and information.

St. James Night

is coming Wednesday, October 28
at 6:00 PM in the school

A Beef Stew Dinner will be served with
games and activities for all ages.

Hay Rides will be given
-weather permitting

New members will be honored with
all our members welcome!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear Reverend Ken Klaus on The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions. Acknowledgments of these sponsors are given before and after each broadcast. **The cost for one program is \$87 and will be \$89 in 2009.** Please contact Charles Jensen at 320-864-3579 to sign up for a date to sponsor the broadcast.

October 4-Hard Hearts-What good is a hardened heart when it comes to compassion? (Mark 10:2-5)

October 11-Jesus Loved Him, But...Is the love of God conditional? Does wealth get in the way of God? (Mark 10:21-22)

October 18-Not Very Likely-It's not so easy to enter heaven. Ever think about it? Everyone should ponder the subject before it is too late. (Mark 10:23-27)

October 25-Reformation Propositions: In, Over, and Out-Guest Speaker: Rev. Willam P. Yonker.

In, over, out. By God's grace, we are in God's family. Christ has carried us over sin and death, and the idea of somehow earning our salvation is out of the question. Our guest speaker today is the Rev. William Yonker, senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Dundee, Illinois. (Romans 3:28)

You can also listen to "The Lutheran Hour" on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org. Hear the broadcast available to our military at: www.lutheranhour.org/AFN/listen.htm. "The Lutheran Hour" is also on XM's Family Talk Radio 170 every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (EST).

THRIVENT PROGRAM CHANGING THE THRIVENT GIVINGPLUS PROGRAM

as we know it will be ending in January of 2010. Please take advantage of the GivingPlus program and give \$600 to the school. Thrivent will match it at 50% until the end of this year or as long as funds are available. You can designate local expenses for the school on your offering envelope.

Thrivent will be replacing this program with a new one that will continue to benefit our church and school. But until that happens, it would be good for every Thrivent member to have their 2009 donations matched. We currently receive **over \$30,000 each year** in matched donations from Thrivent.