



"Make Disciples of All Nations"

Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

July 2017

Opening Thoughts:

"I will tell of Your Name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise." Hebrews 2: 12

As the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation approaches, many will point to Luther's 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg as the starting point of the Reformation, and his notoriety as a theologian. However, Martin Luther was not only a theologian and a reformer, he was also a "hymnodist," musician and a composer.

In the reform of the liturgy, he brought congregational singing back to the church. In this reforming of the liturgy, the people needed to be trained in congregational singing, and so a hymn book was designed and published. Luther himself composed many hymns on Scripture texts and German texts, wrote more based on the Psalms, and also wrote about thirty chorales. He wrote songs for occasions in the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity). He wrote hymns on topics in the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Baptism, the Creed, Confession, Lord's Supper).

Luther regarded music and singing of the hymns in one's own language as an important means for the development of faith. He once said "next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." He loved the use of organ, while other reformers opposed it. He believed music and hymns can calm the agitation of the soul and drive away the devil.

As we move through the celebration of 500 years since the start of the Reformation, let us not forget the importance and power of the music and hymnody of the Lutheran church. This is part of our great heritage. Look in the back of your hymnal to get the page references for Luther's hymns. Read through them, sing them with your children, use them in prayer.

*Dear Christians, one and all rejoice, With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done. How His right arm the vict'ry won;
What price our ransom cost Him. [LSB 556, v. 1]*

AMEN

Rev. James Stuenkel

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars... Finally brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored..." Please remember in your prayers our CID mission work in area prisons. Rev. Charles Olander and Rev. Stephen Southward, along with many CID volunteers eagerly tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to captive people.

Going to The State Fair?

Check out the Lutheran Hour Ministries Tent at the Illinois State Fair!! It is located on Brian Raney Ave. just east of the Governor's tent. We have ice water, LHM booklets on all topics, Bibles, children's books and coloring books all FREE for your taking. Central Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors the tent. Contact is Deloris Blessman at 309-361-1461.

"Reformation Reverberations"

Date: September 9, 2017

9:00 am- 3:30 pm

Location: Camp Cilca

"The Lasting Impact of Martin Luther's Reforms" will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Dr. Erik Herrmann, Director of the Center for Reformation Research and chairman of the Department of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will lead this institute. As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation join us as we begin with the 95 Theses. Martin Luther's religious reforms have had tremendous and lasting effects upon the Western world, both in the church and in other secular arenas. This institute will examine the long-term effects of Luther's influence in three areas: religion, politics, and society.

This event sponsored by the CID LLL will be held at Camp CILCA where lodging is available at 217-487-7497 (not included in the \$20 registration fee). The cost of \$20 will include a noon meal. Please register by Sept. 4 so adequate food is prepared.

Register with: Deloris Blessman **by Monday, Sept. 4, 2017**
24204 ECR 1850N, Topeka, IL 62665 phone number 309-361-1461
Email is delorisblessman@yahoo.com.

Reformation 500th Anniversary

Looking for information about the yearlong celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The website (lutheranreformation.org) contains wonderful news, schedules of events and ways to be involved in this special celebration.