

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2017 * Volume 55 #9



Reformation 2.0

Later this month we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, thereby starting a Reformation of the Church. In Reformation 1.0 Luther did amazing things in Christ's name: translated the Bible into the language of the people, revitalized Christian Education for both children and adults, reaffirmed the importance of marriage and family, lifted up the holiness of common people's daily work, and of course made central again the Bible's teaching that we are made right with God by God's grace, not by our own work.

The world had changed, and Luther's reformation saw to it that the Church adapted to bring the Gospel of Christ to the world and let the world be transformed by that good news.

Our world has also changed. Can we adapt to bring Christ's love to our world? 500 years ago Luther looked around him, saw opportunities, and responded with the Gospel. Can we do the same?

Not knowing exactly how the Spirit is moving yet, but looking around I see some opportunities for Reformation 2.0 taking hold in Meriden:

- We have a wonderful building and have been able to share it with the community. Are there even more ways we can do that?
- We have several buildings and lots in the immediate neighborhood waiting to be repurposed. While a bit much for us on our own, can we be a part of using these resources in creative new ways? Can we be a catalyst to get things moving?
- We have a labyrinth in Augustana Hall that we haven't used much lately. Is it time to reactivate it? Maybe open it up to the community in some way?
- We are really good at doing food and organizing food events. Can we involve more people and feed the people of Meriden in a new way, maybe even moving beyond the existing idea of what "food" is and including a new concept of satisfying hunger?
- Martin's Messengers is amazing at expressing Christ' love through cards and prayer shawls. Are there even more people to reach through this ministry?
- We have more children in worship than we did a year ago. What is God up to in these children? What opportunities do they present us?

These are just a few of my observations. What opportunities can you add to the list? Our world has changed. How can we bring the good news of Jesus to the world so the world can be transformed? What is God doing at Immanuel and in Meriden? How is God asking us to be part of Reformation 2.0?

Peace, Pastor Burgess

REMINDER: Please notify the church office either by calling (203) 238-1248 or with a note placed in the offering plate when a family member is/will be hospitalized so the church can provide appropriate care and prayers for you and your family member. Thank you for your help.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Richard M. Burgess, Pastor: (860) 462-6545

pastor@immanuelmeriden.org

Diane Murphy, Administrator: (203) 238-1248

office@immanuelmeriden.org

OFFICE HOURS

9am-1pm Monday-Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the November Visitor will be due on October 27th and mailed on October 31, 2017. Please get your articles in on time. Thanks, Diane



Transition Update ... where we are now.

As you all know, if you have been reading the Visitor, we started the process of calling a Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran by updating the information on our MSP (Ministerial Site Profile) back in April of this year.

One of the changes in our Profile was to seek out a Candidate that was fluent in Spanish and could offer us an opportunity to “partner” with the Episcopal Church and share a Pastor with All Saints. This would bring in an additional source of income and make it possible for a full time Pastor.

Now at the time of this writing, we have been informed by our Synod that at this time, there are no candidates currently available in either the Lutheran or Episcopal Church that would meet

our requirement of a bi-lingual Pastor. We were also informed that we could offer a Call to Pastor Burgess if he was interested. We were also given the option of bypassing the Search Committees interview moving forward and just allowing Council to approve a calling.

Following the Regular Monthly Council meeting in September, the Council members present discussed our current situation and decided to ask Pastor Sinnott to arrange a meeting with our Call Committee. When and if the Call Committee makes a decision, and is brought back to Council, the Congregation will be informed by mail and a Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for discussion and tentative Vote.

Security

During our Council Meeting last week, the issue of security was brought up and discussed across the table. We will be following the recommendation of one of our Meriden Police Officers who toured the building with myself and Pastor Burgess during this past Committee night and report to Council what was suggested during that walkthrough. This includes the need to create an effective Emergency Plan, designate and make available more secure locations and a Security Team made up of members from the Congregation who would be welcome to make up this group. We are also looking into participating in any classes offered by our local Police Department.

Building Audit

In conjuncture with a move to find a more affordable Insurance with better defined coverage, a task spearheaded by Kyle Fohlin, I intend to propose to Council the creation of a group who will take part in a top to bottom audit of all belongings within the Church and also log in a secure location, all information related to outside groups that share our building.

Sunday Church School Scribbler

The season after Pentecost continues through the month of October. During this season in the church year we focus on “growing”, our faith and our faith community (our church). This month’s themes are: action, rejection, encouragement, giving and love.

October 1st	2 Sons in the Vineyard	Matthew 21:23-32
October 8th	Rejection in the Vineyard	Matthew 21:33-46
October 15th	Rejoice in the Lord Always	Philippians 4:1-9
October 22nd	A Question about Taxes	Matthew 22:15-22
October 29th	The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:34-46

Each SCS student leaves class with a leaflet. It includes **The Family Square**. Families should work through the square together, it has ideas to keep the learning about God's kingdom going all week long!

There is still time to join our SCS! New students are always welcome. Come to the SCS hallway any Sunday at 8:30am. If you're not able to enroll your child(ren) in SCS for any reason, please find a way to attend our 9:45am worship together. Worshippers interested in receiving a **Family Square** to learn together at home, please speak with Kim.

Reformation Sunday is October 29th. This year will be the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses to a Wittenberg church door (1517). His attempt to start a conversation began the Reformation.

Remember to wear something **red**.

Following worship there will be a pot-luck fellowship.

A adult must accompany children to the restroom or drinking fountain during worship. Our doors are unlocked and all are welcome in our building. Parents and guardians must be a part of Immanuel's Safe Church plan.

See you in worship,

Kim Freeman, SCS coordinator

The Word in Season

The October, November, December issue of the daily devotional The Word in Season is available. Pick up a copy for yourself and give one to a friend.

Autumn is a fun season at Calumet. There is no place like New Hampshire during the fall, as the land prepares itself for winter's long slumber, the leaves burst into brilliant colors and cool



temperatures give respite from summer's hot days. Come and share in the gift that God has given us. To learn about programs and retreat opportunities, please pick up a brochure at Immanuel or check on line www.calumet.org/fall

Finance

With the beginning of the Fall season we would like to remind everyone to please take a moment to review where they are with their giving. If you are behind please do what you can to catch up. We will be preparing third quarter statements as soon as September 2017 has been closed. We would also like to remind everyone about our electronic giving program through Vanco. It is safe and simple to set up it will help you stay on plan and on budget. There are a few instruction sheets in the office if anyone is interested in learning how to set up your account or you can ask any member of the Finance committee about setting up your account.

Thanks- Finance Committee

Reformation Celebration Events as planned thus far: (Save the dates, something for everyone)

October 7th @7pm (SATURDAY) Talent Show! Share your talent- church members and neighbors invited for a “just for fun” evening. Popcorn and beverage provided. Sign up sheet on to church office.

October 15th @11:30am (SUNDAY) Movie after church with finger foods (? Luther or another Christian movie)

October 22 @4pm (SUNDAY) Choir Concert and Potluck Dinner to Celebrate the 500th Reformation with St John’s.

October 29 (SUNDAY) A Special Reformation Service with potluck to follow. Recognition of the reorganized church library. The Reformation Committee continues to work on the details of these plans. Thank you to Pastor, Charlie, Charlotte, Kim, Bev, Freddi, June, Joanne, Jan for efforts thus far and future planning.

XX

October Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jennifer DuBois	10/04
Jenna Schultz	10/07
Linda Gianokos	10/08
Tracy Becker	10/15
Cameron DeMerchant	10/15
Joanne Gardner	10/15
Cindy Ziemelis	10/16
Daniel Gardinier	10/20
Peg Breitenbach	10/22
Frank Daniele	10/22
Jean Benoit	10/24
Diane Dingwell	10/24
Dorothy Johnson	10/25
Julia Lopez	10/26
Cristine Kronenberger	10/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Suzanne and Keith Salerno	10/01
Laurel and Thomas Strielkauskas	10/01
Amy and Frank Daniele	10/04
Charlotte and Charlie Gardinier	10/04
Carolyn and Herbert Ziemelis	10/05
Cheryl and Dan Tomassetti	10/06
Rita and Lawrence Bates	10/14
Sandra and Gary DoBratz	10/18
Shirley and Crandall Fohlin	10/06
Kim and Jim Freeman	10/28