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## THE REFORMATION AT 500 YEARS

In the September 2017 issue of *Grace Notes*, I suggested several activities you could participate in to make your Reformation more meaningful. I recently watched the movie on PBS titled *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*, and can highly recommend both it and the similar video/movie titled *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy*. If you miss the present showings, you should be able to order the PBS DVD at this web-page: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/dvd-martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world/30876943?ean=0841887035156>; and the Northwestern Publishing House version here: <http://online.nph.net/returntoGrace>

**What was the Reformation all about, and is it still relevant today?** As the movies correctly narrate, Luther's **initial** impetus was not the doctrines of *sola Scriptura* (that church doctrine should be established only on the basis of Holy Scripture, not on human philosophy, the writings of Christian theologians, the legislation of church councils, or the edicts of popes and bishops) or *sola fide* (that a person is justified before God only by faith in Christ and his merits, not on the basis of a person's good works, obedience to the law, or personal virtues). The impetus was the abuse in the area of church practice which we today call "Confession and Absolution." The Roman Catholic Church was selling "indulgences" in order to release the faithful from the various penalties that had been prescribed by canon law for sins of all types. Luther was shocked when he ran into this practice in his own pastoral care of the members of his parish. His members were buying indulgences from traveling salesmen authorized by the archbishop and the pope. Luther believed that it was a form of "extortion" to threaten people with eternal punishment—or with

temporal punishment for thousands of years in purgatory—and then to tell people they could be released from that punishment by paying a fee to the church.

As the church's leadership began to prosecute Luther for his opposition to their policies, he began to do research into the basis of indulgences. He found that the current practices were contrary to canon law, and furthermore, he found that canon law—which was the accumulated edicts of popes and bishops and the legislation of church councils—was contrary to Scripture and to the best and most revered theologians of the church. The theologians where he found the most support were in the early church, including Ambrose of Milan, Augustine of Hippo, and Hilary of Poitiers. His study of the history of theology convinced him that the church had slowly, but surely, drifted away from its Scriptural moorings. He decided that the only way to purge the church of its abuses was to return to a thoroughly Scriptural theology and practice, i.e., on the basis of the principle of *sola Scriptura*.

As a Professor of Bible at Wittenberg University, Luther was mentally and emotionally immersed in the Bible. As he continued to study Scriptures, with an eye to the cause of the abuses in the church, he discovered in 1518—after the posting of the 95 Theses—that God judges a person *only* on the basis of his faith in Christ, since no one except Christ can achieve the sort of perfection that God requires for life eternal with Him. The cause of a person's salvation is thus *only* the merits of Christ, achieved and acquired for the salvation of the world through Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. The merits of Christ are imputed only to those who believe in Jesus

and His word and promises, and this imputation happens *only* by faith. Although good works and obedience follow from faith, God does not factor them into his consideration of a person's righteousness. The only righteousness that we have is Jesus' righteousness and that is received only by faith. This is the Lutheran doctrine of *sola fide*.

Luther's theological breakthroughs, as represented by the principles of *sola Scriptura* and *sola fide*, were widely accepted by theologians and scholars throughout Europe. In states where the theologians and secular rulers agreed on Luther's insights, those states became Protestant. By 1540, this included many of the Swiss cantons, most of central Germany, all of northern Germany, Prussia, Poland, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Transylvania, all of the Scandinavian countries, and England. Some theologians felt that Luther went too far in giving credit for salvation only to God, and none to man. The great humanist scholar, Erasmus of Rotterdam, believed that faith is a product of the human will, and that therefore man contributes **something** to his own salvation. Luther countered with his epochal treatise *On the Bondage of the Will* in which he proved that faith itself is a gift of God, and that "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him" (Small Catechism, *Explanation to the Third Article*). This is the Lutheran doctrine of *sola gratia*.

Is the Reformation still relevant today? The recent movies do a great job of explaining a number of political and social breakthroughs that occurred due to Luther and his Reformation and which no one really wants to reverse today. Who wants to burn heretics, pagans, or practitioners of the occult at the stake? Who wants to give the pope the power to appoint or remove presidents, senators, or kings? Who wants to give the pope the power to command armies as their "Commander in Chief"? Who wants to relive the wars of religion in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century? Who wants to give the church the power to censor the news, books, theater, and other media—and to burn

books and their authors? At least in Europe and the Americas, these medieval nightmares are—God willing—long behind us!

Is the Reformation still relevant today in the area of church life? Many people believe that Luther's theological concerns are no longer relevant. As a result, the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church jointly signed the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" (aka JDDJ; see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint\\_Declaration\\_on\\_the\\_Doctrine\\_of\\_Justification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Declaration_on_the_Doctrine_of_Justification)). The World Methodist Council adopted the JDDJ statement in 2006 and the World Communion of Reformed Churches adopted the JDDJ this year. The latter Communion includes "80 million members of Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting, and Waldensian churches."

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (WELS), and their global ecclesiastical allies, have not adopted the JDDJ statement and have publicly opposed it. We believe that the JDDJ compromises and annuls Luther's key insights of *sola fide* and *sola gratia*, and have done so on the basis of church authorities that are contrary to *sola Scriptura*. Those of us in the LCMS and WELS still uphold Luther's key insights, and in fact, we uphold and affirm the entire 1580/84 *Book of Concord*. Luther's insights and breakthroughs still live on in our churches—thank God!—as a testimony to the rest of the world and for the benefit of our members.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin R. Roland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Martin R. Roland".

Martin R. Roland

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# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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## Grace LWML Mission Statement

“Our mission is to encourage the women Word and Sacraments that they may serve our Triune God with their time, talents and treasures.”

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”



## Mission Project Work Day

Tuesday, October 24, 1917

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Dolores Keim's Home

Upcoming dates:

October 21, 2017 – LWML CNH Zone 8 Fall Gathering.  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Pacifica

(see next page)

October 22, 2017 – LWML Sunday



2016-2018

### Mission Grants

9. Joy of Harvest  
Hmong Language School

St. Paul Lutheran,  
Merced, CA

\$10,000

Save your mites





**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
CALIFORNIA~NEVADA~HAWAII  
ZONE 8 FALL 2017 GATHERING**

October 21, 2017 ~ 9:30am-2:30pm  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
4400 Highway 1, Pacifica, CA

***The Flowing Waters of the Word***

*The Steinbeck Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1970 following the death of Mrs. Karl Steinbeck. Verna was Mission Hospice Chairman for the LWML CNH for many years, serving as host to missionaries and their families as they passed through San Francisco. This fund is designated to assist in the higher education of children of overseas missionaries who attend a college or university in the United States.*

"Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen"

Psalm 77:19

**Guest Speaker: Noah Hoech**

*From Stanford University - Palo Alto, CA*

**Bible Study Leader: Pastor Dan Kistler**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Pacifica, CA**

Registration: \$10.00

\*\*\*All women are invited!\*\*\*BYOB Lunch\*\*\*Dessert provided\*\*\*

**Love Gift Offering for The Steinbeck Memorial  
Scholarship Fund**

(checks payable to LWML CNH Zone 8, memo: Steinbeck Fund)

**Gathering Info:**

We will be collecting canned and boxed non-perishable  
goods for the Pacifica Resource Center

Questions? Please email President Barbara Guevara at [tisbarb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tisbarb@sbcglobal.net)

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## School News

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**LOOKING BACK...**On September 10<sup>th</sup> Grace Lutheran's School Choir, 'Partners in Worship', joined their voices in singing praise to the Lord as we Installed our new First/Second Grade teacher, Lisa Mull, and recognized the Faculty and Staff for the 2017-2018 School Year. An 'All School Open House' and 'Back to School BBQ' provided an opportunity for the church and school families to meet, greet and mingle. It was a fun time for all and a great way to start off the new school year. Thank you to all who participated in the event. The support and help is much appreciated. Please keep our faculty, staff, and school families in your prayers.

**HOT LUNCH IS BACK!** The Parent Teacher League-Hot Lunch Committee has been hard at work collecting surveys and ideas for the school hot lunch program. Tasty meals are in the planning with volunteer opportunities to help. Join us in making sure parents and lunch boxes 'get a break'.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Each year, School Parents make a commitment to support the activities of Grace Lutheran School with their time and talents through Volunteer Hours. A wide variety of events, such as Movie Night, Harvest Festival/Silent Auction, Hot Lunch, Classroom Parties, Field Trips, Scholastic Book Faire, are always in need of helping hands. Make memories while supporting your child's education! Donate your time and talents and meet the Volunteer Commitments at the same time you join in the Grace community! Your time means so much to the quality of your child's education.



*The 'Luther Rose' provides the Reformation message of  
'Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone'*

### OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences-3:45p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences-Noon-3:30 p.m.  
Noon Dismissal for GLS  
Extended Care available from Noon-6:00 p.  
(*pack a lunch if your child is staying*)
- 5-8 P.T.L. Scholastic Book Faire
- 9 Columbus Day  
No School and No Extended Care
- 15 Partners in Worship – School Choir sings  
Meet in the Parish Hall at 8:45 a.m.
- 27 Harvest Festival & Silent Auction 5:30 p.m.
- 31 Reformation Festivities & Class Parties - 2:00 p.m.  
Reformation Vespers – 7:00 p.m.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Oct. 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of one of the most important events in Western civilization: the birth of an idea that continues to shape the life of every American today.

In 1517, power was in the hands of the few, thought was controlled by the chosen, and common people lived their lives without hope.

On October 31 1517, an outspoken monk named Martin Luther (pictured above) sparked a revolution. He had no army and preached nonviolence so powerfully that 400 years later-Michael King would change his name to Martin Luther King in solidarity with the original movement.

This 'Protestant Reformation' changed Western culture at its core, sparking the drive toward individualism, freedom of religion, women's rights, separation of church and state, and even free public education. Without the Reformation, there would have been no pilgrims, no Puritans, and no America in the way we know it.

**JOIN US** on Tuesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. as we celebrate our Lord in a Reformation Vespers Service in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!



Grace Lutheran Church & School

# Save Box Tops for Education for Grace School



For every box top you turn in, Grace School earns 10 cents.

Products with Box Tops for Education: Betty Crocker, Nestle, General Mills, Green Giant, Pillsbury, Land O Lakes, Yoplait, Nature Valley, Welch's, Huggies, Avery, Ziploc, Kleenex, Hefty, Swanson or for more information go to [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com)

Please leave in the marked box in the collection area to the left as you enter the Parish Hall

Thanks for your continued support!

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The Labels for Education program is ending. If you have any unexpired UPC coupons as below, please put in marked box in the collection area to the left as you enter the Parish Hall.



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## **GRACE HISTORICAL NOTES**

“The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers”

1 Kings 8:57 (RSV)

### **October: 50 Years Ago**

If we could transport ourselves to the past, specifically to 1967, we would find our congregation in the midst of preparations to dedicate our new sanctuary whose construction was nearly complete. A dedication service was scheduled for Sunday afternoon, November 12. It seemed that everybody was caught up in the joy and excitement, still putting final touches on the building and furnishings; organizing a reception to follow the service. Choirs and musicians were practicing their parts; others were rehearsing their roles in the service; and all were anticipating that an overflow crowd would be attending.

Construction had begun with a groundbreaking ceremony in January that year. Shortly thereafter, school children and others had witnessed the toppling of the steeple that had been on what is now our parish hall; the church's cornerstone had been laid. What a joyous occasion awaited us after many years of worshiping in the parish hall. Two services each Sunday to accommodate our attendance would soon be unnecessary. Now we looked forward to worshiping together in one service because the new church could hold all of us at the same time.

### **October: 25 Years Ago**

Fast-forward to 1992: Grace congregation was in the midst of its Year of Celebration commemorating the 25th anniversary of our sanctuary's dedication. Our new Zimmer pipe organ, a focal point for this celebration, had been installed during the summer. In August, it had been dedicated to the glory of God; September saw an inaugural recital and hymn festival.

October had arrived, and we were preparing to host a circuit Reformation service later in the month. November would feature a service and dinner to celebrate the approaching anniversary of our sanctuary's dedication and its completion with a pipe organ. Plans for organist workshops, recitals, circuit-wide services and hymn festivals were in place for various times and occasions throughout the following months.

We were a busy bunch of people. Many members had always envisioned purchasing a pipe organ, and ample space had been provided in the balcony of the church at the time it was built. Now, finally, a pipe organ was no longer a dream. It was time to rejoice. We were thankful for the addition of this new instrument. Its versatility would enhance our worship services; its presence would accent the church's interior beauty, and it enabled us to offer musical events for congregation and community. Our electronic organ, no longer needed, found another home.



Following is information from the Texas District regarding relief efforts from Hurricane Harvey as of September 4, 2017. To read the whole article and to keep up with disaster reliefs in Texas, please go to their [website](#).

Goods that are needed: Mops/ Brooms, Lg. Squeegees, Shovels (wide/flat), Mud Buckets, Lg.Trash Cans, Heavy Duty Trash Bags, Dust Bins, Paper Towels, Disposable Cleaning Cloths, Clorox Wipes, Scrub Brushes, Scrubby Sponges, Bleach, Pine Sol, Window Cleaner, Multipurpose Cleaners, Bug Spray, HD rubber Gloves, Goggles, Face Masks, Hazmat Suits (Lowe's/Home Depot), Diapers/Wipes (all sizes), Powder Formula (no liquid formula), Adult Diaper, Tarps.If you would like to contribute any items and to arrange delivery to a warehouse, contact Salam, Tomball at 281-947-2847.

Plans are underway to prepare for long-term recovery efforts. This recovery will require many volunteers. Currently, only self-contained volunteers are able to be welcomed. You need to have a place to sleep at night and you need to provide your own food and supplies. There are some chain saw and tarp placement teams working in the Rockport and Refugio area. They found their own places to stay. But this will be short-term. There are nine congregations in the Houston area and a number of others including the Rockport and Beaumont areas that are pursuing accommodations to support long-term volunteer groups as well.

If you would like to volunteer your time in the weeks and months ahead, please go to the volunteer button and register your name and your group. You will then be on our list. When we are ready and have work for you we will let you know.

Until then, please keep this effort in your prayers knowing that we have a God who transcends the storm. Indeed, He will use even this event and His people to bring His Gospel to the heart of many who did not know Him by faith before.

*Rev. S. Misch, TX District, LCMS, Disaster Relief Coordinator*



Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:28

# October 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Martin Semmler Darryl Sterner	4	5	6	7
8 Fred Brauer V	9	10	11 Julia Semmler	12 Paul-Stacey Soals	13	14
15 Justen Brauer	16	17	18	19 Marcus Brownlee	20 Doris Tirschwell	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study	8:35a-Chapel	4:00p-Senior Choir PTL Scholastic Book Faire	PTL Scholastic Book Faire	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-NO Adult Bible Study	8:35a-Chapel			
PTL Scholastic Book Faire	<b>Columbus Day</b> No School/No X-Care Office Closed	Pastor Noland-C-N-H Pastor's Conference Fairfield	Pastor Noland-C-N-H Pastor's Conference Fairfield	4:00p-Senior Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00a-Divine Service Partners in Worship- GLS Choir sings 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 4:00p-School Board	8:35a-Chapel	4:00p-Senior Choir		9:00a-Planning Council
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study	8:35a- Kids of the Kingdom	4:00p-Senior Choir	5:30p-Harvest Festival/ Silent Auction	9:00a-Bd. of Lay Elders Meeting 10:30a-Gen. Society
29	30	31				
9:00a-Divine Service 10:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Adult Bible Study		9:00a-Adult Bible Study 7:00p-Reformation Vespers <b>Reformation Day</b>				

## OCTOBER 2017 PRAYER PAGE

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. ~Galatians 6:10

Egon Adam	Robert Doody	Robert Innes	Howard Menche	Dave Smoot
Bella Archer	Natalie Dubbel	Shirley Innes	Donna Menche	Barb Smoot
Marilyn Baillie	Bob Egan	Michael Innes	Daniel Menche	Paul Soals
Rev. Frank Balgeman	Maria Eggert	Donald Iocco	Lisa Mull	Stacey Soals
Valerie Balgeman	Robert Emery	Heather Iocco	Molly Munson	Jacquelin Soals
Chandler Balgeman	Doris Emery	John Iocco	Caroline Nagy	Dimitry Spencer
Mike Bannister	Bill Eng	Judy Iocco	Pamela Nelson	Peter Spittler
Tami Bannister	Sara Eppler	Ko Ishikawa	Rev. Martin Noland	Tamaray Starling
Nathanael Bannister	Carly Eppler	Mariko Ishikawa	Karla Noland	Darryl Sterner
Mike Beebe	Larry Franquez	Yuzo Ishikawa	Sarah Noland	Sandra Sterner
Jolene Beebe	Shelly Franquez	Lance Johnson	Renee Noland	Michelle Sterner
Kay Bell, III	Nick Franquez	Doreen Johnson	Heidi Noland	Brett Toensing
Kay Bell, Jr.	Chad Franquez	Katarina Johnson	Floyd Oatman	Anne-Marie Toensing
Nathanael Bell	Pam Frisella	Bob Keim	Doug O'Donnell	Brooke Toensing
Adele Bergstrom	William Gangelhoff	Dolores Keim	Patty O'Donnell	Ryan Toensing
William Bethke	Shirley Gangelhoff	John Kilcullen	Elizabeth O'Donnell	Doris Tirschwell
Susan Bethke	Rev. Glenndon Genthner	Stefanie Kilcullen	Gil Ramirez	Hans Tuft
Alice Boerschinger	Brooke Genthner	Katie Kilcullen	Kathleen Ramirez	Gina Tuft
John Bordy	Alex Gomez	James Kilcullen	Fred Robinson	Mark Tuft
Ellen Bordy	Herlin Gomez	Michael Kilcullen	Roberta Robinson	Sue Tuft
Judy Boyd	Anjanette Gomez	Barbara Kilpatrick	Akram Saber	Martin Udisches
Fred Brauer	Angelique Gomez	Ruth Klingner	Ghada Saber	Leann Udisches
Karla Brauer	James Graziano	Bill Koester	Daniel Saber	Christine Ullrich
Jordyn Brauer	Roger Guse	Faye Koester	Michael Saber	Zachary Ullrich
Justin Brauer	Dan Hahn	Ryan Koester	Charles Schaefer	Octavian Vasilescu
Klayton Brauer	Lori Hahn	Amanda Koester	Donald Schaefer	Diana Vasilescu
Paul Brownlee	Abby Hahn	Gesine Kruse	Maria Schaefer	Flora Lisa Vasilescu
Lois Brownlee	Arthur Hayame	Glenn McEnroe	Martin Semmler	Joan Weckerle
Marcus Brownlee	Barbara Hayame	Alison McEnroe	Michelle Semmler	Randy Wimmer
Scott Brownlee	Tim Hayame	Alexis McEnroe	Scott Semmler	Caden Young
Katherine Brownlee	Darren Hayame	Fred McKenna	Daniel Semmler	Rebecca Young
Robert Crews	Joy Hayame	Marilyn McKenna	Julia Semmler	Chandler Young
Veronica Crews	Hannah Hayame	Steve McLaughlin	Sandy Shanks	Logan Young
Clara Crews	Miriam Hitzeman	Heather McLaughlin	Jessica Shanks	Rowan Young
Celeste Crews	Richard Hoffmeister	Sandra Means	Detlef Siarkowski	Eugene Zahnow
Charlotte Custino	Theresa Mui	George Melke	Hannelore Siarkowski	Judy Zahnow
			Ethan Smith	Mamie Zimbelman