



# Our Savior Lutheran Church

## October 2020

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### FROM PASTOR ANNE

To God's holy people,

After nearly three years of weekly gathering, the Wednesday Bible study group has become used to hearing me say "The Bible says this.... And it also says this..... What does that mean for us?"

In Exodus, as God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai, we read these words: "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:4-6)

In Ezekiel, the first reading appointed for Sunday September 27, we read these words: "The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die." (Ezekiel 18:1-4).

There are many different ways to approach two bible texts that appear to give very different messages. If you want to learn more, join us any Wednesday at 9:30 AM for a deeper engagement with God's holy word.

These two texts suggest the questions, "Are we responsible for the sins of our forebears or not?" and "If we are, is it necessary (or even possible) to repent of the sins committed by someone else?"

A modern-day example that comes to mind is the legacy of what some have called our nation's original sin – the enslavement of African people. One might legitimately wonder: "If my ancestors were enslavers, do I personally have anything to apologize for? To whom would I apologize anyway, and would an apology ever be enough? Do I need to do more than apologize, and if so, what would that be? Even if my family's financial resources come in part from wealth generated by enslaved people and passed down through the generations, is any of that my fault? Does God expect anything from me because of this legacy?" These are not just social questions; they are theological ones.

The answer, I believe, lies in the difference between two words: *repentance* and *repudiation*. I am not at all sure that it is possible to repent on behalf of another person; in fact, I am convinced that one can only repent of their own sins. (I am open to hearing arguments to the contrary; come to Bible study if you'd like to share them!) We cannot change the fact that our forebears in this country (whether they were direct ancestors or not) sinned greatly in the enslavement of other human beings, and that this legacy is still alive today in the sins of white supremacy and systematic racism.

We cannot change the past, and I do not believe God punishes us for the sins of our forebears; however, we all live with the consequences of these sins. We cannot change the past, but we are responsible for the present and the future. We cannot repent on behalf of our ancestors, but we can repudiate their actions and commit to not repeating them, and to healing the lingering harm from these sins. We can begin by repudiating the sins of our forebears.

In his later years, Martin Luther wrote some disgraceful polemical works against the Jewish people, and his anti-Judaism was exploited by the Nazi regime to promote the genocide of millions of Jews. Can we Lutheran Christians repent from Martin's grave and hateful sin? I think not. What, then? We can repudiate it, express sorrow and lament for it, and resolve to never repeat it. In fact, the ELCA has done just that. In 1994, the ELCA issued a [Declaration to the Jewish Community](#) which states in part: "...we who bear his name and heritage must with pain acknowledge also Luther's anti-Judaic diatribes and the violent recommendations of his later writings against the Jews. As did many of Luther's own companions in the sixteenth century, we reject this violent invective, and yet more do we express our deep and abiding sorrow over its tragic effects on subsequent generations. In concert with the Lutheran World Federation, we particularly deplore the appropriation of Luther's words by modern anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people in our day."

What sins of the past is God calling us to repudiate in order to build a better future? What sins are we committing today that our descendants will someday repudiate?

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Anne +

## WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

If you are not able to join us for worship in-person or live by ZOOM on a given Sunday, we will be posting a recording of our worship on the congregation's website [www.oursaviorlutherantf.org](http://www.oursaviorlutherantf.org), on the congregation's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheranChurchTwinFalls/> and on the congregation's YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCySVH-RHc3\\_J39dGcawC5EQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCySVH-RHc3_J39dGcawC5EQ?view_as=subscriber). The link to the YouTube video is e-mailed to all members and friends of the congregation IF we have your e-mail address. Feel free to share the link with friends and relatives



## CHURCH TRIVIA

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 100 times to 134 Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2019, 107 individuals and 27 organizations. How many Lutheran Christians have received this prize?

What was Martin Luther up to about 500 years ago, in 1520?

- A. Getting caught in a thunderstorm and making a promise to St. Anne that if he survives he will become a monk.
- B. Posting 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg.
- C. Burning a bull.
- D. Translating the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into everyday German.
- E. Marrying Katharina von Bora.

What are the longest and the shortest books of the Bible?

- A. Isaiah and 3 John
- B. Psalms and Obadiah
- C. Genesis and Philemon
- D. Jeremiah and 2 John

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“...Willie James Jennings reminds us that election are about our imagination. He calls upon Americans and especially Christians to “claim the power of life together precisely at the site of threat and fear.” This we can do, Jennings insists, because an election is an opportunity to re-imagine a world and seek to set the stage for the world we imagine.” — *Professor Sarah Heinrich, workingpreacher.org, 2016 commentary for All Saints Sunday.*

## WHAT DO GRANDCHILDREN AND PASTORS HAVE IN COMMON?

There are many possible answers to this question. One sad answer is that malicious evildoers have begun a trend of impersonating both grandchildren and pastors, by phone and by e-mail, in an attempt to cheat trusting people out of money.

In one version, a person may call on the phone saying “Hi, Grandma! This is your grandson. I am in bad trouble. Can you wire me some money?” (This has actually happened to a person in our congregation – fortunately she was wise enough to recognize the scam. She answered “What did you do with the money I sent you last month?” and then hung up!)

In another version, an e-mail arrives from someone claiming to be ‘your pastor,’ asking you to purchase gift cards and to read the card numbers over the phone, or to otherwise transfer funds on behalf of ‘a person in need.’ The e-mail might even have your pastor’s name in it. Be aware! (This has actually happened to an ELCA congregation in Boise).

Although Pastor Anne will ask you for money regularly (encouraging generosity is part of her calling, after all), she will never directly solicit your gifts through gift cards. She will always ask your gifts to be given through legitimate channels, such as by a check or PayPal donation to the church or to a bona fide third-party organization such as Lutheran Disaster Relief. If something looks suspicious, double check before you act!

Be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.

## **WE'RE BACK! IN-PERSON WORSHIP HAS RESUMED**

On September 20, forty followers of Jesus gathered in worship at OSLC for the first Sunday since March. More people joined us live by ZOOM, while others participated by viewing the recorded worship service posted the next day.

Joyful members and friends displayed a veritable rainbow of masks properly donned, and prudent adherence to guidelines of hand sanitizing and physical distancing helped us to maintain a reasonable level of safety for everyone gathered.

OSLC anticipates continuing to follow local (county-level) guidance from the South Central Public Health District. This means that so long as the assessed risk for disease transmission is minimal ('green') or moderate ('yellow') we plan to offer worship both in-person and on-line. If the assessed risk for disease transmission increases to high ('orange') or critical ('red') we will offer on-line worship exclusively.

The medical science and understandings surrounding disease transmission, disease treatment, and vaccine development are evolving at a rate that makes your pastor-doctor's head spin. This is a good thing.

Meanwhile, common-sense precautions, observed for the sake of love of neighbor, will allow us and our community to gather with a fair degree of confidence.

## **EUCHARIST BY ZOOM OCTOBER 14 AT 7 PM**

A closed door never stopped the risen Christ from meeting the people who needed him.

And a closed door will not stop our Lord from meeting us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Prepare a sacred space in your home and sit in wonder that Jesus finds us wherever we are...

Set out bread and wine, join us in an intimate service of worship, and receive these gifts of Jesus' true body and blood, which offer the promise of forgiveness of sin, life and salvation.

The ZOOM link will be e-mailed to members and friends of the congregation on or about October 12; if you are not on the e-mail distribution list, you may call the church office for the link.

Holy Communion will be offered by ZOOM once a month until it seems safe for us to receive it in the sanctuary.

## READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

This new year, 2020, may be the year that you read God's word in its entirety. Are you up for the challenge?

If you read three or four chapters daily, you can finish the Bible by the end of this year!

Here is a list of suggested readings for the month of October:

October 1 - Matthew 1-4	October 17 - Mark 12-13
October 2 - Matthew 5-6	October 18 - Mark 14
October 3 - Matthew 7-9	October 19 - Mark 15-16
October 4 - Matthew 10-11	October 20 - Luke 1-2
October 5 - Matthew 12-13	October 21 - Luke 3-4
October 6 - Matthew 14-17	October 22 - Luke 5-6
October 7 - Matthew 18-20	October 23 - Luke 7-8
October 8 - Matthew 21-22	October 24 - Luke 9-10
October 9 - Matthew 23-24	October 25 - Luke 11-12
October 10 - Matthew 25-26	October 26 - Luke 13-15
October 11 - Matthew 27-28	October 27 - Luke 16-18
October 12 - Mark 1-3	October 28 - Luke 19-20
October 13 - Mark 4-5	October 29 - Luke 21-22
October 14 - Mark 6-7	October 30 - Luke 23-24
October 15 - Mark 8-9	October 31 - John 1-2
October 16 - Mark 10-11	

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## CHURCH TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Five Lutheran Christians, including two women and three men, have received the Nobel Peace Prize, including Albert Schweitzer (1952), Dag Hammarskjöld (1961), Norman Borlaug (1970), Alva Myrdal (1982), and Leymah Gwobee (2011). The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on October 9.
2. Answer: c. Burning a bull. (Not the kind with horns and hooves though!) In October 1517, Martin Luther published his 95 theses, which were theological propositions (mostly about indulgences) he hoped to debate with other academic theologians. On June 15, 2020, Pope Leo X published a *papal bull* – a document that censured Luther for 41 of these propositions, and threatened to excommunicate him from the church unless he recanted. Martin Luther publicly burned a copy of this *papal bull* on December 10, 1520. The next year, he was excommunicated.
3. Answer: d. Jeremiah is the longest book in Scripture, with about 33,000 words (in the original Hebrew). 2 John is the shortest book in Scripture, with only 13 verses.



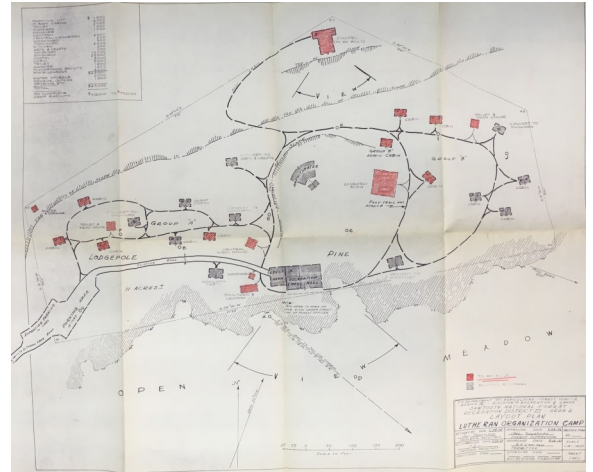
## From the Secretary's Desk:

Once again this secretary has been delving into the old files and records. This time I found old Annual Reports, letters, official documents, photos and architect renderings from Luther Heights Bible Camp.

We have a copy of the State of Idaho Certificate of Incorporation filed on May 7, 1953 with a second certificate dated April 19, 1974. Through the years there have been many familiar names from our church that served on the board or were involved in the building, repairing and maintaining the camp. One comment in one of the annual reports concerned the water supply or lack thereof. The park ranger made the observation that the camp needs to "put in a well!"

Highlights from the 25th Anniversary Booklet: Initial use permit from the Forest Service was filed on July 1, 1951. Many trips were made in the building of the camp to bring in building supplies. Then there was the transportation for the campers. Buses and volunteers to drive them, and also helpers to keep the campers occupied on the way to camp.

During the beginning years, the camp program was a joint operation of the National Lutheran Council affiliated congregations in Southern Idaho and Utah. When the Utah group secured their own camp, Luther Heights became the sole camp for the South Idaho and Eastern Oregon congregations. In 1960 the campers got to use the new cabins, up to that time they had been in tents. The rendering above is what the original envisioned camp was to look like.



## THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN – A BOOK STUDY

*The Christian is a completely free lord of all, subject to none.  
The Christian is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

So said Martin Luther, when in 1520 he wrote a little book called The Freedom of a Christian. But from what are we made free? And for what are we made free?

In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication, you are invited to join in an online study of this classic treatise.

The full text of the book, as well as a comprehensive study guide, are available to download for free at [www.ELCA500.org](http://www.ELCA500.org).

As Christians who continue in the tradition of an ever-reforming church, a solid grounding in history and theology (= 'thinking about God') can prepare us to meet the needs of our neighbors today. The study guide shares that "The key question ... is not "What did Luther mean when he wrote this or that?" The key question is "What does this mean for me now? What is God saying to us today through this text?" What Luther meant is important. But what God means to tell us is infinitely more important. We don't just want to learn about the concept of freedom in Luther's work. We want to taste the freedom that Christ offers us in the gospel and experience the joy of using that freedom to work for the well-being of our neighbors and all creation." The study will be offered on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM Mountain Time by ZOOM beginning on October 11. An invitation will be extended to members of other ELCA congregations in our cluster and synod. If you are interested in participating *or* in leading one or more of the sessions, please contact Pastor Anne.

## THANK YOU:

From Phyllis Mattlin—Thanks to Pastor Anne, Romney and the OSL congregation for all the prayers, food, flowers, and kindness that we received when Pattie died. Also a thank you for all the donations to Luther Heights, Hearts & Hands in Pattie's name. OSL is a caring and great congregation.

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“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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### NEW ELCA SOCIAL MESSAGE – DISCIPLESHIP IN A DEMOCRACY

The ELCA has adopted a social message on government and civic engagement titled “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy.” This writing project was requested by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and was adopted in June 2020 by the ELCA Church Council.

This extensively annotated document is grounded in Scripture and Christian theology. It provides a thoughtful Lutheran point of view about the role of government, and on civic engagement as a form of Christian witness. The fundamental question to be answered is “Is the neighbor being served?”

Social messages are teaching documents of the ELCA focused on particular social topics. They are intended to focus attention and urge action on timely, pressing matters of social concern to church and society. ELCA social statements are more comprehensive documents developed via a five-year process led by a task force and adopted at churchwide assemblies. To read more about the upcoming work toward a social statement on church and state, [click here](#).

## NOVEMBER 1: WHAT IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY?

Dr. Ben Stewart, writing in the Living Lutheran magazine two years ago, shares this reflection on the words ‘all’ and ‘saints’: *All* are saved by grace. The festival originally honored those who were considered especially holy: heroic figures from the Scriptures and martyrs who had given their lives non-violently in witness to the faith. However, it is an especially Lutheran accent for the feast to honor not only those who lived exemplary lives, but all who have been baptized into Christ's death. For Lutherans, All Saints resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint, *simul justus et peccator*. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God. (You may view Dr. Stewart's entire article by clicking [this link](#).)

On November 1, our worship will include special prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving for all the saints who have gone before us – famous and unknown, and those whose lives and Christian witness personally touched us, including members and friends of this parish who have died in the past year: Sandra Soran, Luther Sipe, Noel Erickson, Kirk Rongen, Bert Raidiger, and Pattie Mattlin.

If you would like a loved one's name to be spoken out loud during worship on All Saints Sunday, please contact Pastor Anne or the church office by October 20.

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**Remember In Prayer.....**Donna Erickson, Steven Erickson, Jack Harding, Tamra Helms, Dorothy Kerbs, Connie Miller, Joan Stokesberry, The family of Pattie Mattlin, Marlene Ehrlenholtz, all those affected by Covid-19, all the care providers, first responders and those affected by the fires and storms.



## SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR OCTOBER

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25 Reformation Sunday
First Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7	Isaiah 25:1-9	Isaiah 45:1-7	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm	Psalm 80:7-15	Psalm 23	Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]	Psalm 46
Second Reading	Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 4:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Romans 3:19-28
Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	John 8:31-36
Liturgical Color	Green	Green	Green	Red

Listen God is Calling \* Neno Lake Mungu

### A Liturgy of Companionship Sunday, October 4, 2020 UKD and NWIM Synod

On Sunday October 4, you are invited to gather for a Live Zoom Wor-ship Service, using a Tanzanian liturgy. The service will include speakers from both NWIM and UKD in both English and Kiswahili.

We will sing together, pray for each other and the world, be uplifted by music from our partners and hear from Bishop Kuempel and Bishop Mtenji.

Following the service, we will have a chance for small group “Chai Time” greetings. Our service will join us together as we enter a new phase of what it means to be a Companion Synod. Our companions are very excited to join with us for this service, which can accommodate up to 1,000 log-ins!

### Please Join Us

Sunday October 4 10:00 a.m. NWIM PDT

11:00 a.m. NWIM MDT 2000 p.m. Ulanga Kilombero Diocese

Join the Zoom Meeting on the Internet <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81023334469?pwd=NXU5c3ljcW5ZbU96UVdnNG5TNThVZzo9>

Meeting ID 810 2333 4469

Passcode: 641043

**Or dial (if in the U.S.)**


+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)





# October

## \*Dates of Lesser Festivals and Commemorations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2  2nd — 4th LHBC closing work weekend	3
4 9:30 am Worship 11am Worship with Tanzania by Zoom  *Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church 1226; Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, 1864	5  3:45 pm Confirmation	6 10:30 am Calendar Planning Mtg via Phone  *William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536	7 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom  *Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, 1787	8 9:30 am Worship Meeting via Phone	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship  4:00 pm Freedom of a Christian Book Study by Zoom	12	13	14 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom  7:00 pm Eucharist by Zoom	15  *Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the Church, 1582	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship 11am Confirmation  4:00 pm Freedom of a Christian Book Study by Zoom  *Luke, Evangelist	19  Pastor at Bishop's Convocation by Zoom (Oct 19-21)	20  	21 NEWSLETTER  9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom  7:00 pm Council Meeting via Zoom	22	23 *James of Jerusalem, martyr c.62	24
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY  9:30 am Worship  Pastor on Vacation	26 Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters	27	28 9:30 am Bible Study via Zoom  * Simon and Jude, Apostles	29	30	31 *Reformation Day  



**Worship is Celebrated**  
**Every Sunday**  
**At**  
**9:30 AM**  
**In Person and By Zoom**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**

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