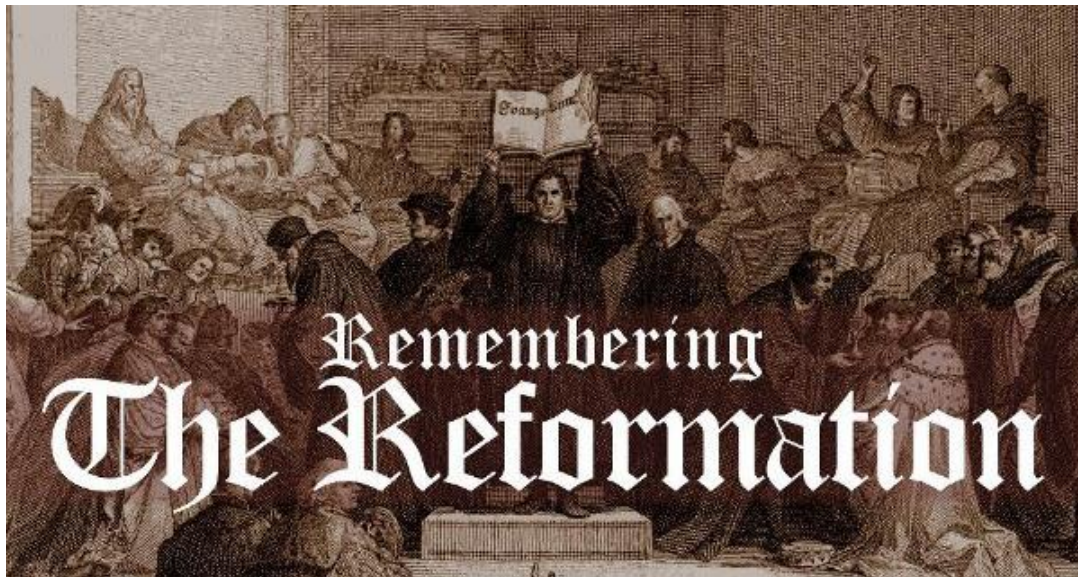


# Word of Life

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## Remembering The Reformation

### Inside...

From the Pastor.....	2
Reformation 500 Events.....	3
News from ELCA.....	3
News from Florida Bahamas Synod.....	3
Calendar.....	5
Love to Share.....	6



## FROM THE PASTOR

by Pastor Boudon!

### From the Pastor

At the end of October, we Lutherans will commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is considered to be the beginning of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his now-famous “95 Theses” to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg, Germany, touching off a firestorm of controversy that led to Luther’s excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church and the eventual creation of the Lutheran Church. Five centuries later, the event will be marked not with celebration but rather with an unprecedented show of unity between Lutherans and Catholics through a joint prayer service to be held at St. Mary’s Cathedral on October 29 at 4:00pm. This service has been in the works for more than a year and will underscore a renewed effort to come to an agreement on the final issues that continue to divide the two churches, hence the name of the event: “From Conflict to Communion.”

As we mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, it is important to remember what caused it in the first place and why it changed the trajectory of Christianity. At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Catholic Church was just emerging from the Great Schism, which had weakened the authority of the Vatican. At the same time, the church was viewed as increasingly corrupt and in need of reform. Earlier attempts at reform had been quashed, but a new voice emerged in Holland, calling for a return to discipline of the kind practiced by the early Christians. Erasmus of Rotterdam sought “the reformation of customs, the practice of decency and moderation, an inner

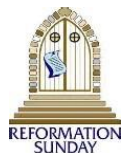
devotion shaped by learning and meditation, and a church that encouraged these things.”<sup>1</sup> At the same time, however, Luther was preparing his own criticism of the Roman Catholic Church. His initial attempt to start a public debate fizzled when he composed ninety-seven theses that did not attract any attention beyond the walls of academia. So when he nailed the second group of theses to the door of the church castle in Wittenburg, he expected a similar reception. What changed, however, was that in this new publication, Luther attacked the plans of then Pope Leo X to finish the construction of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome by selling indulgences to the common people. In thesis 82, Luther argued that if the Pope could free souls from purgatory, he should do so out of love, not profit. Moreover, he should give the proceeds of indulgence sales to the poor, who were being exploited by them.<sup>2</sup> Luther could well have been executed as a heretic, but a combination of power politics and the invention of the printing press kept him safe and his theology alive.

Events then unfolded quickly. Luther continued to write and publish, protected by Frederick the Wise of Saxony and, eventually, an alliance of several princes who had been convinced by Luther’s arguments. These princes formed the League of Schmalkald and prepared for war with the Holy Roman Empire. It was from this alliance that those who agreed with Luther came to be called Protestants. War was averted due to the increasing threat from the Turks, but the ecclesiastic lines had been drawn and the Western Christian church has been divided ever since. It is, therefore, monumental that on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this division that Lutherans and Catholics should gather and pray together, putting aside their remaining differences in order to focus on their common mission to do God’s work in the world. If current trends hold, it is my

<sup>1</sup> Justo B. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity, Vol. II.* HarperSanFrancisco, 1985, p. 11

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 22

belief that Lutherans and Catholics will achieve full communion in the next twenty years, if not sooner. And thus will begin a new reformation aimed at Christian unity.



**Reformation 500 Events  
October 8, 6:00pm, at Trinity  
Cathedral.**

*Hymns of the Reformation: a Festival of Sacred Music* will be an exciting way to commemorate the remarkable 500 year musical heritage of our churches. The event is open to everyone. Church choirs of all denominations are especially invited to join the festivities!

**October 23, 2017** – Luther Scholar Dr. Mickey Mattox (Marquette University) presentation on Luther. University of Miami Department of Religion, Dr. David Kling, chair. Location Whitten Learning Center 110 at 7:30pm.

**Oct 28—Music of the Reformation** a joint concert by choral ensembles of Florida International University, Miami Dade College, Miami Collegium Musicum, Miami Bach Society, and others. Bach Cantata 80 “Ein feste Burg” and other musical monuments of the Reformation. Worthem Concert Hall, Florida International University.

**October 29, 2017, 4:00pm** – **Joint Commemoration and Prayer Service**, Miami Diocese, **Cathedral of St. Mary**, 7525 NW 2nd Avenue Miami FL 33150, (305) 759 – 4531. Ecumenical service with the Cathedral Choir and Miami Collegium Musicum.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**News from the ELCA**

[ELCA presiding bishop responds to DACA announcement](#)

CHICAGO (Sept. 4, 2017) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(ELCA), has issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's announcement about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us" –*ELCA social message, "Immigration" (1997)*.

We are saddened today by the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provided relief from deportation to young people who have grown up as members of our churches, as neighbors playing with our children, and enriching our communities. We pray today for those who will suffer undue repercussions due to the end of this program. As Lutherans, we regard the family as an indispensable social institution and stand firmly against policies that cause the separation of families.

As we lament this change in policy, we call on members of Congress to pass long-overdue legislation to protect young people brought to the U.S. as children, also known as Dreamers. Our churches, our schools, our communities and the country are enhanced by their presence and contributions. It is time that our immigration policy reflects their gifts to all of us.

God's peace,

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
ELCA Presiding Bishop



**News from the Florida-  
Bahamas Synod**

September 25, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Florida-Bahamas Synod,

The Holy Spirit continues to provide for us in these days of transition. I have been so

encouraged by the many stories and reports I have received regarding the ways communities are coming together and supporting one another in the weeks after Hurricane Irma. My prayers and the prayers of the synod staff continue to surround those who are still recovering.

I am pleased to share with you the appointment of two additional interim staff members to your synod staff. Pr. Pedro Suarez and Pr. Terrance Jacob will be serving as Part-Time Interim Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM), effective October 1. The role of Director for Evangelical Mission is a deployed staff position for the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, and is a concrete example of the partnership between the local, synodical and churchwide expressions of the ELCA.

Pr. Pedro Suarez will be serving as part-time DEM for the south region of the synod, focusing on strengthening and supporting development and redevelopment ministries and on Latino ministries. Pr. Suarez was born and raised in Venezuela, and has been in the U.S. since 1990. Throughout his ministry he has developed Latino Ministries in Illinois and Wisconsin, and has previously served on synod staff in both Wisconsin and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. He currently serves as pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Pompano Beach, where he lives with his wife Aura.

Pr. Terrance Jacob will be serving as part-time DEM for the north region of the synod, focusing on supporting and strengthening new starts, development and redevelopment ministries. Pr. Jacob was born and raised in South Africa, where he was ordained and served before being invited to serve in Minnesota. Since being in the U.S., Pr. Jacob served two congregations in the Twin Cities before serving as DEM in the Sierra Pacific Synod and then the Northeast Ohio Synod. In May 2017, Pr. Jacob and his wife Crystal moved from Ohio to Gainesville, FL, where Pr. Jacob was called as the pastor of University Lutheran Church.

I am grateful to the communities of St. Stephen Lutheran, Pompano Beach and University Lutheran, Gainesville, who are supporting their pastors serving the synod staff in this time. With the addition of Pastors Jacob, Suarez, Meyer and Mocko to the synod staff—each of whom bring unique gifts and strengths to this ministry in this interim time—and with the good work continuing to be done by the rest of the synod staff, I am confident that God's mission in the Florida-Bahamas Synod will be blessed.

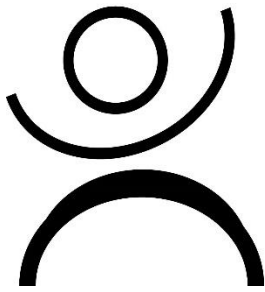
Together with you in Christ,

*+Bishop Marcus C. Lohrmann*



OCTOBER		2017				
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Healing Service	2 8:00-9:00pm NA	3 8:30-9:30pm NA	4 7:00pm Blessing of Animals 7:30-8:30pm Bible Study 8:00-9:00pm NA	5	6	7
8 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Spanish service	9 8:00-9:00pm NA	10 8:30-9:30pm NA	11 7:30-8:30pm Bible Study 8:00-9:00pm NA	12	13	14
15 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Spanish service	16 8:00-9:00pm NA	17 8:30-9:30pm NA	18 7:30-8:30pm Bible Study 8:00-9:00pm NA	19	20	21
22 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Spanish service	23 8:00-9:00pm NA	24 8:30-9:30pm NA	25 7:30-8:30pm Bible Study 8:00-9:00pm NA	26	27	28 10:00 am Sandwiches for Homeless
29 Reformation Sunday 4:00pm Joint Worship Service	30	31				
	Notes:					

### **LOVE TO SHARE**



Our foster families had adjusted well to being back in school and getting into the daily routine that comes with that. Hurricane Irma brought a setback for them as it did for many others. Both dealt with long power outages and minor damage, the worst being a roof leak. The mothers have strong faith and a positive outlook that things are getting better every day. We hope that it continues to go well for them.

Our October project centers around Halloween. By the end of the month, candy treats and an outing to the movies or to Chuck E Cheese will be something for them to look forward to. We also hope to start setting aside funds for light winter jackets for the children to have by early November.

We appreciate your support at Coffee Hour each Sunday morning despite issues with air conditioning. We hope that will be fixed soon and that we can enjoy our fellowship together there at our newly decorated fall-themed tables.

Fran McClintock

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*Word of Life*

Lord of Life Lutheran church  
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