

# October 2017

# The Staff

## The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



*A community of Christians, called Together by the Holy Spirit, where all people Can come to know God's grace and grow in Faith, give and receive The love of Jesus Christ And of one another, and Serve one another and The community in which We live."*

**Greetings** as we prepare to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Posting of the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg church door. I want to thank you for welcoming to Shepherd of the Glen. My first month serving the church has been a blessing. I am thrilled to begin to get to know you individually and as a congregation.

The Book Sale was a great adventure! I enjoyed traveling around the community to get to know some other Pastors and to just learn more about the neighborhood and share the Poster advertising the sale. The Book Bag project was great. I have had opportunity to get to know some of the other pastors in the West Baltimore Conference and on the Racial Justice Team.

Have you ever read the 95 Thesis? I had never read them all. I found a resource that helped me to understand them. It is called Martin Luther's 95 Theses by Timothy J. Wengert.

I thought it would be appropriate to share a bit of that resource with you this month as we celebrate on Sunday, October 29, the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg by Martin Luther.

**Please don't miss the personalized tour of Martin Luther's Life and Walk at Shepherd of the Glen Sunday, October 29!!**

Some history behind the 95 Theses is helpful ---- In the Late Middle Ages 1400s indulgences had become an important part of the piety of the members of the Western Church. They were the remission of punishment caused by sin.

According to Catechism of the Catholic Church: 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins of a person whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.'

The practice of indulgences evolved over many centuries. In the early Church, it was common for certain sects of Christians to do penance as a way of showing sorrow for sin and incurring remission from God. This involved fasts, the offering of alms, extended prayers, and even self-mutilation and other forms of severe asceticism.

Pope Urban II helped formalize the practice of indulgences at the Council of Clermont in 1095. Then, in the 1200s, Church leaders developed the doctrine of 'The Treasury of Merit' or 'The Treasury of the Church.' This was a sort of reservoir of spiritual merit. According to this view, Christ's infinite merit and the merit of the saints provided the basis from which indulgences were granted. Put simply, this doctrine allowed Christians who needed remission from punishment to 'dip' into this reservoir of merit by earning an indulgence.

In the Roman Catholic Church, an **indulgence** is the remission of a temporal punishment brought about by sin. This punishment consists of either earthly sufferings or time spent after death in Purgatory. Typically, a writ of indulgence is issued by the Church and given to an individual who has demonstrated some type of **penance**, or good work. Indulgences can be applied to oneself or to the soul of a deceased person. Historically, indulgences have been linked to earning time out of Purgatory. The abuse of indulgences was a primary cause of the **Protestant Reformation** in the early sixteenth century.

With this historical understanding of Indulgences, we look at the 95 Theses that Martin Luther posted on the door of the church. He was upset because Pope Leo X in 1515 authorized the preaching of plenary indulgence in Germany to raise funds to rebuild St. Peter's in Rome. These funds were also to be used to help the newly named Archbishop of Mainz pay for his office

- **Theses 1-4** is an outline of Luther's assumptions about "the nature of Penance"
- **Theses 5** clearly states the heart of the controversy, "The pope neither desires nor is able to remit any penalties except those imposed by his own authority or that of the canons."
- **Theses 6-20** provides an argument focused on the limits that the Pope has in giving indulgences.
- There are three areas that Martin Luther outlines that pertain to this subject. (It was believed that the pope could only issue indulgences for ecclesiastical penalties).
- **21-40** reject bad preaching and the false claims of that preaching.
- **41-55** discuss how Christians need to be encouraged, according to Martin Luther, to live Christian works and the gospel.
- **56-68** define the true treasures of the church over the claims of indulgence preachers.
- **69-80** talks about the response the church leaders need to use to restrain the indulgence preachers.
- **81-91** is the **confutation** that Luther's simple solution is "Therefore, if indulgences were preached according to the spirit and intention of the pope, all of these objections would be easily resolved – indeed, they would not exist.
- **Theses 92-95** are the conclusion and condemn the indulgence preachers using the prophet Jeremiah's word to talk about those who offer false peace and contract it to the Cross of Christ. We are **all** sinners and only Christ's death on the cross gives us salvation.

*Blessings for October, Pr. Paula*

**Mark your calendars:**

**Pastor Paula's Installation Service**

October 15, 2017

At 3:00 pm

To be held at Shepherd of the Glen Church

(Please remember that there will be **no** 9:30 am worship service on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>)

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Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting

September 19, 2017

The meeting was called together with prayer and a discussion about our Media Sale.

Minutes from the August 15, 2017 meeting were read and approved.

**Financial Reports:**

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

For the week ending 8/31/17:

Pledged Envelope Offerings:	\$39,038.46
Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$37,700.00 (96.6%)
Loose Offerings	\$397.00 (year to date)
Building Fund	\$0.00 (year to date)
Gifts and Memorials	\$275.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$0.00

The Treasurer's report was distributed.

August Envelope income:	\$3,865.00
Year to date total income:	\$42,349.37
Year to date expenses:	\$40,826.20

A motion was made and approved to combine monies from the Shepherd's Table donations and Lutheran Hurricane Relief donations for a total of \$550.00 to be donated to the hurricane relief effort.

A motion was made and approved to repair the small shed.

Media Sale has raised \$4853.31. A new Sales Tax Exemption Certificate has been received. It is good until 2022.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

**Board of Christian Education:**

Sunday school will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The class will be studying the book *The Bronze Bow* during the Fall. A Coffee Fellowship will be held on November 5th and December 3rd. December 3rd after worship services will be a Pot Luck lunch and Congregational Event for Advent.

**Board of Trustees Report:**

Water filters have been replaced.

A motion was made and approved to accept an addition to our Church Mutual insurance of \$13.00 per year for Terrorism insurance as advised by Church Mutual.

### **Board of Deacons Report:**

Hymn selection by the Deacons with review by Pastor Paula and Teresa will continue. We discussed the purchase of a copyright license for hymns which will allow the copying and printing of music in the bulletin. A motion was made and approved to purchase the CCLI Copyright license.

The Stewardship program will begin on October 8<sup>th</sup> and conclude on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Paula's Installation will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. A motion was made and accepted to hold only one service that day (at 3 pm, no morning 9:30 am service). Linda K. will be asking for volunteers to help with the arrangements for that day's service.

Advent mid-week services will be held on Wednesday evenings in December.

The service project for October is the Seafarer's Christmas at Sea.

Barbara Cochran will be selecting new Altar Linens to be purchased with Gifts and Memorials funds.

Dates to remember:

Sept 24—Sunday School begins

October 8—Stewardship Program begins; Supply Pastor Jason Burns

October 15—Pastor Paula's Installation Service at 3 PM (no 9:30 AM service that day)

October 29—Reformation Sunday; conclusion of Stewardship program; special presentation on Italy/Germany trip about Reformation localities and events.

November 5—Coffee Fellowship

### **Pastors Report:**

On August 16<sup>th</sup> Pastor Paula attended the Lutheran Pastor's West Baltimore Conference meeting. Shepherd of the Glen will host the meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. She has also been meeting other Pastors in the area.

Pastor Paula has been to Dunkin Donuts on Saturday mornings with Mariann K.

Pastor Paula has held Congregational visits with Carolyn Meyer and Carolyn Twigg .

And attended the DACA Rally in Baltimore on September 13<sup>th</sup> where our Bishop Gohl gave the closing prayer.

A motion was made and accepted to buy Luther Rose magnets for the Congregation for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

We discussed the copier as it is getting hard to buy ink cartridges for the copier. Tom C. will look into the advantages/disadvantages of owning a copier or a printer and the service contracts available for each.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**The next Church Council meeting will be held on October 10 at 7:00 pm.**



*Lord,  
the resurrection of Your Son  
has given us new life and renewed hope.  
Help us to live as new people  
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.  
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,  
the will to want to do it,  
the courage to undertake it,  
the perseverance to continue to do it,  
and the strength to complete it.*



## Announcements

### **MEDIA SALE A BIG SUCCESS**

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the sale again this year. A special thanks to Linda Krause who works with the rest of us in sorting the books & then comes in extra to sort ALL of the children's books. All of that after already spending hours & hours as Chair of the Call Committee, working as the church secretary, chairing the Board of Deacons, shifting into planning for Pastor Paula's Installation, preparing for a well earned vacation, from which she will return ready to help prepare, setup and be present for the Christmas Bazaar @ Lisbon Fire Hall. We are blessed with great book sorters who love what they are doing and look forward to our Wednesday get together. Thank you again to Linda Krause, and to Linda Hunt, Peggy Handler, Beverly Biersdorf, and Debbie Weaver.

The Media Sale organizers would like to thank everyone who helped with the project. Members of the congregation help in so many ways for this event. Besides the people who sort books all year, we want to thank those who helped set up & clean up. Many people helped by lending handcarts, saw horses & tables, donating books, providing bags, donating bookshelves for the storage shed, taking down the signs, & providing a canopy over the door on set up day in case of rain. Others assisted by working during the sale, by coming to shop & by bringing friends. Virtually everyone in the congregation helped in some way. Teamwork is why the sale is so successful. A BIG THANK YOU to EVERYONE!

**All of which would never happen if not for our fearless leader....Carole Kramer!!**

### *Thank you Thank you Thank you*

*Anne and Jeff Gellner for the garden beautification and potted mums.*

*Stephanie Ransom for making the stunning fall wreaths.*

*Gene Handler for a very inspiring presentation about the eclipse.*

*Erich Grove who let us borrow his projector for the presentation.*

### *Taking God's Word to Heart and Putting it into Action*

#### Service Project for September-October

#### Christmas at Sea

This project is to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their families for Christmas. Pastor Bob Schmitt, the port chaplain brings satchels filled with gifts to the ships they visit in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain holds a holiday celebration and every crew member will open their satchels. The satchels are set up in the hallway with supply lists for each one. If you would like to donate any of the items, please put your name next to those item(s). This service project will continue until October 29<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to knit or crochet a cap or scarf, there are directions by samples on the table with the satchels. Thank you.

#### Seafarer's Cookie Tin Project

This will be an ongoing project. Pastor Paula will be picking up cookie tins from a chaplain of the Seafarers International, Pastor Bob Schmitt, which we will fill whenever we have left over cookies from our coffee fellowships. If you would like to make a few extra cookies coffee fellowship days, I am sure they would be most appreciated. Pastor Paula will deliver the filled tins to Pastor Bob, who will give them to ships that the port chaplains go to visit. A bit of home.