



*500 & 40 Years of Thankfulness*

*October Anno Domini 2017*

# THE SEASONINGS

## ON THE COVER

In 1878 Julius Hubner painting this scene of the nailing of the 95 Theses. This painting is not meant to show a historically accurate picture of what happened on October 31, 1517. Rather, it is meant to show some of the results of the Reformation.

You see the word spreading and the attention that it gets. You see those with coffers to collect money for indulgences running away. You see people rejoicing over the Gospel. You see the poor receiving help that otherwise had been going to buy indulgences.

What else do you see?



## COUNCIL UPDATE:

Here are a few things we want you to share with you from our Sep 18<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Volunteers are needed for the pumpkin patch.
- Our Annual Fish Fry is happening on the 7th of October. Sign up and come hungry!
- Luther Movie is on the 5th of October.

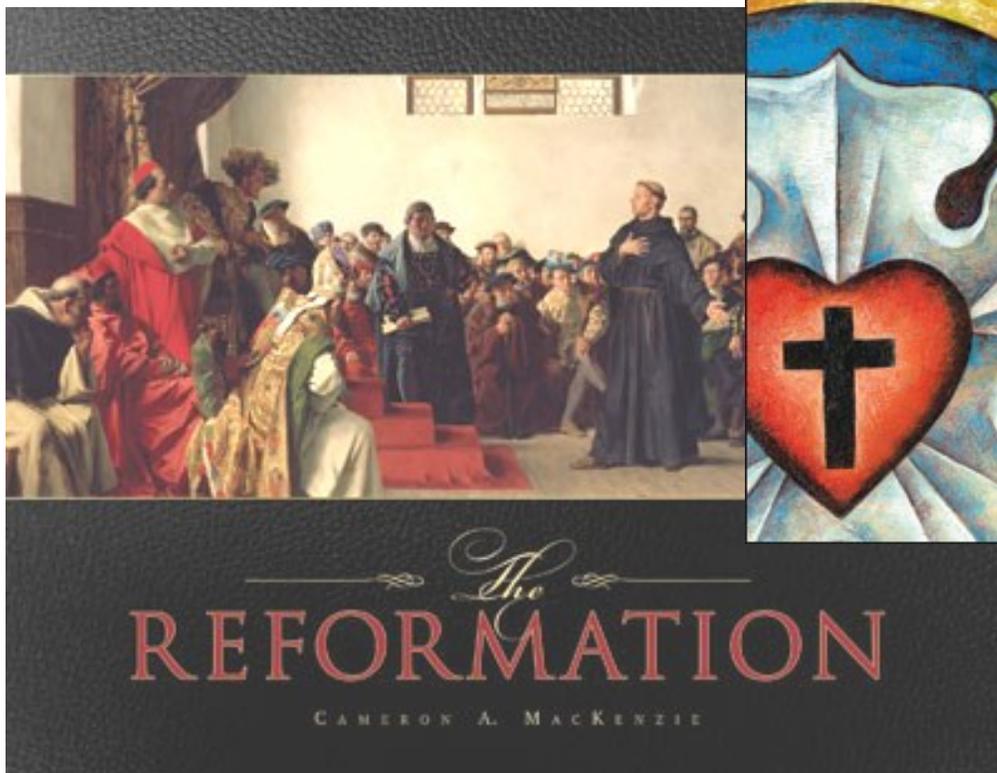
## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### [The Reformation](#)

*From the publisher's website:* Many people recognize the name Martin Luther when they think of the Reformation, but this era was filled with other fascinating personalities and dramatic changes across every aspect of human life throughout the Western world.

The Reformation is a richly illustrated and engagingly written overview of this amazing time of change and renewal in the Christian Church and helps the reader sort through the complex chain of events that shook both church and state to their very foundations.

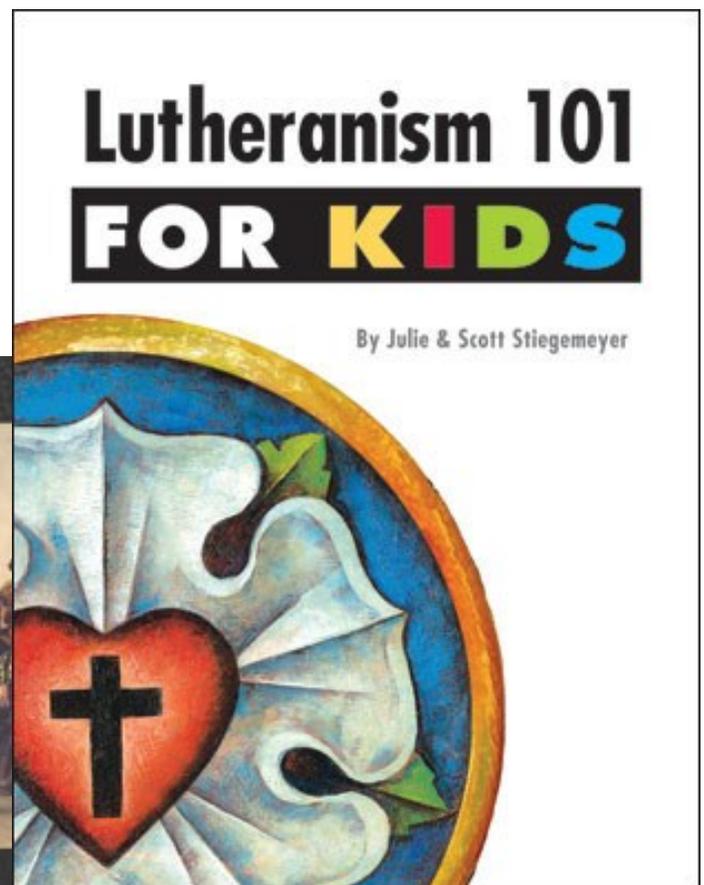
You'll want to display this exquisite book on your coffee table, in your church library, or anywhere you can easily flip through this informative and beautiful book.



## BOOKS FOR KIDS

### [Lutheranism 101 for KIDS](#)

*From the publisher's website:* This book introduces readers to three other books: the Bible, the Small Catechism by Martin Luther, and the hymnal Lutheran Service Book. In these pages, you'll find out how important each of these books can be for growing in faith. It gives students a quick, useable, and comprehensive overview of the Lutheran faith and practice.



## 500 &40

*Years of Thankfulness*

**1517 + 1977 + 2017**

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### *How Shall We Celebrate?*

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Maybe you have a family birthday, wedding anniversary, or a job promotion. What should you do to celebrate? A favorite meal? A night out? An overdue vacation? Or will you buy a new car, go sky diving and enter a hot pepper eating contest? The possibilities are endless.

As a Christian family we are about to make the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. Pretty big deal. 500 year anniversaries only come along, well, every 500 years in this case. What should we do to celebrate?

It is helpful to take our cue from the Reformation itself. The Reformation was not about anything new, but about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth.

That is still true today. The celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation is not a time for novelty. It is a time to return: to the truth, to the basics, to the foundation.

Do you remember the Small Catechism? Many of us were made to memorize the catechism (or at least part of it) during our Confirmation classes. Some of us might have even endured through a public examination over its contents.

How much do you remember? Say it with me: “He has redeemed me...purchased and won me...not

with gold or silver but with his holy precious blood and his...”. Or “I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing (reason or strength) believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him...” Can you fill in the blanks and finish those quotations? Do you remember where those are found? (It’s in Luther’s explanation of the Second and Third Articles of the Apostles’ Creed.)

To celebrate the Reformation, let us return. Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the instruction of laypeople, for the head of the household to teach the family. Luther intended the Small Catechism to be used at church and in the home to instruct children in the faith and to reinforce the faith in the hearts and minds of adults.

There is no better time than in this year of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation to review the catechism.

Read it for yourself. Refresh the teachings in your mind. Use it for your prayers. Memorize it.

But even more, teach it. If you are a parent, teach it to your children. As you have opportunity, share it with your friends and peers.

The catechism teaches the fundamentals of the Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Office of the Keys and Confession. This small book is well worth your time and study.

May this celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation be a time when we return to the Word and Sacraments, when we turn to Christ and His love, when we rejoice in our salvation.

With You in Christ,

Pastor Kober

## 500 &40

*Years of Thankfulness*

### 1517 + 1977 + 2017

*You are the light of the world...let your light shine before me, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a,16)*

This month we start our **500 &40 Years of Thankfulness** Celebration Stewardship focus on **SHINING** in the world with our brothers and sisters in Christ so we ... *are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)*

So how do we become the **light of the world** and let our **light shine before men**? Let everyone **see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven**? Most assuredly so under the assumption we are doing all for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and not our own self-promotion and accolades. Even the unbeliever can do good deeds and yet the unbelievers heart is not focused on Christ and the faith the Holy Spirit has renewed with believers as the unbeliever is basically focused upon themselves. *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Galatians 5:24-26)*

We must strive to not fall into the same trap of SHINING for ourselves and focus on SHINING for Christ, through whom all things are possible. To do this we must first be **RECONCILED** with Christ *we love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)* and our brothers and sisters in Christ *And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1 John 4:20-21)*

Our love of Christ requires us to bear the burdens of brothers and sister as Christ loved with no

expectations. *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load. Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.*

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:2-6;9-10)*

Through the blessing of our Baptismal Font, as we read our Daily Devotions and study our Bibles and refresh ourselves partaking of HIS Body and Blood through Holy Communion as often as it is offered HIS grace and mercies **SHINE** our light before men and the world so that our good deeds and praise of our Father in Heaven are faith generated to HIS honor and glory. For we ... *are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)*

As a **chosen generation**, our light that **SHINES** through our Christ driven good deeds, we will have to stay within our Lords outstretched arms to weather the suffering for right and wrong. For ... *who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with*

*meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:13-17)*

What a comfort that we are blessed should we suffer for Christ's righteousness so that our light may **SHINE** before men as Christ's suffered for our sins bringing us to God. *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. (1 Peter 3:18-22)*

So shall it be for us, brothers and sisters in Christ, **SHINING** in obedience by faith through the grace of the Good Shepherd, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so we ... *are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)*

2017V10 - Gary Heinitz - Stewardship Chair,  
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## AREA REFORMATION FESTIVAL

Come celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation at Abiding Grace!

Service at 4pm on October 29th

Meal to follow

Abiding Grace Lutheran Church  
5500 Highway 212  
Covington, GA 30016



## KIDS' PAGE

### 1 Samuel 1.1-20

Hannah had always wanted a child but did not have one. So she did what we also can do, she went to pray to God. When she was praying a priest named Eli thought she had been doing something else. He thought she was drunk, which is a sin. He thought the worst of Hannah instead of the best.

Has anyone thought that you were doing something wrong when you weren't?

Have you ever thought that someone else was doing something wrong when they weren't?

How does Jesus think the best of us?

How does Jesus make the best of us?



YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE  
TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR  
NEIGHBOR.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?  
WE SHOULD FEAR AND LOVE GOD  
THAT WE DO NOT TELL LIES ABOUT  
OUR NEIGHBOR, BETRAY HIM OR  
GIVE HIM A BAD NAME, BUT  
DEFEND HIM, SPEAK WELL OF HIM,  
AND TAKE HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS  
IN THE kindest POSSIBLE WAY.

