

Parish Paragraphs

OCTOBER

2017



On October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther wanted to debate the practice of selling indulgences (paying to get loved ones out of purgatory and into heaven). But he had also experienced a radical reformation of his own understanding of God and the Gospel. As it turned out, this was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a movement that has not only shaped the Church (especially Protestant churches like ours), but the world. This October 31, we celebrate 500 years of reformation. This is the inspiration for our fall "Semper Reformanda" theme and the reason for our "How We Got There" Church History class during Adult Bible Study each Sunday in October. Take part in our celebration!

You can find this painting, "Martin Luther and the Wittenberg Reformers," by Lucas Cranach (1543) at our own Toledo Museum of Art!

Cornerstone Celebration: October 1
Commemorating the laying of the first cornerstone in the fall of 1917. Worship service will have a Cornerstone theme



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**POINT PLACE
UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST**



The impact of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation on the Church we know and love today is almost impossible to overstate. I would even argue that the Protestant Reformation is one of the most underrated forces that dramatically shaped Western civilization—indeed, the world.

For better and for worse.

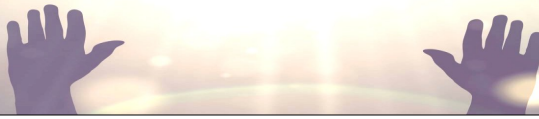
While Luther and his fellow reformers like Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and many others are our spiritual ancestors, they are not perfect heroes. It is right for us to give God thanks and praise for the ideas and faith of these spiritual ancestors. And as much as we have benefitted from their legacy, it is also our responsibility to confess the ways our movement has missed the mark. Whether it is the ways some of Luther's writings were employed by the Nazis to justify the Holocaust or the history of divisiveness that has characterized the five centuries of the Protestant Church; an anti-Catholic spirit or a Gospel that has often been shrunk by the force of individualism, our history and ancestors are, in Luther's phrase, "simulus justus et peccator" (simultaneously saint and sinner).

So it is with any human community, movement, nation, or idea. As human beings, even our best ideas and works are susceptible to mixed motives and limited perspectives.

As I look at the world around me, I am struck by the defensive postures most of us take to dialogue. I do it too. When faced with prophetic critiques of our church, our nation, our political leanings, even our relational behavior, our first response is often, "How dare you," "But what about..." and/or bitter silence and withdrawal.

This is not the Way of Jesus. Christian belief begins with the confession, "I am not God." This is inherently a confession of need: a need for God's mercy and wisdom, a need for other people, even a need for people to challenge my beliefs, opinions, values, and motives. Often, we need the outside perspective of God, a perspective that is available to us through the Scriptures, the Spirit, and—most annoyingly—through the observations of our fellow sinners. May we each develop a posture of humility, listening, reflection, and confidence in the mercy of God so that we can engage in this messy world, like Jesus, in a spirit of Grace and Truth,

WHAT'S COMING UP IN WORSHIP



October 1st: World Communion Sunday/Cornerstone Day

9:15am: Church History Adult Book Study

10:30am: Worship with Communion

11:30am: Cornerstone Celebration

Ephesians 2:20: Sola Christus (Christ Alone, our Cornerstone)

October 8th: Semper Reformanda Series

9:15am: Church History Adult Book Study

10:30am: Worship

Romans 3-4: A Gospel God Gives

October 15th: Celebrate Worship (Semper Reformanda)

9:15am: Church History Adult Book Study

10:30am: Celebrate Worship

Romans 5-6: "A Whole-Life Gospel"

October 22nd: Semper Reformanda Series

9:15am: Church History Adult Book Study

10:30am: Worship

Romans 7-8: "A Gospel that Overcomes"

October 29th: Reformation Sunday (Semper Reformanda)

9:15am: Church History Adult Book Study

10:30am: Worship

Romans 12-14: "A Gospel that Transforms"

** Thursday 10/19/17 at 10:00am Worship at Genesis HC **



How We Got Here

a crash course in Church history

New in October

How We Got Here

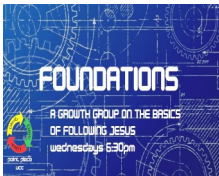
A Crash-Course in Church History

Whether you've been in church your whole life or come in at a later age, you may have found yourself looking around asking, "How did we get here?" How did the nomadic community of Jesus and his disciples become the Church as we know it today?

This 5-Sunday crash-course in Church history will help us to grapple with this question. We won't just list off people, events, and doctrines. We will look at how we are the recipients of a 2000 year gift, and entrusted to pass that gift on to the next generation.

Come to the conference room at 9:15am on October Sundays for this 5-session tour of 2000 years of being the Church.

Foundations



The basics of following Jesus. This group is great for people considering baptism, confirmation, or just a fresh look at the heart of their faith.

This will meet every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Lounge from Sept. 27-Nov. 29 (no group on 11/22) in observance of the holiday.

Think on These



A Women's Growth Group about How We Think. The group meets every other Thursday (next one is on 10/5) to focus on Paul's encouragements in Philippians about what thoughts fill our minds. Meet in the lounge at 7pm.

Ongoing Growth Groups



Monday Growth Group

On the 1st and 2nd Mondays of each month, this group gathers for fellowship, Scripture, prayer, bible studies, missions, and social time. All are welcome. They gather at various members' homes. Please contact Susan Korecki (419) 297-4674 for more info.

Elizabethans Women's Group

October 1, 2017 at 6:30pm

The Elizabethans meet on the first Monday at 6:30pm in the conference room. All women are welcome to this "small but mighty" fellowship group.

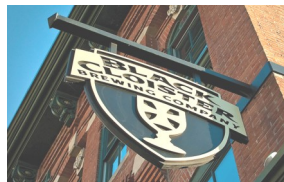


October 5, 2017 8:30am

The **Retired Men's Group** meets for coffee and donuts in the youth room at the church. Please join us. All men are welcome

Something Brewing October 6th at 7:00pm

This men's group meets at Black Cloister Brewing (Monroe & Erie St. downtown). You don't have to have a beer to enjoy conversation about what God has brewing in our lives and the world around us.



A Focus on Feed My Sheep

Feed My Sheep—A Community Ministry

In 2016 FMS served 1,545 people, and that translated to 3,498 meals! Unlike other food programs, our guests are served restaurant – style. It takes a little more time and effort, but it makes our guests feel special. We also serve our shut-ins and offer “to go” meals and additional items, such as bread and juice, to our guests to help them beyond those two meals a month.

In 2017, we added to this ministry. We began taking 30-40 meals downtown to distribute to the area homeless. Why, you ask? These are the hungry who have no means to get to our church for a meal, so we take the meal to them. Harley Mockbee or Terry Serviss pick up the meals and take the food downtown. They meet up with Alicia Winne who helps distribute the food. It usually takes 10-15 minutes to pass out those 40 meals from the back of the truck. The folks who receive the meals are very appreciative and have some great stories.



Pastor Jon described September as the “Feeding of the 5,000.” It began with a large and festive gathering at our Polish Dinner. A few days later, we served enchiladas at the FMS dinner. The following day, we served

more enchiladas to the Point Place Business Association members as we hosted their monthly meeting. Whew! It was fun introducing this important community project to the business men and women of Point Place. Many of the PPBA members had never heard of Feed My Sheep. (Continued on next page)



So, for our homebound members, the area homeless, and our neighbors who want a home-cooked meal, FMS has truly become a community meal. The Feed My Sheep program began in April, 2010, and has now served 18,000 meals since then!

The FMS committee is led by Lori Winne and Tina Mockbee and supported by many church volunteers every month. If you would like to get involved with this powerful ministry, please contact Lori or Tina.



Sunday School for Kindergarten-5th Grade Sundays at 9:30am— Check us out!

Our September theme has been "Creation." We have read the story, and participated in a number of activities and crafts that lead us to praise God for the creation all around us.

Amanda Hartley and Lori Winne are leading the group, and are always looking for more students ready to learn the stories of the Bible.



Have You Ever Wondered?



Have you ever wondered
How it all began?
A cataclysmic cosmic burst,
Or God's determined plan?

The Bible lays it all before us,
Historic in detail.
Prophets, kings, and tribes all chorus
Their efforts to prevail.

Views abound of natural wonders-
Alongside mankind's heinous blunders.
Tales of wars and base calamity
O'erspread scenes of peace and amity.

Old Testament prophets gave us insights,-
Mere glimpses of God's glories.
Countless generations yearned for
Fulfillment of these stories.

God's greatest gift to man was love; -
That first, most wondrous, from above.
His Son, our Savior, brought to man
The essence of His Father's plan.

"Love your neighbor as yourself",
An edict we remember.
"Love your enemy as though a friend",
Sears our thoughts as burning ember.

Yet God exacts an equal price
On friend and foe as one.
For peace and harmony to flourish,
His will, not theirs, be done.

Much of the world has not accepted
Full meaning of that sacred tome.
But God decrees it is simply expected
That love will overcome.

~by Richard Berkhoudt



CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER RHINE

*WELCOME TO A RIVER AND LAND ADVENTURE
OF FIVE COUNTRIES AND TEN PORTS)*

Mark your calendar today to travel with Gene Finnegan and John Rainey, when they present an hour of photos and commentary, featuring their recent relaxing expedience of countries and villages on the River Rhine.

Fairy-tale castles, grand cathedrals, historic cities, medieval towns, and spectacular scenery –The Rhine is truly a legendary river. From Amsterdam to Kinderrdijk, and Cologne to Heidelberg, from Strasbourg to Basel, this enchanting two-week journey takes you along one of Europe's most scenic and historic rivers, and more!

The Elizabethans sponsored evening
for all who love to travel –
Monday, October 2nd
Paterson Hall
7:00 p.m.



Anniversaries

- 3 Tammy & Jim Cosgrove
- 14 Dick and Alice Evanoff
- 16 Chuck and Leslie Geletzke

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Ryan Curtis | 17 | Ron Aricchi |
| 3 | Joan Anello | 18 | Kristen Vigh |
| 5 | Kenneth Dickson | 20 | Betty Debth |
| 6 | Leslie Geletzke | 20 | Lori Winne |
| 9 | John Rainey | 21 | Curtis Osmun |
| 10 | Kevin Korecki | 23 | Jim Granner |
| 10 | Nathan Plotner | 23 | Debbie McMullen |
| 14 | Luanne Langlois | 24 | Chelsea Mockbee |
| 14 | Jennifer Cosgrove | 28 | Rae Jean Curtis |
| 16 | Jim Armstrong, Jr. | 29 | Kitty Kelsey |
| 16 | Andrea Aricchi | 30 | Karen Curtis |
| | | 31 | Morgan Korecki |
| | | 31 | Susan Korecki |

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the office.



The Birthday Club will celebrate our October Birthdays soon. Watch future bulletins for more information!

Please RSVP to Ruby Usher or Cindy in the office if you would like to attend.

Financial Information for August 31, 2017

	3/31/17	Year To Date (8/31/17)
Total Income	\$8391	\$ 101,612 (\$73,860+\$27,752*)
		*(from Endowment, Living Mem. & Chilcote Grants)
Total Expenses	-\$11,062	-\$115,496
Net Income	-\$2,671	-\$ 13,884
Balance in General Checking Acct 8/31/17		\$13,360.23
Money designated to Funds (FMS, Celebrate)		(\$10,247.79)
Amount available in General Funds 8/31/17		\$3112.26

Community Highlights



The Cancer Connection of Northwest Ohio provides free hands-on support programs to ensure that nobody goes through cancer alone! And we need your help! Statistics show that 1 in 3 Americans

will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime, and everyone knows a relative, friend, or loved one who has suffered from cancer.

The Cancer Connection of Northwest Ohio also offers "Kids Konnection," the only local program specifically for children with cancer. This program is providing guidance and support for both children and their parents, because, "When a child has Cancer, the Whole Family has Cancer."

To find out more about how you can help, volunteer, or make a donation, please visit their website at www.cancerconnectionofnorthwestohio.com or call 419-725-1100.



After two special collections last month, we were able to send a check for \$585.00 to the UCC Disaster Ministries to help with the Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts. Thank you for your generosity!

"If you love me, feed my sheep."
John 21:15-19

Monday, Oct. 9

Dinner at
RiverPoint Ministries

2862 131st Street

Tuesday, Oct 24

Smorgasbord
Vegetable
Sliced Peaches
Dessert
Coffee, Juice, Water

Tuesday, Oct 31

Chili
Crackers
Dessert
Coffee, Juice, Water



**ANNUAL POLISH DINNER AND
SILENT AUCTION**



We had a WONDERFUL Polish Dinner and Silent Auction last Friday! Over 175 meals were sold and served. The home-made specialties were amazing! We stuffed, served and SOLD over 300 pounds of Kielbasa! Thank you to Kathy P and her amazing team of volunteers for all of the shopping, prepping, preparing, stuffing, cooking, baking, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Thank you to all that donated their time, money, and items for the silent auction. Last, but not least, thank you to all that came to share the meal and helped us raise nearly \$2400.00!



Choir News

Are you ready to lift your voice to the Lord? On the 2nd Sunday of the month, our joyful choir joins the Worship Service. We practice at 9:15am on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. Please contact Kevin Korecki with any questions and let's have a great season!

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence
with singing. ~ Psalm 100:2*

**POINT PLACE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Address service
requested

*To care for one another
as God cares for us.*

