**The Knife River Current**

## October, 2016

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**FROM THE PASTOR: REFORMATION AND ONE WORLD**

 In 2017, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the movement that involved many leaders, but culminated in the work of Martin Luther, who parted ways with the Church of Rome in October of 1517. As a lead-up to this anniversary, there has been an international observance of the Luther Decade for the preceding 10 years to 2017. Each Reformation Sunday of the past 8 years has had a theme that was shared worldwide among many Christians. Past themes included the impact of the Reformation on music, literature, and theology. This year, Reformation Sunday is celebrated on October 30, and the theme is “Reformation and One World.” The intent of the theme is to explore how this historical movement impacted much of the world in its time and how it continues to impact a world that is increasingly global in its view.

 We do, indeed, live in a globalized world, in which our economies, politics, and fates are tied together in ways both intricate and complicated. The Reformation most certainly had a global impact-- changing language, religion, and the perception of institutions and individuals in ways it is difficult to even comprehend. These changes caused much division and strife at the time. The original splits between Catholics and Protestants, as well as other denominations, have certainly given way to some healing and coming together in the past 500 years. Yet, differences of religion, philosophy, economic and political systems continue to divide us, both within nations and throughout the world. Are we truly “one world?” We recognize and celebrate our interrelatedness in some ways, while we resent and deny it in others. It is always tempting to become isolationists, whether nationally or religiously or ideologically. It is tempting, but it is not faithful. There is, without a doubt in our 21st C., “one world”, and our faith impacts and must interact with that one world, challenging though that is.

 The world of the Reformation era was extraordinarily challenging and turbulent. Our era, though perhaps more civilized than the 1500s, is nevertheless one of turbulence and unrest. Issues we might have thought settled—in regards to race or religion or economic justice—continue to provoke division and dissent. But of course, the world into which the Word Incarnate entered over 2,000 years ago was *also* a hotbed of division and warfare. Peace, justice, and concord are simply not easily found.

 Where does this leave us as Christians? We remain called and committed to bearing witness to a Gospel of justice, peace, and kindness. We seek the common good, while also preserving the uniqueness and distinctive core of our Christian faith. This is not always an easy balancing act, but God doesn’t set the bar low when it comes to discipleship. To find ways to bear witness to Christ and to respect other faiths in an increasingly small and global world requires the best of our minds and hearts and actions. Which is not a bad thing! The intent of the Reformation was not at all to provoke division, but rather to point to the true heart of the Gospel: that God seeks to forgive and redeem all, and that Christ crucified and risen is God’s heart for this one world. We hold true to our Reformation heritage as we do likewise.

In Christ,

Pastor Susan Berge

**WORSHIP IN OCTOBER**

**Oct. 2 - A Sunday after Pentecost.** We will worship using our traditional worship order, including Holy Communion at

 the altar. Christians around the world will be sharing in Holy Communion on this World Communion Sunday.

As with every month, this first Sunday is Food Shelf Sunday, too, so that we remember the hungry as we are fed at the altar.

**Oct. 9 - A Sunday after Pentecost.** We will use a traditional service this morning, communing by intinction, Lyle

 Northey will be leading worship and preaching in Pastor’s absence.

**Oct. 16 - A Sunday after Pentecost.** This Sunday will find us using our Bread of Life Celebration Service and

 communing by intinction. We will include a time for healing prayer and anointing.

**Oct. 23 - A Sunday after Pentecost.** Using our We Are Called service, we will commune by intinction.

**Oct. 30 - Reformation Sunday.** Our focus for Reformation, in keeping with the international Luther Decade observance,

 will be Reformation and One World.

**AND A HEADS UP FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**:

Nov. 6 - All Saint’s Sunday Worship, 9:00 AM

Nov. 20 - Thanksgiving Sunday, 9:00 AM

Nov. 27 - Advent begins, Advent Decorating (Gild and Graze) follows worship

Dec. 2-4 - Julebyen, including Christmas Candlelight Concert on the 4th

Dec. 25 - 9:30 AM-Festive Christmas Morning Worship

FROM YOUR CREATION CARE TEAM –

Creation Care Team will meet October 23rd at 10:15 AM to discuss projects for fall and winter. All are welcome. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please pass your ideas for potential projects on to Lawrence Burkhard, Bill Berg, and/or Pastor Susan.

A few NE MN Synod Creation Care Team Green Tips:

- The Solar Sanctuaries Act was signed by Governor Dayton into law on May 31, 2016, which establishes voluntary native vegetation and habitat management practices for solar developers and local governments alike to maximize habitat creation for birds, pollinators, and other small wildlife.  When they sign the "Pollution Pledge," commercial solar installations help create pollinator habitat that is then verified by the new law, whose standard and technical guides were created by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- Additional uses for Mason jars:

1) as a baking ramekin, you can bake single-serving pot pies, casseroles, and fruit crisps or crumbles in it.

2) as a leak-proof-to-go container, pack a salad in a quart jar:  dressing first, heavier things next, lettuce at the top.  Shake it at lunch time.

3) as a mini-greenhouse, you can empty jars that held last year's harvest and get a head start on the growing season by inverting them over seeds or seedlings as individual cloches.

-Does your home or business get enough sun to generate solar power?  You can easily find out with a convenient mapping tool called the *"Minnesota Solar App,"* which is available at <http://mn.gov/solarapp>. Simply by typing your address on a computer, tablet, or Smartphone, you can get an instant analysis of the solar energy potential of your property.  According to Minnesota's Commerce Department, a single family home in Minnesota gets more than enough sunlight to meet its energy needs on a year-round basis, more than Houston, TX or Jacksonville, FL.

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES!**

The Knife River Lutheran Church Endowment Fund has some limited scholarship monies available for college students who maintain a “C” average or above.  Presently, we are able to give awards of several hundred dollars per semester to assist with incidentals or book costs.  If you are interested in receiving a scholarship, please contact the Committee through Pastor Susan or Lawrence Burkhard, Endowment Committee chair.  Scholarship requests can be done via mail (addressed to Pastor Susan at the Church) or via e-mail (kniferiverchurch@gmail.com). Each request needs to contain a formal written letter requesting the scholarship and a copy of your most recent grades transcript. (Note, if applying by e-mail, the letter and transcripts should be attachments in either docx or pdf formats). The deadline for submitting requests for the Fall semester is October 10, 2016. We would like to utilize this marvelous resource, so please apply.

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**TWO MUSICAL NOTES**

JOYFUL NOISE - Our vocal choir will begin rehearsing before church on Sunday, at 8:15 AM, on October 2, when our fearless director, Carol Carlson, returns from biking across Germany. We welcome all and any singers!

KNIFE RIVER RINGERS—During October, we are in the process of moving our regular weekly rehearsal time. We will not rehearse during the first week of October, due to Sam’s absence, but then we will begin rehearsing on Monday mornings at 10 AM, starting on October 10th and continuing on the 17th, 24th, and 31st. We hope this might allow others to consider joining us—come and give us a try!

**FISHCAKE DINNER- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 4-7 PM**

Our KRLC annual Fishcake Dinner will be held on Oct. 28 from 4-7 PM. Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to attend! This delicious meal will include fishcakes, meatballs, potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw, homemade rolls and apple crisp. The cost is $11 for adults, $5 for children ages 5-9, and children under 5 years old are free. Please sign up to volunteer with this meal on the sign-up sheet in church or by calling Kay Struve (834-5755).

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Randi Alreck 5 Christin Carlson & Brad Frankenstein

6 Tami Magnuson 8 Luke & Laura Kavajecz

10 Sue Sigel 11 Curtis & Bobbie Mattson

11 Austin Hubbartt 21 John & Gail Safstrom

12 Lisa Anderson 25 Jim & Pat Hanson

 Sheri Gray

14 Miranda Jackson

 Anne Jasperson

 Thomas Gray

15 DeWayne Rubedor

18 Ava Bailey

19 Mercedez Gorman

24 Laura Kavajecz

25 Glen Johnson

28 Wyatt Hubbartt

31 Susan Hubbartt

**OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS**

**SUNDAY GREETERS/USHERS LECTOR OFFERING COUNTERS**

Oct. 2 Rich & Nancy Ojard Beth Anderson Lisa Anderson & Melanie McMilion

Oct. 9 Rich & Nancy Ojard Beth Anderson Scott & Anne Jasperson

Oct. 16 Paul & Kay Struve Jim Allert Scott & Sharon Shelerud

Oct. 23 Paul & Kay Struve Debbie Allert Darci Stiff & Tami Magnuson

Oct. 30 Anne & Emmy McPherson Steve Carlson Kay & Paul Struve

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT FOR SEPTEMBER – Delores Jackson/Carmen Smith**

**ALTAR GUILD - Anne Jasperson/Sharon Shelerud**

**SUNDAY FLOWERS COFFEE CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Oct. 2 Magnuson Family Randi Alreck Susan Hubbartt/Bobbi Mattson

Oct. 9 Scott & Sharon Shelerud Maurine Rubedor Mary von Goertz/Sheri Gray

Oct. 16 Dick & Susan Sigel Lawrence Burkhard/Randi Alreck

Oct. 23 John & Gail Safstrom Nikki Ojard/Bjorn Ojard

Oct. 30 Diane Friebe Diane Friebe Anne Jasperson/Bobbi Mattson

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**TREASURER’S REPORT (**YTD thru September 25, 2016)

Actual vs Budget Summary Actual Budget Difference

Income 81,931.14 74,826.10 7,105.04

Expenses 75,052.15 77,633.40 −2,581.25

Net Income 6,878.99 −2,807.30 9,686.29

Fund Balances and Activity Balance In Activity Out

General Operations Fund 5,694.65 69,740.14 73,932.46

Capital Improvement Fund 6,961.67 320.00 0.00

Mortgage Fund 3,290.39 10,566.00 16,028.00

Memorial Restricted Fund 2,275.28 300.00 678.25

Memorial Unrestricted Fund 2,756.49 965.00 0.00

Reserve Fund 5,000.00 0.00 0.00

TOTALS 25,978.48 81,931.14 90,638.71

Thrivent Mortgage Balance 16,898.86 Payoff in 20 Months

**FROM LYLE’S DESK**

Yogi Berra is perhaps one of the most quoted personalities of our time. From media icons to Presidents, “Yogi-isms” have crept into our lives and surround us. Some of his utterances:

" I didn't really say everything I said

" I usually take a two hour nap from one to four"

" I want to thank you for making this day necessary"

The last one was how Berra opened his acceptance speech when he was honored with Yogi Berra Day by his hometown, St. Louis. It was a heart-felt statement of gratitude.

God’s Word reminds us that gratitude is a key to the spiritual life. Without it we are unable to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. Gratitude is essential to a life of joy, a life of compassion --- and fulfillment.

But gratitude does not come naturally; it must be cultivated.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, wrote “. . . be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18-20)

We cultivate gratitude most explicitly in worship. “Worship reminds Christians that our expressions of thanksgiving are really answering speech, responses to what God has already done in us, for us and through us." writes G. Kevin Baker. “It is no coincidence that when followers of Jesus gather around the Lord’s Table, they gather to pray ‘The Great Thanksgiving’ --- a prayer that expresses gratitude for all of God’s mighty acts in salvation history.”

How often have we heard someone, upon receiving an exceptional gift, exclaim. “Oh, thank you. Thank you, so very much.”

What greater gifts has man received then the power of grace by our Loving Father, the unconditional love of a crucified Savior and the guiding direction of the Holy Spirit? When we kneel in prayer, spend an hour in worship or open the pages of Scripture, not as an obligation, but as an opportunity to show our gratitude, we grow in this life --- and in the confidence of the eternal life, which follows. Amen.

While in New England this past month, I spent some time with the history of the Pilgrims and their colony at Plymouth, which was but a couple of hours away. When you discover the difficulties and turmoil that accompanied their first years in the New World, it is a wonder that they could continue to express gratitude for their time and place in it.

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**FROM LYLE’S DESK (cont.)**

I put a book about them aside one evening, sat back and was filled with the gratitude I have for the pastor, the people and the church to which Trish and I would return.

Open every Sunday at 9; look forward to seeing you there.

**FROM LYLE’S NOTEBOOK**

 *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”*

“Stewardship is what we DO after we have said that we believe.”



**Where's Jesus?**

My little grandson came in from Bible Study and I asked him what they studied.
      His reply was "Nothing."
      I asked him "Didn't you study Jesus?"
      His reply was "No, he wasn't even there."

**CHURCH MOUSE**

 Thank You!

Dear Friends at Knife River Lutheran,

Thank you so much for helping to feed our Habitat 500 riders and volunteers when they were in Two Harbors on this year’s ride. We are so grateful for the time and energy you put into providing wonderful fuel for our group. Thank you for helping us to continue the work supporting decent and affordable homes for our neighbors. Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated school supplies for distribution to Minnehaha Elementary School in Two Harbors. Thank you Melanie & John McMillion for delivering the supplies!

A Matter Of Balance! Community Partners is offering an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels in older adults. Call Community Partners at 218-824-8024 for information on upcoming classes at Lake View Hospital.

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**CHURCH MOUSE (cont.)**

 Senior Expo! Don't forget to pick up your FREE tickets for the Duluth Senior Expo on October 5th at the DECC. Tickets are available at Walgreens Pharmacies, Mediqwest and Benna Ford in Superior, Interim Health Care and more! Get them now while we have them.

 Community Partners presents the *17th annual Living at Home Conference* on Tuesday October 18th, 2016, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Superior Shores in Two Harbors, MN. The 2016 theme is “Mindful Aging on the North Shore. The event will feature keynote speaker Greg Hull and a panel of local complimentary health practitioners that will talk about their practice as it relates to mindful aging. Exhibitors will also offer information about senior services and activities in Lake County. Registration is $15 per person. Lunch is included in registration fee. Go to [Communitypartnersth.org/events](http://communitypartnersth.org/events) to print the registration form or call 218-834-8024 to register.

WELCA (Ladies Aid) meets on Tuesday, October 11 at the church at 6:00 PM. For fall 2016, Meghan Johnston Aelabouni helps us explore biblical images of a God who acts beyond our conceptions of what's "fair." From Jonah’s prayer to God from the belly of a big fish to school-age siblings and squabbling nations, this fall we'll delve into what it means to worship a God who forgives the guilty, chooses the unlikely and gives to those who haven't "earned" it. Subscriptions to ***GATHER*** magazine can be ordered by calling 844-409-0576. Lee Bujold is serving.  All are welcome!

The Blandin Foundation is offering “***Leaders Partnering To End Poverty”*** leadership capacity building sessions from October through May in Two Harbors. Carmen Beardsley, Jacqulin Sebastian, Lee Bujold, Susan Berge and Randi Alreck will be participating in the training sessions. LPEP focuses on building leadership capacity on the Northshore to increase opportunities for people to move out of poverty. Go to [www.leadership.blandinfoundation.org](http://www.leadership.blandinfoundation.org) for more information.

 Annual Fish Cake Supper, Friday October 28 - Mark your calendars! Invite your family & friends! It is THE event of the fall season on the North Shore and you don’t want to miss our famous fishcakes made by none other than Mark Torgerson (secret family generations-old recipe). Meatballs are also on the menu along with vegetables and delicious apple crisp. Take-outs are available.

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