



# The VISITOR

Monthly Newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church

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## September Newsletter Addendum

The September 2017 edition  
of Immanuel's monthly newsletter  
was mailed on August 29<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please let the Church Office know. (Leave a note, send an email, call the office.)

On **October 31, 1517**, a German pastor and seminary professor named Martin Luther posted on the door of the parish church in Wittenberg a list of **95 Theses** (items for scholarly discussion and debate). The content of those 95 Theses set off a firestorm of controversy that soon spread across Europe and changed the Church and the course of history forever. This fall, we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this world-changing event which gave birth to the Lutheran Church. Listed below are some of the ways we will celebrate Reformation 500 here at Immanuel. Please join us!

## STUDY OF LUTHER'S 95 THESES

Beginning **Sunday, Sept 17**, Pastor Charlie will lead a **study of Luther's 95 Theses** during the Sunday School hour following Sunday morning worship. We will follow a fascinating book by Dr. Timothy Wengert, retired seminary professor and Luther scholar, to gain a deeper understanding of the message of the Protestant Reformation and its meaning for our lives today.

## 500 BIBLES FOR CHINA

One of the key points of the Reformation was making the Holy Scriptures available in the language of the people for the first time. Martin Luther translated the Old and New Testaments into the German language. We will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by providing **500 bibles** for the people of China to read in their own language, through the American Bible Society's **Bibles for China campaign**. With the help of the Bible Society, for every \$1 we donate, 1 Bible will be made available to someone in China. Help us to reach our goal of 500 bibles for our Reformation celebration! Mail or drop off your BFC donations to the church office, or put them in the offering plate at any worship service.

## MOVIE NIGHT COMING IN OCTOBER

Come, have fun, and learn more about the Reformation at a special Movie Night at Immanuel, where we will watch the movie *Luther*, starring Joseph Fiennes in the title role. Date and time will be announced in the October Visitor. Of course, there will be popcorn and other goodies!

# CELEBRATION



## INVITE 500 PEOPLE TO CHURCH

Another way we want to celebrate Reformation 500 is to invite as many people as possible to share the joy of living in God's amazing grace. The #1 reason people come to church for the first time is a personal invitation from someone they know. One reason many churches are growing rapidly is that their members are excited about what God is doing in their church, and they invite others to come to church, who in turn get excited and invite others. Historically, Lutherans have not been good at inviting others. What better time than now to turn that statistic around and help grow our church by inviting others to share the excitement of our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary! If we all join forces on this, we can invite 500 people to church this fall. To help you invite others, we will provide professionally printed **invitation cards** that you can hand to people you know: relatives, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and other people you interact with on a regular basis.

## REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 29: SIX CENTURIES OF PRAISE!

Join us at a very special worship celebration on Saturday and Sunday, October 28 & 29. This will be a festival service with lots of music, and we hope to have all our music groups participating: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Chimes Choir and Luther Men, along with instrumentalists. We will enjoy some of the greatest, most beloved hymns and other music from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Bring all your friends, family, and neighbors with you for an unforgettable worship experience.

## WESTMINSTER CONFERENCE REFORMATION 500 CELEBRATION

Following our Reformation Sunday celebration on October 29, we want a great representation from Immanuel at our **Carroll County Reformation 500 Celebration at 3:30pm in Big Baker Chapel** on the campus of McDaniel College. You will want to arrive early, as we expect a capacity crowd! There will be a festival choir featuring the Masterworks Chorus with choir members from many Lutheran churches, including Immanuel. Professor Mark Oldenburg will preach, and the offering will benefit Carroll Lutheran School.

# BIBLE STUDY and PRAYER GROUPS

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** continues weekly throughout the year in the Martin Luther Room following the worship service, approximately 10:15 – 11:15am. On coffee hour Sundays, we meet 10:45 – 11:30am. We are currently studying the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. Beginning September 10 through October 29, Pastor Charlie will lead a study of **Luther's 95 Theses**, using a new book by world-famous Luther scholar, Dr. Timothy Wengert.

## MIDWEEK PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

**Morning Group** meets in the Oak Tree Room at 11am on Tuesday **Sept. 5, 12 & 26**

**Evening Group** meets at Pastor's home, 840 Hughes Shop Rd, Westminster 21158 at 7 pm on Wednesday **Sept 6 & 13**, and Tuesday, **Sept 26**.

(Pastor Charlie will be away Sept. 19 – 22)

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class is part of a two-year process of spiritual formation preparing youth (age 12 and older) to take their place as adult members of the church. Its purpose is "to help young people to identify more deeply with Jesus Christ and his Church and to participate more fully in God's Mission in the world." One year of class time focuses on the message of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, alternating with a one-year study of Luther's Small Catechism, and how both Bible and Catechism relate to our lives in today's world. This year (2017-2018) the focus will be on the Bible.

In addition to attendance at classes, students also attend and help at weekly worship (Saturday or Sunday), and participate as fully as possible in the life of the congregation including Sunday School, fellowship and service events, youth gatherings, special worship services, Vacation Bible School and summer camp.

**Confirmation Class** will meet on **Sunday evenings at 7pm** in the **Oak Tree Room**, beginning **Sept 17** and ending with the **Rite of Confirmation** for our second-year students on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20**. This schedule may be adjusted during the year as needed. Please notify the Pastor immediately if you would like to enroll in Confirmation Class, so that materials can be ordered.