



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ

October 2025



Be Still

Among the spectacular noises of summer; birds chirping for their meals, people mowing their lawns (even at 6:30 am the sound echoes around the neighborhood), children playing, bats hitting the balls, and many other sounds. Living not far from the highway in Lake City, we hear the sounds of trucks coming into town and motorcycles increasing their speeds. It is interesting when one walks further from the highway, the noises are softer, until the train decides that it is rolling through Lake City with its horn (or whistle) announcing its arrival, all stillness is disturbed. There is an absence of silence.

Silence is something that we don't really appreciate as a people. We like to have sounds around us, in fact we wonder what is wrong when we don't hear something being spoken when there is a group of people around us. We like to hear noise; whether that noise is our children or grandchildren playing games or the sound of tractors and combines in the fields around our towns, or even the movement of vehicles up and down the roadways, we like to hear noise. Silence troubles us. Silence is something that we are not used to having in our lives. Yet silence is something that God wants us to observe, wants us to have in our lives. Silence means that the Almighty is working in our lives.

The Psalmist states it very well: ***"Be still and know that I am God."*** (Psalm 46:10) The Almighty wants us to take time to be silent, to know that He is our Lord and we are His children, that we are the ones who depend upon Him for all things in our life. God wants us to take time to be silent and let Him speak to us in our daily lives. All the campgrounds we set up camp on our trip to New York and back again had quiet time, takes varied, most from 10 pm to 7am or 8am. It was amazing to sit by the campfire and hear the sounds begin to fade and the quiet time was observed. You see God is that way as well, He wants us to have time with him in our lives. He wants the noise to suddenly stop and the stillness take over as we read His Word, as we ponder what God is telling us for our lives. The Psalmist states that we should be still, to be quiet, to not make a sound, to hear God's majestic voice to speak to all of His children through His Word.

Our lives are filled with so many distractions that sometimes we don't hear our gracious and loving God speak to us. The Psalmist encourages us to ***"be still"*** and hear God and behold all that God has done in His creation. Push away those distractions and take time in your day to listen to God through His Word. You will be surprised what has in store for you as His children living in this world. He has some mighty things to say not just for personal devotions, but also in Church. It is in Church where we come to encourage one another and to push out the distractions of the day, of life and to be still and listen to our gracious God. It is time to hear His Word, it is time to spread that Word, it is time as His redeemed children in Jesus to take time to be His servants in this world. It is time to be still and hear what God in store for you. As you take that time, you will hear these words of God: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare, and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*** (Jeremiah 29:11)

*In God's hope and peace,
Pastor Scott Fiege*



Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship. The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn’t sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn’t rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn’t rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn’t always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow’s mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

Electronic Giving: Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at dtvosberg@gmail.com



The next **LWML meeting** will be announced at a later date.

Prayer Chain: Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / ardig775@gmail.com

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (LHF) COLLECTION

Remember the many songs of the Christian faith you learned as a child? Even today, many of those songs remain deeply rooted in your memory, continuing to teach the Word years – even decades – after you first learned them.

In Africa too, music is a huge part of daily life, including in the life of the Church. But in Africa's new and even long-time Lutheran churches, a challenge exists: the number of songs to imprint the faith in children's hearts and minds is very limited. There are no children's hymnals or song books to teach from. Teachers are limited to the songs that they can remember themselves. LHF has started work on a new translation project called "Praise Him, Africa!"

You can help support this project by giving a donation in the Mission Box. The September and October Mission Box and fellowship donations will be sent to LHF to support this project. The Mission Box will be placed by the Fellowship Hall door the months of September and October.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.

Margaret Karst	October 6
Trace Dean Naatz	October 12
Pastor Scott Fiege	October 18
Bruce Arett	October 20
Lauraine Yennie	October 25
Randy Leonhardt	October 26
Lois Walbruch	October 28



No October Anniversaries



LWML Update

Opportunities for growing the Mt. Moriah family. Invite a friend to participate.

- **October 12th** plan on meeting at Four Daughters winery at 1:30 pm. LWML will provide appetizers. If you would like to ride with someone, please talk directly with them.
- **October 31**, Halloween is on Friday! Start planning your ghoulish trunk for this year's Trunk-n-Treat. Let's fill the parking lot with decorated trunks for this popular community outreach event. It will be handled like previous years. LWML will provide some of the candy but candy donations are very welcome. The event will run from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **There is a sign-up sheet on the double doors for those that will be decorating their vehicle and/or helping out inside serving the hot dogs and hot chocolate.** Watch the newsletters/Weekly Updates for more information.
- On Saturday, **November 8**, there will be a winter treasures rummage sale from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Anyone with holiday items, household, or craft items can bring their items beginning in October. Put your items in the back by the mailboxes so they don't interfere with the Trunk-n-Treat. Clean out those closets and bring your unwanted items.
- Also In **November**, there will be a collection of non-perishable items for the Byron community education food shelf. A wish list of the much-needed items will be in future newsletters and Weekly Updates

Ardi Gibbs, Lois Walbruch, Julie Lillestol, Karen Welsh

Any and all members of Mt. Moriah are welcome to join our group.

Silly Halloween Jokes



- **Why don't ghosts like rain?**
Because it dampens their spirits

What's a ghost's favorite drink?
Boo-berry juice.

- **Why did the skeleton go to the party alone?**
He had no body to go with.

Where does a ghost go on vacation?
Mali-boo

- **What kind of makeup do witches wear?**
Mas-scare-a!

What did the ghost ask the other?
"Do you believe in people?"

What is the ghost's favorite ride at the amusement park? The roller-ghoster!

Why do female ghosts go on a diet?
So they can keep their ghoulish figure

- **Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?**
Because demons are a ghoul's best friend!

What do ghosts use to wash their hair?
Sham-boo!

What's a ghoul's favorite drink?
Anything with boos.

What are a monster's favorite pets?
Creepy crawlies.

- **What is a mummy's favorite sandwich?**
A head cheese wrap.

Why are ghosts so bad at lying?
Because you can see right through



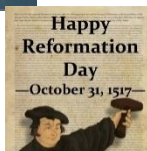
Worship Assistant Schedule for October 2025

Altar Guild for Month of Oct. --- Judy Coleman

10/5/2025 – 17th Sun. after Pentecost Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – N/A Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Justin Hahn
10/12/2025 – 18th Sun. after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Verona Kruse Music – Dave Welsh
10/19/2025 – 19th Sun. after Pentecost Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader -- Verona Kruse Music – Ruth Benning
10/26/2025 – 20th Sun. after Pentecost Reformation Sunday (observed) Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Margaret Karst

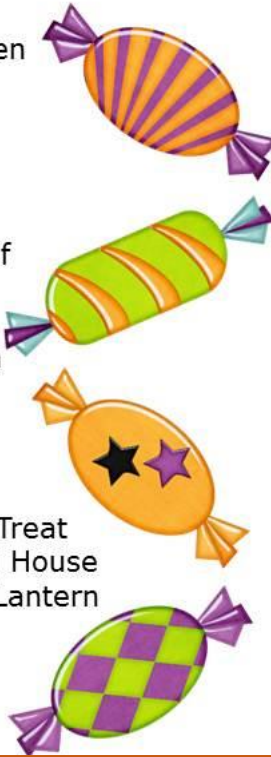
Special October Dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, October 12, 2025
- Columbus Day, October 13, 2025
- Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2025



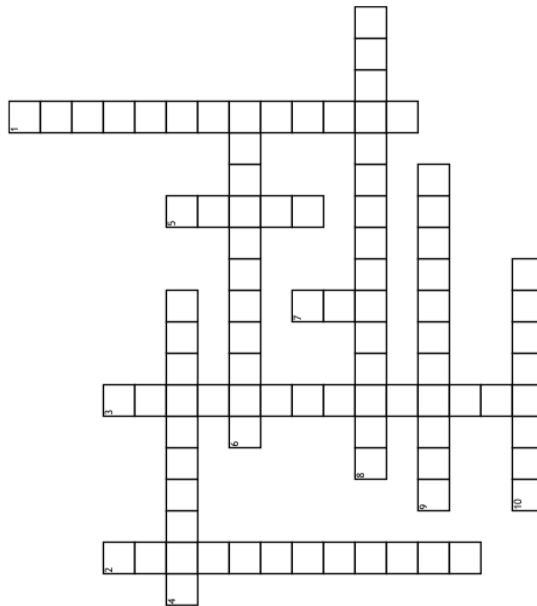
HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

Halloween
October
Spooky
Scary
Ghost
Vampire
Werewolf
Witch
Zombie
Skeleton
Monster
Black
Orange
Candy
Trick or Treat
Haunted House
Jack O' Lantern
Boo
Spider
Bats



Y	W	I	T	C	H	D	Y	R	A	C	S	J	W	K
W	J	A	C	K	O	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	C	D
L	H	E	G	G	H	O	S	T	H	S	K	A	R	E
N	R	E	T	S	N	O	M	A	P	K	L	O	E	I
O	O	S	U	E	D	R	L	I	R	B	J	P	B	B
T	O	U	V	M	R	L	D	P	S	E	Z	V	O	M
E	B	O	Z	V	O	E	G	B	G	H	C	A	T	O
L	A	H	L	W	R	I	E	N	A	W	F	M	C	Z
E	T	D	E	Y	A	R	A	Y	E	Y	J	P	O	S
K	S	E	T	A	E	R	T	R	O	K	C	I	R	T
S	N	T	K	K	O	Q	E	Y	I	O	T	R	J	O
I	Y	N	X	L	U	W	D	P	X	O	Z	E	O	Q
K	M	U	E	S	O	N	T	I	N	P	S	K	F	B
M	N	A	U	L	A	L	V	C	M	S	X	K	C	P
J	E	H	F	C	T	F	J	K	T	G	B	N	N	B

The Reformation



Across

4. separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follow the principles of the Reformation
6. the act of the Church promising to make some reforms but failing to put them into practice
8. Luther denied _____ in his writings
9. lessens sins that have already been forgiven
10. Martin Luthers writing about things that needed to be fixed in the Church

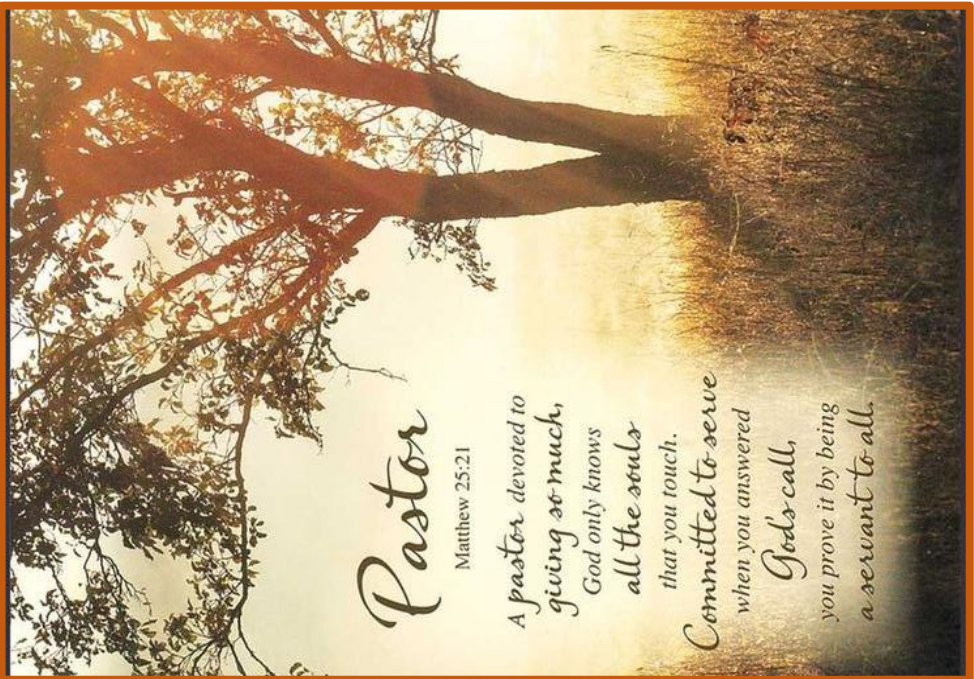
Word Bank

Protestant	Excommunicate	Reformation	Martin Luther
Lutheran Church	95 Theses	indulgences	Sacred Tradition
Old	Latin		

Down

1. officially exclude from participation in the sacraments and services of the Church.
2. Posted 95 things wrong with the Church on the door. Began the Protestant Reformation.
3. founded by Martin Luther one he formally split the Christian Church
5. German and _____ were the languages that Luther wrote in
7. Luther removed 7 of the books of the Bible from the _____ Testament.

October is
Pastor Appreciation Month



Pastor

Matthew 25:21

*A pastor devoted to
giving so much,
God only knows*

*all the souls
that you touch.*

*Committed to serve
when you answered*

God's call,

*you prove it by being
a servant to all.*



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