



REDEEMER NEWSLETTER



Note from the Pastor:

In late October we had the attack in Lewiston where 18 people were killed. We have placed a copy of the letter that Pastor Michael sent to the congregation near the end of our newsletter. Please continue to pray for all the families who were affected by this tragedy and for Lewiston and surrounding communities recovering from this trauma.

+Pastor

Pastor's Message



Katherine Von Bora Luther

My plans for Reformation Sunday were altered as we were only a few days past the Lewiston shootings. We learned late Friday night that the shooter had been located and had taken his own life. Many of us were still in the daze, if not shock, of these events.

Because of this, I changed my initial plans for my focus on Reformation Sunday. I am pleased with where we ended up, because in the sermon we were able to talk about the Holy Spirit

that is ‘Always Reforming’ the church. We talked about how when the church was in error in 1517, the Holy Spirit led us back to keeping Jesus as our center. That is how it should be. I also spoke with you about how our prayer can be that God will work to continue to reform and reform our hearts. We spoke about how this world so badly needs Reformation, and how we might pray that God will shape us to share God’s love, mercy, and light with this world. Some of the themes we talked about on Reformation Sunday can be found in the copy of the letter I sent to the congregation in the wake of the Lewiston attacks. That letter can be found further on in our newsletter.

What I had hoped to speak with you about on Reformation Sunday was someone who was instrumental to the success of the Reformation, who doesn’t always get credit as such. That person (as I am sure you can guess from the picture above) was Katherine Von Bora Luther. She was the person who managed the Luther household, and later in life was the person who managed Martin Luther.

At the age of 5, Katherine Von Bora’s mother died. Following this her father sent young Katherine to a convent to be educated and raised as a nun. In 1515, at the age of 16, Katherine took vows to become a nun at Nimbschen Abbey. Over the next 8 years, the Reformation began to spread across Germany. The writings of Martin Luther made their way to the nuns at Nimbschen. A group of sisters were able to have a letter smuggled out to Luther which begged his aid in helping them leave the convent.

Luther arranged for a herring merchant who made regular deliveries to the convent to help the nuns escape. Tradition tells us that Katherine and 11 other nuns were smuggled out of the convent by hiding in empty herring barrels. Some Lutheran scholars say that they simply smuggled out in a cart, but inside herring barrels makes for a better story. Either way, the merchant took the escaped nuns to Wittenberg where they were celebrated as heroes for their dramatic escape.

Over the next few years, Luther was able to arrange marriages or employment for the nuns. All except for Katherine who refused several proposals. Katherine said that the only person she would marry was Martin Luther. Being that Luther had advocated for the marriage of former priests. Though hesitant at first, Luther decided it would be good to marry writing that there were, “a battery of reason in favor of his proposal: his marriage would please his father, rile the pope, cause the angels to laugh and the devils to weep.”

What we know of Katherine is that she was intelligent, full of energy, and more than a match for Dr. Luther. Luther was constantly engaged in teaching, writing, and traveling in support of the continuing Reformation. Katherine took charge of managing the Luther household. The couple had been given the dormitory of the Augustinian Friary when they were married. Katherine ran the household, managed the land holdings, cared for the family farm, took in students as boarders in their home, brewed and sold beer in the community, and generally provided additional and much-needed income for the family.

She was also, in many ways, Luther’s caretaker. Luther spent almost all of his time and energy devoted to his teaching, writing, and speaking. There is a possibly apocryphal story that after their wedding, Katherine moved into the Luther home. This was a time when people stuffed their mattresses with straw. The bachelor Doctor Luther had not felt it necessary to change the straw for quite a long time. Katherine immediately threw out the almost destroyed mattress and set out to live a domestic and much more hygienic life with Luther.

Later in life, Luther became more erratic. He was prone to mood swings which on more than one occasion caused him to declare that he was leaving Wittenberg forever. Often, he would leave, and it was up to Katherine to go and fetch him back and to convince him to return home. She also employed the help of Luther’s primary colleague in the Reformation, Phillip Melancthon, to help call back the fleeing Luther on multiple occasions.

In many ways, Katherine enabled Luther to do the work he needed to do. In the 21st century, we may bristle a little at the idea that Katherine kept the house so that Martin could go out and do his work. But we do well to remember that in the 16th century, this was an honorable

pursuit for Katherine. She took care of the things that Luther either didn't or couldn't. She made it possible for him to focus his talents on preaching, writing, and teaching. As his wife and someone who was given the best education as a nun, we can only imagine how she walked with, supported, and talked through ideas with her husband.

Katherine reminds us that none of us do anything alone. We need the support of friends, family, and community. Countless people contributed to the success of the Reformation. We will never know all of their names. But in Katherine, we are reminded that any movement needs the sometimes quiet and behind-the-scenes work to succeed. Katherine Von Bora Luther is a reminder to us of all the people who bore their burdens, did the faithful work they needed to do, and helped support the work of the Reformation.

We don't all have to be Martin Luther. We don't all have to be out front leading the charge to do the work of the Lord. Sometimes God is inviting us to care for the day-to-day. God is letting us be the people who set up the chairs, make sure the heat is on, print the flyers, or welcome at the door. The work of the church and the work of God calls all of us to use the gifts, skills, and abilities that God has given to us for the sake of Christ's mission.

We thank God for the witness of Katherine Von Bora Luther and her life of faithful service.

God bless

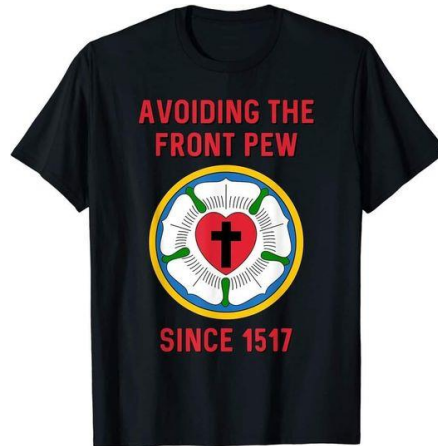
Pastor Michael



Octoberfest 2023

On Reformation Sunday, Redeemer held our annual Octoberfest celebration, meal and fellowship. We also had our first Halloween Costume contest for the kids. Everyone did such a great job that everyone won. Our meals and gatherings only happen because of the people donating food, their time, and sharing their talents with the congregation. Thank you everyone for a great event.

LUTHERANS 😊



Call vote for Pastor Michael on November 12th

Pastor Michael has been with us for just over two years. Initially, he came to Redeemer on a call from the New England Synod Council. When Bishop Hazelwood was with us in May, he asked if Redeemer would be open to extending a call to Pastor. The Bishop explained that the ELCA churchwide prefers pastors be on a permanent call rather than serving extended interim calls.

The Redeemer Council is recommending to the congregation that we extend a call to Pastor Michael. He would be called as Pastor of Redeemer, and would be keeping the same schedule we are currently on. He will be accepting the half-time salary for now, and the Council hopes that we will either be able to return Pastor to three-quarter time soon, or we will be able to find a congregation to partner with so that Pastor would serve both congregations. If we are able to find a partner congregation, Pastor will be with us every Sunday. We would have to discuss service times with a partner congregation. Pastor is open to this scenario.

A congregational meeting for the sake of a call vote has been called for November 12th. Pastor Bill Barter from the New England Synod will be with us that Sunday to administer the vote after worship. To vote you must be a Confirmed member of the church (which would cover any adult member), you must have communed in the congregation at least once in the last year, and you must have made a contribution of record in the last year.

Please join us on November 12th, and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for this Sunday.



Gathering for Bangor Street Pastors

Thank you Lutheran for your contributions to Bangor Street Pastors. The items we Redeemer gathered included blankets, socks, sleeping pads, hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers, gift cards, tootsie pops, coats, and umbrellas. There are probably additional items we are forgetting. We also learned that blankets from Redeemer have already been distributed to those in need in Bangor. Thanks you everyone for supporting this important ministry to our community.



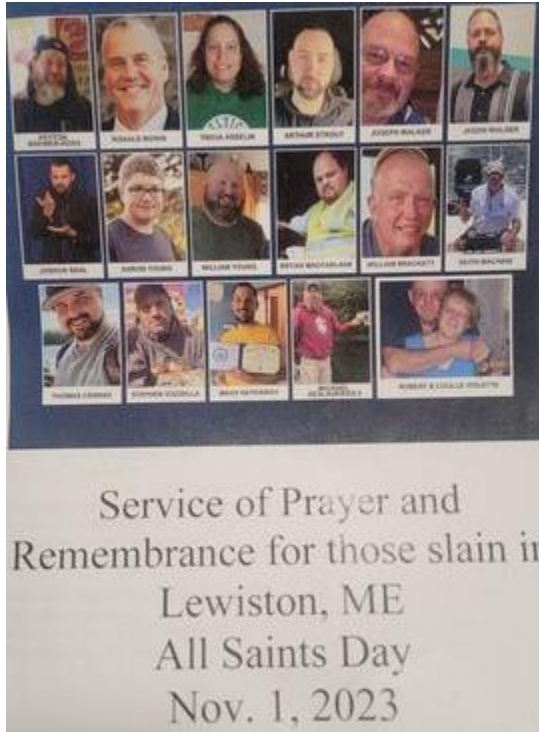
Reese's for Reformation Sunday

We had a little fun on Reformation Sunday when we not only posted Martin Luther's 95 Theses but we also shared Martin Luther's 95 Reese's. By the end of church, all but 2 had been picked up by our members. We hope you enjoyed this little bit of fun on Reformation Sunday.



Thanksgiving Day Meal at Redeemer

If you are away from family or just don't want to cook on Thanksgiving Day, please join us at Redeemer for a meal and fellowship. On the bulletin board in the narthex is our Thanksgiving Turkey. Please take a tail feather and tell us what you will be bringing, and how many you will bring with you. We will eat around noon on Thanksgiving Day. If you have questions please speak to Nancy Stone.

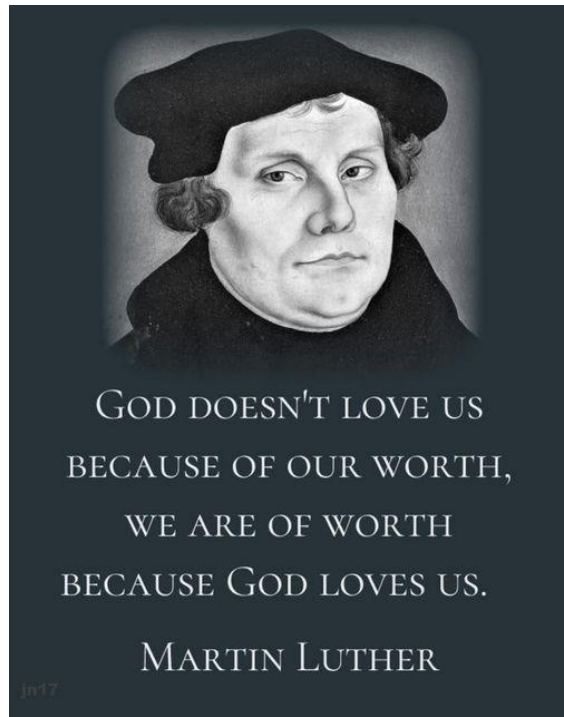


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Prayer Service for Victims in Lewiston

On November 1, we gathered for prayer in memory of the 18 victims of the shooting in Lewiston. We also prayed for all in the community who have been traumatized by this senseless violence. Thank you to all who joined us either in person or online. The prayer service is still available on the Redeemer Facebook page. You are welcome to view it for your own personal prayer.

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Fall Festival 2023





After a hiatus of a number of years, our Redeemer Fall Festival was back on November 4th. We saw the return of the Book Sale, the White Elephant Room, we welcomed local vendors, had a bake sale, and had soup, and hot dogs available in the kitchen. This event only happened through the tireless work of many members of our Redeemer family. Thank you especially to Patti Miles who led the charge this year and helped make our Fall Festival happen. It was a wonderful day and a blessing to be able to welcome so many people to Redeemer.



Advent Worship and Midweek Services

It may seem hard to believe but Advent is just around the corner. The first Sunday in Advent will be December 3rd and Advent Midweek Worship with Holden Evening Prayer will begin on Wednesday, November 29th.

We will gather at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays for our Soup meal and fellowship followed by worship at 6:30 pm. A sign up for people to bring soup to share will be in the narthex. We will have Holden Evening Prayer for our Midweek services. Our theme is *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. We will use images from the hymn to help us focus our worship and prayer for the evening. We are inviting members of the congregation to share a reflection for these Wednesday services.

Please join us for fellowship and worship starting November 29th.

All are welcome to join us in worship, please consider volunteering to be an acolyte, reader, or Midweek service leader.



Tiny House Update

Pastor John who has been serving as our contractor for the Tiny House has returned from travels with family and we are preparing to continue construction on the Tiny House. We will make an announcement when construction will continue.



Bangor Street Pastors is looking for people to join in their ministry of presence, prayer, and caring for our community. We have a few Redeemer members who have completed the initial training and are working to support this ministry. If you are interested or have questions about Street Pastors, please speak to the Pastor.

Street Pastors will be having a training on Sunday, Nov. 12th at Redeemer from 4 – 6 pm. The training is on Youth Culture. If you are interested in taking part please let Pastor know.

We are sharing again Pastor's message following the attack in Lewiston. Please continue to pray for the families of those who were slain, and for the entire community who is recovering from the trauma of these events.



Message from Pastor Rhyne in the wake of Lewiston

10/28/2023

Dear Redeemer Friends,

I have been praying over what to say to you in the aftermath of the attacks in Lewiston. We learned late Friday night that the shooter had been found. I know many of us breathed a collective sigh of relief knowing that this person would not be hurting others.

Now we live in the aftermath of these murders, and our hearts grieve with Lewiston and all the communities in that area that were shaken by this event. We send our prayers and love to all those who have lost loved ones, who have been injured, and to all who were traumatized by this attack. I heard from someone Thursday morning who said that you don't expect something like this in Maine. I had to agree wholeheartedly. Maine is the last place we would expect a tragedy like this. This act reminds us that evil does exist in the world. It reminds us that whether it is in a candlepin bowling alley in Lewiston, ME, or a school in Uvalde, TX, or a church in Charleston, SC sometimes people do terrible things to the innocent. I don't understand why someone would do this. I don't understand how someone could get to the point where they believe their only option is to hurt others. I pray that God will deliver us from these types of attacks that seem to happen all too often.

But what I hope to share with you are some of the places where we can see light amid these horrible moments. There is a quote from Mr. Rogers that goes "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping". When darkness comes, God calls us to be people of light and hope. I hope you have seen how the state, and country, has sent their love and support to this community which is suffering. Though still in shock, the Lewiston community has rallied around those who lost loved ones and who were injured. We saw how emergency response workers from across the state came to Lewiston to help assist in the search for the shooter. When things went wrong, people stood up to help. I thank God for that.

I also think that as God's people there is something we can choose to do in the face of these tragic events. We can be intentional about sharing God's love, light, and life with this world. When you pray, you can ask our Lord God to give you opportunities to share his love with this world. The Holy Spirit will give you opportunities. It may be that God will allow you to simply be kind to someone. But we can pray that God will let us spread the seed of his goodness in this world. I know that this may sound simplistic. But you and I never know what God will do with the love and kindness we share. We do it remembering that we can only share that love and kindness as we are guided by the Holy Spirit. I don't know what that will look like for you it may look different for all of us. But God takes the little we do and can make it a blessing. We are called to love, and we let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest.

Please continue to pray for the Lewiston community. Ask God to help us find ways to be helpers and to share God's love.

To this end, I would like to invite you to join me for a service of prayer and reflection on Wednesday evening, November 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Redeemer. We will gather to pray for the community of Lewiston, we will remember before God the names of the slain, and we will ask for God's mercy. We will stream the service for those who are unable to join us in person.

God bless you,

+Pastor Michael



The book for November is “The Great Divorce”, by C. S. Lewis. No, it’s not what you think, it’s not another discussion of the (in)famous Gospel on divorce. It’s a self-described fantasy, an allegory, on the significance of Heaven and Hell. Briefly the dearly departed have a choice – to stay in Heaven – or choose their own personal place in Hell. Good and evil, grace and judgment. Also, Lewis suggests that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. If this sounds too heavy, it isn’t, and is done with typical British tongue in cheek humor.

We’ve been discussing this book in the Tuesday evening book study. It will be available, as usual, on the table in the entryway.

-- Bob Buntrock
Redeemer Librarian



November Birthdays

- November 19 Bob Buntrock**
- November 19 Karen Rhyne**
- November 24 Neal Pratt**
- November 27 Bob Marggraf**
- November 30 Bill Kragness**

