

Tapiola Apostolic Lutheran Church

November

Monthly Newsletter

2009

O give thanks unto the Lord;
call upon his name:
make known his deeds among the people.
Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him:
talk ye of all his wondrous works.
Glory ye in his holy name :
let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
Seek the Lord, and his strength :
seek his face evermore.
Psalm 105:1-4

Surely we have much reason for heartfelt thanks to God, our dear Heavenly Father. His gifts are indeed both good and perfect.

This Thanksgiving Day, as we pause in the presence of our Lord to give thanks, let us be reminded that every day should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us, but especially for those who have experienced the goodness of God's grace in the remission of their sins. For them the promise of eternal life becomes real.

As we allow our hearts to be humbled in prayerful thanks before our Lord, may we be further reminded by the Psalmist that our personal thanksgiving should, and indeed must, prompt us to make known to others the great deeds and wonderful works of the only true God. We know that our human nature rebels at the very thought of opening our mouths to express to others that which we have received by His great grace. But, if we remain silent, who dear Christian, will testify of his greatness and love? How will we give answer to the Almighty one day for our reluctance, or worse yet, for our refusal to testify? Jesus said, "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8-9 In Paul's epistle to the Romans we read, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Cont. Page 3

The wonderful works of our Lord are abundantly evident and are truly worthy of our thanks throughout our brief earthly sojourn and forever in eternity. On the fourth Thursday of this month we will again celebrate our national Thanksgiving Day, a festive and joyful time when families gather together to partake of the fruits of harvest and to offer thanks to God for his wonderful providence. Our nation has been truly blessed with both natural and spiritual blessings from the time when the Pilgrims arrived to settle in this great land and unto the present day. Apostle James writes, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Jas. 1: 17

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Nov 1st	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Holy Communion
Nov 8th	Cal Niemela	11:00 AM	
Nov 15th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Medical Care - Cal Niemela
Nov 22nd	Mark Sunnaborg Chad Kuivanen	11:00 AM 1:30 PM	Potluck Meal
Nov 29th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Medical Care - Ken Storm

Ken Storm, Pastor (906) 482-3234 Church (906) 334-2766
Church Location - 17602 N. Lake Ave. Tapiola, MI
Bible Study - Wed. - 7:00 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study - 9:45
Sunday Worship - 11:00

JESUS SAID...

If ye continue in my word,
then are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free.

John 8: 31-32

TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338
Long Distance: : 1-906-334-6338
Instructions:
After "greeting", enter Conference Identification Number 44444



REFORMATION DAY

...commemorates the "Great Reformation," when God, by the agency of Dr. Martin Luther, a catholic monk, broke the shackles of Catholicism and spiritual bondage and allowed the gospel light to shine once again into the hearts of men, revealing this Divine truth..."THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Because of Dr. Luther's open confession of God's word and his bold opposition to the Papacy, he was called to a special assembly of the church leaders (The Diet of Worms) where he was pressed to recant all of his writings. The following is a brief account of this meeting:

By the Editor

Background. In 1520, Pope Leo X issued a bull of excommunication against Luther. He directed the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation to execute it. The papal representatives at the Diet were acting under instructions from the Pope not to allow the occasion to degenerate into a debate, but to put the accused, (Luther) firmly on the defensive.

On the first day of his appearance, Luther was asked whether he acknowledged authorship of a list of his works which had been determined to be in error. He did. He was then asked whether he was willing to recant the errors contained in them. Unwilling to answer "on the fly," Luther asked for 24 hours in which to deliberate his response. The request was granted. On the following day the examination reconvened, in the presence of the Emperor and the assembled princes and nobles of the Empire. The interrogator was Dr. Ecken, an official in the administration of the Archbishop of Trier. Luther did not compose his remarks, but spoke impromptu. The account that follows was composed by Luther himself, not long afterwards.

[Dr. Ecken:] . . . Do you wish to defend the books which are recognized as your work? Or to retract anything contained in them?

[Luther:] Most Serene Lord Emperor, Most Illustrious Princes, Most Gracious Lords . . . I beseech you to grant a gracious hearing to my plea, which, I trust, will be a plea of justice and truth; and if through my inexperience I neglect to give to any their proper titles or in any way offend against the etiquette of the court in my manners or behavior, be kind enough to forgive me, I beg, since I am a man who has spent his life not in courts but in the cells of a monastery; a man who can say of himself only this, that to this day I have thought and written in simplicity of heart, solely with a view to the glory of God and the pure instruction of Christ's faithful people.

Your Imperial Majesty and Your Lordships: I ask you to observe that my books are not all of the same kind.

There are some in which I have dealt with piety in faith and morals with such simplicity and so agreeably with the Gospels that my adversaries themselves are compelled to admit them useful, harmless, and clearly worth reading by a Christian. Even the Bull, harsh and cruel though it is, makes some of my books harmless, although it condemns them also, by a judgment downright monstrous. If I should begin to recant here, what, I beseech you, would I be doing but condemning alone among mortals, that truth which is admitted by friends and foes alike, in an unaided struggle against universal consent?

The second kind consists in those writings leveled against the papacy and the doctrine of the papists, as against those who by their wicked doctrines and precedents have laid waste Christendom by doing harm to the souls and the bodies of men. No one can either deny or conceal this, for universal experience and world-wide grievances are witnesses to the fact that through the Pope's laws and through man-made teachings the consciences of the faithful have been most pitifully ensnared, troubled, and racked in torment, and also that their goods and possessions have been devoured (especially amongst this famous German nation) by unbelievable tyranny, and are to this day being devoured without end in shameful fashion. If then I recant these, the only effect will be to add strength to such tyranny, to open not the windows but the main doors to such blasphemy, which will thereupon stalk farther and more widely than it has hitherto dared.

The third kind consists of those books which I have written against private individuals, so-called; against those, that is, who have exerted themselves in defense of the Roman tyranny and to the overthrow of that piety which I have taught. I confess that I have been more harsh against them than befits my religious vows and my profession.

(Continued on Page 3)



TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Houghton, MI 49931

I am the light of the world:
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.
John 8:12

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O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

(Continued from Page 1)

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth in me shall not be ashamed. Rom 10:10-11 Pray that God would reveal the matter of confessing the name of Jesus to others to be an honor, a privilege, and our Christian calling whatever our station in life may be.

We pray today that God would continue to bless our nation, a nation which has turned it's back on him. "O Lord be merciful to such a rebellious people, revive our hearts with the knowledge of the truth. Thy word is truth. Thy providence is marvelous. May thy holy name be once again revered in the hearts of men, and thy praises be lifted heavenward by grateful hearts for thy goodness and mercy which endures forever. We pray that all men would fall on bended knee before thee in acknowledgement of thy greatness." God's word gives us hope, even in these times of spiritual darkness in America, but that hope for our nation is conditional. We read, "IF my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chron. 7:14 Again we read, "---- The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Ken Storm - Pastor

"Our Children"

On Sunday September 27, 2009, in what has become an annual event, the Sunday school children and teachers joined the congregation in singing the opening hymn during the morning worship service. The Sunday school stood in front of the congregation while all joined voices in singing "Jesus Loves Me".

At the conclusion of the worship service, the church held a potluck meal attended by Sunday school children and their families, adult church members and guests.

Interactions such as these serve to build a common bond between youth and adults in

REFORMATION DAY

(Continued from Page 2)

For I do not make myself out to be any kind of saint, nor am I now contending about my conduct, but about Christian doctrine. But it is not in my power to recant them, because that recantation would give (that) tyranny and blasphemy an occasion to lord it over those whom I defend and to rage against God's people more violently than ever.

However, since I am a man and not God, I cannot provide my writings with any other defense than that which my Lord Jesus Christ provided for His teaching.

When He had been interrogated concerning His teaching before Annas and had received a buffet from a servant, He said: "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil." If the Lord Himself, who knew that He could not err, did not refuse to listen to witness against His teaching, even from a worthless slave, how much more ought I, scum that I am, capable of naught but error, to seek and to wait for any who may wish to bear witness against my teaching.

And so, through the mercy of God, I ask Your Imperial Majesty, and Your Illustrious Lordships, or anyone of any degree, to defeat them by the writings of the Prophets or by the Gospels; for I shall be most ready, if I be better instructed, to recant any error, and I shall be the first in casting my writings into the fire. . . .

Thereupon the Orator of the Empire, in a tone of upbraiding, said that his [Luther's] answer was not to the point, and that there should be no calling into question of matters on which condemnations and decisions had before been passed by Councils. He was being asked for a plain reply, without subtlety or sophistry, to this question: Was he prepared to recant, or no?

Luther then replied: Your Imperial Majesty and Your Lordships demand a simple answer. Here it is, plain and unvarnished. Unless I am convicted [convinced] of error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of Pope or councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning, I stand convicted [convinced] by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us.....

*"On this I take my stand.
I can do no other,
God help me."
Amen.*