



Grace Notes

Springs of Grace Lutheran Church
www.springsofgrace.com



What was the Lutheran Reformation? By Dr. Richard P. Bucher

The Lutheran Reformation was an event in 16th Century Germany and Europe in which God used the monk Martin Luther (1483-1546) to reform the Christian Church of that day. By "reform" we mean to correct abuses and to restore it to what it should be.

However, it is important to understand, that this was not the first or only reformation. Over the fifteen hundred years of church history prior to this, there were many reformations. Heiko Oberman is quite right when he says that in the Middle Ages the word reformation was as popular as the word democracy is today. Many pushed for reforms in the Church of one kind or another.

A reformation in the 11th Century, led by Pope Gregory VII, attacked lay control of the Church, simony (buying church offices), and clergy immorality. In the 14th Century John Wyclif (d. 1384) sparked a reformation in England when he attacked the power and corruption of the Roman Church, rejected celibacy and transubstantiation, and stressed the reading of the Scriptures in the vernacular. In the 15th Century, the Bohemian, Jan Hus (d. 1415), influenced by Wyclif, initiated a reformation among his people by directing the people to obey God rather than the Roman Church authorities. By their false teachings and immorality, they had forfeited the right to be called Church. These are just three examples of the many reformations throughout church history.

Yet, none of these reformations were like Luther's Reformation. Luther also sought to reform various abuses in morals. He also attacked the Pope and the domination of the Roman Church. What made his reformation unique was that it was more concerned with doctrine than life. The heart of the Lutheran Reformation was a recovery of sound New Testament doctrine. In one of his table talks, Luther remarked:

Doctrine and life are to be distinguished. Life is as bad among us as among the papists. Hence we do not fight and damn them because of their bad lives. Wyclif and Hus, who fought over the moral quality of life, failed to understand this . . . When the Word of God, remains pure, even if the quality of life fails us, life is placed in a position to be what it ought to be. That is why everything hinges on the purity of the Word. I have succeeded only if I have taught correctly (WA TR 1:624; LW 54:110).

God's Reformation of His Church through Martin Luther began as a rediscovery of the main teaching of Christianity, that we are declared righteous (justified) by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. It is not our righteousness (created by our works, efforts, and obeying God's laws) that saves us; Christ's righteousness saves us. And His righteousness is credited to our account when we believe that He died for us.

Put very simply, Luther's Reformation was a matter of taking this rediscovered Gospel, showing that it was Scriptural, and then reforming the Church by it. Whatever in the Church was found to contradict this Gospel of salvation by grace through faith was to be reformed. Anything else (if it edified) could be retained.

Luther's Reformation was concerned with essentials, with the very heart of Christianity. It is for this reason that it swept through Europe and had such amazing results. Without this Reformation, there would have been no salvation, for the Gospel would have remained largely hidden. When we celebrate the Reformation, we are celebrating this rediscovered Gospel that we believe in; and we are celebrating our salvation through Jesus Christ.

Volume 4, Issue 10

October 1, 2011

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In our Prayers

- Ann
- Daniel (Jane's dad)
- Anna (Laurie Schell's mom)
- David Schaeffer
- Brianna (Andrea H.'s friend)
- Scott Sny
- Woody Bailes (Pat M.'s brother)

An update on Finances:	August deposits:	\$7735
August Expenses	\$10,545.55	Total Assets: \$121,275.32

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Fall in the Park
2	3 Women's Fellowship 7:00	4 Bible Study 6:30pm	5 Bible Study 10:15	6	7	8
9	10	11 Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Bible Study 10:15	13 Council 7:00	14	15
16 Vespers at Lake Bowen 5:00pm	17	18 Bible Study 6:30pm	19 Bible Study 10:15	20	21	22
23	24	25 Bible Study 6:30pm	26 Bible Study 10:15	27	28	29 Oktoberfest
30 Reformation Sunday	31	<u>OCTOBER</u> <u>16th IS</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u> <u>SUNDAY</u>			

Those Who Serve

Date	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30	November 6
Refreshments	Wendy Gowan Mary Lou Saville	Kay Otten Gail Brown	Merrell	Lewis	Faulks
Ushers	Rich Van Wagoner Gere Ablett	Gere Ablett Melton Roof	John and Sandy Fancher	Hunter Crawley Isaiah Adderholdt	Shane Zeigler Gere Ablett
Greeter	Wendy Zeigler	Robyn Forbes	Kay Otten	Abby Donaldson Jennifer Crawley	Alice Smith
Communion Assistant	Mary Lou Saville	Bob Faulks	Ron Crawley	Gere Ablett	Betty DeBerry
Counters	Diane Ablett Betty DeBerry	Mary Lou Saville Jim Voris	Rich Van Wagoner Rich Donaldson	John Fancher Norm Lewis	Gail Brown Mary Lou Saville
Altar Guild	Marianne Van Wagoner Bobby Torrence	Kay Otten Mary Lou Saville	Nellie Varner Jane Lewis	Diane Ablett Wendy Zeigler	Betty DeBerry Pat Morton
Lector	Gail Brown	Rich Donaldson	Carrie Merrell	Isaac Adderholdt	Ron Crawley
Nursery	Christine Donaldson	Carrie Merrell	Carrie Merrell	Christine Donaldson	Connie Faulks Patti DeBerry
Acolyte	Robert Faulks	Taylor Crawley	Hunter Crawley	Taylor Crawley	Hunter Crawley
Crucifer	Isaac Adderholdt	Hunter Crawley	Robert Faulks	Robert Faulks	Isaac Adderholdt



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Church Council:

Melton Roof, President

Mary Lou Saville, VP

Gail Hackett, Treasurer

Gail Brown, Secretary

Diane Ablett, Worship Chair

Bob Faulks, Property Chair

Jim Voris, Evangelism Chair

Betty DeBerry, Education Chair

Norm Lewis

October Birthdays

Ron Crawley—1

Fairey Zimmerman—2

Madison and Brendan
Fancher—12

Marion Varner—19

Garry Jones—21

Hazel Petitt—22

Gail Brown—26

Isaiah Adderholdt—27

Back Page Notes

October Flower List

Oct. 2: Morton: in honor of Shawn
and her great-grandson on their birth-
days

Oct. 9: Otten

Oct. 16: Jones

Oct. 23: Smith: In memory of Robert
on his birthday

Oct. 30: Betty DeBerry: In memory
of her father

September Council Meetings Notes

- The nominating committee is forming to find council members for 2012
- Finance committee is meeting to begin work on the 2012 spending plan.
- Evangelism committee has met and planned out the fall events
- Pastor Judson is attending the Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat Sept 26-30.
- We have received free choir robes from Redeemer Lutheran in Greer, SC.