

# Sign Post

**September –  
October, 2023**

**In This Issue...**

- 1 – Pastor’s Article
- 2-3 – Bible Study
- 4 – Bible Study answers Birthdays
- 5 – September Calendar
- 6 – October Calendar
- 7 – Word Search Prayers

Sign Post is online at [www.iowaeastdeaf.org](http://www.iowaeastdeaf.org).  
It is the newsletter for:

Word of God Lutheran  
Church for the Deaf  
1515 29th St. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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*Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. The free gift of God’s grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. Romans 3:23-24 (NirV)*

Most of the major parts of the church year go all the way back to the early church. Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost were important to the very first Christians. Later Christians added Christmas, then Advent and Lent to prepare for Christmas and Holy Week. The Reformation happened much later, in the year 1517, but it is still an important time in the church year for Christians to remember.

Why do we celebrate Reformation Day? How is it important? You can think of it as the day we remember how God cleans us up. Have you ever had something valuable that was really, really dirty? You may have been cleaning out a loved one’s attic or basement and found something precious that was old and dirty. What did you do with it? Throw it away, or clean it and keep it? Probably you cleaned it and kept it, because it was valuable or important to you.

Everybody knows October 31 is Halloween. In the Lutheran Church, we celebrate October 31 as Reformation Day. We also celebrate the next day, November 1, as All Saints’ Day. The reason we celebrate those two days is related. It is all about being God’s cleaned-up people.

On Reformation Day, we celebrate the good news that God freely saves us. There was a time in the church when people forgot that. They thought they had to clean themselves up, that they had to work to earn forgiveness. But we don’t have to work to get salvation. We don’t need to prove to God that we are good enough for heaven. God gives us salvation free.

We truly don’t deserve that gift! Romans 3 says that everyone has sinned. Everyone. Not one person deserves good things from God. No one is equal to His glory. We are all sinners and we all deserve punishment. Even though we were dirty with sin, God says we are very valuable. He still loves us, and He washed us and made us clean. Reformation Day celebrates that great gift, that God sent Jesus for us even though we don’t deserve it.

*Continued on p. 2*

## Reformation (continued from p. 1)

All Saints' Day is the celebration that we are still His clean and holy people. God saved us from sin, so we don't want to go back and live in sin any more. We are finished with the way of death and hell! But we know we do still sin. Does God continue to love us and forgive us? Yes. Jesus died to forgive all of our sins. He says we are His clean and holy children now and forever.

Remember to thank God always for His wonderful gift of life for us. We don't deserve it, but we thank Him for giving it! And we ask Him to help us live as His holy people, because that is who He made us to be.

Pastor Eckert

P.S. For an excellent video series that explains Martin Luther and the Reformation, go to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyxm4RdO8-B4k87gBuNwPq8BW1JPidDBM>. Or you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/@lutherandeaftmissionsociety618>, then click on Playlists and find the Martin Luther playlist.

# Dive Into God's Word

## What is Faith?

There is more about the Reformation than we are able to study, but there are three points that help us understand what the Reformation was about. Martin Luther and his friends emphasized that God gives us salvation only through the Scriptures (Bible), only by Grace, and only by Faith. Many people misunderstand what faith is, so we will look into that more and learn again what true faith is. (Answers are on p. 4)

Faith (or belief) means trusting God. Faith is depending on His promises. Believing He will do what He says He will do.

There are many examples of faith/believing in the Bible. These are just a few.

- Matthew 8:5-13.
  - The centurion (army officer) believed \_\_\_\_\_ could help him.
  - The centurion showed faith in Jesus when he said Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ to heal his servant.
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the centurion's servant.
- Matthew 9:1-2.
  - The paralyzed man and his friends trusted \_\_\_\_\_ could help him.
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the man's sins.
- Matthew 15:21-28
  - The Canaanite woman believed \_\_\_\_\_ could save her daughter.
  - Jesus helped the woman and \_\_\_\_\_ her daughter.
  - The woman showed \_\_\_\_\_ because she didn't give-up on Jesus.

In those examples, we should notice two very important things.

1. The people trusted \_\_\_\_\_ could help them.
2. Jesus showed mercy and love and answered their prayers.

### Faith Looks to Jesus

“Faith” is a popular word for Christians. “Faith” is also a popular word for non-Christians. Here are some quotes about faith from the Internet. Are any of these Christian quotes?

1. “Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself.”
2. “You must not lose faith in humanity.”
3. “Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing.”
4. “Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don’t lose faith.”

Now read John 3:16. How is John 3:16 different from most of the quotes above?

The quotes tell us to trust \_\_\_\_\_.

John 3:16 tells us to trust \_\_\_\_\_.

Also read these two verses.

- 1 Peter 1:21. Your faith and hope are in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1 Corinthians 15:17. If Christ didn’t rise alive, then our faith is \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith in ourselves, faith in our abilities, faith in another person, faith in technology, etc., all worthless! Faith means we trust Jesus only. Only He promises to save us. Only He is able to help us.

### God Gives Us Faith

How do we get faith in Jesus? Faith is God’s \_\_\_\_\_. See these verses.

- Ephesians 2:8. Salvation (and faith) is not our work. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
- 2 Timothy 3:15. Holy Scripture makes you wise for salvation through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 12:1-2. The Bible calls Jesus the One who gives us faith and makes faith complete or perfect.

### Conclusion – Faith Alone

True faith trusts in God and His promises, especially His promise of life and salvation through Jesus Christ. If you have no Jesus, you have no faith. Faith is not the goal. Faith is not the foundation. Jesus is the goal, and He is the foundation! Faith alone means we trust Jesus alone as our Savior.

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(See Exodus 14)

04-20-1999

I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS  
FAITH ISSUES

## Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 2-3.

There are many examples of faith/believing in the Bible. These are just a few.

- Matthew 8:5-13.
  - The centurion (army officer) believed Jesus could help him.
  - The centurion showed faith in Jesus when he said Jesus had authority to heal his servant.
  - Jesus healed the centurion's servant.
- Matthew 9:1-2.
  - The paralyzed man and his friends trusted Jesus could help him.
  - Jesus forgave the man's sins.
- Matthew 15:21-28
  - The Canaanite woman believed Jesus could save her daughter.
  - Jesus helped the woman and healed her daughter.
  - The woman showed faith because she didn't give-up on Jesus.

In those examples, we should notice two very important things.

1. The people trusted Jesus could help them.
2. Jesus showed mercy and love and answered their prayers.

Decide if the quotes are Christian or not. (Quotes from [www.brainyquote.com/topics/faith](http://www.brainyquote.com/topics/faith).)

1. "Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself." (Bruce Lee)
2. "You must not lose faith in humanity." (Mahatma Gandhi)
3. "Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing." (Sarah Ban Breathnach)
4. "Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith." (Steve Jobs)

None of these quotes are Christian. They either say to believe in people, or they don't say who to trust.

Now read John 3:16. How is John 3:16 different from most of the quotes above?

The quotes tell us to trust ourselves.  
John 3:16 tells us to trust Jesus.

Also read these two verses.

- 1 Peter 1:21. Your faith and hope are in God.
- 1 Corinthians 15:17. If Christ didn't rise alive, then our faith is worthless.

God Gives Us Faith

How do we get faith in Jesus? Faith is God's gift. See these verses.

- Ephesians 2:8. Salvation (and faith) is not our work. It is a gift from God.
- 2 Timothy 3:15. Holy Scripture (Bible) makes you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## September

- 1 Lynn Eiben
- 5 Carissa Huffman
- 13 Jim Biwer
- 15 Karlene Kischer-Browne
- 26 Kent Kischer
- 27 Mollie Schmitz
- 28 Jay Oelberg



## October

- 9 Sharon Pope
- 12 James Weber
- 17 Kris Baltzer
- 29 April Powell

# September 2023

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>3</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7:00 WL – Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
<b>10</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>17</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7:00 WL – Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>24</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 QC – Worship

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.  
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
 QC – Quad Cities. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.  
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

# October 2023

<b>1</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Worship			<b>7</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>8</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.						<b>14</b> Midwest and Central Regions ILDA meeting in Davenport
<b>15</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Study			<b>21</b> 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
<b>22</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.						<b>28</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>29</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.						

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# Reformation

Created on <http://wordsearch.armoredpenguin.com/>

These words include some people and places involved in the Reformation, some of the teachings, and a few other things. Find the underlined words.

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

## Reformation

Martin Luther (He started the Reformation and the Lutheran church)

Philip Melancthon (Luther's friend and an important teacher)

Sola Scriptura (only Scripture)

Sola Fide (only faith)

Sola Gratia (only grace)

Wittenberg (where Luther lived)

Ninety-Five Theses (95 statements for debate that started the Reformation)

Indulgences (A certificate people could buy that said their sins are forgiven. Luther was against that.)

Law (Shows us our sin)

Gospel (Good news of Jesus)

Bible

Catechism (Luther wrote a small book to teach the Christian faith)

Salvation

Word (God's word, the Bible)

Sacrament (baptism, Lord's Supper)

Justification (God saves us, His free gift)

Book of Concord (a book that describes what Lutherans believe)

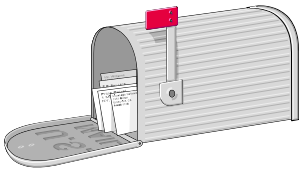
## Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for the good news that He saves us freely in Jesus. Not because of our works. Not because we deserve salvation. Not because we can do anything to convince Him to save us. He saves us because He loves us and gave His Son to pay for our sins. Thank Him for that!
- ✦ Pray for all churches to be faithful to God's word. There is much temptation to follow what people think, or to teach what is popular or makes people happy. Pray that God will make His church strong to believe only God's word and that pastors will preach and teach His word correctly.
- ✦ Ask God for rain and cooler temperatures for all the places that are dry and very hot. Also pray for the people in Florida and Georgia who are cleaning up after hurricane Idalia, and Hawaii after the fires.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Ukraine and an end to the war there.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Gerald Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, Jeanette Kern, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for people who are studying to serve God and His church: Vince Mroz, Dan Wallis, new student John Szupica, and Pastor Luvisha in Kenya (as pastors), Nola Gray, and Peggy Gott (as deaconesses).
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

