

A monthly publication of Lake Park Lutheran Church, an ELCA Congregation located on the East Side of Milwaukee, "called to proclaim the Gospel, advocate for justice and serve others in our diverse parish."

Seven weeks of family-friendly opportunities!

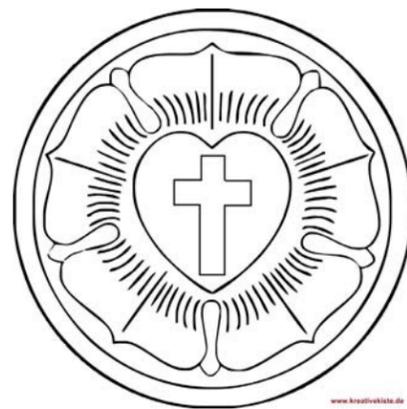
Reformation (from the Latin *reformatio*) means "restoration, renewal". It's what our personal spirits, community and world desperately need right now. Many of you are already deeply engaged in areas of need that you are passionate about, and we all wish we could do more but have only so much capacity!

To that end, we are planning seven weeks of family-friendly, *just-show-up-and-plug-in volunteer opportunities*. They will be available every Saturday morning starting on Saturday, September 16th through Saturday, October 28th.

Aaron Boyd, a resident artist, has re-imagined the Luther Rose (see it on the front page) so that we can silk screen T-shirts at the block party to wear when we volunteer in our community. Please bring a plain T-shirt (red or other darker colors because we're printing in white ink). Your T-shirt will display the new design!

We also will have a ministry fair so that you can learn about the various groups we have at LPLC and their mission and work. There will be games for kids, an art installation outside that you can help with, as well as a pie-baking contest—with judges and a prize this year! As for other food, we're having a taco bar with beans and rice, which is both vegetarian and vegan-friendly!

Hope to see you there! Seth



The traditional Luther Rose design

"We are called to proclaim the Gospel, advocate for justice, and serve others in our diverse parish."

The Next 500 Years...

Reform in Ourselves. Reform in the Church. Reform in the World

Welcome to Fall, Lake Park.

This fall Lake Park Celebrates 500 years of Reformation. 500 years ago on October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg.

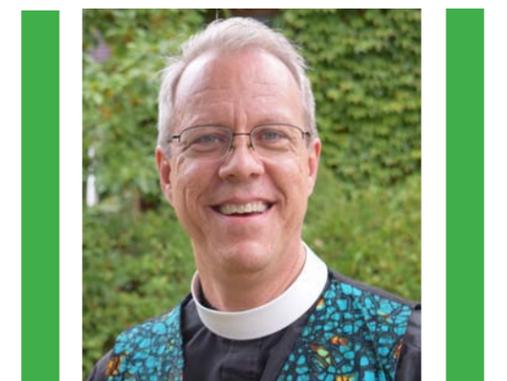
In 2017 Lake Park is celebrating not by looking back, but by looking forward. What does the church need to be for the next 500 years?

This fall, through tree planting (500 trees in Milwaukee), volunteer opportunities (7 Saturdays of Service), and church reform (did you know we will call a new associate pastor this fall?!) we will reform ourselves, reform our church, reform our world.

Join us Saturday, September 10th for the big Reforming Kick-Off at our Block Party. Visit volunteer stations and sign-up, play games, hear the 95 new things the church must be going forward, and engage yourself in a hopeful vision for our world.



Luther Rose re-imagined by Aaron Boyd



Welcome Bishop Paul
 To worship with us on September 10th and celebrate the beginning of our year!

50th Anniversary of Milwaukee Housing Marches and 200 Nights of Freedom

August 28th marked the 50th Anniversary of the open housing marches in Milwaukee that began on August 28, 1967. For 200 consecutive days afterward, advocates including Vel Phillips, Father James Groppi, The NAACP Youth Council, the Commandos, and hundreds of [mostly young] African-American residents led a push for open housing that took marchers north to south, across the Sixteenth Street Viaduct and onto what is now known as Cesar Chavez Drive.

This sparked the passage of a municipal opening housing law. The municipal open housing law strengthened federal and state laws that were in place at the time and along with it, gave promise that the city's housing would one day be integrated. Milwaukee's open housing marches garnered national attention and were instrumental in helping pass the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin or sex.

Organizers around the city, with @MarchonMilwaukee50, are using this seminal anniversary to not only recognize the courage and persistence of these brave young people who marched for a better future, a better city, for all. But they are also using this anniversary as a way to ignite a spark for that same spirit of activism today.

Those marches were birthed out of the pain of segregation, racism, and white supremacy. They showcased the prejudices in Milwaukee's white neighborhoods against the city's black demonstrators. Whereas 200 mostly young, mostly black people marched for justice, thousands of white protestors holding signs, throwing bricks, and hurling violent speech congregated at end of the bridge to meet the marchers with often violent opposition. Perhaps you were there, or your family members. Or fellow church members. Maybe we were marching. Maybe we were on the other side of the bridge with the white mobs. It's a painful part of our nation's history, but there are lessons to be learned. These young people didn't wait for the grown-ups to work it all out, they didn't wait "until everyone was ready" or until people agreed with their "tactics." They stood up and said: THIS IS NOT RIGHT! THIS IS NOT GOD'S PLAN! And in the face of real danger, they persisted.

In light of what is going on in our nation today, the call to re-ignite a spark of activism such as the marchers demonstrated those 50 years ago is needed more than we can imagine. However far we've come (and yes, we have made many advances!), still the effects of white supremacy and racist policies that hurt and exploit people of color, the poor, and anyone who is different abound. And we cannot stand idly by while our brothers and sisters' blood is being shed (Lev 19:16). We cannot remain silent when the cries of our brothers and sisters shout out in pain. We cannot forget who and whose we are: God's beloved, and members of one another (Rom 12:5).

I encourage you to take advantage of the 200 Nights of Freedom which commenced on August 28th at City Hall, and partake in the upcoming activities, lectures, community dialogues, and other events planned over the coming months. To learn more, go to: <http://200nightsoffreedom.org/>

Marching with you,
Pastor Alexis



Attendance

Weekly average attendance through August, 2016 - 216

Weekly average attendance through August 2017 - 210

Acts of Ministry

Baptisms:

Leo Zachar/McCormack, August 13

Fraser Jacobs, August 20

Weddings:

Weigel/Mazol, August 5

Warner/Talbott, August 26

Gal's Night - September 12 at 6:30PM

We will begin the first Gal's Night of the fall with a bonfire at Lake Park Church. We will sit "on the green" and share stories of our summer travels and experiences. Bring wine or other refreshment, and a snack to share. You can bring a camp chair or blanket as we can sit around the campfire. Be prepared for a cool evening. Remember, this is Milwaukee and the weather can change in an instant! We will relax and remember our summer events with family and friends. Feel free to bring photos or a memento that reminds you of a special time or person. If weather doesn't cooperate we can always go inside. Contact *Linda Gaalaas* if you have questions



GAL'S NIGHT OUT

Tue Sep 12— end-of-summer Beer & Bonfire at LPLC

****Sat Oct 7— St. Ben's Service Project (not Tues Oct 10th)****

Tue Nov 14— Pie-Making at LPLC

Tue Dec 12— White Elephant Christmas Party (location TBD)

September Birthdays

Sep 1 Martin Kutzler

Sep 3 Denise Johnson

Sep 3 Emma Austin

Sep 4 Alissa Begin

Sep 4 Donny Burger

Sep 5 Chris Damm

Sep 5 Edwin Haase

Sep 5 Brian Nickerson

Sep 6 Brenda Ottesen

Sep 8 David Peltonen

Sep 8 Sarah Disi

Sep 8 Sean Cummings

Sep 8 Corey Zetts

Sep 8 Jeffrey Guenther

Sep 9 Jack Davila

Sep 9 Katie Hazlett

Sep 10 Reynolds Honold

Sep 10 Deanne Harder

Sep 10 Todd Gienapp

Sep 10 Kristin Steinbach-Holtz

Sep 11 Ruth Mode

Sep 11 Danielle Finn

Sep 13 Steven Cummings

Sep 13 Fred Van Serke, Jr.

Sep 13 Natalie Wroblewski

Sep 13 Beth Helmueller-Perkins

Sep 14 Charlie Rasmussen

Sep 14 Anika Pfefferkorn

Sep 15 David Schneider

Sep 15 Rob Jacobson

Sep 15 Kristine Stone

Sep 16 Sarah Muller

Sep 18 Jennifer Cummings

Sep 18 Robert Seleen

Sep 19 Laura Sorensen

Sep 20 Michele Bormett

Sep 22 Chad Afdahl

Sep 22 Justin Dahmer

Sep 23 Annaliese Mueller

Sep 23 Joshua Hanson

Sep 25 Mary Stott

Sep 25 Kenneth Krueger

Sep 25 Lisa Reinhardt

Sep 28 Carol Hauer

Sep 30 Becca Linberry

Sep 30 Matthew Runquist

Sep 30 Fran Odden



The Next 500 Years...

“If the world were going to end tomorrow, I’d plant an apple tree today.” That quote centers all of what the Lutheran church is doing throughout the world for the next 500 years.

How do we respond to global injustice? How do we deal with heightened racism? How do we hold simmering conflicts and systemic battles? What do we do when we feel in despair?

We plant a tree.

At the 500th anniversary of the Reformation coming up this October 31st 2017 that is what is happening in Wittenberg, Germany the home of Martin Luther and birthplace of our Lutheran take on Christianity.



They are planting trees. Not simply 500 (although we helped plant one of those), more like 5000.

All summer long Wittenberg is like a grand youth gathering. Thousands of kids and young adults a week (not simply Christian groups, many secular as well) attend camps and activities in the Luthergarten, university and town. Hundreds of thousands have gone through this summer alone. The entire focus is not on Luther the person, but on what the new church must be for the next 500 years for the sake of the world. Globalism, environmental justice, healing racism and gender discrimination, immigration advocacy and working for peace and non-violence are the markers. Hundreds of displays and interactive events fill the Luthergarten.

The planting of trees itself was a telling experience. Each tree was planted by Christian denominations from throughout the world. But above the trees are “wish-clouds,” artistic clouds crafted above the trees and within the trees. Each “cloud” includes prayers from world religions. It was a powerful testimony to a priesthood of all believers moving from simply vocational diversity to diversity of religions. Could our priesthood of all believers actually lead to a kind of Christian faith that holds all world religions together?

I’m more and more convinced that this is our reformation heritage, not holding up Luther, but holding a new reform for a new world faith. Wittenberg is indeed leading the way. All of this was mixed with a deep introspection into our own brokenness and culpability in wrongs of the past. One interactive site read; “500 years of reformation, 500 years of racism, is there a connection?” That, set against the backdrop of town fortifications turned to gardens, WWII bunkers turned to playgrounds, chemical plants for war turned to agriculture. It was all very thought out and all very inspiring theologically.

At Lake Park this fall we will celebrate 500 years of reformation. But we will celebrate it not looking back, but looking forward. Reform in Ourselves. Reform in the Church. Reform in the World. Each Reform will be held by devotional offerings for you personally, volunteer offerings in the neighborhood and wider world, and church changes (new associate pastor coming, new stewardship appeal) that help make real what we will be for the next 500 years. In the weeks to come you will hear about all of these offerings and ways to participate. Welcome back to Fall, Lake Park. Welcome to the next 500 years.

Peace,

Pastor David Dragseth

This year’s block party will be a kickoff to our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!

When you walk into the Godly Play room, you are walking into the Bible...

The Holy Bible wasn’t always a book. A long time ago it was stories around campfires in the desert and later in people’s homes. Then the stories were written down on pieces of soft leather, then on paper. Finally the printing press was invented and the Bible became a book. Today, you can even have the Bible on your computer or phone.



We can open the front door or the back door, but in the Godly Play room we like to open both doors and let all the stories out! They are all over the Godly Play room. We still tell them in a circle, like around a campfire. Sometimes parts of the Bible are in a video or movie, but here we still like to tell them the old, old way.

Teaching Godly Play, Jerome Berryman Vol. 2 (Revised). This is part of one of our new lessons this year. It’s the second lesson of the year, told after the “Circle of the Church Year,” which is the lesson that shows how the church year flows, talks about the colors that you see in the church, and how that all has an impact on what and why we do things in church. It was the first lesson that I learned and told in my training. I learned things I had never known before and finally so much made sense. I would like to point out, that I am a P.K. (pastor’s kid so you would think I would have pretty extensive knowledge about the church calendar – I was there EVERY service. But, for some reason, the way these lessons are crafted makes the Bible come alive, and not just for the children.

Truthfully, I’m a little frustrated that Rev. Jerome Berryman, the founder of Godly Play, thought that using “Play” in the title was necessary. It can feel so frivolous and unnecessary. I feel like I sometimes have to defend it, because, let’s be honest, adults often don’t understand the importance of play. We use it flippantly, telling children to “go out and play,” or we will often interrupt children because they are “just playing.” However, early childhood teachers and experts stress that the child’s play is their work. Any disregard for play is actually a serious problem in child development (I can talk your ear off sometime if you are really interested).

And here is where Godly Play is so important. It gives the child space and time to wrestle with big “adult” ideas: personal purpose, good and bad, life and death, and how they fit into this world and God’s story. There are no right or wrong answers in the Godly Play rooms, there’s no judgment. We welcome each other, accept one another, and together we build a circle (literally and figuratively speaking), as we walk into the Bible.

We have 8 new lessons this year! “The Bible” in our rooms is growing. Children will be able to touch the Ark of the Covenant, they will be able to assemble the different layers of the fabric ceiling on the Tent that was carried through the desert, assemble the Temple and look inside the “Most Holy of Holies”, work with a 3D map of Jerusalem and watch where Jesus and disciples went during Holy Week, and walk with Jesus and his disciples after Easter through Pentecost.

There will also be opportunities this year for adults to experience Godly Play, we hope that you will also come and join our circle. If your child will be joining us for the first time, come with them on August 27th at 9AM for the New Kid/Parent orientation.

Sunday School officially begins September 10th. If you want to know how you can get involved, please talk with me, we’d love to have you.

I’ll see you in the circle, *Dorothy Kulke*

Be the church! *Get involved*

Just One More Ministry

Revision for 2017 Serving Opportunities Brochure
The mission statement of Just One More (JOM) states that they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by caring for Milwaukee's poor in spirit, proving regular nutritious meals for the hungry, and offering those who suffer with addictions a faith based recovery program for creating a fulfilling and God-centered life.

JOM does all this by "rescuing" thousands of pounds of food from restaurants, caterers and grocery stores, food that would otherwise be thrown away, and re-distributing it to the most needy in our community through partner organizations.
How can you serve?

Just One More has a huge need for volunteers to help process food donations and to assist in assembling meals for distribution by their community partners. They are located at 6442 River Parkway Drive in Wauwatosa. We will also be planning some service opportunities for groups at Lake Park to participate in some special volunteer events.

We are also looking for people who are interested in planning and implementing a sustainable system to allow Lake Park to distribute meals and possibly also occasionally serve meals on site.

For more information please contact Lynn Connolly at 414-588-8447 or lynn.connolly@earthlink.net



Middle and High School Christian Ed

Who is ready to begin a new church year?!

There much to be excited about for the Christian Education ministries! We're excited to welcome the 6th graders to the new Sunday morning Middle School Faith Development program. Our leaders, Kristin, Eric, Rachel, and Sam have worked hard to prepare an awesome learning experience for our 6th-8th grade youth. Check in with them to hear about their innovative plans for engaging the youth and connecting them with each other, with members of the congregation, and, of course, with God.

On Wednesday nights, our 7th and 8th graders will explore their faith more deeply as they prepare for Confirmation. Pastor David has interesting stories to share about his experience in Wittenberg, and will connect them to our celebration of 500 Years of Reformation. We can't wait to explore how our Confirmation students can continue the spirit of the Reformation in their faith journeys, in the future of the Church, and in the healing of our world!

Finally, we have our high school youth who had an incredible summer trip to Portland. Their energy is high and needs to continue to build during the year. With so many commitments in high school, we are going to explore creative ways to engage our faith and stay connected to our faith community in the midst of the craziness of high school and life. But I'm confident our youth are up to the challenge. Do you want to help our high school youth meet this challenge? Contact Adam to discuss how you are needed, and can help strengthen this program!

One of the key measurements of a strong faith community can be seen in how it raises, nurtures, educates, and prepares their children and youth to experience God. Lake Park has a rich tradition of discipleship! As we move into the new church year, please consider how you can support and contribute to the important and meaningful work of faith development in our Christian Education ministries!

Adam

Council Corner

As summer nights slowly transition to beautiful fall colors, and summer travel shifts to rediscovering our fall routine, we have a moment to reflect on the continued progress in our staffing discussions and share updates with the congregation.

In September, the *Ministry Site Profile* will be available for the congregation. Working with our colleagues at the ELCA to create this document, the Ministry Site Profile allows rosters leaders and others to learn more about ministry openings, get a basic understanding of the opening and church community and identify the appropriate individual for pursuing next steps in the call process.

It's an opportunity to tell people about us and for others to learn about the ministry happening at Lake Park.

We will convene a "town hall" meeting to share updates with the church and discuss the Ministry Site Profile. Intended to allow you the opportunity to review and provide feedback regarding the Ministry Site Profile, these meetings continue to serve as a vehicle for soliciting congregation feedback.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Working along parallel tracks, we continue to gather names of individuals interested in serving on a call committee. Thank you to everyone that has expressed their interest to date. The response has been very encouraging and truly speaks to your share commitment and engagement in pursuing this staff addition.

The council will continue to keep everyone apprised of upcoming developments. Feel free to reach out with any specific questions.

Thank you for everything you have done today and everything you will do in the coming months. It's amazing to see such commitment amongst this group.

I look forward to our journey together in the months ahead.

Onward!
Jason



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9AM-4PM
Phone: 414-962-9190
Email: office@lakeparklutheran.com
Website: www.lakeparklutheran.com

Sunday Schedule

Worship 8AM & 10AM
Education for All Ages 9AM
Coffee & Conversation 11AM

Church Council

Robert Roos, President
Jason Parry, Vice President
Unchu Ko, Secretary
Mary Jo Heim, Treasurer
Colin Atkinson, Melanie Helmke, Nikki Jaynes,
Ann Ledbetter, Brenda McCormack,
Lisa Reinhardt, Matt Schumwinger

Church Staff

Rev. David Dragseth, Pastor
Rev. Alexis Twito, Interim Pastor
Adam Moreno, Intern
Steffen Cave, Interim Office Coordinator
Seth Kiefer, Volunteer Coordinator
Steffen Cave, Communications Coordinator
Laurie Rappa, Organist
Chris Hanson, Music Coordinator
Ohly, Sexton
Sam Rappa, Groundskeeper
Reggie Jackson, Custodian



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