



RISEN SAVIOR NEWS

JUNE 2017

RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

2220 PORT MALABAR BLVD ■ PALM BAY, FL 32905
"CHANGING LIVES BY PROCLAIMING OUR RISEN SAVIOR"

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR, GARY T. HELD

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32)

These words have emboldened Jesus' disciples throughout the centuries to clearly confess before men their faith in the risen Savior, Jesus. With this article we not only are beginning a new newsletter, we are also taking advantage of this being the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation to focus on two wonderful opportunities: 1. Spreading the word

about our church by telling everyone in our community what Jesus is doing among us, and 2. Putting into practice an important part of our Lutheran identity.

The Lutheran identity part is this: confessing the Lord Jesus Christ before men, even when that could mean personal risk. Of all the many things the Reformation was about, nothing was more important to our Lutheran forbearers than clearly and boldly standing up for the truth about Jesus. The first Lutherans desired to reorient the Church to the clear proclamation of the Gospel, and they were willing to face papal and imperial threats in order to make it clear their faith was placed in Jesus Christ alone.

It's good for this article to appear in the June newsletter issue. While over the next months lots of people will be talking about the Ninety-Five Theses, the famous statements for debate Martin Luther nailed to the church door in Wittenberg in 1527, there's an even more important reformation document we should

be recognizing: the Augsburg Confession.

On June 25, 1530, the leaders of the then new Lutheran movement presented a written document to Emperor Charles V at Augsburg, who had demanded they give him an account of the changes going on in their churches that were within Charles' realm. The Augsburg Confession is a masterpiece of setting things in the correct order: Christ and the Gospel first; Church and ministry second; traditions and customs third.

Those confessors at Augsburg were willing to risk everything to make it clear to both pope and emperor exactly what Jesus was doing among them through the eternal Word. As we draw near to the 500th Anniversary celebration, let's endeavor to be like them.

Sunday School/Bible Class

8:30 AM

Worship Service

9:30 AM

Fellowship Following Service

To place a prayer request on the prayer chain, or to be added to the chain, contact Lynne Kahl at: rkahl1223@aol.com

Prayer for those with specific concerns is available after service. Please come forward to let us pray for you.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CARL GIESLER

At the elders meeting this month, an Evening Family Vacation Bible Study in July was discussed. Likely would have a light dinner prior. Given the food pantry and the summer school recess, it is likely we may have more people than the last evening program we ran some years ago. Please contact Troy Curtis. Pray to the Lord of the harvest.

I want to thank Nick Nichols and his crew for their hard work generating the picture directory.

We have several roof leaks.

While a contract was signed with a roofer, it is likely that it will be another month before repairs are started.

I am keeping the calendar and I am looking for summer/fall activities that should go on the calendar. A biggie is that there is a 500th REFORMATION this fall. The circuit is organizing a Space Coast special service, likely to be on Saturday in late November at Merritt Island.

The nomination and budget committees will stand up in late summer and early fall. I have asked each council member to

identify two other people that should be considered next year. Since we have an opening for V.P. I would like to say that it is a good introductory council position. The job description is effectively a line backer, available to fill holes.

I want to thank the people that Dottie Rudolf organized for the luncheon after Bob Hanke's memorial service. The church was filled by family and friends to near capacity.

A special thanks to Lynne Kahl for pulling this newsletter together.

A WORD FROM OUR ELDER, TROY CURTIS

John 17:22 New International Version

²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I reflect on the words of our LORD I see two promises working together here. The first is the promise of the gift of Glory. That Glory is witnessed every single time we are together. Witnessed, in the service as we reflect the Glory of God by song, worship, prayer, and fellowship of the altar.

Witnessed in the Bible Study as we grow in the knowledge and Grace of our LORD. The sharing of thoughts to help each other grow, and have open discussions.

Witnessed in the serving of our community by means of the food pantry, NEON, Blessing Buckets and Crafters-Quilters-Bazaar. Reaching out to all as they have need.

The Glory of God is reflected in all these activities and this is how we are assured HE has given us of HIS Glory.

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The second promise is the one of unity. Unity of course with our LORD but also the unity of the congregation. This promise is shown in the coming together of the "original" Our Savior/Risen Savior group and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer group under one roof, one Pastor, one directory, one fellowship and one home. As an elder, I have been blessed with the opportunity to have open and honest conversations with just about everyone who has recently joined our ranks. It warmed my heart to hear time after time how "welcomed" people felt as they worked out where they were planning to continue their walk, but at the same time I thought how sad it was that the "welcome" feeling had apparently eluded some of the other options out there. I'm not saying anything negative about our sister congregations, just stating what has been said. With this in mind, it is my wish that folks would no longer feel "welcome" but rather they should feel "HOME" Home with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ sharing this walk as one.

May our LORD who has begun this good work in us, continue to bless, unify, and help us to grow together in love until HE comes again in Glory to bring us to our eternal home. Amen.

Your Brother and fellow servant in Christ,
Troy.

LWML Service Group:

The newly formed Risen Savior/Hope LWML had their first meeting on May 8 at Dorothee Jones' house where we enjoyed a delicious dinner before getting down to business. The new group will meet every other month alternating locations between Risen Savior and Hope. The July meeting will be hosted by Risen Savior on July 17, 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We will assemble the kits for the Brevard Rescue Mission. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Outreach:

In May, the Outreach Committee donated \$500 to SUDS, a ministry that allows homeless Vets to do their laundry at a laundromat in Palm Bay every Thursday free of charge. The money to do this came from a donation to Outreach for the purpose of supporting a ministry that is outside our church. On May 21, we held our annual Sweet Auction. The money raised from this auction went to Outreach. The Outreach Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at 11am. All are welcome.

Blessing Buckets:

Blessing Buckets is a ministry of RSLC that distributes toiletries the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12pm – 2pm, to the needy and homeless in our community. This is a vital ministry because people cannot buy toiletries with their EBT cards and so many must do without the essentials for good hygiene.

The ministry is totally funded through donations of cash and/or toiletries. Thrivent members can also apply twice a year for Action Team funds, when if approved, Thrivent will issue a \$250 VISA gift card for the purchase of toiletries or any other needed item for the Blessing Bucket Ministry. Most recently we bought shelves for storage of items. We encourage all Thrivent members to apply for these funds. A member of the Outreach Committee can help you with this process. Each month we also ask the congregation to donate a particular item. June is soap. July will be washcloths.

God's Pantry:

God's Pantry is a ministry of RSLC run by a group of dedicated volunteers. This food bank ministry services over 1,000 people every Wednesday, distributing meat, vegetables, fruit, bread and sweets. Some weeks cereal, juice and eggs along with other things may be available. Food for the homeless is also available in the form of non-refrigerated meals like canned spaghetti, shelf stable bacon, peanut butter etc. Recently they were able to distribute a bottle of water to the clients as they wait. They don't just satisfy their client's physical hunger, but more importantly, they satisfy their spiritual hunger through witness and a Chapel Service held every Wednesday before the Pantry opens. A volunteer reports that she was stopped by a client who was quite excited saying to her "We tell our friends that we can get free food at the pantry, but we don't share the biggest free thing that there is. SALVATION! Amen!" Other clients express their thanks, stating that "GOD IS GOOD!" On June 12, the Pantry will again be having a drive through parking lot event. Recently God's Pantry celebrated their 5th anniversary through worship at RSLC and with a luncheon that followed the Service. Through this ministry God has blessed both the Pantry and Risen Savior. We give thanks with grateful hearts to our Lord.

"Bazaar Group"

The Fall Festival Group meets on Tuesdays from 9 am to 3 ish. The Bazaar will be held the week-end of Oct. 27 and 28 to coincide with the Pumpkin Patch. We are hoping to open on Thursday, Oct. 26, but that is not definite yet. I hope by giving you the dates early, you can plan ahead to help with the set up starting Monday, Oct. 23 and clean up on Saturday, Oct. 28 after 3pm, as well as the Bazaar itself. We also have a group that meets on Thursdays from 5 pm to 8:30ish. This is a time to work on your own project and to get help with that project if you need it. We have people there that can help with any kind of needlework. There is no obligation to "join up" for either of these groups- just come when it is convenient for you. We'll be glad to see you!

We meet in classroom #6.

P.S. These groups are not just for women!! Any questions, call Aggie at 321-727-1046.

Passages from the Luther's Small Dictionary

Bazaar: A town word that means Mission Festival

Casserole: A High-Church word for "Hot dish"

Dragon: 1. a sea monster in the "Book of Psalms"

2. What a bad sermon seems to do

God loves those who can laugh at themselves

You know you are a Lutheran if....

You whole-heartedly believe the cardinal rule:

Lutherans do not sit in the front two pews.

HELP WANTED

If you would like to join a worship team to help prepare our church for worship and fellowship, please speak with Carl Giesler or Troy Curtis.

The third Saturday of the month, starting at 8:30 am, is church workday. Come and help make our church beautiful both inside and out.