

The Beacon

October 2026

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

320 N 28th St E
Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

Divine Worship
Services
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Sunday
School
Sunday - 10 a.m.

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Our Salvation is by Grace in Jesus Christ Alone

My October newsletter article will probably be on the same topic every year, the reason being that on October 31st we celebrate the “Reformation” of the Church. This is an important subject to discuss, because by God’s grace this past event is still an extremely important part of bringing the Christian faith to where we as Lutheran Christians are today.

What the Reformation means is that back in 1517 a man named Martin Luther observed what was being taught in the Church and felt convicted to bring the “Church” back to proper, biblical, truths. Here’s a brief review of what led up to the Reformation:

Luther was brought up in the Roman Catholic Church, which was actually the only “Christian” denomination of the time. Unfortunately, the Church had almost completely lost the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What happened was that a few centuries after Jesus came, lived, died and rose, the Church began teaching that, sure, Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins, but that isn’t enough. Now *you* need to “take the ball and run with it” by doing good works, by living the best you can and by observing all sorts of man-made rules. Given these teachings how could one be sure that they had done enough to please God so that one wouldn’t end up in hell? With that question in mind Martin came to the conclusion that he could never be good enough, could never work hard enough to please God. He was convinced that God was an angry judge just waiting to send him to Hell. How Luther came to be a monk is the subject for another time, but in serving as a monk he feverishly did everything he thought would please God. Yet, even as he did everything he thought he could, Martin was all the more tormented and angry with God because of who he thought God was. By God’s grace, his supervisor—a man named Staupitz—knew the true Gospel and he knew that Luther wanted to know God’s peace. Staupitz also knew that Martin was a very intelligent fellow whom God could use to further that Gospel beyond his own faith. But how to get it through Luther’s head that God is not simply an angry judge but a loving, merciful and gracious God? The new university in Wittenberg, Germany, had an opening for a professor of New Testament theology so Staupitz assigned Luther to that position and suggested that he lecture on Paul’s letter to the Romans. As Luther was studying to teach this class he came upon Romans 1:16-17: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Upon reading these verses, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Luther came to their proper understanding, that is, that the righteous live by faith! As he came to this understanding he wrote “Immediately, it was as though the gates of heaven were opened to me!”

As I mentioned the Roman Catholic Church, as an institution, did not believe, teach, and confess this pure Gospel. (I say as a whole because Staupitz was Roman Catholic, and he believed the Gospel!) Also at that time, Indulgences were being sold to raise money to build St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. An Indulgence was a certificate one could purchase to supposedly cut the time a deceased loved one would have to spend in purgatory—another teaching not

found anywhere in the Bible. Luther sought to correct this erroneous and very dangerous teaching—that one could buy God's favor—and to point out that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus' work alone—not our works. Since Luther was in a university city, he thought it would be a good idea to debate the issues of Indulgences and other non-biblical teachings with other professors.

In his day the way to initiate a debate was to post your "thesis" (your side of an issue) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, on October 31st, 1517, Luther posted 95 (!) theses, or statements to debate on the door of that church. When he did that, he had no idea of the waves these theses would make. Since the printing press was now in widespread use, newsworthy topics such as this were easily and quickly printed and even relatively affordable for a person to buy and to read. As a result, the "Reformation of the Church" began. I figured you may not want to read all 95 of the theses so I chose a few for you could look at to get a flavor of what sparked the Reformation.

Here is a short list:

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" [Matt. 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

21. Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is absolved from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences.

27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

36. Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.

43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys indulgences.

60. Without want of consideration we say that the keys of the church, given by the merits of Christ, are that treasure;...

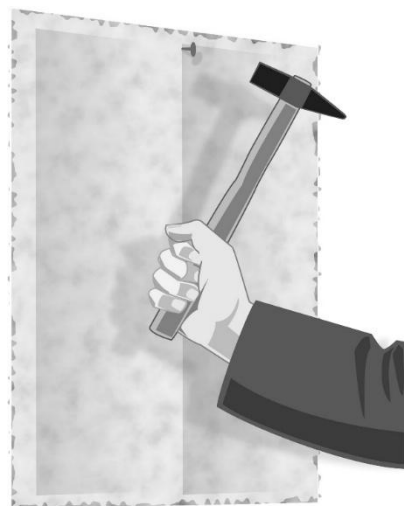
62. The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.

94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell;

95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace [Acts 14:22].

By God's grace, we Christians of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teach what the Bible teaches: that "Salvation is by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ alone! Amen!

In Christ, Pastor Schield



REFORMATION

Oktoberfest/Pastor Appreciation Sunday

The board of Deacons is hosting Oktoberfest & Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 11 following the service (about 10:15 a.m.). We will be having Brats and hot dogs and a variety of German foods, while celebrating Pastor Schield at the same time. The brats, hot dogs, buns and will be provided, along with a special cake for Pastor. The rest is potluck, so dig out your favorite German recipe to share. There will be a sign-up on the office door at some point. Please list your name, number of people, and what you are bringing. We need a count for the brats & hot dogs.

Community Outreach Donation Project

The Board of Stewardship & Evangelism has planned a community outreach project during the month of October. We are asking for supply donations for the **Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA)**. Items are listed for each Sunday of the month on a separate sheet located on the table in the Narthex Items can be dropped off on Wednesdays or Sundays during **October** in a box labeled CASDA located in the Narthex. Items will be picked up by CASDA the first part of November.

Thank you for your current and past support and God Bless.

The list of items/supplies requested is listed below.

October 4 – Personal Care/Hygiene

Antibacterial liquid hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes, facial tissue, toilet paper, combs, brushes, dental floss, baby wipes, diapers, hair ties, fingernail clippers, twin bed sheets, feminine hygiene products.

October 11 – Cleaning Supplies

Disinfectant spray/wipes, all-purpose cleaners, laundry detergent, scrubbing pads/sponges, fabric softener, dryer sheets, garbage bags (13-gal & 45-gal), paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, refrigerator storage bags, twin sheet sets.

October 18 – Cleaning Supplies (cont.)

Disinfectant spray/wipes, all-purpose cleaners, laundry detergent, scrubbing pads/sponges, fabric softener, stain remover, dryer sheets, garbage bags (45-gal & 13 gal), paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, refrigerator storage bags, twin sheet sets.

October 26 – Over the Counter Medications

Tylenol, Advil, over-the-counter cold medicines, Benadryl, children's medication (i.e. cold med, children's Advil/Tylenol).

Non-Perishable Food Items

Unexpired, non-perishable – Coffee, cereal, soups, pasta, sugar, flour, oil, juice, canned goods, boxed foods, healthy snacks, peanut butter, jelly, school snacks: granola bars, animal crackers, ritz crackers etc.

LWML Fall Rally

The Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML) will be having their yearly rally on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 2012 E Superior St., Duluth

Registration: 10 – 10:30 a.m. and is \$7.

Guest speaker: Karen Alsetg: Union Gospel Mission "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

In-gathering is for swaddling clothes. For a list of suggestions please see the poster on the bulletin boards. Please bring the ingathering items to Mt. Olive.

Are you looking for something to do to fill long days with?

If so, join a group from our church family and let's come up with some fun things we can do together. We plan on meeting at the Superior Perkins on Wednesday, October 7 at 1:30 p.m. Bring your thoughts and ideas so we can get this started. Hope to see you there!

LWML

Join thousands of other Lutheran women who focus on missions and God's Word. Our Christ Lutheran LWML will meet on Tuesday, October 6 at 1 PM. Come join us for Bible study, discussions on ways to help our church and community, fellowship and treats. All ladies of the church are invited.

Christ's Men

Christ's Men's group meets the first Tuesday of each month. They will meet on October 6, 11:30 AM, at Superior Family Restaurant, it is on the first floor, on the alley side of the Androy Hotel, at 1213 Tower Ave. Hope to see as many as possible there.

Reformation Sunday

SOLA FIDE (Faith Alone) SOLA SCRIPTURA (Scripture Alone) SOLA GRATIA (Grace Alone)

Lutherans and other Christians throughout the world pause to acknowledge and reflect on the great blessings God has poured out on His people through the work of one unique servant, Martin

Luther. Through his steadfast adherence to Scripture, his zeal and dedication, we today enjoy the freedom of hearing the Gospel taught and preached in church every Sunday, the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood as Jesus gave it, the blessings of private devotion, the majesty of great hymns, and the tools of catechism instruction.

We will have an opportunity to gather together with fellow Christians on **Wednesday, October 21** or **Sunday, October 25** when we will observe the Reformation of the Church!

Pasty Bake Alert! It's Time Again!

The 2026 Pasty bake will soon be here! The bake will take place November 11 - 15. Friday we will be setting up throughout, and meals will be provided. We will then be peeling veggies and dicing veggies. Saturday and after service Sunday we will be baking, with a wrap up of baking Monday/Tuesday and cleanup after. Any time that you can help is greatly appreciated. Volunteers are greatly needed in all areas so please come to help whenever you can even if you have never helped in the past, we will have a job for YOU! Every little bit helps. We also need people to provide food for the workers. So, if you can't help with production, please consider supplying some food. Watch your bulletins for sign-up sheets.

Order blanks should be out in your mailbox around mid-October.

The deadline for orders is November 1.

Church Council Minutes

September 10, 2026

Members Present: Chris Kirchoff, Don Hauser, Elisabeth Hannula, Julianne Schnoor, Christine Stumpf, Mike Stumpf, Mike Miller, Kirk Schield, Paul Klomhaus via phone.

- I. **Call to order by Chris Kirchoff and opening prayer**
- II. Paul Klomhaus joined the meeting via speakerphone. Due to a new business opportunity, he and Kim will be relocating. He is stepping down from his positions at church. We wish him well on his new endeavour and thank him for his service.
- III. **Call for additional agenda items**
- IV. **Minutes from the 13 August Council meeting:** Mike Miller made a motion to accept the minutes. Julianne seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**
- V. **Pastor's Report**

- A. Pastor has been called to jury duty for the remainder of the year, as needed.
- B. Two of our young people will be confirmed on September 20.
- C. There will be two baptisms (father and infant) on September 27.
- D. There will be no midweek service Oct. 7. Pastor will be out of town.
- E. Pastor Bernecker will substitute on Dec. 13 as Pastor and Jill will be gone.
- F. Pastor has a list of many single people in our congregation looking for companionship and social opportunities.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- A. We looked over the financial report, which appears to be in order. Elisabeth made a motion to approve; Mike M. seconded. **Motion passed.**

VII. Committee Reports

A. Board of Trustees

- a. Don repaired the riding lawn mower.
- b. Mike purchased a pack of flappers for the toilets, and a new mailbox was purchased and installed.
- c. Belknap Electric is preparing a new bid for the shut-off valve. Information will be available at the voters meeting this month.

B. Board of Deacons

- a. The Altar Guild recommends replacing the chancel carpeting. Roni received a bid from CFI for \$18,000, which we assume includes a bid for new flooring in the education wing (not approved). We think the carpet bid alone is \$9000, which is much higher than expected. We could use money from the Building Fund, but there is also approximately \$3300 left in the LCEF fund. No decision yet.
- b. Jim Bolin has stepped down from the Deacons for family reasons. Wayne Ploetz will be appointed for a one-year term.
- c. The Deacons will sponsor the annual Oktoberfest meal on

October 11. This is also Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

C. Board of Stewardship and Evangelism

- a. October's focus is CASDA. Each week, needs will be highlighted in the bulletin.
- b. One request from a woman in our congregation is quite extensive (gardening, dismantling sheds, etc.). Julianne is working through the process to find help.
- c. Stewardship Sunday is coming in early November.
- d. Spiritual Conversation training will be September 26 and Nov. 7.

D. Board of Christian Education

- a. The rummage sale went well. We deposited over \$3000 and have been using the funds to update the classrooms.
- b. VBS was well-organized and successful. We will likely do it in June next year.
- c. Rally Day and the annual pig roast will take place Sept. 13.
- d. Jessica Stumpf is hosting a vendor fair Nov. 21, proceeds to the youth.

E. Memorial Committee

- a. The Memorial Fund stands at \$3004.30. There have been no changes.

F. Endowment Committee

- a. Endowment fund balances as of August 31, 2026:
 - 1. Dr. Stanley W Oexemann Endowed Education Fund: \$65,686.68
 - 2. Miriam J Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund: \$62,410.37
 - 3. Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Youth Fund: \$73,601.41
 - 4. Christ the King Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund: \$126,029.57
 - 5. Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Fund (Organ Fund): \$28,755.93

G. Memorial Garden Committee

- a. Dan Larson and Bud Brand will be appointed for three-year terms at the upcoming voters meeting.

VIII. Old Business

- A. At the September Voters' Meeting, the congregation will vote whether to approve replacing the shut-off valve. Mike S. is getting an updated bid but expects it will cost approximately \$5000.
- B. Pastor's former classmate Tim Sandeno and wife Lisa will visit and speak at CLC on Oct. 25. Pastor Sandeno brings Word and Sacrament to U.S. military members stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. We could consider sponsoring them in the future.

IX. New Business

- A. The Stumpf family requests use of the Fellowship Hall Nov. 28 for a family gathering. Roni will confirm availability. Don made a motion to approve the request; Mike Miller seconded. **Motion passed.**
- B. Pastor asked about the sheds and whether we should consolidate what's in them and possibly remove one. Elisabeth stated that a shed would be helpful for preschool storage in the future. It was agreed to leave them for now.
- C. Sept. 20 Voters Meeting agenda: shut-off valve replacement, election of president and vice-president, appointments for the Memorial Garden and Deacons, financial report from Chris Stumpf, update from the Preschool Steering Committee.

The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: October 8 at 5 p.m.

Voters Meeting: September 20 at 10:15 a.m.

Voter's Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2026

- I. **Call to Order:** Len Campbell
- II. **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Schield
- III. **Approval of minutes:**
 - a. May 31, 2026, Voters' meeting
 - i. Jim Lemmerman made a motion to accept as written; Mike Kramer seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - b. June 21, 2026, Special Voters' meeting
 - i. Wayne Ploetz made a motion to accept as written; Jim Lemmerman seconded. **Motion passed.**
- IV. **Member Transfers/Releases:** None
- V. **Nominations for President/Vice President**
 - a. **President**
 - i. Chris Kirchoff volunteered for the position. No other nominations/volunteers. **Passed unanimously**
 - ii. Meeting turned over to Chris Kirchoff.
 - b. **Vice President**
 - i. With no nominations or volunteers, the office remains vacant.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report:** Christine Stumpf shared the current financial report. Shared that the Steifl account is currently at \$19,729.83. Julianne Schnoor moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Millie Derick seconded. **Motion carried.**
- VII. **Old Business**
 - a. Emergency water shut-off valve.
 - i. Mike Stumph stated that the original cost estimate from April was \$4,500. This estimate has expired, and he is waiting for a new estimate from Belknap Plumbing, as it was not available for this meeting. Paul Klomhaus moved to approve up to \$7,000 to install the emergency water shut-off valve. Seconded by Julianne Schnoor. **Motion carried.**
- VIII. **New Business**
 - a. Preschool Steering Committee update
 - i. Presentation given by Len Campbell
 - ii. You may find a list of the Steering Committee members posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex along with intermittent updates.
 - iii. The committee visited Peace in Christ's preschool in July.
 - iv. The Mission Statement has been developed and approved.

1. The mission of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool is to nurture the whole child – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically – through God's Word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation within a safe, loving, Christ-centered environment. Recognizing every child as a gift from God, we provide play-based learning, developmentally appropriate curricula, and the guidance of trained Christian educators to help children grow in faith, knowledge, and character. We seek to equip them to live confidently as God's baptized children, enter the next stage of their education and life with a strong foundation in love and service, and carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).
- v. What is next
 1. Setting up a business plan
 2. Continue contact with the state licensing board and the LCMS office
 3. Agree on the space to be used with church approval
 4. Start-up goal of fall 2027
- b. Multipurpose Room
 - i. Discussion was held concerning the space to be used. At the June Special Voters' meeting, it was stated that the multipurpose room would NOT be used. After much thought and discussion, the Steering Committee decided that the multipurpose room needs to be considered when determining which room(s) are best for the preschool.
 - ii. A resolution was presented to "consider allowing the preschool to use the multipurpose room for one (1) year, with the condition that the church may pre-empt the use of the multipurpose room for an unexpected need on a temporary basis.
 - iii. Discussion focused primarily on the pasty bake. It was confirmed that the pasty bake could continue using

- the room, while other activities could use alternative spaces.
- iv. **Resolution passed:** Paper ballot used. 20 – for. 15 – against.
 - v.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Stewardship

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and

resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

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Did You Move? Or Someone You Know Move?

Summer is a time when many people move. If you or someone in your family has moved recently, please let the church office know your new address. If you have moved to another city, remember to transfer your church membership to one of our sister LCMS congregations by simply requesting a transfer from the pastor of the church you wish to be transferred to. There are many reasons to transfer your membership when you move, but the most important is that you will have a place close to home where you can regularly hear the Word of God and receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in His Supper. So if you've moved recently, and distance keeps you from weekly worship at Christ Lutheran, now is the time to answer God's call be remaining faithful to our faithful Lord!

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry.

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

My Savior Lives Northland

LCMS Service of Worship – Every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on My 9 Channel 6.3

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. MSL Northland is broadcast every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on My 9 Channel 6.3 and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings.

Please send contributions c/o: Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 2012 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55812
Checks should be made to: MSL Northland



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