

THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

*****October 2019

IDENTITY POLITICS



Dear friends in Christ,

Even if you are not a football fan, you may have heard of Colin Kaepernick. He is the former football player (no team wants him now) who, in 2016, began to kneel during the national anthem. This led to other players (and others generally) “taking the knee.” People “identified” with his views.

It’s the era of “identity” - with what or whom do you identify? Pick your topic: political party; race; ethnic group; gender (ABC news identifies 58 genders); environmental stance . . . and the list goes on. And once you have an “identity,” be *sure* you associate with your “own kind” and condemn those who don’t agree.

It is my hope and prayer that each of us has, as our primary identity, Child of God. And perhaps the unique characteristic of this identity is that it begins not with our choice but with God choosing us. Hear again what Scripture says:



****I have called you by name; you are mine.** Isaiah 43:1

****You did not choose me but I chose you.** John 15:16

****He (God) chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.** Ephesians 1:4-5

...and the list goes on . . .

Each of us is loved, chosen, redeemed, nurtured, forgiven, promised eternal life . . . NOT because of who WE are or how faithful WE are but because of who God IS (the great I AM). While those of the world gather with posters, with angry voices, with shouts of ridicule, Christians stand/sit contentedly and securely singing that children’s song, “I am Jesus’ little lamb; ever glad of heart I am.” (next page)

The month of October brings us once again to celebrating the Reformation. One man, a monk and professor, who agonized over who he was, whether he was good enough, finally came to realize his identity was not in knowledge or works but in the saving grace of Jesus. He stood before rulers and princes of the Church and said, "Sorry, I can't recant. Here I stand; I can do no other. My identify is not in what the Church says I am but who I am in Jesus Christ."

In Christ's love,

Ron

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



POWER is the word that best describes the Christians in the Book of Acts. They were a dynamic people in a dynamic church . . . And what they said and did changed their world.

We continue our study on the people, the Church, and its message in the book of Acts. We will come to a greater understanding of:

- ◆ The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- ◆ How to be an effective witness for Christ.
- ◆ How to turn persecution into blessing.
- ◆ How to understand and solve Church problems.



The Holy Spirit of God is with us today, and His triumphant power is available to God's people. The invitation to you is to yield to the Spirit and its dynamic power. Join us on Sunday mornings. Learn how God used early converts to share the Good

HYMNS by Martin Luther

Traditionally Lutherans have been a "singing denomination." We can, in part, trace that love of music to Martin Luther, who wrote hymns for every season of the church year. The "biggie" we associate with Luther is, of course, "A Mighty Fortress." Another familiar one is "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." His Christmas hymn that celebrates the incarnation is "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." The Reformation sprang from Luther's insistence on *Word Alone*, *Grace Alone*, *Faith Alone*. His hymn writing underscored that proclamation.

October Mission Giving

\$417 - The North American Lutheran Church
General Fund

LEGACY GIFTS MATTER!

Prayerfully consider including the North American Lutheran Church and/or the Seminary in your will or estate planning. Pass on the love of Jesus to future generations.

October Servants



Greeter/Usher: Dan Heckart
Communion Assistant:
Tami Gerdemann

Snacks:

**October 6—Mary Collins

**October 13—LaDonna Retzlaff

**October 20—Judy Waugh

**October 27—Brunch

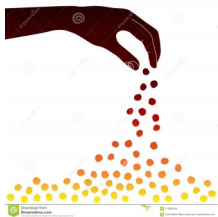
Flowers: Mary Collins

Don't forget . . . WATER MISSION! Water Mission was founded in response to a disaster; providing safe water solutions to those in need as well as the opportunity to experience God's love. Their most recent response focused on Southeastern Africa after the devastation brought by Cyclone Idai in early 2019. Learn more: **watermission.org**

Don't forget . . . FRIENDS OF MADAGASCAR! FOMM is a non-profit, incorporated organization with a board of directors and with a mission to assist the Christians and churches in Madagascar in order to strengthen their ministry and mission in reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Learn more: **MadagascarMission.org**

Don't forget . . . TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Warrenton, Virginia. Check out this growing congregation in Northern Virginia at **trinitylutheranva.org**

Don't forget . . . THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY. Teaching and training future pastors for the North American Lutheran Church. Keep up on the news at **thenals.org**



So, what's the big deal about "not forgetting"? The above are all mission outreach efforts of our little congregation, Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, Robins, Iowa. Small beginnings, global outreach with the gospel. Kind of reminds you of that little old mustard seed Jesus talked about!



COMING IN OCTOBER: "Introduction to Lutheran worship... Why we do what we do on Sunday morning"

Beginning on Sunday, October 6, and continuing for the following three Sundays, our worship time will include a brief explanation of what we do in the service and the Biblical basis for the format. Knowing the "what" and "why" will hopefully prove informative and inspirational.

October 27 Brunch

We will discuss our 2020 spending plan, our stewardship response program (which will be held in November), and our ongoing outreach efforts.

2019 Crop Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 13

Meet at 1;30 in Thomas Park in Marion.



DONATE a bottle of wine of your choosing.

READ God's Word daily!

INVITE someone to worship with you.

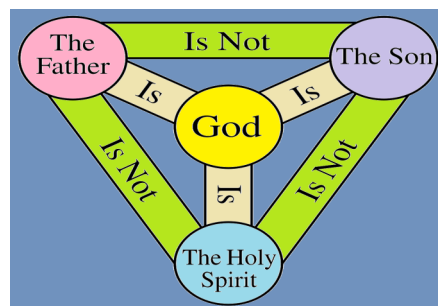
DISTRIBUTE outreach brochures. Ron will provide.

SYMBOLS OF THE TRINITY

Equal sides represent the equality of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Three interlocking circles express the equality and unity of the Triune God.



The Trinity Shield represents both the equality (IS) and the uniqueness (IS NOT) of the