

Pastor's Note

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NRSVUE)

The writer of Ephesians was inspired to write a collection of Jesus teachings addressing the grace of God through Christ and the importance of faith. Paul continues to encourage the Jews and Gentiles of Ephesus come together in faith, worship, and community. In our world today we seem to be polarized concerned about ourselves rather than working for unity and peace.

During the month of October, the church celebrates various observances emphasizing unity and peace. The first observance is World Communion Sunday, October 4. This has been established as a Sunday when all Christian sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world unite in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, October 25 we celebration Reformation Sunday, commemorating Martin Luther posting his 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church on October 31, 1517. A summary of Luther's postings deals with the Bible as the spiritual authority of the church, salvation comes by God's grace and a personal relationship with Jesus, and all Christians are justified by faith alone. We are asking everyone to wear red to church, symbolizing Christian courage and the fire of the Holy Spirit upon the church. On the 25th during worship, we will honor all first responders within our community to express our appreciation for their service to aid our community in times of need.

Thanks to all personnel for their selfless sacrifice and dedication to others.

Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering the members of our church family who passed away this past year: Kathlyn Otto, and Palmer Geist. Everyone in the congregation will have the opportunity to remember their loved ones who have died by lighting a candle during the service.

We hope you will be able to join us in faith for worship, to share in the coming together in praise, glory, and honor to our God and to one another.

Peace

Pastor Barry