

## PASTOR'S PAGE

***"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month, we celebrate the Reformation of the Christian church once again. The church needed to be reformed because it had lost the central teaching of salvation by grace through faith. It had allowed the teaching that faith required works. Salvation by our works places the burden for salvation on our shoulders and brings uncertainty into our relationship with God. Consciences became troubled by the question of whether I am good enough for God to love me, and there was no peace.

In our daily lives, we are often surrounded by uncertainty. We face questions about the future, concerns for our loved ones, and the internal struggles of our own hearts. In a world that often seems to be in turmoil, where can we find a steadfast and unshakable peace? The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, points us to the very source of this profound peace: our justification by faith in Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be "justified by faith"? It is the beautiful and foundational truth of our Christian belief. It is the declaration from God Himself that though we are sinners, we are made right in His sight BY HIM. This isn't because of anything we have done, any good work we have accomplished, or any merit we have earned. It is a gift, given to us freely through the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. By faith, we receive this gift, trusting not in our own righteousness, but in the perfect righteousness of Christ that now covers us.

This justification is not a temporary state, but an eternal reality. It is peace that surpasses all understanding because it is not dependent on our circumstances. When we are troubled by the world around us, when we feel the weight of our own sin, when we feel the weight of the burden of this life, we can return to this foundational truth. We **have** peace with God because He makes peace with us. The hostility that our sin created between us and God has been overcome. We are no longer His enemies, but His beloved children.

This peace is the assurance in our conscience that allows us to approach God in prayer, not with fear of condemnation, but with the confidence of a child speaking to their loving Father. It allows us to rest in Him. It is the strength that empowers us to love and serve our neighbors, knowing that our ultimate standing before God is secure. It is the hope that anchors our souls in the midst of life's storms, for if God is for us, who can be against us?

May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor Johnson

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### A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

On September 25, 2025, Sue Sholten was called to her heavenly home. A Christian funeral was held at Bethany on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was great to see so many of you attend our church picnic earlier last month! The food was delicious and I had fun calling BINGO for the entertainment that afternoon. Thanks to all those who helped with the food and setup/clean-up duties! A fun time was had by all!

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our September 21<sup>st</sup> voters meeting. Your attendance and participation is greatly appreciated! As most of you have probably heard by now, we have extended our 4<sup>th</sup> call to a new pastor last week. The congregation voted to call Pastor Brian "Azor" Cigelske from Zion in New Holstein. Pastor Azor came to visit us with his family this past Monday evening so he could meet our congregation and allow them to ask him any questions. We enjoyed a nice time of fellowship with some pizza and gave him and his family a tour of the parsonage. I'd like to personally thank all of those who attended and made him and his family feel welcome! It really was an enjoyable evening! Please keep Pastor Azor and his family in your prayers over the coming weeks, as they deliberate between their current call, our call, and a call from another church in MI that he recently received as well. May the Lord give him the guidance and wisdom to choose the path that He has set forth for him.

In addition to voting for a new pastor, we also announced a capital campaign at the recent voter's meeting. The purpose of the campaign is two-fold: to replace the air conditioning system and to renovate the parsonage. The current air conditioning system is 20 years old. The unit in the rear of the sanctuary no longer works and parts are no longer available. Depending on how much money we raise, we will either replace the broken unit with a new one, which would cost us approximately \$9200, or we would replace all 4 units for a cost of approximately \$29,000. As for the parsonage, there are a number of renovations that need to be made there. We are currently in the process of getting estimates, but at a high level, we think it could cost use between \$15,000-\$20,000. We do have some funds that are immediately available to start work on the parsonage. We have approximately \$8,000 in the building improvement fund and about \$7,000 in the parsonage account. Please prayerfully consider giving to either project. You can mark your envelopes "Capital campaign" to ensure the funds are used for this. I'd like to thank those who have so generously donated already!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger



### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

#### **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry**

During the months of September and October, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** – Transforming lives behind bars here and around the world. By bringing the Holy Gospel to inmates, they are reaching those others may have forgotten. To learn more about Good News, visit their website at [www.goodnewsjail.org](http://www.goodnewsjail.org)

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10-01: Summer Menzer  
10-03: Dave Meyer  
10-04: Sandy Kuehlmann  
Todd Matte  
10-09: Sharon Werner  
10-12: Katie Werner



10-13: Lauren Miller  
Joey Crneckiy  
10-16: Karl Kaeppler  
10-18: Lori Wychesit  
10-19: Bruce Fisher  
10-21: Beth Loree  
10-29: Sue Prange



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10-08: Marilyn & Louis Buell  
10-17: Brian & Ann Walesh  
10-26: Pat & Joanne Stangel

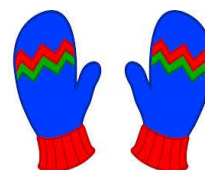
Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.

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## **MITTEN BASKET**

Please bring your donations of handmade or store-bought hats, mittens, gloves, blankets, and scarves to church and place them in the basket in the lower narthex. The items will be donated to the Salvation Army at the beginning of November. Thank you!



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## **LWML MITES - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**



Don't forget to keep filling those Mite Boxes and bring them back to church on the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month** when the large Mite Box will be out to collect your donations. These Mites will be sent to LWML to support mission grants like "Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job" – Ministry Mission, Haiti; "Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students" in NE; "Breaking Generational Poverty" – Camp Restore in Detroit, MI. ***Thank you for your support of the LWML Mite Box program!***

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## **LOVE INC WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Love In the Name of Christ is so excited to announce our new Executive Director, Shannon Luckey-Mueller! Shannon has a wonderful breadth of leadership experience, competency, and heart for this mission. We are thrilled she will be joining the Love INC team!

Shannon has many years of experience in the nonprofit sector, serving on the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan as well as Communications & Outreach Director (Co-Executive Director) of "Take Off Pounds Sensibly" (TOPS), a Milwaukee-based membership organization with chapters across the U.S. and Canada. Shannon also brings a very active and vibrant faith to this position. She is strong, humble, compassionate, and a team player.

Shannon's official start date is Monday, October 6, and Tandra will remain on for her first two weeks to assist with onboarding. That said, we are eager to introduce you to Shannon as soon as possible.





September 22, 2025

**Greetings** from The Hispanic Outreach members! The Lord continues His work through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. Thanks to God for His continue work in our midst!

***Evangelizing at the Latin Barber Shop – Friday, September 19th***

Last Friday, September 19th, I visited the Latin Barber Shop in Sheboygan. As part of my ministry, I like to visit places where Hispanics gather, to meet new people and seek opportunities to share the Gospel with them. I spent about three hours there and had the chance to talk with several individuals. I always wear my clerical collar so people can identify me as a church worker.

While I was there, one person pulled me aside to a corner because he needed someone to talk to. He began sharing the struggles he was facing. I gladly listened, offered him advice, and when he asked, I prayed for him. After the prayer, I gave him a hug, and he left. I could see how that man, who initially seemed tired and troubled, walked away filled with joy—blessed by God right there in that barbershop! I thank God for placing me in the right place to share His words of life and encouragement.

Later, I met a 20-year-old young woman. We spent quite some time talking about God. At one point, she asked if I was a Catholic priest. I told her I wasn't—that I'm a Lutheran pastor. She explained that she had been looking for a Catholic church to visit but hadn't found one she liked yet. I told her, "God put you in my path today so you can find the right place. I want to introduce you to a church where the Gospel is preached exactly as it is, and the sacraments are administered according to the Lord's intention."

She responded, "What is it like? Tell me more. What is the Lutheran Church?" I explained what we believe, teach, and confess in the Lutheran church. She said, "That sounds interesting."

I invited her to our Sunday service, and she replied, "I'll be there, God willing." And she came! Not only that—she brought her mother and younger sister too. After the Divine Service, I asked them, "How did you like it?" and all three said they really enjoyed the service and would come back. Praise God for bringing them to His house!

Later that day, I sent them a message thanking them for joining us. They replied, "We are really happy to have been in God's house today," and also asked, "Can you say a prayer tomorrow? It's our mother's birthday." I responded, "Yes, with great pleasure." Early the next morning, I prayed for her and sent her a written birthday prayer.

The work with this family will continue. I thank God for placing them in my path so that His Kingdom may continue to grow.

**Thank you** for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry! Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! May God richly bless you!!! Looking forward to what the Lord has for us!

Serving Christ through His humble servant and yours,

Rev. David Blas

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025

### **Sunday, October 5**

**10:00 a.m.**

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Dan Fibiger, Jerry Sabrowsky
Altar Guild:	Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Andy Fibiger

### **Sunday, October 12**

**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Dave & Sue Prange
Acolyte:	Steen Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Julie Steele, Rachel Johnson
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Steve Perry

### **Sunday, October 19**

**10:00 a.m.**

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Ray & Shirley Ottman
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

### **Sunday, October 26**

**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Andy & Gina Fibiger
Altar Guild:	Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Diane Marotz
Streaming:	Brianna Meyer



# October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10am Worship w/HC (Pastor Cortright)	6	7 10:30am Bible Study  6pm Elder Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 10am Worship (Pastor Krause)	13	14 10:30am Bible Study  6:15pm Board of Finance  7pm Council Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 10am Worship w/HC (Pastor Don L Johnson)	20	21 10:30am Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26 10am Worship w/HC (Pastor King)  Reformation	27	28 10:30am Bible Study	29	30	31  Halloween	