

St. John's SPOKESMAN OCT. 2017

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 10

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FIND MORE ONLINE AT:

STJOHNSLC.ORG/NEWS

FUTURE SPOKESMAN SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

- October 25
- November 22
- December 13

Note: deadlines are for the following month's Spokesman, i.e. August deadline is for the September issue.

Articles are due by 9:00 am to kevin@stjohnslc.org.

A REFORMING CHURCH

Rev. Frank Espegren, Senior Pastor & Director of Missional Strategy

500 YEARS AGO, a movement that changed the course of the Church and all of Western Civilization was just beginning to gain steam! The Reformation, as it later came to be called, traces its deepest roots back to Germany - Wittenberg, to be exact, which, at the end of the Middle Ages, was a sleepy University city.

You might think the question is, "What was in Wittenberg that sparked the Reformation?" However, the question really isn't "what," but "who?" The answer to "who?" - an insistent and unsettled Augustinian monk and university professor named Martin Luther, who, much to his surprise, found the teachings and programs of the Church impeding his understanding of just how gracious and loving God was, and just how much Jesus Christ had done to save him.

Luther could not, and did not, abide these impediments, for it was not in Luther's personality to just "grin and bear it." So as the narrative goes, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther pounded 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg - matters that he wanted discussed and redressed, not for the sake of argument, but for the well-being of the Church, its people - the Reformation was on!

It took one individual speaking up in a bold way. Later, as his conflict with the Church reached its zenith, Martin Luther famously held the line. When asked to retract the Biblically-supported theological positions he had taken with which the Church took issue, Luther famously said, "Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God."

But it took more than Luther. It also took a recognition that times were changing with regard

to authority. It took bold lay leaders, like Philip Melancthon, who many say was as responsible for the Reformation occurring as was Luther. It took changing communications patterns - the printing press allowed the Reformers' thinking to go viral, at least as viral as pen and ink would allow. It took politicians and government leaders creating, or at least allowing, a culture and environment where minority position voices could survive, literally, and be heard.

**HERE I STAND, I
CAN DO NO
OTHER, SO HELP
ME GOD.**

- MARTIN LUTHER

But mostly, what I think about the Reformation is this: it may be 500 years old, but "reforming" the Church is as important and relevant today as it was 500 years ago in 1517. The real question as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is this - what needs changing, adapting, correcting today. In short, what needs to be "re-membered;" taking and using the very best of our "Lutheran" tradition, while not neglecting what the Holy Spirit urges that we draw from today? All to better discern God's will, live faithfully, and be of service to neighbor!

The Reformation is a big deal - not just historically, but especially because it lives on. We are a Reforming Church, and that is one of the best things about being "Lutheran!"

stjohnslc.org



**ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN**

**1867-
2017**

PLEASE RSVP

Rev. Frank Espegren & the Stewardship Committee

EVERYTHING WE DO at St. John's requires three things: a plan, an invitation and a response. We work hard for our life of faith together to be meaningful. Indeed, our goal is for it to be of the utmost importance!

To that end, our Congregational Council gives up an entire Friday, around this time of year, to talk through the big issues of our congregation and to plan. Our staff works exceedingly hard too – allying with the congregation to plan and offer beautiful worship, to craft opportunities for spiritual formation for all ages, and to creatively strategize to bring people together in love, service to neighbor, and fellowship. It requires a plan, but it also requires an invitation and your response!

That is why our Stewardship theme for the upcoming General Fund Stewardship Campaign, the purpose of which is to fund our 2018 ministry plan, is RSVP! We are extending an invitation requesting your response.

“Invitation and response” is one of the primary ways I think about my (our) relationship with God. Because God provides and redeems all, the offer of divinely aligned life is extended to us.

Ours is to respond and the opportunity is ours to say “Yes,” that through the Holy Spirit we become the peo-

ple God hopes us to be. Another way to see this is that we are given the opportunity to become the beloved we already are!

Our Stewardship focus of RSVP will play out over three Sundays in October, focusing on our response of time and talent on October 8, responding to the call to steward our connection to the larger church on October 15 with Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud preaching, and, finally, coming together with the offering of our financial pledges, the most key component we use in planning our budget for the year ahead, on Commitment Sunday, October 22.

We pray that you will RSVP “Yes,” that you might consider growing your commitments of time, talent and resources to St. John's.

What would an increase in response look like for you? Each year, we choose by our commitments to either expand the ministries of St. John's, or allow them to contract. Please prayerfully consider that God is calling you in a new and expansive way!

We have work to do – ministry to expand, staffing to accomplish, spiritual formation to deepen, generosity to grow. We invite your response.

Please RSVP.

SECOND ANNUAL HOSPITALITY CELEBRATION TO HONOR OUR OLDEST MEMBERS

Jo Hoffmeier, Hospitality Committee

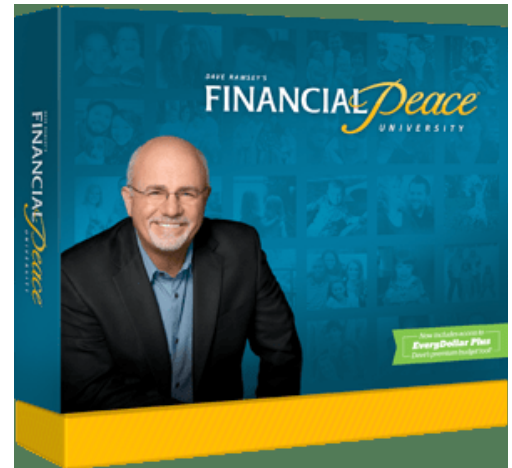
THE ST. JOHN'S Hospitality Committee is hosting the second annual celebration luncheon for our 90 year-old and older members. The celebration luncheon is October 7, from 11:00-1:30 pm in Oehler Hall.

The program includes singing, remarks from our nonagenarians and Holy Communion.

All guests are invited to bring a companion. The Hospitality Committee is also providing transportation for our guests

who request it.

Formal invitations were mailed, but if any of our members are aware of an eligible member that was missed, please contact Kevin at the St. John's office, 916-444-0874.



SEEKING AND FINDING FINANCIAL PEACE

Daniel Welch, St. John's Member

ARE YOU TIRED of running out of money before you run out of month? Are money problems a source of family conflict? What would you do with \$1 million and no debts? How outrageously generous could you be without debt consuming so much of your income?

St. John's brings Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) back to our community, after we launched the program last winter. Dave Ramsey hosts the nation's #3 rated radio talk show. The focus of the radio show – and FPU – is personal finance with a twist -- "God's and grandma's ways of handling money." Dave Ramsey claims that the average 90-day results for FPU graduates are \$2,700 saved and \$5,300 in debt paid off for the average family.

Financial Peace University is a 9-week program. Classes will be held at St. John's every Monday, beginning on October 9 and ending on December 4. The class is 90 minutes featuring a 60-minute video and 30 minutes of individual assignments and discussion. Classes begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm. We plan to offer childcare for families with younger children, if there is sufficient interest.

The cost of an FPU membership is \$93, plus shipping. St. John's has pre-purchased FPU memberships that are available, for \$93 (no shipping fees), to the first 20 St. John's member families that register. Interested families can contact our FPU Coordinator, Dan Welch, at (916) 204-7133 or dwelch11@comcast.net for more information about FPU registration.

IN REGOGNITION OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Cindy Carroll & Suzi Taylor, Parish Nurses



IN OCTOBER, we observe National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Approximately one in eight women born today in the United States will develop breast cancer at some point. Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer in women, but it can also occur in men. The good news is that most people can survive breast cancer if it is found and treated early.

Some warning signs of breast cancer may include:

- New lump in the breast or underarm (armpit).
- Thickening or swelling of part of the breast.
- Irritation or dimpling of breast skin.
- Redness or flaky skin in the nipple area of the breast.
- Pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area.
- Nipple discharge other than breast milk, including blood.
- Any change in the size or the shape of the breast.
- Pain in any area of the breast.

What can I do to reduce my risk of breast cancer?

- Limit alcohol.
- Don't smoke.
- Control your weight.
- Be physically active.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Limit dose and duration of hormone therapy.

American Cancer Society Screening Guidelines:

- Women between 40 and 44 have the option to start screening with a mammogram every year.
- Women 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year.
- Women 55 and older can switch to a mammogram every other year or they can choose to continue yearly mammograms.
- All women should understand what to expect for breast cancer screening – what the test can and cannot do.
- All women should be familiar with how their breasts normally look and feel and report any changes to a health care professional immediately.

If you have any questions related to breast cancer, please call or speak to one of the parish nurses.

FROM THE TREASURER

Ted Norris, Church Council Treasurer

WHAT A wonderfully generous collection of believers that makes up the body of St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you and God bless your generosity. Offerings include contributions for flooding in Houston, funding the new windows, the continued commitment to fund our mission and to pay down our remodeling debt.

The Living Stones campaign is in its final stage. There are three months of the Living Stones campaign remaining. We are on target to achieve the goal of eliminating all debt on the Sanctuary Loan. As of the September payment to Mis-

sion Investment Fund (part of ELCA), our remaining balance is just under \$230,000.00.

Initially, we projected a pledge deficit between \$50,000 to \$75,000; however, due to the generosity of members who exceeded their pledges we will reach our goal, provided we honor our pledge commitments. The end is in sight! As when a new pope is elected, I want to see the symbolic smoke created by the burning of our mortgage.

Thank you and God bless everyone's prayerful consideration on this important matter.

IN THE WAKE OF PASTOR LESLIE'S ABSENCE

Rev. Frank Espegren, Senior Pastor

THE FIRST STEP following a pastor's departure is to assess the new place in which a congregation finds itself, in order to discern its new leadership and staffing needs. The Council is undertaking this review and feels it is important to examine our ministry needs before rushing any call process.

In that regard, if you see areas of ministry focus that you believe are unaddressed, or inadequately addressed, by our current staffing and ministry configuration, please bring that to Pastor Frank's attention, or to the attention of any Councilmember.

So, first steps first - a new portfolio and job description. The formation of a Call committee is down the line.



OCTOBER AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun, Oct 1	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Sunday School, Confirmation 1:00 pm HS Youth Group Lunch	Tue, Oct 17	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 7:00 am Assisting Ministers Meeting 6:00 pm Family Promise 6:45 pm Celebration Singers 7:00 pm Church Council
Mon, Oct 2	9:30 am Library Comm. 3:00 pm The Pilgrimage 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Group Supervision	Wed, Oct 18	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:00 pm Luminaria Leader Meeting 6:00 pm Family Promise 5:30 pm Property Comm. 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Church Council Bylaws Comm.
Tue, Oct 3	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 6:45 pm Celebration Singers 7:00 pm Hospitality Meeting	Thu, Oct 19	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 9:00 am CDFB 11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group 6:00 pm Family Promise, Craft Night 9:30 am Bulletin Assembly 11:00 am LLL Book Club 6:00 pm Family Promise
Wed, Oct 4	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:00 pm Luminaria Leader Meeting 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	Fri, Oct 20	6:00 pm Family Promise 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Confirmation, Sunday School 1:00 pm Crab Feed Planning Meeting 9:30 am Library Comm. 3:00 pm The Pilgrimage 6:30 pm FPU
Thu, Oct 5	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM	Sat, Oct 21	6:00 pm Family Promise
Fri, Oct 6	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	Sun, Oct 22	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Confirmation, Sunday School 1:00 pm Crab Feed Planning Meeting 9:30 am Library Comm. 3:00 pm The Pilgrimage 6:30 pm FPU
Sat, Oct 7	11:00 am Hospitality Luncheon	Mon, Oct 23	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 10:00 am Starting Over Self Help Group 5:00 pm Stewardship Comm 6:30 pm Mutual Ministry 6:45 pm Celebration Singers
Sun, Oct 8	Healing Ministry in Worship 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 8:30 am Fall Boutique 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Sunday School, Confirmation 12:30 pm Acolyte Training	Tue, Oct 24	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:00 pm Luminaria Leader Meeting
Mon, Oct 9	9:30 am Library Comm. 10:00 am Deborah Circle 6:30 pm Financial Peace University (FPU)	Thu, Oct 26	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 9:00 am CDFB 6:00 pm PUB Theology 9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
Tue, Oct 10	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 6:45 pm Celebration Singers	Fri, Oct 27	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
Wed, Oct 11	Parish Nurse 9 AM - 2 PM 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:00 pm Luminaria Leader Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Activity 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	Sun, Oct 29	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Confirmation, Sunday School 2:00 pm World Aids Day Service 4:00 pm Halloween Fundraiser
Thu, Oct 12	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 9:00 am CDFB 11:00 am Esther Circle AM 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting 7:00 pm Esther Circle PM, Finance Comm.	Mon, Oct 30	9:30 am Library Comm. 3:00 pm The Pilgrimage 6:30 pm FPU
Fri, Oct 13	Elementary School Retreat 9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	Tue, Oct 31	Parish Nurses 9 AM - 2 PM 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 8:30 am Spokesman Assembly 6:45 pm Celebration Singers
Sun, Oct 15	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 8:30 am Fall Boutique 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Adult Ed., Luminaria, Sunday School, Confirmation 3:00 pm John Ferguson Concert 6:00 pm Family Promise		
Mon, Oct 16	9:30 am Library Comm. 6:00 pm Family Promise 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Group Supervision, FPU		

NEWS & NOTES

Freed & RENEWED in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION

REFORMATION SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

On Reformation Sunday, October 29, in addition to festival Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:00 & 11:30 am, at 10:15 am, Martin Luther will time-travel to reenact the nailing of the 95 Theses on St. John's wooden gates! Then, in Adult Forum, Confirmation, Sunday School and High

School Ministry, we will talk about why this one act had such tremendous import. Reformation – 500 years and counting!

REFORMATION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

The 500th commemoration of the reformation service will be held Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 pm at Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street in San Francisco.

From the ELCA

A bus will pick us up in the St. John's parking lot, 1701 L Street, and leave for San Francisco at 12:30 pm. You can leave your car in St. John's parking garage at the southwest corner of 18th and K Streets. The cost is \$25.00/person. Make reservations by calling St. Paul's Lutheran at 916-456-8523. Seating on the bus is limited!

COMMON PRAYER SERVICE

Join us for a common prayer service titled, "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The common prayer service will be presided by Bishop Mark Holmerud from the Sierra Pacific Synod and Bishop Jaime Soto of the Diocese of Sacramento Roman Catholic Church will take place on Monday, October 9 at 7:00 pm. Located at St. John's, light refreshments and a reception will follow. Please RSVP to Gina McAdam at (916) 733-0202 or gm-cadam@scd.org.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

Volunteers needed October 15 -22: daily volunteers for preparing and serving meals; one overnight host for each night; greeters at 5:00 pm for two hours every day we host; individuals to prepare and serve breakfast on October 14; Five persons for set-up and take-down on Sundays.

SHARING A MEAL WITH THE COMMUNITY

Rebekah Turnbaugh, Community Organizer

THE ST. JOHN'S community offers many ways to respond to the Matthew 25:35 passage that says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." One way is the holiday meals for those in our neighborhood who are hungry.

Twice a year, on the day before Thanksgiving and the day before Easter, we serve meals for all who come. This has been a tradition for more than 20 years, and more than 10,000 holiday meals have been served over the years.

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 22, we will open the door to Goethe Hall at noon for a full, sit-down turkey dinner providing more than 400 meals. It takes at least 150 volunteers to prepare, serve and clean-up for this daylong event. We seat our guests at decorated tables and serve them as if it were at our home or in a restaurant. The dining room is open from noon to about 3:00 pm, although some guests linger afterward in the warmth and friendliness. Volunteers are typically St. John's members and friends.

Volunteers are all ages, although we ask that children under 10 do more preparation activities and are be accompanied by their guardians. Gifts of money, food, planning and direct service are all needed. We welcome 40 cooked and sliced turkeys, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, pie of all kinds (we need at least 75) and a number of other items.

Our workday begins at 8:30 am, and we work in shifts. 8:30-10:00 am is for set-up, 10:00-11:30 am is preparation. Volunteers who serve tables are asked to arrive at 11:30 am for instruction, prior to service commencing at noon. Clean up is approximately from 2:30-4:30 pm. We are always finished by dark. This can be a family event, a friend event and a get-to-know-other-people event. It is our St. John's community at its best, as we invite our neighbors in to dinner.

For monetary donations, please mark "Thanksgiving meal" on your check. There will be inserts in the bulletin for sign-ups, or you can sign up to volunteer or donate online at stjohnslc.org/outreach.

Return Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Dated Material

Mailed on: September 26, 2017

Contact Us

PHONE: 916.444.0874

FAX: 916.444.1205

EMAIL: staff@stjohnslc.org

WEB: www.stjohnslc.org

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Want to get The Spokesman by email?

Send a request to info@stjohnslc.org

MINISTRY STAFF

REV. FRANK ESPEGREN
*Senior Pastor & Director of Missional
Strategy*

REV. JON HAUG
*Pastor and Director of Congregational
Life*

DIANE WHITE
Executive Director of Administration

STEVEN JOHNSON
Director of Worship & Music

AMA MARCELOS
*Interim Worship & Music Program
Coordinator*

SARAH JESSOP STREET
Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

JASON PETTIT
Children's & Youth Choir Coordinator

CINDY CARROLL & SUZI TAYLOR
Faith Community Nurse

REBEKAH TURNBAUGH
Community Organizer