



# CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
at The University of Arizona



Volume 8, #2 (2017 September); Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society



## REFORMATION 2017 It's *Still* All About **Jesus**

The LCMS Campus ministry has the honor of hosting several Reformation 500 events sponsored by our Southern Arizona LCMS congregations. These events at the Campus Christian Center (CCC) are open to EVERYONE, so please join us. Free validated parking will be available in the Tyndall Street garage.



Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann,  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis  
Friday, September 29, 6pm  
(dinner provided)

*“Saved for the Creation: A  
Lutheran Understanding of  
Redemption.”*

Saturday, September 30, 8am  
*“Wholly Citizens: God's Plan  
for Christian Engagement  
with the World.”*



Rev. Dr. Paul Grime,  
Concordia Theological  
Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Friday, November 10, 6pm  
(dinner provided)

*“What Would Bach Do?”*

Other Southern Arizona Reformation 500 event are scheduled at various congregations. Please see the flyer accompanying this newsletter. We hope to see you at the CCC and at the other events.

## *From Pastor Palmer:*

### Why Am I A Lutheran?

Many of you will be reading this as October 2017 approaches. This marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg castle church door, the symbolic beginning of the Reformation, and the ostensible inception of Lutheranism. Recently, however, a new Lutheran said to me, "I didn't know Martin Luther wasn't trying to leave the Catholic Church! He was trying to reform it!"

This is an important distinction. If we are Lutheran just for the sake of being Lutheran, or because Lutherans are the one true church, or because Lutherans are the only ones with a corner on what *true* Christianity looks like, we have a problem. None of these are good reasons either to be Lutheran or to celebrate 1517.

So why am I Lutheran? I was raised in what most people would call a fundamentalist church. We were technically Conservative Baptists, which meant that the Southern Baptists were way too loosey goosey for us. It was rumored that they were even allowed to play cards on Sundays!

I have much to thank that little fundamentalist Baptist congregation for. Primarily, they believed in telling non-Christians about Jesus and they believed in memorizing large swaths of the Bible. Fast forward ten years and I was at a Baptist college in Minneapolis but dating a beautiful Lutheran young woman from back home. One day we got into a heated argument about the Lord's Supper, she defending the Real Presence, I staunchly upholding Zwinglian symbolism. Finally, she said to me, "But what do you do with John 6?"

I found myself in a tight spot. I was a Baptist and I believed in the Bible. But the Bible clearly said something in John 6 that directly contradicted Baptist (and Reformed and Presbyterian and non-denominational and Pentecostal) theology. "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink" (John 6:55). This threw me into a sort of panic. I read everything I could get my hands on and discovered what the Bible taught about the sacraments.

I was determined not to convert to Lutheranism just to please a girl, so I studied many different church bodies,

including the Roman church and the Eastern church. But although their sacramental theology was far better than mine, it seemed like their understanding of the scriptures was deficient. And although they had a far better appreciation of the deep history and roots of our faith than the evangelicals I'd grown up with, both seemed to have, in the words of theologian Jaroslav Pelikan, lost sight of Jesus in a cloud of saints. So, where did that leave me? Where could I be a Bible-believing evangelical, who understood the gospel, *and* also an orthodox believer who understood church history, *and* also a catholic believer who was part of the whole universal church?

Lutheranism. Here, at last, there was a place where a person could love the history and traditions of the Church while claiming the priority of the Bible. Here a person could see people from all times and all places, gathered around Jesus' Table every Sunday, as brother and sisters in Christ, partaking in His body and blood. Here I found a Christianity that demanded Jesus Christ and His work of salvation remain at the center of all that we say and do and are.

So why be a Lutheran? Because this is the Christian tradition that proclaims Jesus and His saving work the loudest and clearest. Because it's *still* about Jesus.



Evening Prayer

## From Vicar Schlie

### Food for the Body and the Soul

It doesn't take that much reading of the Gospels to see that the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ was always concerned with both the needs of people's bodies and their souls. Jesus not only fed the multitudes with bread and fish, but he satisfied their spiritual needs with His holy Word (Mark 8:1-10). Jesus didn't just heal, He preached too (Matthew 9:35). For Jesus the forgiveness of sins always went hand in hand with the healing miracles (Mark 2:1-12). And so, as Christ provided for both the body and the soul during His earthly ministry, even now He continues this work through servants in His Church.

Over the past month, since my installation and recognition as the Vicar of Hold Fast Fellowship, the LCMS campus ministry at the University of Arizona, I have had the wonderful privilege of seeing and participating in this holistic ministry of Jesus on the University campus. In the way of caring for the needs of the body, a group of first year students and myself have gathered every Tuesday morning for the past month to share a bite to eat provided by friends of Hold Fast Fellowship and to offer the New Testament sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15-16).

What is more, every Friday I and those same students, among others, have gathered for the *Bread of Life Supper* club to both enjoy a home cooked meal and then to feast on the Word of God though the service of Evening Prayer and the Bible Study hour. When the singing of Biblical canticles fills the CCC, and when every student at the table is staring intently into his or her Bible, spiritually eating of God's gifts of life and salvation, it really is easy to see how there couldn't be a better name for our fellowship time. Jesus truly is the Bread of Life. Thanks be to God for His provision of our bodily and spiritual needs!

## From the President

A new school year is off and running. Thanks to our many faithful supporters we have the resources to increase our ministry 'horsepower' with the addition of Vicar Jesse Schlie. It is already bearing fruit – a weekly informal gathering to support students new to campus as well as a largest-ever group for the first Friday night dinner and Bible study. We pray that our new students will find us to be welcoming, a place where they can grow in their faith.

I was heartened to see quite a number of new faces at our fall kickoff event. You are welcome to join us at any of our activities – no one is too old to be a student of the Word!

Finally, I look forward to seeing many you at the Reformation 500 events being held at the CCC and at various of our congregations. As the hymn says, "God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever. To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor. Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure, throughout all generations"

#### ALCMS Officers

President: Brian Lenharth  
Vice President: Amy Tilley  
Secretary: Amanda Gluski  
Treasurer: Dick Hamilton

#### Student Group Officers (2017-2018)

President: Nathan Maynard  
Vice President: Shelby Fenderson  
Treasurer: Marcus Braatz  
Historian: Peter Lenharth

#### Campus Staff

Campus Chaplain: Rev. Joshua Palmer  
Campus Vicar: Vicar Jesse Schlie  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Roni Grad

The ALCMS is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations to the ALCMS are tax-deductible. IRS EIN: 27-3130895 AZ ID: #16018887



The first Bread of Life Supper Club  
Food, Fellowship, Worship, and Word

*Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by the patience and comfort of Thy holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which Thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen*

---

Please tear off and send with your donation in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to "ALCMS"

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_