

Today, July 23, 2017

TODAY – FLOWERS decorating the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God by Don and Pam Seidelmann. They are also sponsoring the bulletins this morning.

TODAY – INVEST IN B.R.E.A.D. INVEST IN COLUMBUS. Gethsemane is a member of B.R.E.A.D., Columbus' justice organization that is doing great things for the people of this city! It is important that we own our justice organization so this ministry can freely do the work of justice that we need to do. There is a basket in the rear of the sanctuary. Make any checks payable to B.R.E.A.D. Our congregation's investment goal is \$3,000.

TODAY – CHILDREN'S OFFERING: The Sunday School youth are welcome to put their offering money in the jar up front throughout the summer months. It will go to the "Water Project". A new charity will be selected in September for the new Sunday School year.

TODAY – REFORMATION ROOTS AT 10:45 AM IN THE LIBRARY – *From Simple to Complex: New Church Finds Common Ground* led by Darlene Norman. In our last session we saw this new reforming movement suffering from more splintering. This week we'll learn about how Luther, and then his partner Melancthon, attempt to build unity around beliefs held in common. The documents from this period, called confessional statements, still provide common ground for the Lutheran Church but at that time the process of building this accord was messy.

TODAY – NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES are available at the Welcome Desk. If you are aware of a change or correction, please contact Diane in the church office (614-885-4319 or glcoffice@gethsemane.org).

JULY 27 – HANDBELL & VOCAL CHOIR REHEARSALS: Gethsemane's choirs will once again join forces with the choirs of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to form a joint handbell and a joint vocal choir with rehearsals on Thursday, July 27—handbells at 6:00pm and vocal choir at 7:00pm. The choirs will perform at Gethsemane on July 30 during the 9:30am worship service and at St. Andrew on August 6 at 10:30am.

JULY 27 – LSS FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We're down to the wire and we need more people to sign up to serve at Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on Thursday, July 27, from 10-3:00pm or sign up to work 10-12:30 or 12:30-3:00. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex at the Welcome Desk. Bring a lunch and wear comfortable shoes. Contact Joyce Geary with questions or for a ride (jgeary@columbus.rr.com or 614-885-3164). If you aren't available for this date the next time to serve is Tuesday, August 22.

AUG. 4-6 – 34TH ANNUAL BRATWURST AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL at St. James Lutheran Church, Rome-Hilliard and Renner Roads, Columbus. This three-day event—Friday, 4-9:00pm; Saturday, 11:30-9:00pm; Sunday 11:30-4:00pm—features authentic German food and beer, live German polka music and dancing, 1860s era baseball game, strolling singers and a traditional German worship service. For more information, call Steve Dodson at 614-777-7792, the church office at 614-878-5158; or visit their website: www.stjameslutheran.us.

AUG. 7 – AUGSBURG FORTRESS HYMN FESTIVAL is Monday, Aug. 7, at 7:00 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5475 Brand Road, Dublin. After many years of Gethsemane hosting the music clinic and hymn festival they have moved to a new location, but you are still welcome to attend the Hymn Festival.

AUG. 16 – SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR FOOD PANTRY: Gethsemane is collecting school supplies for the children of our Food Pantry clients. The supplies will be distributed on Wednesday, August 16 from 6-8:00pm. You can make a child happy with a new backpack, paper, pens, pencils, markers, glue sticks, etc. See the list posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, in the August newsletter, or at the table in the narthex. Take advantage of tax free days on Aug. 4-6.

AUG. 20 – BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS. Get the year started off right by having your backpack blessed at church on Sunday, Aug. 20, during worship.

AUG. 30 – BOOK GROUP: The next book to be discussed is *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova on Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 7:30pm in the library. Joyce Geary will lead the discussion. All are welcome.

Activities July 23---29

TODAY

9:30 am Worship Service

10:45 am Adult Education

4:00 pm Ibada Ya Kiswahili

MONDAY

8:00 am Reflections Bible Study

7:30 pm AA & Al Anon

TUESDAY

10:30 am Staff Meeting

6:45 pm Swahili Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team

WEDNESDAY

6-8:00 pm Food Pantry

THURSDAY

10-3:00 pm LSS Food Pantry

1:00 pm Music Group

6:00 pm Handbell Choir

7:00 pm Vocal Choir

SATURDAY

9:00 pm Stripping & Waxing of Floors

10:00 am Swahili Ministry Team

We Remember in Prayer

New concerns: Dick Jones

Our love and compassion to the families of Virginia Leiter (sister of John Woods) and Peter (brother of Beth Swallow) who passed away.

Members with ongoing concerns: Donna Baer ... Howard and Nancy Feole ... Alice Gerken ... Bob Hagerdorn ... Elaine Haines ... Dick and Sue Jones ... David Kibble ... David Lagerberg ... Gary Rader ... Joe Reilly.

Friends and family with concerns: Carol Carder (friend of Bob and Jan Davis) ... Barbara Christel (cousin of Doug Sand) ... Allan Cook (cousin of Char Jessie) ... Janice Evanhouse (cousin of Don Huiner) ... Brad Haines (friend of Bonnie Spring) ... Kathy Kapostasy (sister of Linda Mackov) ... Philomena Scanga (mother of Anita Gardner) ... Florence Sturgis (step-mother of Carol Savolaine) ... Matthew Swallow (son of Beth Swallow) ... Debbie (friend of Gary Rader).

Homebound: Marie Cooper ... Beryl Cumberland ... Carolyn Fergus (Wesley Glen) ... Alice Gerken (Mayfair Village) ... Phyllis Nelson ... Becky Oldaker (Bennington Glen) ... Joanne Vollrath (Worthington Christian Village) ... Phyllis Wei ... Reva Woodruff (Columbus Colony).

Reformation Anniversary 1517—2017

History Fact—Turbulence Along the Pathway...

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther took the bold step of proposing a debate of 95 statements and questions that focused primarily on the Pope authorizing the sale of indulgences, defined as a monetary gift to compensate for an individual's sins, to raise funds for the church.

How the 95 Theses were made public, however, remains a matter of inquiry. Was it as close friend Philip Melancthon described: on the front door of Wittenberg Chapel, using a hammer and nails? That graphic telling created over time the iconic image. Most historians find little evidence to support that version.

They note more likely that it was Luther's letter written on the same day to the Archbishop of Mainz along with a copy of the theses which sparked what came next. Other scholars speculate that Luther contacted the Archbishop while simultaneously placing a copy of the theses on the chapel door.

Any of these versions could explain why, in the coming weeks, news of the 95 Theses rapidly spread throughout Germany and abroad. Whatever the actual scenario, this fact endures: on a fateful day in October, Martin Luther chose to act, and as a result the Protestant Reformation was launched.