

## October 2017 Newsletter

### *The Discipleship Chat*

#### Reformation 500

This year (2017) is the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, which is generally dated to Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg, Germany church door (the local bulletin board!) You have been hearing for months about the special Michigan District-wide Reformation celebration to be held Sun Oct 15 at the Breslin Center.

During the month of October, we will focus on special Reformation issue in the sermons. These were teachings that desperately needed to be set straight, and still cause confusion among Christians.

October Sermon Series – Reformation Issues.

Authority of God's Word

Original Sin

The Holy Supper

Justification

Three Solas

Each of these issues was crucial because they touched on the message of the Gospel of Jesus dying for the payment and forgiveness of sins.

For instance, last Sunday we looked at the Authority of God's Word (that was the first of Luther's "solas"/alones – Scripture alone!) This week we are going to look at the teaching of Original Sin, and the ancient and still pervasive heresy of Pelagianism. The word means nothing to you, but you will recognize the misunderstanding which is prevalent today, and see how it twists the Gospel of salvation by grace.

It wasn't just a Lutheran Reformation. It was a complete reforming of the Christian Church. It replanted God's Church in God's Word. May we, too, be always firmly rooted in God's Word.

Pastor Dave

#### Upcoming Events

Voters' mtg – Oct 8

November – Harvest dinner, Council meeting





## Guard Your Heart

Pinkerton! What image does the name bring to mind? For many people the name Pinkerton is synonymous with security. During the Industrial Revolution many people moved from the farm to the city to find work. As this happened we saw a rise in crime resulting in increased demand for personal protection. Allan Pinkerton did volunteer police work in Illinois before being appointed a deputy sheriff and in 1849 became the first police detective in Chicago. Two years later he started a detective agency specializing in railroad theft cases. Investigating a case in 1861, he became aware of a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln during the railroad trip to his first inauguration. Pinkerton warned the president elect, plans were altered and Lincoln arrived safely. During the Civil War Mr. Pinkerton launched the Union Intelligence Service, gathering information on Confederate troops along with periodically serving as Lincoln's bodyguard. Following the Civil War Pinkerton returned to Illinois to manage his growing security agency. Pinkerton's Inc. is now an international organization providing wide ranging protective services. Security concerns have continued to be a major part of each of our lives far beyond what was envisioned at the time of Alan Pinkerton. Cyber-crimes, remotely capturing our credit card information and the reality of Identity Theft are a threat to people all over the world. While many of us are taking steps to enhance our own security, much more important is to look to God, relying on His promises to watch over those who trust in Him. Psalm 121:7-8 reminds us, "The LORD will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore".

Another critical protective effort involves guarding your mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Proverbs 4:23 says "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it". How diligent are we in practicing the things needed to protect our heart? Earlier in Proverbs 4 King Solomon says: "Hear my children, the instruction of a father and give attention to know understanding; for I give you good doctrine; do not forsake my law.... Let your heart retain my words; keep my commands and live". You can have a profound impact demonstrating and teaching your faith to your friends, children and the world.

You can also help guard the hearts of your family, grandchildren and future generations by completing or updating your personal Estate Plan, including a Charitable Gift to your favorite ministries as part of your Will or Revocable Living Trust, to help insure that the lessons you have learned and the grace-filled words of Christ are passed on for years to come.

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This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice. Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances



Joy Schroeder has a piece of artwork at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids at Tavern on the Square - 100 Ionia Ave SW - (616)456-7673.

Her artwork is entitled "I Look to the Hills" - handmade paper. ArtPrize runs September 20-October 8. Exhibit hours: Monday through Thursday 5-8pm; Friday and Saturday 12-8pm; and Sunday 12-6pm.

Also ...

She has been accepted into a third international exhibit with ISEA, International Society of Experimental Artists. The exhibit runs October 3 through November 30 at Sanibel Island, Florida. Joy will be involved with the Symposium October 23-29. See more information: <https://www.iseartexhibit.org/> Her artwork is entitled "Flashover" – handmade paper collage.



**Social Services**, in conjunction with the 500th Reformation celebration, is gathering food for the **Greater Lansing Food Bank**. Needed items are canned and boxed foods such as beans, tuna, fruit, boxed meals, pasta, peanut butter, etc. See a partial list on the kiosk or go to [greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://greaterlansingfoodbank.org). Remember that these are suggestions and not a complete list. There will be a collection box by the coat racks through **Sunday October 29**.

**If you are interested** in learning about the Stephen Ministry or becoming a Stephen Minister please contact Rebecca Baughan @ 517-898-8394 or [Baughan@msu.edu](mailto:Baughan@msu.edu) or Paul Halbig @ 517-775-9412 or [paul\\_halbig@aol.com](mailto:paul_halbig@aol.com)

**Men's Venue** for October will be October 17th @ Chili's on Marsh Road.

**Women's Venue** for October will be October 17th @ Cancun , 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos.

**Men's Movie Matinee** on Wednesday, October 25th.

**In response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma**, Thrivent is offering to double personal donations, up to \$3 million, made to an approved list of organizations. Some of the organizations include LCMS World Relief, Habitat for Humanity, and the Red Cross. For a complete list of approved organizations as well as links to donation pages visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).



Sign up sheets are on the kiosk for Coffee Service sign up and the Harvest Dinner coming up soon. Go check them out and see where you can fit in.