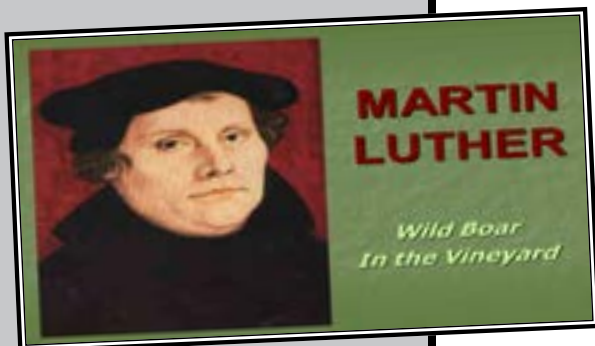


# Covenant NEWS



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## Pastor's Perspective

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

So here we are: five hundred years in the making...so to speak. In a matter of a few weeks we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (that's, of course, putting it simply). It's meant to be half-a-millennia since Martin Luther posted ninety-five matters of discussion on, basically, a community bulletin board; just one of a series of (un)fortunate events that ignited a Reformation with on-going effects still to this day.

There's plenty of history we could go into. There's plenty of glory-day-reliving that we could delve into. There are plenty of theories and propositions we could discuss regarding the future of Reformation-offshoot churches, including our own. But if there's one phrase that has stuck with me, for whatever reason, over the years in the who knows how many books and articles university and seminary professors had us read to better understand the Reformation (as if it actually still does mean something today), it's not something Luther or any of his comrades ever wrote.

Instead, it's what Pope Leo X (supposedly Luther's arch-nemesis next to the Devil himself) penned in his (in)famous papal bull after he, evidently, had finally had enough with one of his Roman Catholic flock. "Arise, O Lord and judge Thy cause. A wild boar has invaded Thy vineyard."

Now it's possible this imagery has stuck with me over the years because I still distinctly remember feeling the immense frustration with showing pigs at the county fair. It's...they're...impossible. Now, granted, I doubt any animals enjoy fairs when they're kept in small quarters, because they would obviously prefer open prairies and then some; but the term "hog wild" is beyond accurate. Let them loose in even just a large enough fenced-in space and they will run "hog wild," to say the least, into the deepest most disgusting muck you could ever imagine. Pigs are bad enough, but boars are supposed to be a whole 'nother kind of animal altogether. Pope Leo X chose his words for a reason.

To Pope Leo X, this Luther boar was running wild through tradition and history and hierarchy galore, all part of a cherished

\*\* Continued on page 2 \*\*

October-November 2017

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant*

19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 Phone: (216) 662-0370

CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net Web site: www.covenantmaplehts.org

## Congregational Assembly Meeting

Sunday, October 22, after the 9:00 worship service, we invite you to join us downstairs in the Parish Hall for our Congregational Assembly Meeting. At that time we will look over the proposed budget for 2018.

We encourage you to take part in these important discussions for the entire church family. Covenant cannot function without your help and prayers as plans are made for the coming year.

### *Save the Date!*

**Sunday, 10/1, 9:00:**

World Communion Sunday and Eucharist Service

**Saturday, 10/7, 9:30 - 1:30:**

Fall Harvest Festival & Covenant Farmers' Market

**Saturday, 10/7, 5:00:**

Blessing of the Animals & Saturday Evening Eucharist

**Thursday, 10/12, Noon:**

Retirees' Luncheon

**Sunday, 10/22, 10:15:**

Congregational Assembly Meeting

**Thursday, 10/26, 5:00:**

Covenant-Hope Community Meal

**Sunday, 10/29, 9:00:**

Reformation Sunday  
Celebrating the **500th Anniversary** of Luther defiantly nailing a copy of his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church.

**Sunday, 11/5, 9:00:**

All Saints Day service honoring loved ones who passed this year

\*\* Continued from page 1 \*\*

and mighty-fortress-guarded vineyard of God. Something had to be done to stop him, but, of course, sometimes, even in modern times, such “bad press” only further ignites a feeble flame into an uncontrollable disaster of church epic proportion.

However, in our best collective guess, Luther had no intention of ruining any vineyard, including the Roman Catholic Church itself. The Reformation took on full force through the masses (people, not worship services, mind you) of the time. They turned out to be the real wild boars whom Pope Leo X lost absolute control of; granted, Luther and plenty of the other evangelicals (being called a “Lutheran” at the time was of the derogatory nature) didn’t help matters.

But I wonder if there’s something to be said for that imagery that isn’t often thought of when it comes time to annually celebrate the Reformation (let alone 500 years of it). Should we have a little wild boar in us? Isn’t this Holy Spirit supposed to be that powerful, at minimum? Aren’t we supposed to be driven by this Greatest News of all time: that we are set free from sin and death for the sake of the world surrounding us, to the point that it should drive everything we live for in this life? Aren’t we let loose to get deep into the muck of our families, friends, and communities... eerily similar to what Jesus did for us, into the muck of death?

I don’t think God would mind us going “Christian-hog-wild” in this world. I don’t think God would mind us leaving tracks of love and compassion behind. I think God would prefer that kind of holy grime over the cleanliness. Pope Leo X was onto something after all. God did arise in Jesus Christ for us to do exactly that: wild boars set free by the Lord of the cross and the empty tomb to go absolutely wild in a vineyard that still desperately needs it. We can do no other. God help us to do it. Amen!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Brad*



Another great season! We now have more repeat customers that we have gotten to know. Although we have been inside because of the rainy weather sharing space with the Rummage Sale, both added to the sales. We are getting LED signs for the front of the Church for up-to-date messages for those passing by. Along with those waving during the Market we feel more a part of the community.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival on October 7 from 9:30 to 1:30 with pumpkins, corn stalks, tractor rides for the kids, scare crow making, face painting, and of course our produce, bakery, soups and salads along with our faithful Avon lady. Plus, don’t forget the hot dogs and pop for a dollar or add a snack for a buck fifty. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

*Dick Ptak, Director  
Covenant Farmers' Market*

## All Saints Day

On November 5, we will take time to remember those who have died from our Covenant family in the past year. Traditionally as each name is read during the prayers of intercession, a bell will be tolled and a candle will be lit.

We remember with sadness the faithful departed, our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, but, at the same time, we celebrate with joy and thanksgiving to God the life they shared with us during our pilgrimage on earth. Through faith, we have the blessed assured that we will be in communion with them again because of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who conquered death and rose to eternal life, so that we too might live a new life.

As is written in God's word through the book of Daniel: "But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever -- forever and ever."

Join us to celebrate the lives of our cherished own who will be remembered on All Saints Sunday: John Ingham, Tracy Scheller, Diane Augustino, Frank Novak, Chuck Welker, Liz Harpootlian, Bernice Lambrecht, Pastor Ken Anderson, and Bob Franz.

## Blessed Birthday Wishes to...

each of the following Covenant members born in October:

- 1st- Jane Schuetz
- 6th- Elaine Knerem
- 7th- Marquise Lane
- 17th - Katie Garberich
- 23rd - Sara (Kobella) Rittmeyer
- 24th- Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
- 26th - Steve Dobush
- 28th - Bert Zahn
- 31st - Bishop Allende,  
Ryan Spychola



and each of the following Covenant members born in November:

- 1st - Don Rusher, Jr
- 3rd- Donna Franz,  
Steve Senderak
- 7th - Donna Kobella
- 12th - Dave Gaglione
- 14th - Lois Williams
- 24th - Elsie Balogh
- 26th - Marge Kriynovich  
Vince Besdenjak
- 29th - Emily Garberich
- 30th - Dylan King

## Happy Anniversary Wishes to...

- 10/10 Donna & Steven Kobella
- 10/12 Jennifer & Steve Dobush
- 10/16 Nel & John Lanese
- 10/18 Bert & Marie Zahn  
Nancy & John Werner
- 10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak
- 11/17 Elaine & Keary Knerem

(if any important dates have been omitted, please notify the church office so records can be corrected!)



## Stewardship 2018

The 2018 Stewardship campaign will be discussed at the October 22 Congregational Assembly Meeting by Gwen Susanek, Chairperson of Board of Finance and Barb Gaglione, Stewardship Coordinator.

## Beatitudes of Acceptance

*(Author unknown; contributed by Gary Edler)*

Blessed are you who take the time to listen to speech that may be slow, for you help me to know that if I persevere, I can be understood.

Blessed are you who walk kindly by my side, for in your friendship I feel good to be myself.

Blessed are you who never bid me to hurry up, and, more blessed, you who do not snatch a task from my hands and do it for me, for often I need time rather than help.

Blessed are you who stand beside me as I enter new and untried venture, for I may surprise myself and you.

Blessed are you who ask for my help and realize my gifts and abilities, for you help me to believe in myself.

Blessed are you who help me with the graciousness of Christ, because I sometimes need help for which I cannot ask.

Blessed are you who assure me that what makes me an individual is not my particular difference, but God-given strengths and virtues which nothing can confine.

Rejoice and be glad, for you affirm my value as a gifted person and your understanding and love have opened the doors of love for me.

*In Memoriam*

The last month has been difficult for the Covenant family, with two of our brothers in Christ entering the Church Triumphant.



**Bob Franz**, who passed away on September 7 at the age of 81, was the beloved husband of Donna for almost 58 years. He was a loving father to Karla, David and Greg, who blessed him with seven cherished grandchildren. Bob has been a blessing in the daily life of Covenant since his new bride brought him in to become a member of her home parish.

The following excerpt from Pr. Brad’s homily at Bob’s funeral speaks volumes to the impact Bob had on those who knew him, even as dementia took its toll on him in the last years of his life.

“I have a feeling I had the blessing of witnessing a powerful moment in his faith journey with his Lord and Savior. Part of that journey for all of us is meant to be Holy Communion: it’s meant to be the time when we all gather together with all our shortcomings, all our worries, all our fears, all our sorrows; and come to the table setup by Jesus Christ Himself Who will hopefully make it all better somehow, Who will somehow nourish us for the journey that still lies ahead.. And yet, it turns out to be just a part of the normal routine in the grand scheme of life. We walk up, we take the bread, we drink, and we go back to our seats; we go back to the normal routine of life, as if it’s just a given that this God loves us that much, as if this meal is, yeah, slightly more special than any other, as if our very soul does not receive a little extra divine jolt with what our Savior did for us long ago on a Calvary hill and still does for us right here, right now. Bob ruined the normal Christian routine about a month ago. He was given the bread, but he refused to follow the standard operating procedure by immediately putting that piece of the body of Christ into his mouth and move about the day as if nothing happened. No, he paused, and held that precious piece of Christ’s body given for Bob in his hand for what seemed like an eternity in comparison to the rest of us normal Christians. Now it sounds incredibly cliché to say Bob lived life to the fullest and took the time to stop and smell the roses (or the honey or the maple syrup for him), but maybe it just sounds incredibly cliché because it’s just not anywhere near our normal standard human operating procedure: to take the time and stare at a piece of bread. Or to take the time to get to know customers at your store, to make them feel as if they’re worth more than just the money they’re going to pay you. It’s just...such things take time, but so precious time, to say the least. I like to think about a month ago Bob was still providing his own critical witness to the rest of us on this journey we call life. Bob, in his own unique way, saying, you can’t rush these things. So maybe there is something to that piece of bread, after all; something worth taking a little extra time on this journey we call life to wonder about; just how mind-boggling to consider what this God thinks of us: to not only love Bob and all of us so much that we’re worth dying for, but that we’re worth coming back to life for, and even worth going back into the darkest valley of the shadow of death for, back to show Bob a lakeshore with the eternal vista ahead. No more pain, no more anguish, no more push from the rest of the mortal world to rush life along; just peace, just all the serenity we cannot even begin to imagine; just all the time of eternity to enjoy forever.”

**Pastor Kenneth Anderson** passed away on August 31 at the age of 85. He is survived by his two daughters, Nadia and Elena. Most recently, he served as our interim pastor from September 2014- June 2015. That was his third association with the Covenant people. In January 1998, he was assigned here for six months as a part of the process of candidacy for ordination. His second association with this congregation was in 2008-2009 when he was called to serve as the interim pastor, prior to the arrival of Pastor Allende.

He wrote, “My three-time associations with you, the Covenant people, has encompassed a 17-year period... I have regarded the Lutheran Church of Covenant as a place of spiritual connection. During that first association in 1998, I developed a feeling of personal connection with the people here; that connection has been strengthened during the second and third associations at Covenant. When I have returned to serve as interim pastor in 2008 and 2014, I became very aware of the faces and voices of a number of good friends whose physical lives had ended during the times I was away. I am very grateful for the ability to maintain relationships with many of you over the past 17 years.”



At his farewell luncheon, we gave him handmade bookends with symbols of Covenant, Maple Heights, Luther, and faith, to represent the fact that his pastoral career began and ended with Covenant. The sense of connection and love he described was mutual with our congregation, because he provided a crucial source of healing, strength, and stability during the very critical transition period in 2008. He touched the lives of many individuals here at Covenant and the congregation as a whole.

# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant October 2017

See Pages 9 & 10 for landscape-oriented calendars for easier viewing in pdf format

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM: Maud Wright Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: A. Treichel & B. Treichel AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Dick & Madeline Ptak	1 World Communion Sunday 9:00 Eucharist 10:15 Sunday School Hour	2	3 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	4	5	6	7 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market & Fall Festival 5:00 Blessing of Animals and Sat. Eucharist at Covenant
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		***** 8:00 - 2:00 ECOT Testing in Parish Hall Oct. 23 - Nov. 3 *****					
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11/5/2017: AM: Nel Lanese; Cruc: Katie Garberich; Ush: A. Treichel & B. Treichel; AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn; Greet: Janet Wilkens

\*\*Triune\* = Triune Lutheran Church 4810 W. Mill Road, Broadview Hts. \*

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\*"Triune" = Triune Lutheran Church 4810 W. Mill Road, Broadview Hts. \*

## Sunday School and Retirees

**Sunday School classes have resumed.** Rev. Harry Werner will be teaching a unified class for all of the adults. Chuck Dickey and Jody Bernardo look forward to leading the teens and younger students.

**The next Retirees Luncheon** is set for Thursday, October 12 at noon. Mark your calendars!

The featured speaker this month is Mary Ferfolia, who will speak about pre-planning for funerals.

If you have an idea for a guest speaker, or a topic you would like to learn more about, please contact the church office.

As we approach the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a number of commemorative events are taking place around northeast Ohio!

Updates & links are available at <http://neos-elca.org/reformation-events/>



**October 7: 7:30 p.m. – Firelands Symphony Orchestra presents “Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 5: recognizing the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation,” Sandusky State Theater.**

**October 14: 7:00 p.m. – “Katie: My Life with Martin Luther” – a Musical Event Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 17989 Chilicothe Road, Chagrin Falls.**

**October 22: 6:00 p.m. – Synod-Wide Reformation Hymn Fest and Sing A-Long, Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 W. Market Street, Fairlawn.**

**October 23: 6:30 p.m. – viewing of “Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World” Regal Willoughby Commons Stadium 16, 36655 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby.**

**October 24: 7:30 p.m.- viewing of “Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World” Tinseltown, 7401 Market Street, Boardman.**

**October 29: 6:00 p.m. – Common Commemoration Ecumenical Evening Prayer service, St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown (sponsored by the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission).**

**October 29: 7:00 p.m. – The 32nd Anniversary Festival Celebration of the Reformation and a Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Union Avenue (St. Rte. 183), Alliance.**

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant proudly presents its annual

## St. Nicholas Festival

The St. Nicholas Festival is free & open to all children of the community along with their parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents & friends, who are welcome to assist the children with crafts & activities.

All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

**Friday, December 1, 6:45-8:30 pm.**

**Registration required and space is limited to the first 40 children, ages 3 - 8th grade.**

**Please contact the church office to register:  
CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net or 216-662-0370**

Festivities Include: Fun Advent Crafts, Christmas Music, The Story of St. Nicholas, Light Refreshments of Cookies & Punch.



# Covenant NEWS

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

## Help the Church avoid additional postal fees; please notify us of your address change.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter online instead, contact [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net).

The newsletters are always available our website [CovenantMapleHts.org](http://CovenantMapleHts.org).

### Adopt-A-Turkey Southeast Clergy Hunger Center Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Southeast Clergy Hunger Center continues to feed families and individuals in increasing numbers. Because the U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving less food to the Cleveland Foodbank, the Hunger Center's funds don't go as far. As a result, the Center is asking member churches to consider an "Adopt-a-Turkey" drive to provide turkeys for the families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To that end, Covenant has established an "Adopt-a-Turkey" fund. On average, turkeys run from \$12 to \$14 dollars each. If you are so moved, please make a contribution to the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center, either directly or through the Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



## Let's Do Lunch!!

Thursday, October 19, 2017

South Haven United Church of Christ  
415 Northfield Road, Bedford

*Southeast Clergy Meals on Wheels, Inc.  
is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all-volunteer  
program since 1976.*

Go for a ride with our volunteers as we deliver meals to our clients, meet other volunteers, and enjoy a free lunch on us. Meet us at **10:30 am**; lunch served at **12:30 pm** when the routes are complete.

Become a volunteer serving residents in the 44146 zipcode area.

**RSVP: 440-439-0302**



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