

The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

September – October, 2017

Volume 12, Number 3

Notes for a Reformation

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest any man should boast”

Ephesians 2: 8-9 (RSV)

The year is 1517. It is the evening of October 31. We are standing quietly outside a Catholic church in Wittenburg, Germany. The night air is very still. **SUDDENLY**, we hear a loud banging noise on the door to the church! This is no ordinary rap on the door. It is the sound of nails being driven into the door. The nails hold several sheets of paper to the door. On them, in German, are written 95 short statements or “theses.” These 95 “theses” are 95 propositions for theological debate. Among other things, they argue that the Catholic practice of indulgences cannot remove guilt, doesn’t apply to purgatory and is harmful, inducing a false sense of security in the financial donors. Our actor’s name, the one with the hammer, is a Catholic monk named Martin Luther (pictured above).

One question had deeply troubled brother Martin. “How can we know we are saved?” The Catholic Church had believed that one must work their way to salvation. In so doing, God will have “grace” upon the believer. Martin had tried very hard. If there was a contest for “monkery,” he would win the top prize! Yet, in his mind, he remained troubled. Then, like a proverbial strike of lightning, he was reading the book of Ephesians and had a revelation! It is by grace, and not works, that we are saved through faith (2: 8-9). That revelation, and now these 95 theses, would spark a revolution in Christianity. The “Reformation” had begun. Those following Luther, the ones who “protested” the status quo, became known as “Protestants.”

- Please see **Reformation**, page 5

**It is time to gather together to kick off
the 2017 – 2018 Sunday School Year!**



Rally Day

Sunday, September 10, 2017

1st Congregational Church of Genesee
United Church of Christ, Inc.
W306 S5075 Church St., Genesee, Wisconsin

*“Let the children come to me, do
not hinder them; for to such belongs
the kingdom of God.”*

- *Mark 10: 14*

WELCOME MEMBERS AND FRIENDS...

to the September-October, 2017 edition of the Genesee Church Messenger. Our Sunday service time is 9 AM through the remainder of 2017. Our church shares the Rev. Peter St. Martin with the Hartland UCC – who currently have their service at 10:30 AM. Children in our Sunday School are part of our services until the Children’s Message time. Then they are released to go to class. Join us for worship this coming Sunday.

From the Pastor

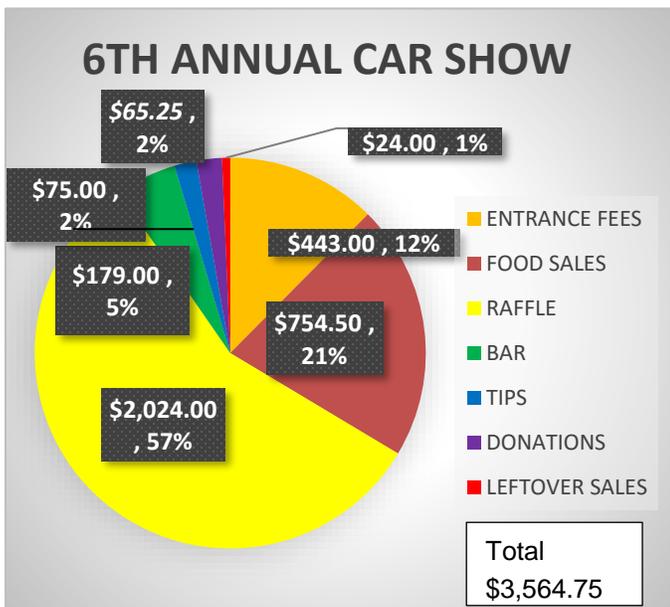
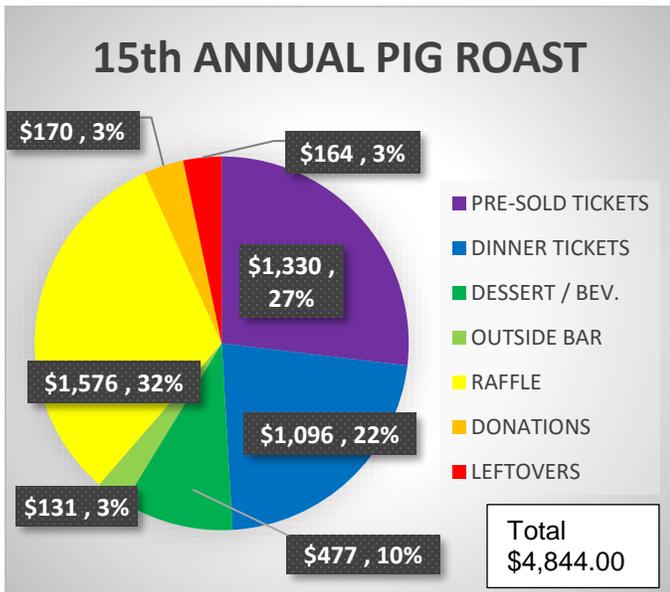


“What do we do now?” she asked me. I have been hearing the moan of many from the news broadcasts and from the neighbors at the coffee shop. Even though August is typically a slow news month, it has been anything but slow. What do we do? A woman asked me this question, probably thinking that as a pastor I should have some insight on this. Well, I will give you what I got!

THANK YOU FOR BEING ...

... A PIECE OF THE PIE.

Our church had two great events this summer. Our 15th Annual Pig Roast & Luau was Saturday, July 15 and our 6th Annual Car Show was Saturday, August 12. A special thank you to Bob Williams for organizing the Car Show, and to everyone who made these events possible.



The hubbub in the news lately is largely directed at the controversy of removing and relocating the statues of the Civil War, statues honoring the military and civilian leadership of the Confederacy. The crystalizing event was the demonstration and counter-demonstration in Charlottesville, VA, which involved a shocking expression of racism, the death of one and injury of many. The occasion resulted in troublesome responses from government officials, especially the response of President Trump. Last Sunday (August 20) I addressed this disturbing array of news stating that, while we would hope for a sense of “sanctuary” in our Sanctuary, we are called to confront in word and deed. Respite from life’s storms will have to wait. You will find the sermon manuscript by clicking on <http://ucchartland.com/worship/080820.pdf>. Suffice it to say that I called on President Trump to be more direct in his condemnation of white supremacy groups. His statement that there was violence from both sides excuses the white supremacists and provides fuel for a rebirth of their movement.

But what do we do? The schedule of readings for Sunday, established years ago and far-removed from the current controversies, have been remarkably relevant to our current circumstance. For this meditation, I invite you to remember the Gospel reading for August 13 (Matthew 14:22-33), the story, familiar to many of you, about Jesus walking on the stormy waters to meet the boatful of disciples struggling to stay afloat. Peter was at first frightened by this apparition, and then he was bold enough to dare to ask Jesus to allow him to walk out on the water to meet him. Jesus tells him instantly, “Come!” Peter takes a few steps, but then he allows himself to be overwhelmed by the prevailing spectacle of wind and waves. As he let the sea and the storm take over in his mind, he loses his nerve and starts to sink. He calls out to Jesus for help, who reaches out and rescues him.

Among the many points of the story is this one. Jesus will reach out and grab us, in spite of our faltering faith! Hence, we must not let the wind and the waves of the present troubles have undue influence on our lives. The “storm” is an impressive spectacle, but the voice of God, which was once characterized as a still, small voice, will prevail.

From the Pastor - continued

What do we do? Go out and walk by faith. Let your words and deeds show that faith keeps you afloat. The effect of our actions and words may not calm the seas. We may not have enough ability to transform the world, but we can effect transformation in our corner of it. Micah declared that God only requires that we "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with [our] God." (6:8) So let us do our humble walk and trust that God will multiply our efforts. We must not let the wind and the waves bring us to helplessness and a feeling of futility. Give the world what you've got! God will supply the rest.

Pastor Peter

e-mail: smartpb@msn.com
(c) 262-720-6939; (h) 262-201-4033

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR SHUT-INS

It has come to our attention that those who are shut-in may like to have communion served to them. If you are a shut-in and you would like communion, contact our church deacons, Pastor Peter or the church office.

Diane Sickels – deacon	262-968-3954
Pastor Peter	262-720-6939 (c)
Church Office	262-968-3849

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: "The Upper Room" for September-October, 2017 are available in the church entrance. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Education Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at 262-968-3849 for details and a rate schedule.

MESSENGER AVAILABLE VIA E-MAIL

The Messenger is now sent out as a "PDF" file to all members and friends with known e-mail addresses. If you are not receiving your newsletter via e-mail, and you have an e-mail address, send an e-mail to LTLBURD@aol.com and the secretary will get you on the e-mail list. You will also receive weekly church news updates. Also, let us know if your e-mail address changes by sending an e-mail using your new e-mail address. Thank you for helping us save mailing costs.

FOOD PANTRY HAPPENINGS!

Food collection is on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Donations are welcome anytime.

SEPTEMBER - Hand Soap, Dish Soap and Laundry Detergents



OCTOBER- Treats – Juices, Cookies, Fruit cups, etc. OR YOUR CHOICE



The Food Pantry can use all items so whatever you donate will find a home and be appreciated. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Thanks again ... from so many people

- Marleene Bloom

HARTLAND HAPPENINGS!

The Hartland Church invites the Genesee Church members to join in on our Raffle to be held at the Hartland Church! The prizes are ready as follows:

- #1. A Giclée print of a painting by water colorist Barbara Sorenson Rambadt. Framed and signed, it is called "Alpine Poppies".
- #2. Two tickets for a Badger game on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Camp Randall Stadium, Madison.
- #3. A handmade quilt by Judy St. Martin. The pattern is Fancy Shadows. The size is 92" L X 80" W.
- #4. \$250.00 cash prize

The prizes will be on display at the Hartland church during September. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00, and are available September 1 until the time of the drawing. See Judy and Pastor Peter St. Martin for tickets.

The drawing for the winners will be held Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 11:30 at the Hartland Church, located at 111 Church Street; parking lot entrance is on Capitol Drive.

Thank you for joining in on our Raffle!

Betty Baxter, Women's Fellowship, First Congregational Church, Hartland

Service Opportunities

CLEANING GOD'S HOUSE

A list of the job duties, as well as a signup sheet, is posted in the church entrance. You and your family/team will sign-up to clean for a ONE MONTH period. We supply all the equipment you will need. Scott Burdette, 262-968-3830, has a key and can answer any of your questions. A special "thank-you" to the Groskreutz family for cleaning our church in July and August. Thank-you in advance for your service.

September – YOUR NAME HERE

October – YOUR NAME HERE

November – YOUR NAME HERE

December – YOUR NAME HERE

We are looking for a group of people to help clean the church and the Education Center – once a month. If we get enough people, it might take only an hour or two.

Contact Carol McCormick at 262-968-2388 or e-mail carolmccormick13@gmail.com. Once I hear from everyone, I will set up a meeting.

Thank you.

Carol McCormick

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

ushers

The following teams are **scheduled** to usher on Sundays in September, October and November. Arrive by 8:30 AM. Hand out bulletins, greet people, light candles and take collection. Bring treats for those who stay to visit after the service. For the latest update, or if you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please notify Diane Sickels at 262-968-3954.

September 3	Kim Sussek / Clara Honeyager
September 10	Clarice & Jerome Applegate
September 17	Bob & Glenda Williams
September 24	Sam & Sherra Meeth
October 1	B. J. & Angela Williams
October 8	Donna Engnath / Barb Stachowski
October 15	Tom & Donna Zivney
October 22	Greg & Debbie Chesney
October 29	Rich & Rochelle Groskreutz
November 5	Ron & Kris Kingery
November 12	Ali & Gary Schmidt / Madie / Lily
November 19	Brent & Carrie Fintel
November 26	Marleene Bloom / Mary Ann Ludtke



Go Pack Go!

HOPE CENTER – 2018 service dates

Our remaining 2017 date is Wednesday, October 18. Our 2018 service dates are Wednesdays March 28 and October 17. Put these date on your 2018 calendars. Thank you for your service.

Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in September, October and early November. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. See individual articles for details.

SEPTEMBER

- SU 3** 9 AM service at church w/ communion
MO 4 **LABOR DAY**
TU 5 Deacons: 5:45 PM / Executive Board: 6:30 PM
SU 10 **RALLY DAY**
GRANDPARENTS' DAY
MO 11 **PATRIOT DAY**
FR 22 **1st DAY OF AUTUMN**
 Autumnal Equinox: 3:01 PM CDT
WE 27 Reformation Class, St. Martin home, Wales,
 7 PM

OCTOBER

- SU 1** **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**
 Neighbors in Need offering
 9 AM service at church w/ communion
TU 3 Deacons: 5:45 PM / Executive Board: 6:30 PM
WE 4 Reformation Class, St. Martin home, Wales:
 7 PM
MO 9 **COLUMBUS DAY**
WE 11 Reformation Class, St. Martin home, Wales:
 7 PM
WE 18 Serve at Hope Center: 5 PM
 Reformation Class, St. Martin home, Wales:
 7 PM
SU 22 Newsletter Copy due
SU 29 Halloween Safe Spot: 4 – 7 PM
TU 31 **HALLOWEEN**

NOVEMBER

- WE 1** **ALL SAINTS' DAY**
TH 2 Deacons: 5:45 PM / Executive Board: 6:30 PM
SU 5 9 AM service at church w/ communion
Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends
"Fall Back" one hour

Reformation – from page 1

Today, 500 years later, we live in a very different world than the 16th Century of Martin Luther. Yet, in the realm of religion, some things have not changed. Every major world religion, except Christianity, and many denominations within Christianity, still practice salvation by works alone. Like Luther, they try really hard but always fall short. Furthermore, of those who are of the Protestant tradition, many have fallen short in their religious practices. If next Sunday is a typical Sunday, only about one in six of those belonging to a Protestant church will actually attend services. Even fewer will open a Bible to study the word. How can we follow the word, and share the word, if we do not first “hear” the word? God, send us a reformation!

The book of James goes even further. James reminds us to not only be hearers of the word, but also doers of the word (1:22). Martin Luther had called James “an epistle of straw,” because it seemed to emphasize works and diminish grace. Yet, only a cursory reading of James would lead to this conclusion. James does note that faith, without works, is dead (2:17). While he did state this, it does not mean James is voting for works alone and he does not consider grace to be foremost. James is a practical disciple. He is showing us that good works are the practical way we put our Christianity into action. If you want to show that a crime has been committed, you first examine the evidence. In a similar way, James would argue that good works, while not leading to salvation, are the evidence that one has been saved by grace. You will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:16) If we just tell God’s message to others, and show no good works related to the message, our words are as useful as a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. (1 Corinthians 13:1) Good works are not only evidence; they are the result of a personal reformation. They are the joyous response of a joyous heart in response to the grace of God, who has provided us salvation through His only son: Jesus.

In 1517, Martin Luther came to the door of a Catholic Church in Wittenburg and changed the very course of Christianity. Today, Christ is standing at all our doors and he is knocking. (Revelation 3:20) Let him in! Post an invitation on the church door. Come! Hear the word! Know the word! Live and share the word! Come to feast at the table set forth by our Lord. Let the reformation begin!

Scott W. Burdette

- at the front doors of Genesee church – August, 2017

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is “Pastor Appreciation Month.”

**2...4...6...8, who do we appreciate?
Pastor Peter St. Martin!**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES ON REFORMATION

September 27 – October 18, 7 PM

Some of you are aware that it was 500 years ago this year on October 31st that Martin Luther is said to have posted his 95 Theses on the door of Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany. His document was an explicit challenge to the Roman Catholic Church and a call for debate and reform. This event has traditionally marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

In that spirit, I will be offering a class to reflect on the significance of this movement. We will do some historical exploration, but the main focus will be on how this movement has shaped the Church of Jesus Christ today. This will be a 4-session offering held at the St. Martin’s home. We will be using a study guide from the United Church of Christ. I have copies available for those who are interested. Please contact me if you wish to obtain one. I will accept a reimbursement of \$3.95, if you choose, but you may also just take it at the Church’s expense.*

Pastor Peter

**251 Lincolnshire Place, Wales*

Hwy. 83 north from Genesee to the Hwy. 83 / Hwy. 18 Roundabout. Right turn onto Hwy. 18 and a quick right turn into the first street on the right (Lincolnshire Place). Go to end of street.

HALLOWEEN SAFE SPOT

“Trick or Treating,” in the Town of Genesee will be on Sunday, October 29, 4 – 7 PM. During this time, our Ed. Center will become a “safe spot” for children in the community. We will provide special treats for the children. Additional help is always welcome. Call the office at **262-968-3849** to volunteer. Bring treats!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)

Sunday, October 1 is World Communion Sunday. That Sunday our church will have the opportunity to share communion with a multitude of brothers and sisters in denominations worldwide. On October 1, **YOU** will also have the opportunity to participate in a special offering, one that will make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us. “Neighbors in Need” is a special offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **Mark Sunday, October 1 on your calendar** and have your special offering ready for this great cause.

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the November-December, 2017 edition is Sunday, October 22. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to: LTLBURD@aol.com. Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burd

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017



Our VBS Beach Bash was awesome!

Thanks to all who came to our VBS Beach Bash, August 8-9-10, to 'Meet Up with Jesus'. During the week we had 25 children participate under the guidance of 5 youth leaders, 8 adults. It was great to see new and familiar faces of our Sunday school kids, grandchildren, friends and neighbors in the community.

We began each day at our Beach Bash assembly where we sang songs, watched our theme video and learned our Daily Action point and Bible verse of the day and mission project offering. Then we cruised to Bonfire Beach Stories with Pastor Peter, Surf's Up Crafts, Snack Shack Munchies for our theme snacks and Wacky Wave water games. And we had a great picnic.



Our Mission Project benefits the Hope Center of Waukesha County. Each day we dropped our daily offering into our Sea Creature Tide Pool and gathered socks at our Rockin' Socks Hut. Our VBS donated 50

pairs of socks and \$63.69 from our daily offering to buy even more socks which the Hope Center needs desperately!



Thanks again for your support of VBS and all Children's Ministry programs!



Rhea Whiteley

Puzzle Challengers

ACROSS

- 1 Batter's stat.
- 4 Leave out
- 8 New York's canal
- 12 Age
- 13 Mexican snack
- 14 Leonardo's "____ Lisa"
- 15 Furthermore
- 16 Handling
- 18 Eyed slyly
- 20 Tofu ingredient
- 21 Lassos
- 23 School org.
- 26 Heroic tales
- 28 Lose hope
- 30 Graduates' garb
- 31 Pro
- 32 Detail
- 33 Sports VIP (hyph.)
- 35 Host ____ King
- 36 Behold
- 37 Pizza seasoning
- 39 Rebel general
- 40 Made amends
- 43 Recommended
- 47 "____ Maria"
- 48 Fabric joint
- 49 Large bodies of water
- 50 Golly!
- 51 Gambling game
- 52 Quiz
- 53 Make mistakes

DOWN

- 1 Not imagined
- 2 Fido's treat
- 3 Impossible to erase
- 4 Furry swimmers
- 5 ____ Gras
- 6 Frozen water
- 7 Bread browner
- 8 Television award
- 9 ____ v. Wade
- 10 Tavern
- 11 Gobble up
- 17 Hurl
- 19 Track events
- 22 Cherish
- 23 Support for an institution
- 24 Stadium part
- 25 Military branch
- 26 Historic periods
- 27 Warsaw native
- 29 Keyboard instrument
- 31 China, Japan, etc. (2 wds.)
- 34 Baby's "piggies"
- 35 Most recent
- 38 Parties
- 39 Exec's car
- 41 Constantly
- 42 Bambi, for one
- 43 Interrogate
- 44 Poor grade
- 45 Mover's vehicle
- 46 Busy buzzer

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
		21				22				23	24	25
26	27					28			29			
30						31			32			
33				34				35				
36				37				38				
			39					40			41	42
43	44	45				46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

Answers to previous puzzles in July-August Messenger

The Reformation – WORD SEARCH

As you find the words, from the WORD LIST, in the grid below, in any direction - vertically, horizontally or diagonally - circle each letter in the words. The remaining letters spell out a special message.

I	P	S	E	S	E	H	T
N	A	T	L	T	E	I	D
D	G	H	B	A	Y	G	R
U	A	E	A	C	I	E	A
L	N	O	R	L	N	T	E
G	Y	L	Y	A	O	O	Y
E	U	O	C	P	I	S	C
N	A	G	A	A	T	V	I
C	E	Y	P	P	A	D	T
E	E	T	A	H	V	M	E
S	D	R	P	B	L	O	R
O	I	U	G	U	A	N	E
H	C	F	A	L	S	K	H
I	T	T	H	L	X	X	X

M	O	C	H	A		R	E	D		T	A	R		
O	B	O	E	S		E	S	E		O	L	E		
D	E	V	A	S	T	A	T	E		L	A	D		
E	Y	E	D		A	D	E		P	E	S	O		
					S	L	E	E	P	E	R			
S	I	S			T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	E	
A	R	O	S	E					E	N	T	E	R	
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R			E	E	R	
					C	E	R	E	A	L	S			
S	K	E	W			A	L	L			D	O	Z	E
O	A	R			T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	D	
A	T	E			E	E	N			E	L	A	T	E
P	E	R			A	R	T			A	L	L	A	N

WORD LIST

- BULL, THESE
- INDULGENCES
- PAPACY, DIET
- LAITY, HERETIC
- EDICT, PAPAL
- THEOLOGY
- SALVATION
- MONK
- PAGAN

Answer to: PIG ROAST! WORD-DOKU

!	R	I	A	P	O	S	T	G
O	S	A	T	I	G	!	P	R
G	P	T	S	R	!	O	A	I
A	I	P	G	T	S	R	O	!
S	G	R	!	O	P	T	I	A
T	O	!	R	A	I	P	G	S
I	A	O	P	S	R	G	!	T
R	T	G	O	!	A	I	S	P
P	!	S	I	G	T	A	R	O

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NEWSLETTER SEP/OCT 2017

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Receive your next newsletter via e-mail. Send a text message via e-mail to: LTLBURD@aol.com
“Put me on the Genesee Church e-mail list.”

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RALLY DAY

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9 AM Sunday Worship

Sunday School
- during the worship time