



OCTOBER 2026



VICAR'S NOTES

Why Martin Luther Posted the Ninety-Five Theses

On October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. While many people picture this as a dramatic act of rebellion, Luther's original purpose was much more pastoral and academic. He was concerned about false teaching that was harming Christians and wanted to begin a theological discussion about repentance, forgiveness, and the proper role of indulgences.

At the time, indulgence sellers were traveling through Germany, promising that the purchase of an indulgence could reduce punishment for sins and even benefit loved ones who had died. Many ordinary Christians came to trust these certificates rather than God's promises in Christ. Luther, a professor of theology and a parish pastor, saw people being misled into believing that forgiveness could be obtained through money rather than through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. This troubled him deeply because it obscured the Gospel.

Luther's study of Scripture, especially the book of Romans, had convinced him that sinners are justified only by God's grace through faith, not by human works or payments. As he listened to the claims of indulgence preachers, he became increasingly concerned that the church's practice was leading people away from true repentance. The first thesis reflects this concern: when Christ said, "Repent," He intended that the entire life of a believer be one of repentance.

The Castle Church door served as a public bulletin board for university announcements and academic debates. By posting the Ninety-Five Theses in Latin, Luther was inviting scholars to discuss and evaluate the teaching and practice of indulgences. His intention was not to start a new church or launch a worldwide movement. Rather, he hoped the church would examine the issue in the light of Scripture and correct abuses that had crept into Christian practice.

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However, the theses were quickly translated from Latin into German and distributed throughout Europe. What began as a local academic debate became the spark that ignited the Reformation. Luther's challenge raised larger questions about the authority of Scripture, the nature of salvation, and the church's teaching.

For Lutherans today, the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses is not primarily a celebration of protest. It is a reminder that the Gospel must remain at the center of the Church's life and teaching. Luther spoke out because he wanted people to place their trust not in human works, religious transactions, or church traditions, **but in the saving grace of Jesus Christ**. His desire was that sinners would find comfort and certainty in God's promise of forgiveness through faith alone. That message remains the heart of the Lutheran Church and the enduring legacy of Reformation Day.

Vicar Collins Sita.

Prayer Requests

Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Pat Finkenbine, Judy Guastella, Joyce Krug, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluntz, and Pauline Vickey.



Prayers for Friends and Relatives:

Karen Bartram, Jacob Bennett, Joseph Caivano, Bonnie Chancellor, Michelle Cote, Darla Finkenbine, Carolyn Francis, family of Rosanne (Cherylann Galway's good friend), Glenn Galway, Mary Golden and the family of John and Mary Golden, Mikayla Hacksunda & family, Paul Keese & family, Brett King, Ann Ledesma, Esther Murphy, Michael Murphy, Don Rattey and family, Karen Wasson-Geis, Tammy Wasson, Basil & Debra Wetherington.



Financial information is available to
all members upon request.

Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We are currently studying the Gospel of John.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, . Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God's Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God's Word and its application in our lives. We are currently studying the book of Romans. All are welcome. Please consider joining us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Yvonne Brussel at yayabrussel@yahoo.com or at 516-476-8241.

**PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --Oct 17th**

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciation Day every month. There is outside work to do and cleaning and dusting that needs to be done inside the Church. If you can help, please come by the Church and we will put you to work. Please search your heart to see if there is anything you can do to help maintain and beautify the Lord's home and property.

Property Appreciation Day is the THIRD SATURDAY of every month

SERVING THE LORD

Vicar	Collins Sita
Secretary	Michelle Kluver
Organist	
Choir Director	
Newsletter	Pat Finkenbine
Child Care Director	Samantha Espinoza-Margarito

OFFICERS

President	James Kruse
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Lori Wasson

BOARDS

Head Elder	Mike Nagel
Christian Ed.	Yvonne Brussel
Human Care	Cathy Mielke
Assimilation	
School Board	
Stewardship	
Comm & Parish Fellowship	Catalina Bakas
Financial Secretary	
Endowment Fund	
Property Mgmt.	

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild	Catalina Bakas
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***The deadline for the November 2026 Newsletter is October 18th.
PLEASE have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above. Thank You!***

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Glory be to God in the Highest!

As I approach the 20th anniversary of my father's death and think back upon his life, I have been pondering the one hymn I was allowed to pick for his funeral service ... "Onward, Christian Soldiers".

And as we at Redeemer struggle with financial instability, stagnant growth, and the loss of our school, I again turn to the words of this old favorite Hymn for strength and direction. They are so powerful, and meaningful, I feel compelled to talk about it and its meaning.

Spiritual Warfare: While the hymn uses many words known to us as terms of physical warfare, it is really speaking about Spiritual Warfare. The spiritual struggle against temptation, greed, falsehood, gossip, and the evil forces of Satan.

Christ as Leader: The hymn proclaims Jesus Christ as our "Royal Master" and "Commander". The "*cross of Jesus going on before*" means Christians are to follow Christ's example and sacrifice; and not try to accomplish things on our own.

Church Unity: The second verse says, "We are not divided; all one body we." What joy to know we are not alone. We are a body of believers that must stand together in hope, faith and love. Lean on your Brothers and Sisters in Christ and likewise give them the support they need.

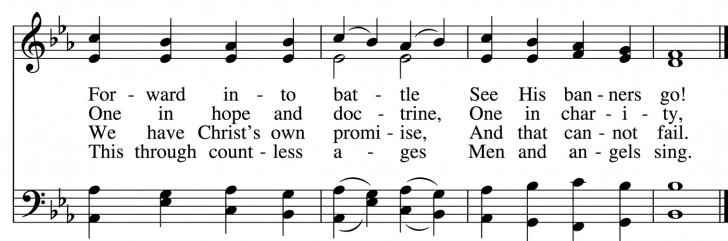
Perseverance: The hymn urges all believers to keep moving forward. Keep growing in faith. Stand up for Christ. Support the Bride of Christ - the Church. Spread His Word to all nations. Do not become lazy or inactive in faith or doing good works, but work to strength your faith and help all people in the name of Christ. Never give up.

Your Sister in Christ,
Lori Wasson

THE CHURCH MILITANT

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Onward, Christian Soldiers



Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.
Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

ST. GERTRUDE
6 5 6 6 5 D

Text and tune: Public domain

Mary 16:1N, Ps. 145, IV, Eph. 4, 4, 6, 6, 10, 1D

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

UPCOMING EVENTS / INSPIRATION

Upcoming Events at Redeemer

10/04/26	Sun	10:30am	Coffee Hour & Bible Study
10/07/26	Wed.	12:00pm	~~Elders Meeting~~ (See Lori for new date/time)
10/08/26	Thurs.	8:30am	Children's Chapel
10/08/26	Thurs.	9:30am	Table Talk
10/11/26	Sun.	9:15am	Divine Worship – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
10/11/26	Sun.	10:30am	Fellowship Lunch & Bible Study
10/14/26	Tue.	12:00pm	All Church Luncheon at Lighthouse Grill
10/15/26	Thurs.	8:30am	Children's Chapel
10/15/26	Thurs.	9:30am	Table Talk
10/17/26	Sat.	10:00am	Property Appreciation Day
10/18/26	Sun.	9:15am	Divine Worship – Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost – Communion w/ Rev. Mathews
10/18/26	Sun	10:30am	Coffee Hour & Bible Study
10/19/26	Mon.	7:00pm	Gulf Coast Bead Society
10/21/26	Wed	12:00pm	Church Council Meeting
10/22/26	Thurs.	8:30am	Children's Chapel
10/22/26	Thurs.	9:30am	Table Talk
10/25/26	Sun	9:15am	Divine Worship – Reformation (Red)
10/25/26	Sun	10:30am	Coffee Hour & Bible Study
10/25/26	Sun	11:00am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
10/29/26	Thurs.	8:30am	Children's Chapel
10/29/26	Thurs.	9:30am	Table Talk





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE**

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE**

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

Church Phone: 941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am



The Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:

- ♦ *Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*
- ♦ *Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
- ♦ *Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*
- ♦ *Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16)*