

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Faith alone, in Christ alone

"I will speak of your testimonies before kings, O LORD, and shall not be put to shame." Ps. 119:46

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am sure that most of you know what important event happened in the life of the Church this month, 500 years ago. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses — statements that he wanted to debate — on the doors of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The Bible passage I am using for our meditation is the antiphon verse for the Introit on Reformation Day.

You see, Luther was not planning on starting a revolution, but wanted to redirect or reform the Church back to Christ and Him crucified. Luther's words and actions surely spoke of our Lord's testimonies before kings, princes, bishops and the pope. God worked through Luther to refocus His Church, to save His Church — by listening to Scripture alone, saved by faith alone and grace alone; to preach Christ and Him crucified; to proclaim God's Law and Gospel; to release God's people from the burden of the Law, not with gold or silver, not by family members or property, not through anything that you do, but only by the blood of Christ.

Luther showed us that God has justified you, and brings you to faith through God's Holy Word combined with water in Holy Baptism. He keeps and strengthens you in the faith, through the hearing of God's Holy Word and receiving His precious body and blood in the Lord's Supper to strengthen you and sustain you through life's burdens.

You see, dear saints in Christ, for you who trust, believe or have faith in Christ's promises, you shall not be put to shame. For the work of your salvation is finished. It is completed! You are redeemed, bought back and made heirs with your brother, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Donald Klatt
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

Scholarship recipients

Eleven scholarships have been awarded by the LWML Minnesota North District for the 2017-18 school year. The recipients are:

Concordia University, Chicago
Riley Springer and Michael Thomas

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.
Emily Safarik, Cara Schmidtke, Eve Vrudny and Madison Schellack

Concordia University, Nebraska
Aubrey Akerson

Concordia Theological Seminary, Forth Wayne, Ind.
Stephanie Wilde (deaconess program), Josef Muench and Berett Steffen

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Andrew Coop

The LWML Minnesota North District has been awarding scholarships to full-time church work students for more than 50 years. The scholarship funds come from your mite offerings, as do the funds for all the LWML Mission Grants.

Please continue to support our students through your prayers and your mites. To obtain a scholarship application, go to the "Resources" page at lwmlmnn.org.

The application deadline is May 15, 2018.

Bible study retreat



The LWML society at Trinity Lutheran Church, Isle, recently held its annual Bible Study Retreat at Camp Onomia. Connie Strandberg led the study based on Eccl. 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." From left, (front row) Strandberg, Vera Rick; (back row) Karen Roeschlein, Glenna Zortmann, Jennie Determan, Laura Determan, Debbie Weeda, Jean Read, Donna Dobbelaire, Evi Moss and Carol Ann Sander.

Apply for mission grant

The application for mission grants (to be voted on at the 2018 LWML district convention) is available to download at lwmlmnn.org under the "Resources" tab (select "Forms/Applications" from the drop-down menu).

The application must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2018.

For more information, contact Sue Zeige at missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org or 218-301-0167.



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