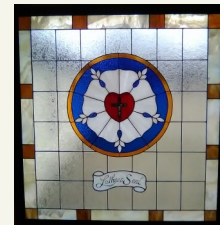




NEWSLETTER

Church E-mail Address:
info@gracelutheranaurora.com



Grace Lutheran Church

By Grace Through Faith

Birthdays

11/02: Lora Wright
11/06: Michael
Lampe
11/09: Bill Michel
11/09: Gary Gardner
11/15: Debbi Lynn
11/17: Bill
Thompson
11/18: Diane
Thompson
11/19: Jennifer
Lampe
11/21: Ruth Stoddard

Anniversaries

11/02: Bill & Sandra
Whalen
11/13: Michael &
Jennifer Lampe
11/21: Charlie &
Edith Chambers



As I sit down to write this, the upcoming Sunday is when we celebrate the reformation. The key issue of the reformation was the question: How are we made right before God? Or asked a different way, How are we justified?

One of the most important documents to come out of the reformation is called the Augsburg Confession. It was presented on June 25, 1530, to the diet (Imperial Meeting) held in the city of Augsburg. The Lutherans presented the Augsburg Confession as their statement of what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. Article IV of the Confession states a clear and decisive answer to the questions raised above: How are we made right before God? How are we justified? The answer for the early Lutherans was founded on Scripture (see Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5, etc.). It is worth quoting article IV in its entirety:

“Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4 [3:21–26; 4:5].” (*Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, page 33).

Notice that the Confession first says how people are **not** justified: By *their own* strength, merits, or works. In other words, there is **nothing** that you or I can do in order to put ourselves in a right relationship with God. You can serve everyone. You can say all the right things. But that will not restore you to a right relationship with God.

So, how *are* people justified/made right with God? The Confession speaks of Christ and of faith. About Christ, it says that He has “made satisfaction for our sins” by His death on the cross. That is to say, by His death, He has forgiven you all your sins; all of your sins are gone! About faith, the Confession says that through faith we believe that we are “received into favor and that [our] sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake... God counts this faith for righteousness.” In other words, the faith which trusts God’s promise of forgiveness through Christ is counted by God as righteousness. Amazingly, God Himself is so gracious as to give us this faith, too, in our baptism.

So, as we approach Reformation 2025 and beyond, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, remember this: By grace through faith in Christ, **you** are made right before God. Thanks be to God!

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Heitshusen



HAPPENINGS AT GRACE

The Annual **CAR SHOW** was held on Saturday, October 4th, at Oak Park in Aurora. The weather was beautiful. There were a lot of vehicles to enjoy.

**I Thank God**

I thank God for the sunshine,
For softly falling rain;
The farmer, who plants and tills,
For the fields of golden grain.

I thank God for the flowers
That from budding bushes form;
For honeysuckle and roses sweet,
Though rose bushes have some
thorns.

I thank Thee for the winter storm
That lays the land to rest;
And again for the early spring
Which brings such happiness.

I thank Thee for my loved ones,
For friends I chance to meet,
For neighbors kind on every side
All up and down the street.

But Father I thank Thee most of
all
For the gift of your precious Son;
Who gave His life on Mount
Calvary
For me, when earthly abode is
done.

—Doris H. Thompson

I have held many things in my
hands, and I have lost them all;
but whatever I have placed in
God's hands, that I still possess.

Martin Luther