Ulzen is a town in northern Germany that lies on the edge of the Luneburg Heath. It is about two and one-half times the size of Hutchinson and much older – its founding dating back to the 1200’s. I visited there with my oldest son a number of years ago. I was surprised to find a bust of Martin Luther in the town center. I told Gerry that I did not know Luther had been in this part of Germany. He replied that he did not know that either. He added, however, that it is not unusual to find busts or statues of Luther throughout northern Germany because he was a national hero – but not necessarily because of the reformation of the Church.

The truth is, the Reformation spawned changes in much of German life and culture – the effects of which continued for years. It is 500 years since the Reformation began. I sense that some are having difficulty getting up for it. Events that took place five centuries ago are long past. What does that ancient history have to do with us today? True, Lutheran Christians might have more of an interest. After all, we belong to churches that are called “Lutheran”. But that, in itself, doesn’t mean that we are interested in the life and times of Martin Luther and the reforms that he started. Many congregations have and still do attempt to educate their members about Luther and provide an overview of the Reformation. But unless you are really into history, retaining all that information might not be a priority.

Let me suggest a reason why I believe that observing this anniversary is important – for there is a very significant connection between Luther and our modern age. It has to do with our salvation. I know some have accused Lutherans of regarding Luther as divine – perhaps even worshipping him. “You talk more about him than about God and Jesus,” they may say. Hopefully, that is not the case. But the link that ties us to Luther is the clarity with which he spoke of salvation as revealed in the Bible. That clarity was not found in Luther’s early life. But as a result of different life experiences and his intense study of the scriptures he came to the realization that what the Catholic Church was teaching about salvation was not the message stated in the Bible.

Luther’s insistence that a person is saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus as made known in the Scriptures and that our works have nothing to do with our getting to heaven – is the very center of what the Reformation was all about.

To be sure, this is a very brief summation of events that occurred many years ago. But we who are living in 2017 can benefit from the struggles and the conclusions of Luther. When our last hour comes, we want the assurance that we will be welcomed into Paradise with Jesus. This assurance comes from a reliance on the promises given to us by God in the Bible. For we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, as made known in the Scripture alone. This understanding is the connection that links us to Luther who lived so many years ago. May our observance of the 500th anniversary in 2017 give us an ever-growing appreciation of God’s great love for us and all people.

Pastor Bode
**Baptisms**

Sept. 10    Eric James Broll, son of Allen & Ashley Broll  
Sept. 10    Cole Richard Sifferath, son of Jason & Amanda Sifferath  
Sept. 24    Gustav Eric Arndt, son of Eric Arndt & Brittani Waldorf

**Weddings**

Sept. 23     Ann Janning & Tony Olson  
Sept. 30     Kelly Nelson & Chad Beilke

**Funerals**

Sept. 7     Stella Fisher, 86, passed away  
Sept. 12    Raymond Muckala, 90, passed away  
Sept. 21    Shayne Zieman, 45, passed away  
Sept. 25    Emma Rewerts, 87, passed away  
Sept. 26    DeLoris Celander, 90, passed away

**Memorials**

**Mildred Braun Memorial**  
Tell the Next Generation $450  
Landscaping 65  
Peace Lutheran Cemetery 5  
$520

**June Schulz Memorial**  
Tell the Next Generation $2325  
LLCC 20  
Parish Health – Taxi 50  
$2395

**Membership Changes**

**Received by Transfer**

Joe & Kristin Perrault, Judah*, Micah* & Johannah* from St. John’s Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN

* baptized member

**Transferred to Another Congregation**

Cynthia (Brede) Windschitl & Sara Yarand to Faith Lutheran Church, Staples, MN

**Official Acts**

**Sunday, October 1st**

8:00    Scott and Shannon Streich and Family  
9:15    Chris and Jolene Dennis  
10:30   Darlyn Egge & Roselyn, Sophie & Maggie Markgraf

**Sunday, October 8th**

8:00    Bo and Stacy Miller & Family  
9:15    Gus and Grace Wurdell  
10:30   Ross Wendling & Family

**Sunday, October 15th**

8:00    Scott and Shannon Streich & Family  
9:15    Dale and Shari Zieman  
10:30   Eric and Kari Gehrke & Family

**Sunday, October 22nd**

8:00    George and Sally Moehring  
9:15    Tony and Kim Borka  
10:30   Shirley and Jackie Fuchs

**Sunday, October 29th**

8:00    Troy Kurth  
9:15    Darrel and Shelley Rusch  
10:30   John and Sandi Lietz

**USHERS**

October 8:00 = Team 1  
10:30 = Team 3
Our Annual Women's Retreat titled "LOST BUT FOUND" will be held on Saturday, October 7th from 9am until 12:30pm.

This is sure to be a great morning for all ladies, young and old, getting together to learn how we are LOST but FOUND through Jesus and his promises to us. Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers for a morning of music, speakers, fellowship and lunch.

Cost is $10.00 per person. Tickets will be on sale in the church office until Thursday, October 5th. Mark your calendar!!

WE HOPE TO SEE FAMILIAR FACES AND SOME NEW ONES, TOO.
SAVE THE DATE!
Operation Christmas Child

Peace Lutheran Church will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. This program collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel. In the hands of local churches, it is a powerful tool for evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication. Many shoebox recipients also enroll in a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, where they learn to follow Christ and share with others.

You can be a part of this worldwide effort to grow the Kingdom of God even in places where the Gospel has never been heard by donating toys such as a doll, soccer ball and pump, a stuffed animal, fun toys, hygiene items (no gels or liquids), school supplies or donations of $9.00 to send a box. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive these gifts.

Drop your items off in the green box in the commons area or in the office. Packing day at Peace will be **November 5th at the 9:15 worship service in the Peace Center.**

Wanted: Ladies to Help Us!

The Crafters and Vendors are having their **3rd Holiday Sale** on Saturday, December 2. This year the Youth have two other groups to serve for, and cannot help serve coffee, goodies, and lunch. So, we need volunteers to bake cookies and bars, make chili and coffee, and to work serving for hour shifts. Please call Carole Hannemann (234-8989) if you can help in any way.

There will be more information for crafters and vendors in November. Table/space rentals and donations for food, etc. will go to **Tell the Next Generation.** We also need people “just looking”, and buying on Saturday, December 2. See you soon!

Prince of Peace Retirement Living

Prince of Peace Retirement Living is looking for volunteers. If you would like to serve a noon meal on the weekends or have musical talent you’d like to share, contact Destini and she will visit with you about what we are searching for.

If you belong to a group or organization and are looking for a guest speaker, please do not hesitate to call me at 234-7588. I am available to come and share information about Prince of Peace Retirement Living, Healthcare Directives, or a variety of other topics.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, “The News” electronically, please let me know at merline@poprl.org and I will add you to the list.

Merline Duering, Ex. Director
Is God Calling You To Serve
As A Host For This Fall’s
Small Group Series?

This fall Peace Lutheran will launch its Annual Fall Small Group Video Study the week of October 15th. The video series is titled “Follow” by Pastor Andy Stanley, a respected Pastor and gifted communicator. (Please see additional information on series under separate Messenger article). Last year we had 20 hosts with the goal of 25 for this fall’s series.

Do you have a Heart for People? Do you enjoy a discussion with a group of your friends over a Cup of Coffee and a Snack? Do you have an interest in learning more about the video series “Follow” by Andy Stanley?

You may be saying, “I have never hosted a Small Group Study before. Will there be printed materials, training and ongoing support?” Yes, the committee for this fall’s small group campaign will provide you with all that you will need to be a host, step by step, including leader’s material, resources and orientation/training meetings.

Please prayerfully consider if God is asking you to serve as a host for this fall’s Small Group Campaign, “Follow” by Andy Stanley. Be assured I look forward to visiting with you and answering any questions/concerns you may have.

-Paul Berg 320-587-3031 paul09@hutchtel.net

-Therefore, let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another.

Romans 14:19

-Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12
Date Set for Launch of
Fall Small Group Campaign
“Follow” by Pastor Andy Stanley

The launch of the Fall Small Group Bible Study Campaign will be the week of October 15, 2017. This fall’s theme is “Follow” based on the teachings of Jesus on being a disciple as recorded in the Gospels.

Pastor Andy Stanley, a gifted communicator and creative teacher will present the Gospel accounts on “Follow” through video. Each small group over a cup of coffee and a snack will have the opportunity to discuss the teaching of Jesus.

Religion Says, “Change and you can join us”. Jesus says, “Join Us and you will Change”.

Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn’t what Jesus says to do at all? Jesus’ invitation is an invitation to a relationship, and it begins with a simple request: follow me. He just wants all people to follow him. Being a sinner doesn’t disqualify anyone. Being an unbeliever doesn’t disqualify anyone. In fact, following almost always begins with a sinner and unbeliever taking one small step.

- Watch the Sunday Bulletin and Web Site for additional information on signing up for a small group. (Please also read the separate article on Hosting a Small Group also in this Messenger)

- Prayerfully consider joining us in this eight-session video-based Bible study, as Andy Stanley takes us on a journey through the Gospels and traces Jesus’ teaching on what it means to follow.

If you have questions on signing up for a small group or have interest in serving as a small group host, please contact Paul Berg 320-587-3031 paul09@hutchtel.net
A Mighty Choir will sing for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Sunday, October 29th at 10:30am worship. All ages are welcome to join us. Rehearsals are Tuesday nights in October at 5:30pm and Wednesday afternoons 3:45-4:45pm (Oct. 4, 18 and 25 during Youth Group and following afternoon confirmation). If you would like to sing but you are unable to attend either of these times, please see Dr. Joan.

Thank you to the PRAYZ team for singing throughout the summer! All youth and children are welcome to join us! See Dr. Joan for a yellow T-shirt! We sing for all family worship services, 5:15 worship in Advent and Lent, and for 9:15 worship in the summer. The next family worship time is Sunday, November 6th at 9:15am for Operation Christmas Child.

Confirmation PRAYZ TEAM. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to sing for the start of our worship time every Wednesday. We practice at 6:00pm and sing at 6:15pm. Join us!

Hard Hat offering music. Children and youth are encouraged to provide music for hard hat offerings on the last Sunday of each month (6:15pm, 8:00am or 10:30am). See Dr. Joan to sign up.

New AV teams are forming for fall. Please stop by the AV booth (Sanctuary or Peace Center), or see one of our team leaders: Kevin Schmuhl, Eric Padrnos, Justin Evenson, Ross Peterson and Brian Gartner. This is a great opportunity for families and youth to participate in worship and serve! A signup sheet for confirmation students is on the reception desk in the lobby.

HCVN - Channel 10 has given us two additional time slots for worship. The 8am worship is playing in DVD format on Sunday at 7pm and Thursday at 10am. The 9:15 worship is playing in BluRay format on Wednesday at 5pm and Sunday at 10am (one week after the actual service). In addition, our summer concert series programs are playing at various times throughout the week.

If there is someone willing to stay after worship to burn a BluRay (12:00-1:30pm each Sunday) and deliver it to HCVN, we would be able to televise our 10:30 worship service in High Definition. Please see Dr. Joan if you are interested in serving with this important ministry.

New Member Welcome & Congregation Informational Meeting
Sunday, October 22

The congregation is invited to join in welcoming new members at a lunch in the Peace Center after the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 22.

Following the lunch, an informational meeting will be held. This is an opportunity to get an update on all the activities at Peace and meet the most recent new members.
Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship
Come Join Us!!
8:15 am & 9:15 am

Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship has begun. There will be two opportunities to participate each Sunday Morning.

The 8:15 am class will be held in the office conference room and the 9:15 am class will meet in Room 209 on the upper floor of the education building. This schedule allows you to select a worship service of your choice and still participate in one of the Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship opportunities.

The classes will be led by Pastor Pasche, Pastor Bode, and Paul Berg. Along with fellowship and time in God’s Word, there will be coffee and bakery items each week. Mark your calendar, plan to attend, and invite a friend and/or neighbor.

Martin Luther & The Reformation
Reflection Back 500 Years
Videos and Discussion

This year 2017, we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. What a wonderful time to reflect back 500 years to the time of Martin Luther for a greater understanding of the times, the culture, the people, and the reformation movement. Those participating in the Sunday morning Bible Study will both enjoy and grow in their understanding of the man Martin Luther and the historic events that changed history and the fundamental teachings of the church.

The class sessions will be centered around video presentations from Lutheran Hour Ministries and the newly released movie on the life and times of Luther. Come join in!!!!

Give by Texting - 320.310.4695 Enter the amount you wish to donate, placing a $ in front of the amount. Then press send. (First-time donors will be prompted for initial information.)

QR Scanning – Download a QR Scanner App on your smart phone and scan the QR Code. This option offers multiple gifting choices.
Hunger Free Backpack Program
Hunger Free and Common Cup Ministry are again teaming up to supply weekend food for those students on the assisted school lunch program. This year approximately 220 plus students (county wide) will be served with food in their backpack for the weekend. Peace Lutheran members can assist with this program in a couple ways:

- Donate funds ($210) to sponsor a student for the school year. (Tax deductible check to Common Cup and dropped off at the church office).
- Donate the following food items – Kraft Macaroni and Cheese – Easy Mac – 6 servings per box – or – Jif To Go – Natural Creamy Peanut Butter – 8 servings per box. Drop off these items in the grocery cart in the commons area.

Thanks for your support.

COMMON CUP MINISTRY WARM COAT DRIVE BEGINS

Common Cup Ministry will be sponsoring a Warm Coat and Clothing Drive. They are asking for donations of 0-18 year-old’s coats, larger men’s and women’s coats (sizes 2X and up), and warm outerwear for children and young adults (snow pants, boots, waterproof mittens).

The coat drive collection will continue until October 16th with collection boxes placed in your church and at the CCM office at 105 2nd Avenue. Distribution will take place at Maplewood Academy (820 Main St N) on Wed. October 18th 10:00am thru 5:00pm.

Cash donations and volunteers are welcomed and needed to keep this project going. Volunteers are needed for sorting, hauling, setting up and distributing throughout the project dates. Please contact Bev Bonte at 320-234-8344 for more information.
There are BIG CHANGES to our youth programs this school year!

Descriptions and Registration for most of our youth ministry programs were listed in the “Student Programs Registration” Flyer that was enclosed in the past September newsletter.

Please grab a Fall Brochure from the youth board in the ramp way or from the info desk at Peace Place for the complete Youth Ministry Schedule. Also, all events are on Google Drive Calendar.

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THANK YOU for bringing in your Plastic Bottle Tops – we’ve reached our goal!
The youth are so grateful for all the plastic bottle tops you donated for their Patio Project at Peace Place. The youth hope to complete the project later this fall. Stay tuned! However, now we have a: NEW! Youth Request!!
The youth are looking for old keys for an upcoming Christmas Craft project. Any kind, style or size is fine. OLD KEYS can be donated at the counter in the ramp way near the youth bulletin board. Thanks in advance!

Help serve lunch to over 400 high school youth!

Peace hosts Thursday Free Lunch (through Hutchinson Area Youth-HAY! Ministries) at Crosspoint (across from the high school). Adults, consider volunteering your time, if you are available during the day. NEW TIMES FOR 2017-2018! We are excited for New Century Academy to be joining us this year, because of their new location. This year there will only be 2 lunch times, and they are earlier! This will mean serving lots more kids each shift. Therefore, we will start prepping at 8:30am, and should be done and cleaned up by 1:00 – 1:30pm. Talk to Erika if you are able to help for part of the day, or to help the entire time. Also, please pray for the young people who are able to hear the word of God each week through this outreach ministry. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATES: Peace will serve Thursday lunches on December 14, February 22, and May 3.
Workshop Wednesdays for Elementary Youth will begin October 4
Children will meet at "The Rock" on the Southeast corner of Park Elementary and will be escorted by adults and youth to Peace. We enjoy a snack, a Bible study, and the children choose a class that they would like to learn about. This is an opportunity for children to explore and learn about a variety of things they are interested in.

Some examples are beginning German, Spanish, beginning sewing, first aid, painting, pottery, raising chickens, or cooking. This is also a great way for children to make new friends with adults and youth. Children may be picked up at 4:45.

Help Wanted!! If you have a special hobby or talent that you would like to teach our Elementary Youth, please contact Sandy Kephart. We are looking for workshop teachers for our Workshop Wednesdays. You choose the class age, and number of students you want, and we will provide the support. Each class is a commitment of 45 minutes for 4 Wednesdays from 4:00-4:45. This is a great way to engage with our youth.

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Our next Monthly Munchies will be on Sunday, October 8th. We will be selling anything made with Pumpkin or Squash. Our location will continue to be in the Commons Area.

If you would like to donate please bring your munchies in a disposable container, or come back and pick up your container after the 10:30 service. We invite the entire congregation to purchase these seasonal treats! All proceeds will go to Tell the Next Generation.

Matthew & Johanna Markgraf and Family
Eric & Cassie Padrnos and Family
The Vice President opened the meeting with pledges to the flags. RoxAnn read a devotion. Secretary’s report was approved as written. Treasurer’s report was approved as written with a balance of $4353.78.

**Correspondence:** A thank you card and a $125.00 donation was received for serving Wallace Plath’s funeral. A thank you card from Merline Duering for our donation to Prince of Peace Retirement Living, and also received a thank you from Merline for the $35.00 gratuity for speaking to Dorcas. She requested that the check be voided and the amount donated to the Sunday School program.

**Cheer:** Gloria reported that 29 local visits were made, 10 cards mailed, a card with $10.00 was sent to LWML in memory of Delmer Sturges.

**Card Shop:** Gloria reported that seven boxes and 13 single cards were sold for a total of $62.00. Gloria ordered 54 boxes of greeting cards, 13 boxes of sympathy cards, 25 boxes of Christmas cards.

**Mission Servants:** Phyllis reported that 5 members worked at the Bethesda Thrift Store on Aug. 25th. Mission sewing date is Sept. 22nd.

**Christian Life:** Fall Conference Rally is scheduled for October 16th at 7pm at St. James Lutheran Church at Howard Lake. Gifts from the Heart will be cash donations for Lutheran Disaster Relief. The McLeod Zone will be electing a new president and vice president.

**LWML:** LWML Sunday will be October 1st. All Dorcas members are asked to wear purple.

Program was Cindy Haugland of Tidy Tightwads Cleaning Service giving some tips about downsizing.

**Outreach:** Motion approved to give $200.00 to McLeod Hunger Free Backpack Program and $200.00 tuition to each of the two students from Peace attending Our Savior’s school.

**Upcoming events:** The retreat “Lost But Found” will be held on Saturday, October 7th, from 9am to 12:30pm. Tickets are $10.00.

No meeting will be scheduled for October, as members are encouraged to attend the retreat and the rally on October 16th at Howard Lake. Membership: 26 members and 3 guests attended.

Hostesses were Marith Witte and Karla Wosmek. Meeting adjourned with the common table prayer.

Marianne Johnson, Secretary
Opening Devotion: Pastor Pasche opened with a passage from Matthew, Chapter 11, and then with a word of prayer.

Call to Order: Nick

Members Present: Paul Berg, Lee Uldbjerg, Lynn Brown, Nick Brellenthin, Mike Eggert, Cindy Mons, Heidi Sickmann, Pastor Bode, Pastor Pasche, Deanna Puchalski, Justin Evenson

Ministry Structure
Dr. Phil Johnson presented a program entitled “Missional Formation,” which is a process designed to help leaders of churches to think, plan, and act in line with the Great Commission. Emphasis is on mission. Whatever potential plan that is developed would be specific to PLC. There are three phases: phase one is missional assessment, phase two is consultation and prescriptions, which includes gathering data about history of congregation, worship, bible study, etc. All staff and congregation members would be included in this phase which would last three months. Two to three recommendations would be made after this phase is completed with a report presented to the congregation. After a month, a congregational meeting would be held, at which time the congregation would choose whether or not to adopt the recommendations and move forward with the plan which is phase three. Phase three is a two-year process. A trained coach is provided for pastor and church leaders as well as lay leadership training. Three-year investment to the congregation is $2,000.

Approval of August Minutes
Lee made a motion to accept the minutes and Mike seconded with all voting aye.

Treasurer’s Report
Mike reported that we are in better shape than we were at this time last year. $40,000 was paid back from the money that was borrowed on the line of credit. It is open enrollment time for insurance. A couple of employees will likely be adding insurance which will add approximately $15,000 to the 2018 budget. General fund had a negative balance of $57,489.26 and Little Lambs account had a positive balance of $8,799.48. Cash flow in all accounts had a negative balance of $82,405.72. Building maintenance account had a balance of $51,183.37. Building fund mortgage had a balance of $25,577.49, leaving 2.03 months in reserve. Cindy made a motion to approve with Lynn seconding and all voting aye.

Little Lambs Accounts Receivable
Mike shared that he would like to “clean up” the balance sheet and remove the non-cash accounting transactions.

Secretary Job
Five applicants applied for the twenty-hour secretary position. Interviews were conducted today and will be completed tomorrow.

Scholarship
Mike presented current policy for scholarships and asked that everyone review and share their thoughts at the October meeting.

Budgeting Process for 2018
Mike asked if we would like to use the same process as last year which involved asking church leaders to present their budgets to Mike. From their input, he then developed a proposed budget for the upcoming year. The general consensus was that the process worked smoothly.

Ministry in Motion
Dan shared that the committee has held several meetings in the past month. Videos will be created along with the identified missions at PLC. The first video will be presented in November with the remaining continuing in January.

Funeral Policy
Pastor Pasche presented the updated funeral policy which was approved at the last Elders’ meeting.

Ministry of Operations Report
New phone system is installed. Paul reported that there are some wonderful options with this new system. Adult bible study will begin this Sunday with 8:15 study held in the conference room, and 9:15 study held in the upstairs Sunday School wing. Small group study entitled “Follow” will be starting this fall with groups starting in late October.

Pastors’ Updates
Pastor Bode shared that he greatly appreciated his anniversary celebration. Pastor Bode will be attending a conference in Wisconsin next week. Focus will be on discipleship. Pastor Pasche passed out pictures of new members along with their biographies, compiled by Jan Bakken. New member classes will begin in two weeks. Confirmation starts tomorrow, and Pastor was excited to share that he had openings for three mentors, but five mentors came forward—what a blessing!! New website is being developed.

Pastor Bode closed with a word of prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Lynn Brown, Mission and Ministry Secretary
Reformation Sunday Celebration - Sunday, October 29
Worship Services 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30
German Dinner 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dinner includes:
Chicken in White Wine Cream Sauce over Spatzle, German Potato Salad, Smoked Sausage, Red Cabbage, Sauerkraut, Apple Cake with Caramel Sauce, Rolls, Pickled Beets, Dill Pickles and Beverage

Suggested Donation:
$8.00 for Adults
$5.00 for age 10 and under

Hosanna Handbell Concert Performing in the Peace Center