

inspire!

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Wayzata Community Church
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inspire the world with the inclusive love of Jesus

Always Reforming

By Rev. Rustin Comer, Minister of Faith Formation

On October 31, 1517, in Wittenberg, Germany, Martin Luther posted his thoughts about some theological topics and the practices of the Church. That simple action began the Reformation — a movement that changed Western society and Christianity forever. As the reformers looked at the European church, they saw an institution that had wandered from the heart of the gospel. Roused to action by the corruption and abuses they saw in the church, visionary pastors and leaders like Martin Luther and John Calvin spearheaded a movement that transformed Christianity and eventually led to the emergence of the protestant denominations that exist today. The Reformation sought to reorient Christianity to the original message of Jesus and the early church. This year is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation movement Martin Luther began in Germany. Over the month of October we will celebrate the reformation and the clarion call to **be a church that is always reforming.**

Out of the reformation came five important rally cries that have shaped the Church throughout history. The “Five Solas” are five Latin phrases that summarize the essential doctrines that separated Protestants from Roman Catholics. “Sola” is Latin for “alone,” and was coupled with other words to demonstrate how the Christian life is experienced.

Sola gratia, sola fide, sola scriptura, Sola Christus, and Sola De Gloria — by faith alone, by grace alone, by Scripture alone, through Christ alone, for the glory of God. The key to Reformation theology is found in God’s love for people.

Always Reforming, continued on page 2



*By grace alone
means that God
gives His love
freely.*



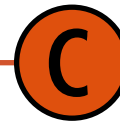
Solas Sermon Series

We will begin a new sermon series in October: *Solas—The Reformation 500 Years Later*. Read more on page 2.



Parables

There is a reformation breaking out at WCC that declares this: the Church is incomplete without our brothers and sisters with disabilities. More on page 4.



Differences Make Us Whole

Jesus reminds us that unity begins in the church and moves out into the world. Read this thoughtful reflection from Rev. Danielle Jones, on page 9.



Siblings at the Grahm Camp in Sosan, India
 “When asked, they told me they were siblings and they love their life out of the city chaos.”
 —Siddhant Soni, photographer (Unsplash)

Always Reforming, from page 1

By grace alone means that God gives His love freely. People don't earn God's love. By faith alone means that those who are in relationship with Jesus are given direct access to God's love and forgiveness. Faith is something God gives to people through His Holy Spirit. By Scripture alone means that God has revealed His truth through the Word of God. The Bible as part of the Word of God, then becomes our source and norm for the truth about God. This doesn't mean that the Bible is the only place where truth is found, but it does mean that everything else we learn about God and the world, should be encountered in light of Scripture.

This is really the focus of the Reformation. God's grace, our faith and the Scriptures are all focused on Jesus Christ and all for the Glory of God. The Reformation moved the focus from the Church to Jesus. When Martin Luther understood Jesus as the center of all of Scripture and man's relationship to God, he saw everything in light of this relationship between God and man. This moved him to teach about the Christian's role in society, the role of the government, and how individual Christians live out their faith.

Throughout these 500 years the church has been in a constant state of evolution. With each generation comes new changes, new opportunities, for the community of faith to draw deeper and more clearer into the love of Jesus. Join us as we celebrate the reformation and seek new ways for Wayzata Community Church to re-form and more emulate the inclusive love of Jesus.



Solas—The Reformation 500 Years Later
 A SERMON SERIES CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
 October 15-November 5, 2017

The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century changed Christianity forever. As the reformers looked at the European church, they saw an institution that had wandered from the heart of the gospel. Roused to action by the corruption and abuses they saw in the church, visionary pastors and leaders like Martin Luther and John Calvin spearheaded a movement that transformed Christianity and eventually led to the emergence of the Protestant denominations that exist today. The Reformation sought to reorient Christianity on the original message of Jesus and the early church.

The “Five Solas” are five Latin phrases that became the rallying cry of the Reformation. They summarize the essential doctrines that separated Protestants from Roman Catholics. “Sola” is Latin for “alone,” or “only,” and was coupled with other words to demonstrate how the Christian life is experienced. Over this series we will explore these historical statements, view them through our contemporary context, and explore the continued call to reformation as followers in the way of Jesus.



in[]between

Ancient and Modern Reformers

In Between is a new learning opportunity specifically connected to sermon series in order to take the teaching from Sunday sermons a little deeper. It's called in[]between because it is exactly that— in[]between our 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services. This series will be a “TED-like” experience, telling the stories of ancient and modern reformers. Join us at 10:10 a.m. in the Piper Library for great coffee and 15 minutes of learning and discussion.

- Week 1: Luther
- Week 2: Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Week 3: Zwingli
- Week 4: Jim Wallis



for the moment

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister

The Rummage Sale

Join me in looking back to the past, in order to look ahead to the future.

No. Not OUR Rummage Sale. THE Rummage Sale.

Historians, theologians, sociologists and other people of faith from virtually every discipline will acknowledge that since the 1st century founding of Christianity, a major RE-formation of the Christian church has taken place about every 500 years.

That is to say, the collective church sorts through all that it has accumulated over recent centuries, and sends to the recycling center what feels like extra baggage, while preserving for the future the core essentials. Thus ushering in a new era of Christianity.

At the close of the 5th century, it was the "Great Collapse" of Rome. 500 years later it was the "Great Schism" that divided the Catholic Church. 500 years later as the printing press was invented, it was the Great Reformation that gave birth to our tradition known as Protestantism.

500 years later... is TODAY... this very month of October 2017! And who among us can deny the strong sense of RE-formation that's happening right now? Who doesn't feel the winds of change gaining speed and strength around us? From within the church as well as from outside the church.

Some view change, reform, or reorientation as bad news, denying its existence or declaring the death of the church in headlines, book titles, or the latest research findings. But a growing number of us see what is happening not as the death or decline of Christianity, but a rebirth... an emergence, not of a new tradition but of a renewed claim of God's love in Christ Jesus.

It might be easier for us to just sit back and wait for this next Rummage Sale to occur around us or happen to us, but I prefer to be a part of it. I want us to collectively participate in it — to be a part of what God is ONCE AGAIN doing through His church.

For the moment, join me in looking back to the past, in order to look ahead to the future. We will spend our Sundays in October exploring the five "SOLAS" of the Protestant Reformation of 500 years ago. This is a remarkable moment in time... let's not let it pass us by.

See you in church,

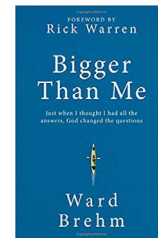
John

Rev. Dr. John F. Ross, Senior Minister



Author Ward Brehm

Bigger Than Me: Just When I Thought I Had All the Answers, God Changed the Questions



On Monday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel, Wayzata Community Church will host one of our own. Author, Entrepreneur and Humanitarian Ward Brehm will share from his new

book, *Bigger than Me*. *Bigger Than Me* is a "collection of candid reflections from a successful businessman about money, ego, truth, busyness, solitude, legacy, dying, faith, gratitude, and much more... If you have found yourself looking for deeper purpose and meaning this book will inspire you to make a course correction that doesn't involve sweeping the past aside. Rather, you can use all of life's lessons to build something new and bigger than yourself." Join us in the Chapel as Ward shares his stories and challenges us to a new way of life.