



Immanuel Lutheran Church

20 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West
Lethbridge, Alberta
403-327-4336



Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016

HEY PASTOR... I HEARD YOU SAY THAT OCTOBER 31ST IS REFORMATION DAY. WHAT'S WITH THAT?! I THOUGHT IT WAS HALLOWEEN!

Thanks for asking. With the growing popularity of Halloween in North America, which some predict will overtake Christmas, in terms of popularity; your question is very relevant.

On October 31, 1517 a theologian (someone engaged in the study religion) by the name of Martin Luther wrote ninety five statements, addressing his objection to the teaching on indulgences and other questionable practices that had arisen in the Roman Catholic Church. He nailed his writing on the wooden door of his local church. In his time, the church door was the equivalent of what Facebook is to us today. Most people point to that action on that day as the beginning of the efforts to reform the Christian Church, and turn it away from the errors that had crept into it.

This day is of special importance to Lutherans who see Luther's actions on that day as the beginnings also of what would later become known as the Evangelical (or "Good News") Church and which would be given the name "Lutheran" by its opponents.

Why did Luther choose October 31 as the date to post his writing on the church door? Within the Church at that time, November 1st was observed as one of the most holy festival days of the Church year. Everyone was expected to come to church on that day to celebrate All Saints Day. It was a festival day set aside to honour the heroes of the Christian Church, namely all those who had persevered and died confessing the Christian Faith.

On the day before All Saints, the church and church yard were all spruced up. Now you need to know that the churchyard was a cemetery. It's the place where the saints were buried. People wanted to show their respect for their ancestors by going to their graves and in many and various ways honour them. So arose what was called and still is called in Europe "All Hallow's Even(ing)." If you go to some South American countries you will see a similar event taking place around the same time of the year. In Mexico where I vacationed last winter I took a tour of a cemetery where there was a

strong practice called "The Day of the Dead." It is an attempt to take the imported European observance and incorporate it into the existing culture of the native people.

I have to be honest in telling you that I do not know the origins of the North American cultural celebration of "Halloween." There are many thoughts and theories on this. But no doubt, like our southern friends, it too was an attempt to take the imported observance and combine it with the various folks cultures that existed in North America. Our modern North American cultural observation of Halloween shares only the date in common with the Church's observation of "All Hallow's Eve" and "All Saints Day."

What may have once begun as a children's game of poking fun at defeated Satan sadly has all too often become an opportunity for people of every age to do evil and so show the power of Satan to enslave people and his work to destroy people.

Perhaps a reformation of North American culture is in order!

At any rate we would do well to honour our heroes of the faith, those common, unsung heroes who have gone before us and whose robes have been dipped in the blood of Jesus our saviour from sin, death and Satan! We do that by living the Christian Faith that has been passed down to us.

The trick is on Satan, for God in Christ Jesus has robbed him of His slaves. The treat is on us, who enjoy the work of Christ who has set us free from Satan's prison and to whom the grace of God is being poured out upon every day of our life! This is the message of the Reformation! Grace Alone! Faith Alone! Scripture Alone!

Happy Reformation Day! Happy All Hallows Eve Day!
Happy All Saints Day!

In Christ, Pastor Rob

INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR'S OCTOBER REPORT

Greetings dear sisters and brothers in Christ. This October Newsletter marks the fourth month of my work with you at Lethbridge and brings us close to the end of the first quarter of my being with you.

Blessed by God, this time next year should see you preparing to issue your call to a settled Pastor! And I will be preparing to leave you. I urge you to continue faithful in your prayers that the Lord might enable this to be so. While the work of the Pastoral Office will continue you will notice some changes. Very soon the Interim Taskforce will begin to be formed and trained for its work. This will mean that I will be spending a greater portion of my time and energy with that group of volunteers. And they will begin to set out a plan of identifying the needs of the congregation going forward. To do so they will be conducting surveys, doing interviews with members and small groups, gathering and analyzing data that will help inform and shape the congregation's call process. Please make yourself available to them as they go about their vitally important work. And continue to lift them up in your prayers.

Already the congregation is engaged upon a journey of self-discovery. Beginning in September and continuing into October the congregational members have been contributing to a time line located in the fellowship hall. If you have not yet participated in this event there is still time. Our desire is to have every member participate so that we can see the whole sweep of what God has been doing in the life of His people whom He gathered together at Immanuel. It would be a shame to have missed your part in this grand history of God's working among us. If you are having difficulty in understanding what to do, Karen Barby and her talented group of volunteers will be able to assist you in Fellowship Hall on October 2nd and 9th. You can also drop by most days of the week to add your history on to the time line.

On October 16th after worship the congregation is planning a heritage day. Everyone is encouraged to bring a potluck item to the lunch and all the better if it represents some part of your family's food heritage. Also please bring your recipe with you. We will compile all the recipes we receive and have

them available for members to take home with them. You will also be invited to take your family's fun framed snap shot during the event. And we will encourage you to take a look at the time line. What things did you discover about our history? What things were meaningful?



Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up with this event and you are encouraged to sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

My thanks to Bob and Marj Hedrich, Karen Barby, Rita Boltezar and Shirley Masnyk who make up the Heritage Taskforce and to the volunteers who helped them put this event together for us and to you, the members for your involvement!

May our gracious God continue this work that we have begun together.

In Christ, Pastor Rob

HOPE GROUPS

Please sign up today on the bulletin board to participate in the "**Hope Groups**". The meet and greet groups were very well received and we would like to continue this format of small group discussion with focus questions to continue to learn and grow together. This will help us during the interim period to bond together, build relationships, solidify our church direction, purpose and sort out concerns before calling a new pastor. The church is made up of many members and it is important that all are heard. Sign up today. If you would like to host a group or several groups please speak with Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS STARTED

Please join us Sunday school is a fun exciting learning place for all children 3- 12 years old. We welcome children able to attend anytime throughout the year. Please join us as often and as frequently as you can. Together we will learn Bible stories and Bible points to remember for our lives. Mentored by the teachers in learning, we pray the children will build a relationship with their Savior and peers. Sunday school begins after the children are dismissed from the children object lesson in church and usually ends about 12:15ish. **Please make note of our special event on Oct.30th below** and encourage your child to bring a friend!

Our lessons for Oct. are as follows:

Oct. 2, 2016 - God Keeps His Promises

Bible Basis: --- Genesis 27-29

Bible Verse: "I will be with you and give you my blessing...And I will keep the promise I made with an oath to your father Abraham." Genesis 26:3

Oct. 9, 2016 - Thanksgiving / NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Oct.16, 2016 --- God Wants Us to Help Others

Bible Basis: --- Genesis 37; 39-46

Bible Verse: --- "None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others." Philippians 2:4

Oct.23, 2016 --- God Helps Us

Bible Basis: --- Exodus 1:1-2:10; 3:1-22; 7:1-12:51

Bible Verse: --- "You are the One who helps me and saves me." Psalm 70:5b

Oct. 30, 2016-- Invite a Friend to Sunday School Day!

Theme: Pumpkin Patch Parable & activity
Bible Basis & Verses used this day will include many but here are a few. Isaiah 66:2, Acts 22:16, Psalms 51:10, Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 17:10, Psalms 103:12, 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6; 5:17, Matthew 5:16
God's Peace be with you,
Katherine Canfield
Acting Sunday School Coordinator/Parish Coordinator

LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL



Great news! Little Lambs Christian Preschool has 54 students registered in the program. Unfortunately at this time, we have no space available for any new children. During "Bible Time", the preschoolers have listened to the stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, and Noah and his Ark.

This month, we will focus on God Blesses Abraham, God's promise to Jacob, and Joseph and his Colourful Robe.

On behalf of Little Lamb's Preschool, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the holiday with family and friends.

God bless,
Teacher Carmen

MOMS TIME

This is a group of Women/ Mothers of all ages who meet the first and Second Thursday of each month; Oct. 13th & 27, 2016. This group is an opportunity to build community by providing an open, caring and accepting atmosphere where women can come together to share important season of life. A place for mentoring where mature women listen, encourage and offer information and perspectives gained through experience. A place for practical instruction, teaching focuses on areas of common interest, offering inspiration and information that is relevant to the life of a woman /mother.

Child care is provided on premise here at Immanuel Lutheran Church as available. The program is free and everyone is welcome. If you need more information please call Katherine Canfield Parish Coordinator 403-327-4336 or 587-220-1672.

Volunteers Needed and Much Appreciated - If you could provide some much needed assistance and support to our Mom's group for 1.5 – 2 hours one or two Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. a month please call Katherine Canfield 587-220-1672. Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, anyone who is loving, nurturing and see the value of supporting parents in our community is encourage to assist. The more helpers we have with rotation you may need to only do this once every couple of months.

If you missed last month and were interested in Topics do not fear we are doing them this month!

Parenting & Guidance strategies for Preschooler
Each Child is different / What is Temperament?

NEW MEMBERS

On September 11th we formally welcomed 23 new members who have made Immanuel their home church by way of transfer of membership or by way of Adult Confirmation or Adult Baptism. We rejoice to welcome: Larry Modney, Linnea and Richard Brown, Marlene Lamond, Elsie Roeder, Mavis Davidson, Meta and Vern Siemens, Pat and Don Schielke, Kent Karapita, Gloria Holberton, Audrey and Richard Regner, Geri and Bruce Mulroy, Justin Mohns, Pastor Rob Mohns, Sharon and Bob Currence, Gladys and Walter Fedoruk, Brent Kozak, Faye Kozak and Bob Lees.



PUERTO PENASCO MISSION

Thanks to all who supported the Pie Auction of September 18th. There were wonderful selections to bid on - thanks to the bakers! John Arnold did a great job of auctioneering and the bidders were enthusiastic - thanks so much! Thanks also to those that assisted with recording, set-up and clean-up. The total amount raised was just over \$5,000.00 at the auction. In addition, there were donations into the offering plate plus we will be able to receive the grant from FaithLife. So, that will put us with just over \$6,000.00 to add to the account.

I am currently in Mexico and soon will be able to connect with the families that Immanuel has helped by providing improvements to their homes. I will also be considering what our next projects might be so that I can communicate that to you. Blessed Thanksgiving to all!

In His Service,
Shirley Masnyk

From Soup to Nuts Continues
Join us weekly From 7:00 – 8:30 PM
September 22 – Nov. 24 2016



Science is built on the back of asking questions. When Evolution is treated as the last word in science, does this really promote an honest evaluation of the world around us or is there ample cause to question this perspective's assumptions? Creationism need not be anti-science – Johannes Kepler said, "Science is thinking God's thoughts after Him." In fact, Creation presents a perspective which can account for more data than Evolution can. This opportunity may be the time for you to consider what really forms the difference and ramifications behind these two world views. The following topics will be covered:

- Sept. 22**-The Myth of Pure Science
- Sept. 29**-Hope vs Despair: The Clash of Two Systems
- Oct. 6** -And There Was Life
- Oct. 13**-Death and the Value of Life
- Oct. 20**---Fossils
- Oct. 27**---Dating
- Nov. 3**---Cosmic Evolution
- Nov. 10**---First Cell
- Nov. 17**---DNA
- Nov. 24**---Humans – Evolutionary Prejudice

**YOUTH EVENT ACTIVITY
SIGN UP ASAP FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT
ON CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD IN FOYER**

You and your friends are locked inside a museum and have only one hour to find your way out. Can you do it???



When: Wednesday **Oct 5, 2016** at 7:00 pm
 Where: Escape from LA, 201 2Ave S, Suite 4
 Cost: No charge!!
 Who: Youth from Grade 7 to Grade 12
SIGN UP TODAY! DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

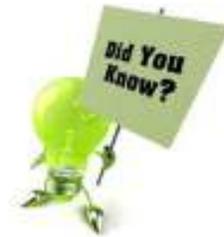
**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Financial Statement
August 31, 2016**

Year to Date	Budgeted	Income	Disbursements
Aug. 31/16	225514	209242.49	215139.72
Month of Aug. 2016	28189.25	21934.88	37987.29

LETHBRIDGE ROVING GYMS

The goals of Lethbridge Roving Gyms are to:

- Provide indoor fall and winter play space that is free of cost making the program accessible to all caregivers and young children including those who are unable to participate in other Lethbridge drop in programs due to the registration fees or location.
 - Provide opportunity for caregivers and young children to have positive interactions, increased engagement and opportunity to be physically active together.
 - Provide opportunity for children in their early years to develop fundamental movement skills to become physically literate.
 - Give caregivers and young children the opportunity to build community, friendships and supports in their community.
 - Create awareness of the importance of the early years of children's development and physically active lifestyles.
- Free registration is required
 Visit www.lethbridgeearlyyears.ca



- ◆ On Sept 11 we welcomed 23 new members into our Immanuel Family/congregation.
- ◆ Sept 18 saw a very successful pie Auction raise \$5,015.00 dollars for our Puerto Penasco mission project.. In addition Faithlife Financial gave us a matching grant of \$500.00.
- ◆ Thanks to our many volunteers, we hosted 2 funeral lunches in Sept with a total of 380 meals served.
- ◆ We also launched another year of Sunday school with 33 enrolled.
- ◆ Finally we entered our 8th year of preschool with an enrolment of 54 children!

One Sunday morning, a pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed that one man got up and left the service before he was finished preaching. Then, shortly before the sermon ended, the man returned to his pew. At the end of the service, the pastor asked the man why he had left mid-sermon. "I needed to get a haircut," the man said. "Why didn't you do that before the service?" the pastor asked. "Because I didn't need one at that point."