



October 20, 2020

Continuing Reformation

There is a unique property of metal. In a vacuum, in the absence of oxygen or other molecules, two clean, flat pieces of metal will fuse together when they touch. The atoms that make up the metal cannot determine to which piece they belong, and so form one piece of metal. This “cold welding” cannot happen when the metals are on earth because there is a thin layer of corrosion which oxygen and other particles create on the surface. It is these imperfections that create definition.

This is important to us. Our identity, who we are, is shaped by our mistakes and imperfections, those edges where we fail to hold onto our identity. Because mistakes are places where we were forced to learn, to open our eyes to the ways that we have to improve.

We are over 500 years past the day an Augustinian monk, priest, and doctor of theology asked questions about God’s grace and church practice. This was the beginning of the fracturing of the catholic (universal) church based in Rome. This was not the first fracturing of the church, nor was it the last, but it is ours.

For much of our history, this has become a point of pride. We had cast off the unbiblical practices of a wayward church and founded a pure church of Gospel and grace. Our mistake was our pride, because arguments of theological purity and demands for confessional prevented us from living together as fellow Christians. The sin of pride led both to further fractions within our own traditions as well as to our own persecutions of other Christians.

Through our pride at the adherence to Luther's revelation of "salvation by grace through faith" and its centrality to the Gospel, we try to hide the dark corners of our tradition's history. We laugh at Luther's brash and rough speech about the Roman Catholic Church, the Jews, and other folks. We forget that he incited German princes to violently squash the Peasant's Rebellion of 1524-1525, and felt complicit in the slaughter that ended that Rebellion. We forget that those who followed Luther's teachings would persecute, imprison, and execute the Anabaptists, who held to Believer's Baptism; only baptizing those who had confessed their faith and chose to be baptized.

These are our sins, the places where pride has caused us to fall.

These are places where we find life through grace and forgiveness. When I served in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, our assemblies have included representatives of the Mennonite church, who along with ELCA representatives, have spoken, powerfully, of the efforts that have been made in finding ways to seek forgiveness and to bridge the awful, vitriolic, and bloody past. At the 2016 Church Wide Assembly, the ELCA accepted a document called Declarations on the Way, which outlined points of agreement between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran traditions. While there are still disagreements that exist, we are drawing closer together.

We are not giving up what makes us Lutheran, but rather continuing the process of forming the church around the Word of God incarnate, Christ Jesus. We are embracing the reality that Martin Luther desired only to focus the church on God's grace. We see the sin of humanity's pride and how it drives us apart and through humble submission to the Gospel of Christ, we build bridges across the divisions of sin. We are not giving up our voice and our unique witness to the risen Christ, but joining our voices to the choir that is the Great Commission. To make disciples of all nations in the name of our Triune God. By Christ alone that we are saved, what we do cannot match what the Word of God incarnate has done and has inspired humanity throughout the ages before denominational lines were drawn.

We hold to the cross of Christ and its redeeming power, alone. Amen!

Pastor Justin Smoot he/him

Immediate Needs During Covid Times

Because Saint Andrew is still up and running, there are some immediate needs that need to be met during this time. If you are able to fulfill some of these needs, please fill out [this form](#) and let us know how you can help. The Saint Andrew community has continued to show its strength during this time and SALC could not be more grateful for how God is working through the congregation at this time.

Red Cross Blood Drive to Take Place

The Red Cross will be holding their annual Blood Drive at Saint Andrew on **Friday, October 30th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. If you would like to sign up to donate blood, please click [this link](#) or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 and select a time and type of donation. If you would like to volunteer your time for the blood drive, please contact Pastor Justin at pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org or call the church office.



Saint Andrew Lutheran Church Blood Drive

3200 N Mountain Rd
Friday, October 30, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Winter Clothing



Bottled Water



Hygienic Products

**WANT TO
HELP
WITH THE
WARMING
CENTER?**

Donate Items like these



Volunteers Needed for the Warming Center

Volunteers are still needed for the Warming Center. For more information on what to donate and how to volunteer, please visit [this new page](#) on the Saint Andrew website.

Listening Sessions

If you would like to give some feedback about the Plan to Gather and have your voice heard, sign up for the COVID-19 Listening Sessions through [this link](#). There will be four in-person sessions and four Zoom sessions. Please refer to <https://www.salc-wausau.org/covid/> for more information on COVID-19.

Annual Stewardship Appeal

It's time again for the Annual Stewardship Appeal. The Time & Talent booklets have been mailed and should have been received within the last week. If you haven't received yours, contact the church office or you can go the church website under the Calendar/Forms tab, see what opportunities are available, and fill out a card online. Due to COVID-19, there are immediate short-term needs and several ministries need new members. Please look for opportunities where you can participate and contribute.

In addition, the mailing for 2021 pledges will be coming out soon. Saint Andrew is blessed to have a very generous membership with about 60% pledging each year, but that means we must guess what the rest of the giving will be. With offerings down this year and considering the uncertainty of what 2021 will bring, our ministry leaders, now more than ever, need to know what resources they will have to do the ministry of Saint Andrew next year. We are asking you to please return your pledge card this year to help us do our planning.

For all that you do and all that you share toward the mission of Saint Andrew, thank you.

Mark Gleisner, Finance/Stewardship Chair

Christmas Poinsettias

Though it seems a little early to think about Christmas, Jesus' birth and maybe snow, we do need to think about poinsettias. Orders need to be placed much earlier this year because of the current situation with Covid and the earlier deadline the florist was given by their vendor. If you would like to help beautify the altar at Christmas with a poinsettia



to remember or honor a loved one, fill out [this form](#) or you can call the church office. The cost for these is \$11. ***All orders must be in by October 30.***

Honoring Our Beloved

If you would like to honor a family member or friend that has passed since last November during the All Saints Day service, take a look at [this video](#) from Michelle to get more information. Send in images to michelle@salc-wausau.org.

Communion Pick Up Hours

Communion will be taking place during the Sunday, October 25 livestream service. If you would like to pick up communion elements, they will be available on ***Wednesday, October 21 from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm or Saturday, October 24 at 11:00 am- 2:00 pm.***



All Saints Prayer Vigil

This is a time for prayer. Join us as we pray for our community and for all the saints in our lives. For the loved ones we've lost this last year, for healthcare and essential workers, for teachers and

students returning to school, and for those who are struggling to navigate the demands of life during the pandemic.

Between 4:30 pm-7:50 pm on Sunday November 1, stop by the church parking lot to create a simple luminary. Write the name(s) of those we can pray for on a paper bag, add a votive and leave it among the others. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. **At 8:00 pm** we will join together virtually on Facebook Live for a short prayer service holding all of these people and prayers together in mind before God.

If you are unable to join us on November 1, you are invited to stop by church ***Oct 26-29 from 8:30 am -4:30 pm*** to fill out a luminary to be included in our prayer service.

Plan to Gather Weekly
Update: 10/20/2020

For now, Saint Andrew remains in Phase One of the Plan to Gather. As soon as there is a consistent downward trend, we will move forward to Phase Two.

SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 10/14/2020

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
9/23	236	Increasing	High
9/30	461.6	Increasing	Very High
10/7	701.3	Increasing	Very High
10/14	1003.4	Increasing	Very High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

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