

## Luther Memorial Newsletter for October, 2017

### *Set Free*

October 31st is the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation which began in 1517. Martin Luther set Christians free from the tyranny of those who wrongly turned the the Gospel into Law. Luther throughout his life echoed the words of Christ, "If the son sets you free, you will be free indeed"(Jn. 8:36). This is not political freedom or social freedom. It is the freedom that Christ alone gives in the forgiveness of sins. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians in 5:1, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

The message of the Scriptures uncovered by the Lutheran Reformation is that by faith in Christ alone, we are free. This is the true freedom. In Jesus, we are free from the guilt of our sin. This freedom is a gift from God. God creates it and sustains it in us. So if the Son sets us free, we will be free indeed. The Son of God Himself, Jesus Christ, is that Word which sets us free.

We will have a special Reformation service coming up on Sunday October 29th. We will celebrate how the Holy Spirit worked through men like Martin Luther to keep us in the one true faith in Jesus Christ. So yes, celebrate Martin Luther. He was a courageous man who fought for the Gospel. He faced princes and popes and said "I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen."

His courage is inspiring . Together with all Christians we too can say with psalmist "I will speak of your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame" (Ps. 119:46).

Though devils all the world should fill,

All eager to devour us,

We tremble not, we fear no ill,

They shall not overpower us.

This world's prince may still

Scowl fierce as he will,

He can harm us none,

He's judged; the deed is done

One little word can fell him. (*A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Stanza III, LSB 656*)

In Christ,

Pastor Barkley