

Kootenai Communicator

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

October

*Reformation Sermon Series Schedule, Details p. 8

*Book Sale—all month at the Welcome Table

*Special Video Series in Adult Sunday School all month

15 Kootenai Thunder Silent Auction

22 Youth Service Project

28 Reformation Party 2017, Details p. 7

29 Fall Harvest Potluck

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*

This October, we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The date we assign to the beginning of that Reformation is October 31, 1517. Five centuries ago, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther nailed a document, today known as "The 95 Theses," to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. That was the official beginning, though for centuries prior there had been various and sundry efforts to reform the church.

In this month's newsletter article, we will examine some of the underlying issues at the heart of the divide between Protestants and Catholics.

salvation as something accomplished through man's cooperation with God's work. In other words, many "Protestants" are very "Catholic" in their soteriology.

What Was the Reformation?

In 1517 there was a schism within the visible church. Many men and women protested the heretical doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

It was a singularly unique movement of the Holy Spirit to restore the gospel to the center of the life of the true Church. It was a revival. It was a return to the true gospel. It was a return to the authority of Scripture, to pure doctrine, to truth, to biblical preaching, and biblical doctrine.

Apart from the redemptive events recorded in the New Testament—the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost—the Reformation was the greatest single event in the history of the Christian Church. The effects of the Reformation upon redemptive history and thus on world history cannot be overstated. It would be impossible to exaggerate the effects of the Reformation.

The Reformation came at a time of intense spiritual darkness. The gospel had been all but lost under layers of tradition and superstition. The Roman Catholic Church kept the Scriptures away from the people so they did not have the Bible in their own language. Salvation was mediated through the Church, through church functions, through ceremonies, sacraments, and works. The light of the gospel had been eclipsed by tradition and church dogmas. It was a time aptly described as "the dark ages." After nearly 1,000 years of oppressive spiritual darkness, the gospel was rediscovered and preached again. That is the Reformation.

Genuine born-again believers worked tirelessly to counter the teaching of the Church of Rome with

Continued on page 2

The Reformation *An Introduction*

By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

Odd things can be observed within the broad community of what is called "Evangelical Protestantism." First, many Christians have no idea what it means to be Protestant. For many, they think Catholicism is just another "flavor" of Christianity. "Sure," they reason, "they may use a lot of candles, robes, and have some mysterious ceremonies, but they're Christians too." Those who think this way are Protestants not out of principle or theological conviction, but out of preference and convenience. I can't tell you how many Christians I have run into that have no idea what the Protestant Reformation was or why it happened. They remember learning something about it in grade school and mistakenly think it has something to do with the Renaissance or the liberation of the human spirit from the oppression of all religions, or even Christianity in particular.

Second, many Protestants have very "Roman Catholic" theology when it comes to the doctrines of human depravity and the sovereignty of God in salvation. Many Christians don't believe that man is totally depraved and they adopt an entirely Pelagian or semi-Pelagian view of the human condition. Further, they would argue for the autonomous freedom of the human will and speak of

Inside >>>

- 3 Sunday School
- 3 Missionary Moment
- 4 Garden of Reading
- 4 Women's Ministry
- 5 Student Ministry
- 5 Kootenai Thunder
- 6 Building Update
- 6 Church News
- 6 Kootenai Classifieds

the truth of the Word of God. The light began to shine, and shine brightly. In John Calvin's city of Geneva, the reformers adopted the Latin Phrase "*Post tenebras lux*" as the motto of the Protestant Reformation: "*After Darkness Light.*"

Early Reformers

Though Martin Luther is credited with starting the Reformation, he was by no means the first "reformer." The fire of a reform movement had been smoldering for centuries.

One of the earliest notable reformers was a man named Peter Waldo (1140-1205). He launched a spiritual movement that challenged the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. That movement became known as the Waldensian Movement. Peter Waldo is credited with providing the first European Bible translation into a modern language. He was excommunicated in 1184 and he fled to the mountains of Italy, where he lived out the rest of his life in hiding.

Two centuries after Waldo, John Wycliffe (1320-1384) was born. Wycliffe opposed the abuses of the Roman Catholic Church and did the immense work of translating the Scriptures from the Latin Vulgate into Middle English. Rome didn't take kindly to that and immediately made him their target. Wycliffe became more and more convinced of the corruption of the papacy and the errors of the Roman Catholic Church. He died a hated and hunted man in 1384. Thirty years later, Rome exhumed his remains, pronounced him a heretic, burned his remains and scattered them into the River Swift in England.

Jan Hus was born shortly after Wycliffe died. A Bohemian scholar and religious leader, he picked up where Wycliffe left off. He preached that the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church were contrary to the teachings of Scripture. Though he grew in popularity among the people, he was not popular with the Pope. He was eventually captured, excommunicated, tried, imprisoned and then burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

Along Came Martin

Luther was an Augustinian monk—a student at the monastery in Wittenberg, Germany. As he was studying and teaching through Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, Luther came to saving faith in Christ as he understood Paul's words in Romans 1: "The righteous shall live by faith." According to Luther's own testimony, he finally understood that a man is made righteous before God by faith, not by works, indulgences, penance, confession, or sacraments.

Suddenly Luther saw the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic church in a whole new light. Rome taught that forgiveness could be acquired through doing works of penance. The death of Christ was not sufficient in itself to absolve the sinner of all the guilt and penalty for his sin. The sinner would have to be purified of his sin after death in Purgatory. He could take time off his stay in Purgatory by doing certain works, or the sinner could purchase an indulgence. An indulgence was ***an official document granted by the Pope that would grant forgiveness for sins in exchange for the payment of money.*** The Catholic church was building St. Peter's

Basilica in Rome and they needed money. So, the Pope granted "indulgences" in exchange for money to fund the building project. Pope Leo X authorized a Dominican monk named John Tetzel to travel the land selling the indulgences.

Tetzel was something like a high-pressure salesman. He was known for his unscrupulous methods. He offered a one-time purchase guaranteeing the complete forgiveness of sins. He promised that one could buy an indulgence for those who were even then suffering in Purgatory, which indulgence would immediately forgive their sins and free them from the fires. He even had a memorable little catchphrase: "As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from Purgatory springs."

He was effective and raised a lot of money. Luther heard him and was incensed.

The 95 Theses

Luther penned the 95 Theses to take aim at the selling of indulgences. On October 31, 1517, the eve of All Saints Day, Luther posted his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's intention was not to leave the church or to launch a large-scale revolt. Luther posted his 95 statements to elicit a debate. He wanted to see the abuses corrected.

There are a lot of statements among the 95 that we would agree with. For instance, Thesis #21 says, "Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is absolved from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences."

Thesis #27: "They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory."

Thesis #32: "Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers."

Thesis #37: "Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters."

There are a lot of things in the 95 Theses that you and I would not agree with. In fact, they contain statements with which Luther himself would later disagree. In those 95 Theses, Luther affirms the authority of the Pope and the Church. He does not question the legitimacy of the doctrine of Purgatory. He does not disagree with the doctrine that the Pope is the Vicar of Christ on earth and a successor of Peter. But after being excommunicated by Rome, Luther would call the Pope "antichrist" within only four years.

The Heart of the Issue

At its core, the divide between Protestants and Catholics is over the gospel. It is over the answer to this question: "How is a man made right before God?" How are we justified? On what basis are we forgiven of our sins and brought to Heaven?

Protestants (and Scripture) affirm that we are justified "by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone." The Roman Catholic Church denies that essential gospel truth. You don't have to take my word for it. You can



**Sunday
School
begins
at 9:30 a.m.**

4th-8th Grade Sunday School Class

The kids in the 4th through 8th Grade Sunday School class have recently started studying the book of 2 Samuel. During class we read through a Bible passage and have a time for discussion followed by a quiz - boys versus girls! The following are quotes from two of our students as to what they like best about our class:

"Miss Diane's examples" and "all of it" - Hannah

"Snacks!" and "Miss Kathy!" - Malachi

So, if you want to learn about the Bible while having fun and are in 4th-8th Grade, come join us down the hall behind the Welcome Table.

~taught by Diane Rich and Kathy Conger

IN OCTOBER!

During the month of October the adult Sunday School class will be watching a video series by R.C. Sproul titled *Martin Luther and the Reformation*. The teen class will be joining the adult class for those sessions.

>>> Missionary Moment— Marty and Jeanette Windle



It is far too long since we've sent out a personal ministry update (though we post regularly to BCM's Facebook page as well as our own, if you would like to keep up with prayer requests and news in real time). Partly, this reflects that the last few months have been blessedly calm and stationary, in itself a praise.

When we last wrote, Marty had just flown from Suriname, where he was meeting with our BCM leadership there, to Lima, Peru, to deal with the unprecedented El Niño flooding that devastated our BCM Peru main campus. We are deeply thankful for the outpouring of aid that has come from both Peruvian churches and the body of Christ globally, including several USA work teams who have been helping with reconstruction.

Praise: Most BCM ministries throughout Peru have reopened, and missionaries have been able to return to Lima campus housing.

Pray: For camps, Bible Institute, and children's street ministries once again functioning from the Lima campus.

Our own recent months have been routine, both at our BCM International Ministry Center and the occasional USA/Canada ministry trip. But one exciting recent trip involved the commissioning of our second North American couple to a closed-access Asian nation. At this point we can't share names or details, but would ask for prayer for the Ms as they begin serving in God's kingdom there.

Another praise has been our BCM Sri Lanka field. Last year we asked for prayer for the worst monsoon flooding on record. This year's flooding surpassed 2016. Thanks to the good reputation of BCM Sri Lanka's response to last year's floods, government agencies immediately contacted them for help this time around, which has also permitted them to share the gospel to many flood victims.

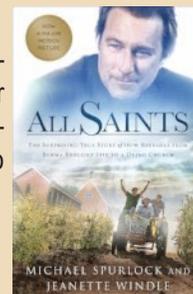
It is impossible to summarize in an update what God has been doing through BCM in more than fifty countries since we last wrote. But these include 138 juvenile inmates receiving Christ in Madagascar, hundreds of newly-trained children's ministry leaders in Thailand and Democratic Republic of Congo, cooking classes reaching neighborhood children in Ireland, micro-enterprise programs in India, celebrating seventy years of Big Sky Bible Camp, a Bible Institute graduation in Myanmar, and more. You can read the full stories in the latest issue of BCM World magazine, of which Jeanette is editor (sign up or read at www.bcmintl.org). Please pray with us for our field missionaries involved in each of these ministries and those who have recently come to Christ through their outreach.

And speaking of Myanmar, Jeanette has been part of one other exciting project. She was commissioned by Bethany House Publishers (Baker Group) to write the Michael Spurlock/All Saints true story on which is based the movie by same name. This story of Karen Christian war refugees (a people group from Myanmar, or Burma, whose Christian heritage reaches back to America's first overseas missionary Adoniram Judson), a dying Tennessee church, and God's miracle in bringing them together carries a powerful message for today's body of Christ. Produced by Sony Affirm (Sony's Christian inspirational branch that has released such movies as *Courageous*, *Fireproof*, *War Room*, *Miracles From Heaven*), *All Saints* released in theaters nationwide August 25, so if you'd like to support the showing of Christian films in the theater, do check out both book and movie: <http://www.allsaintsmovie.com/> (the book is far more in-depth as to full story of the Karen and others, which is even more inspirational and dramatic than the movie).

With summer's end, our pace picks up again, including ministry trips to Texas and the West Coast, and overseas travel for Marty to Germany and India. Please continue to pray with us for: 1) strength, health, and safety for Marty in what can be extremely stressful, exhausting trips; 2) wisdom and discernment in dealing with ministry issues and crises as they arise on one or another of our BCM fields. We'd love to pray together with you as well, so please do send us your prayer requests and praises.

Serving together with you in God's Kingdom,

Dr. Martin & Jeanette Windle



>>>Garden of Readin'

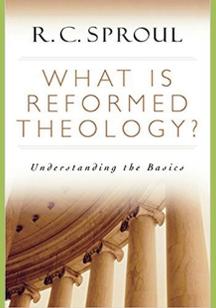


Used Book Sale

As the church library gets organized, we're finding duplicate copies of some books, so we're making the extras available for sale. Look for them at the Welcome Table. **All proceeds go to the Building Fund.**

What is Reformed Theology? by R. C. Sproul

In this book, R. C. Sproul walks readers through the foundations of the Reformed doctrine and explains how the Reformed belief is centered on God, based on God's Word, and committed to faith in Jesus Christ. He explains the five points of Reformed theology and makes plain the reality of God's amazing grace. Sproul is the founder and chairman of Ligonier Ministries, and his teaching can be heard on the radio program *Renewing Your Mind*.



Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

Women's Ministry <<<



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection Date:
November 12!

Start gathering your gifts today!

NURSERY MINISTRY

If you would like to be involved in the nursery during worship service about once every 6 weeks, please contact Kris Bryan at 208-495-4098.

MEAL MINISTRY

Our church is a body, and we help one another as needs arise. One practical way we do this is through the Meal Ministry. Andrea Kinne organizes meals to be delivered for new mothers and those following surgery. Please call her at 265-0102.



Save the date!
Ladies' Christmas Tea
will be
Saturday, December 2

>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.

Fall Quilt Camp - October 20-21

Quilt camp is for beginners to advanced sewers. Set up at a table and sew all night if you'd like. Come enjoy a relaxing retreat of creativity, fun, food, door prizes, and hours for fellowship with those of us who savor a little time away to do what we want with our projects. Don't forget—we finish up with a quilt show by YOU! Bring your quilts, finished or not, beginner or advanced to share.



Student Ministries <<<

October Dates!!

2 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30p.m.
 11 Youth Group, 7-9pm
 @ Anna Bottcher's
 16 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30p.m.
 22 Project @ Whetsel's
 25 Youth Group, 7-9p.m.
 @ Slippy's
 28 Reformation Celebration
 30 Girls- Bible Study, 7:30p.m.



Help Wanted!

On Sunday, October 22, please help split and stack firewood at the Whetsels'. The activity will begin at 1 p.m. and Marcia has offered to cook dinner! Please bring a sack lunch, work gloves, warm clothes, and any tools that will aid the process. If you have any questions, please contact Steve at 208.304.2030



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

UPDATE: We are halfway through our volleyball/soccer season. There are plenty of home games to watch. Soccer games are played at Centennial Field in Sandpoint. Volleyball games are played at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp. Admission fee for the volleyball games: Adults: \$3, Students \$2, Family \$8, Children 5 and under are free. Soccer games are free. Check our website for game times.

SCHOLARSHIP

DONATIONS: We have started a scholarship fund for families that are unable to afford the player fee. If you would like to donate specifically to that, contact Diedre Osman.

FALL SILENT AUCTION AND DESSERT SOCIAL Ponderay Events Center

join us

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 15
AT 6:30 P.M.**

Admission: \$1
 Auction will include Gift Certificates, Baked Goods, Crafts and more!

>>>Building Update

This last week, I (Jim) met with Kevin Hatcher (excavator) to go over the needs for our parking lot. He is working up a proposal for us and, Lord willing, we will be able to get some parking lot and ground work done before winter hits. Our plumber has been at the facility the last few weekends installing toilets in the men's bathroom. Recently, he installed a sink in the janitor's closet. Steve Hill, Bryce Barba, and Seth Barba did grouting in the women's bathroom, nursery bathroom, and janitor's closet. The electrician has connected all the exterior lights around the building to a light sensor. If you drive by the building at night you will see the outside lit up.

We have a lot planned in the month of October. Watch our Facebook page and the weekly update (email) for pictures and progress reports.



Church News <<<



ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER

The meat and potatoes will be provided; the rest of the meal is potluck. Everyone is welcome to attend. You may bring:

Last names A-M: salad and side dish

Last names N-Z: dessert and side dish

Join us for this time of fellowship and thanksgiving to our Lord for His provision for us.

If you would be willing to help with the dinner by either making mashed potatoes, or with set-up and clean-up, please call Marcia Whetsel at 659-2494.

Reformation Resources to check out!

Audio Series: *Drive-By Church History*, available at wretchedradio.com. Forty-seven 15-minute lectures providing a fascinating overview of 2,000 years of church history.

Books:

Why We're Protestant by Nate Pickowicz

Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley

The Reformation: How a Monk and a Mallet Changed the World by Stephen J. Nichols

The Legacy of Luther by R.C. Sproul and Stephen J. Nichols

>>>Kootenai Classifieds

Firewood:

Call John Kinne,
(208) 290-4359.

Science in a Nutshell – Science experiment kits for early to mid-elementary grades. Four kits available: Weather Wise, Body Basics, A Peek Inside You, Energy in Motion. Enough supplies for 2 students in each kit. \$20 each. Contact Diedre at 208-610-4542.

STUDED SNOW TIRES

Set of 4, Hankook I Pike 225/45 R17 94T
Contact Nathalie Gross at 255-1566.



listen to what Rome itself has affirmed on the issue.

The Council of Trent

In response to the Protestant Reformation, the Roman Catholic church convened the Council of Trent in November 1544. The council was closed in 1563. They addressed several subjects—subjects raised by the Reformation movement. The statements of the Council of Trent have never been denied by the Roman Catholic church, and they stand as Catholic teaching to this day.

The Roman Catholic church affirms in Canon 9, "If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification, and that it is not in any way necessary, that he be prepared and disposed by the movement of his own will; let him be anathema."

I would affirm everything in that statement that Rome calls accursed doctrine. I affirm that a man is completely justified by faith alone. I affirm that man does not cooperate with grace, and I affirm that it is apart from human will.

They said in Canon 30, "If any one saith, that, after the grace of Justification has been received, to every penitent sinner the guilt is remitted, and the debt of eternal punishment is blotted out in such wise, that there remains not any debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this world, or in the next in Purgatory, before the entrance to the kingdom of heaven can be opened (to him); let him be anathema."

That is **exactly** what Protestants affirm! Further, that is exactly what the gospel of grace affirms. *Rome anathematizes the biblical gospel.* According to Rome, if you believe that you are justified by faith alone, you are damned. Catholicism declares that the gospel embraced and preached by Protestant Christianity is accursed heresy. Protestantism believes that the gospel preached by the Roman Catholic Church is accursed heresy. The divide is great indeed!

What Lies Ahead?

We will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation by focusing on some, though certainly not all, of the theological concerns that touch on the central issue of the Reformation: the Gospel. Each of the messages during our Sunday morning worship service will highlight a difference that separates Protestants and Catholics. Here is a quick overview of what lies ahead in the preaching during the month of October.

In Adult Sunday School, we will be watching a teaching series by R.C. Sproul titled *Luther and The Reformation*. That will begin on Sunday, October 1. If you want to get the historical background of the life and times of Martin Luther, I highly recommend you consider attending that lecture series. Unfortunately, neither the limits on our time nor the intentional focus of our series will allow us to go into very great detail during our sermon series.

If you have any questions that come up through the

course of this series, please get them to one of the elders. We will have a Q&A in Adult Sunday School on November 5 to answer your questions.

Happy 500th Anniversary!
Soli Deo Gloria!

Without Wax –



Recommended Resources:

If you are looking for a little Fall reading to supplement your celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, I would recommend the following:

- *Why We're Protestant* by Nate Pickowicz
- *The Reformation: How a Monk and a Mallet Changed the World* by Stephen J. Nichols
- *The Legacy of Luther* by R.C. Sproul and Stephen J. Nichols
- *Church History in Plain Language* by Bruce L. Shelley

Reformation Day Celebration

Come join us for an afternoon of fun to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Date: Saturday, October 28

Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Place: Cocolalla Bible Camp

209 Cocolalla Loop Rd., Cocolalla



Trivia brackets for adults and teens and game stations for families to learn more about the Reformation.

Please bring a snack to share!

Costume Contest with prizes for:

- ◇ Best Family Theme
- ◇ Best Reformation-related
- ◇ Most Creative

Kootenai Community Church

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208-255-5668
kcc@nctv.com
www.kootenaichurch.org

Reformation Celebration

Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On that day, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, an act that altered the course of church history. In celebration of that event, the elders and Justin Peters will be preaching a series of messages on the doctrines and significance of the Protestant Reformation. Here is what you can expect:



September 24 – An Introduction to the Reformation (Jim Osman)

October 1 – The Reformation and the Sufficiency of Scripture (Jim Osman)

- 2 Peter 1:3-4, 17-19

October 8 – The Reformation and the Human Will (Dave Rich)

- 1 Peter 1:3

October 15 – The Reformation and Justification By Faith Alone (Jess Whetsel)

- Romans 4:4-5

October 22 – The Reformation and Ordinances (Cornel Rasor)

- Selected Scriptures

October 29 – The Reformation and False Doctrine (Justin Peters)

- Selected Scriptures

November 5 – Adult Sunday School

- Reformation Question and Answer