

FROM YOUR PASTOR - REFORMATION 500

As the days of October unfold and the natural beauty of God's creation is evolving I am reminded of a special remembrance known as the Lutheran Reformation. October 31, 1517 and the posting of the 95 thesis by The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther is known as the beginning point of the Luther Reformation.

During the 16th century Martin Luther challenged the teaching, practices and structures of the Roman Catholic Church. He insisted the central message of Christianity is the good news that sinners become reconciled to God by grace through faith because of the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Luther did not intend to start a new church. He wanted to reform the existing church so the gospel message was communicated clearly and so the life of the church reflected that gospel center. Lutherans organized into a separate church only after the Roman Catholic Church repeatedly rejected Luther's views. (Core Lutheran Teachings from "Lutheranism 101" – The Lutheran)

CORE LUTHERAN TEACHINGS – A distinctive theology:

- *Justification by grace through faith for Christ's sake*
- *Law and gospel*
- *Means of grace*
- *Theology of the cross*
- *Saint and sinner*
- *Vocation*
- *Luther's Small Catechism*

One important book for nearly 500 hundred years for Lutherans is, *Luther's Small Catechism* which continues to be a significant sourcebook for teaching. Our Confirmation Class which begins this month will study this time- honored- teaching- treasure for Christian faith.

We are privileged to be part of a local church which is specifically known as First Lutheran Evangelical Church, Altoona, PA. As your Pastor I continue to teach and preach according to the Lutheran Confessions so as to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and The Holy Scriptures.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God... God's Word forever shall abide..."

Pastor Folmar