

DAYBREAKING NEWS

Reflection by Pastor Thomas Kiracofe - Special Reflections by Amy Notbohm

May I Come In?

Reformation Day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before October 31. We United Methodist Church recognize this historic event. Some may ask “why celebrate the October 31, 1517 actions of the German Monk, Martin Luther, a respected professor and assistant pastor of the castle Church in Wittenberg Germany?” Luther chose October 31 the day before All Saints Day, he knew that the churches would be filled with worshipers, to post his Ninety-Five Theses. Today, it would like taking out an ad, newspaper article or, even, all those political ads.



Why is this important for us? The event was major and played a key role in the Protestant Reformation that split the western church of Rome. Luther's theses addressed a number of teachings and doctrines of the Catholic church, at that time. Luther found them objectionable; like the sale of indulgences to help raise money to complete the construction of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. If you purchased them, you would be absolved of all sin, so the Pope proclaimed. Our observance is to help us focus on the Reformation Themes: salvation cannot be obtained by purchasing indulgences, through works of charity, by making a pilgrimage, or by performing other acts of piety and devotion. Luther was proclaiming that salvation was an act of God, given by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. God has already provided for our salvation by the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and salvation is ours to accept through faith, not to achieve through works. Also, Luther emphasized the “priesthood of all believers” that we do not need an intermediary between us and God. And that we have a right and duty to enter into our own personal relationship with God, to read the Bible and worship in our own language and pray directly to God.

Our founders, John and Charles Wesley were strengthened and motivated by the reformers and brought about reformation in England. We observe to remind us ***“we are forgiven because of who God is. We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy.”***

Hopefully, this observance can be a motivator for all of us to work to strengthen Christ’s church and to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Anxiously awaiting the time when it will be safe for us to be together, not just in thought, but in person.

In the Spirit, Tom

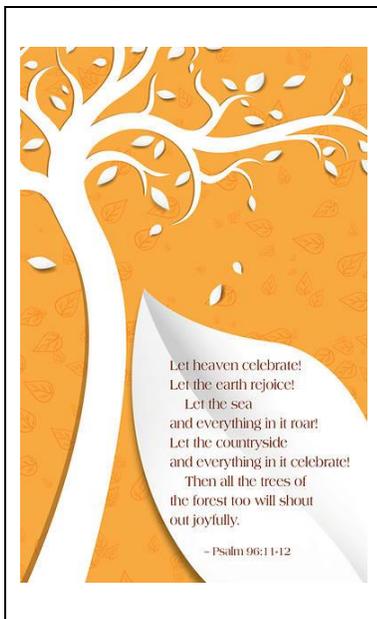
P.S. Perhaps in observance of Reformation Sunday, each of us could sing Luther’s great hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” “In the Midst of New Dimensions” and “Lift High the Cross.”



Oh my gosh! Now I’m going to have admit that you Aldersgate people are really nice. I can’t remember when I have received so many cards during Pastor Appreciation Month, thank you. Your added messages were gracious and kind. Wow! I must confess that it touched my heart, feel appreciated and just plain good.

What a great tonic for these times in which we live, thank you.

Tom



Announcements:

Election Day Prayer Vigil (At home)

We will be holding an at-home prayer vigil for election day during the times polls are open. Please consider signing-up for a 1-hour window between 7am and 7pm on Tuesday, November 3rd to be in prayer from your home that we may pray for peace, kindness, and hope for the common good. Please call the church office if you would like to sign-up for an hour.

Message from Lisa, Darlene Dominguez’ daughter: *There will be a celebration of life’ for Darlene at a later date when it is safe. Thank you for your cards and concerns.*

Rev. Tom Kiracofe

Pastor

Martha Stowe
Administrator

If nobody told you today, I love you.

*Week 3 of 3: Inspired by Brian McLaren's We Make the Road by Walking.
Read Matthew 6:19-7:21*

In a potentially dangerous school in Philadelphia, the new principle took an interesting approach to her new job. Linda Cliatt-Wayman. She did some much needed work on facilities, and program development. She implemented a non-negotiable discipline program. Undergirding those programs though, she was energized by her deep love for the children. She started working in the cafeteria to get to know the kids. She sings them happy birthday (in her terrible singing voice) on their birthdays. Most importantly, every morning on the announcements, she would start the day by saying, "If nobody told you today, I love you."

The last two weeks of this series, we talked about anxiety and the judgement that stems from it. Brian McLaren say, "Beneath our anxiety and judging lies an even deeper problem, according to Jesus. We do not realize how deeply we are *loved*." (142) Jesus follows his stories about anxiety and judgment with a story about a child who asks for food from his parent. Of course, the parent gives their child food. If we, as humans know how to care for our children with compassion and love, how could God do less?

So, we know that we alleviate our anxiety by working for the common good. We become less judgmental when we approach ourselves and others with loving kindness and compassion and the energy that feeds our ability to let go of worry and love others is to acknowledge the deep truth that we are truly, wholly and deeply loved by God, the divine universe and all that is.

This is much easier said than done, so McLaren gives a couple suggestions of reminders for ourselves when we're getting off course.

1. My own anxiety is more dangerous to me than whatever I am anxious about.
2. My own habit of condemning is more dangerous to me than what I condemn in others
3. My misery is unnecessary because I am truly, truly, truly loved.

I would add to his list with one more reminder. Tell someone else that you love them. Don't let the words or the thought go unspoken. Sometimes the act of opening up our own hearts to others lets the love the world holds for us make its way in.

Community Prayers

- Prayers for Sue Teel, Lee Smith, Ruth Wymer, Sarah Burke and Paula Carmosino. Special Prayers are requested also for Lee Wymer, Ruth's son, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. If you have additional prayer requests, please let Sue Teel, Amy Notbohm or the church office know.

Giving

Thank you for your continued support for the work and ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church – mailing address is *3530 North 32nd Street; Phoenix, AZ 85018-5609*

Rev. Tom Kiracofe

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