

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

October 2017

407 12th Ave. - P.O. Box 176
Orion, Illinois 61273
Office Phone: 309-526-8511
Parsonage Phone: 309-526-3721
Email: orionumc@frontiernet.net
Website: www.orionumc.org

Church Staff:
David R. Schultz, Pastor
Karl Bodenbender, Organist
Andrea Cooper, Choir Carrie McCunn, Bell/Chime Choir
Amy Killion & Joy Seys, Office
Peggy Crayne & Erin Herring, Custodian

A Quincentenary¹

Five hundred years ago, a young German monk walked from his monastery, across the town of Wittenberg, to the Castle Church. The door of the church acted as a kind of public bulletin board. There the monk nailed a poster bearing ninety-five statements or theses. The monk, of course, was Martin Luther.

That happened on October 31, 1517, exactly 500 years ago this coming Tuesday, October 31. A 500th anniversary is called a *quincentenary* and such anniversaries don't come around very often. When was the last time you experienced a 500th anniversary?

Luther's ninety-five statements were an invitation to a public debate. It was a sixteenth-century version of a provocative blog post inviting an online discussion.

The statements were prompted by the practice of the Dominican friar Johann Tetzel. Luther's close friend and biographer Philip Melancthon described Tetzel as "a most audacious sycophant." Today we might describe him as a brazen creep.

Most people in Luther's day believed in purgatory, a place of torment to which people went at the death so they could be purged of their sins before going on to heaven. Tetzel was selling indulgences which were promises from the pope that gave people time off purgatory "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs," went the advertising jingle.

Luther's ninety-five statements were a protest against the indulgences as well as the church's preoccupation with wealth. They were not a particularly radical series of statements, certainly not by the standards of Luther's later thought. They did not question the existence of purgatory or even the limited value of indulgences, but they hit the church where it was most vulnerable—in the wallet.

Luther's statements were condemned by the Catholic Church and Luther was put on trial. He was given the opportunity to recant, but he famously replied, "Unless I am convicted of error by the Scriptures...and my conscience is

taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us or open to us. On this I take my stand. I can do no other."

Luther's ideas spread across Europe, aided by the recently invented printing press. His ideas were welcomed by many because the Catholic Church had become quite corrupt and many people longed for a change. Luther introduced the Western world to what would eventually become known as "The Five *Solae* of the Protestant Reformation:" *Sola scriptura* (which is Latin for "by scripture alone"); *sola fide* ("by faith alone"); *sola gratia* ("by grace alone"); *solus Christus* ("by Christ alone"); and *solus Deo gloria* ("glory to God alone").

Luther paved the way for other reformers including Zwingli, Tyndale and Calvin, to name just a few. Interestingly, two hundred years later, on May 24, 1738, an Anglican priest named John Wesley was at a Bible study on Aldersgate Street in London reading Luther's commentary on Romans when he (Wesley) felt his heart "strangely warmed" which became the catalyst for the Methodist Movement.

Happy Quincentenary!
Pastor Dave

Consecration Sunday October 15

Keith Anderson will be the guest preacher for our Consecration Sunday celebration. We hope you'll join us for either of our morning worship services and stay for the free, catered Celebration Luncheon following the late service.

This spiritual-growth-oriented process is designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, the experience concentrates on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development.

No one will call you at your home for a pledge. But we do hope you will attend morning worship on Consecration Sunday and the Celebration Luncheon immediately after worship.

¹ Information for this article was drawn from *Why the Reformation Still Matters* by Michael Reeves and Tim Chester; Crossway Books, 2016.

Scavenger Hunt for Food – Sunday, Oct. 29

Join us at 3 p.m. for our **Scavenger Hunt for Food**. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall to form teams to collect food for the Orion Food Pantry. The Food Pantry counts on this day to replenish their stock before the holiday season. Come back to the church for pizza at 5:15 after delivering the food to the pantry. Cost of pizza is \$3 per person. Adult drivers are needed. Contact Diane McCunn with questions or if you'd like to canvas a specific area before coming to the Food Pantry. All ages are welcome!

"We Care" Packages

Our College Student Ministry Team will send "We Care" packages out twice this school year to our members who are away at school and those attending local colleges.

If you would like your student to receive a package, please give the church office their address. You may email it to orionumc@frontiernet.net, write it on the attendance pad, or call the office at 526-8511.

Addresses are due in the office by October 22 for your student to receive a package.

All Saints Sunday is November 5

We will remember church members and friends who have passed away in the past year during special Communion services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 5. Those who have passed away will be remembered in three ways: (1) Through the lighting of a **candle** at the beginning of each service; (2) By **naming** during Holy Communion; (3) and **visually** by means of a video tribute.

Those who have lost a loved one in the past twelve months are invited to light a candle in their memory at the beginning of the service. Also, contact the church office to make sure a picture of your loved one is on file.

Memorial gifts which have been placed into service over the past year will also be dedicated.

Following the service, those who have lost a loved one are invited to stay for a luncheon and short program provided by the Congregational Ministries Team. This meal is designed to provide grief support as the holidays draw near. There is no cost for the meal; however, reservations are strongly recommended.

If you have lost a loved one since November 1, 2016, please plan to be a part of this meaningful service.

Prepare Your Hearts for Worship

We begin October by celebrating Holy Communion on Sunday, October 1. Scriptures include Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78; Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32.

Scriptures for Sunday, October 8 include Exodus 0:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46.

Consecration Sunday is October 15 and once again Rev. Keith Anderson will be our guest preacher. Rev. Anderson is appointed to serve as the executive director of Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund. Scriptures include Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106; Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14.

On Sunday, October 22 we'll turn to Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Matthew 22:15-22.

We wrap the month up on Reformation Sunday and take a look at Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 and Matthew 22:34-46.

As always, scriptures for lector/liturgists are underlined.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Dave

YouthWorks Mission Trips

Two youth mission trips are planned for next summer. High school students are eligible for Kansas City July 7 to 14 and either high school or middle school students are eligible for Milwaukee June 16 to 22. Both trips include a day at Six Flags plus food, lodging, programming and T-shirts.

Cost for each trip is \$565. Pay a \$25 deposit by Monday, October 9 and the church will match your deposit with another \$25. Please note that on Tuesday October 10 the price for each trip increases to \$595 and the deposit increases to \$50 with no matching funds available, so sign up soon!

QUARTER AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Join us in the MAC Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6 pm for a **Pasta Dinner** served by the youth followed by a **Quarter Auction** at 7. A Quarter Auction is best described as a drawing and an auction rolled into one. Details are on the information table in the lower narthex or contact Bettyjo Versluis at 798-6225. You can see a mock quarter auction on YouTube at "Quarter Auction, Melody Gannon". All proceeds go towards the completion of our activity center.

MOTHER/SON EVENT

Orion Girl Scout Troop #8917 along with Main Street Orion is hosting this event Nov. 12 from 3-4:30 at the Orion UMC Activity Center. There will be activities for mothers and sons to do together. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$15 per couple; additional sons are \$5 each. Registration forms will be available on our website. Pre-registration is required. Forms are due by Friday, Oct. 27. Contact Autumn Manning with any questions at 738-6515 or autumnmanning@hotmail.com.

TLC Preschool Taco Dinner

You are invited to a Taco Dinner hosted by TLC Preschool on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 4:30-6:30 at Mary, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$5 for children. Carry-out is available.

OUMC Veteran's Recognition

If you know of any living members of Orion UMC who are Veterans and have not been recognized during our Veterans Day worship service, please contact the church office so they might be included. The office needs their two pictures (during service years and current) **by Oct. 22** in order for them to be included in the slideshow. This year Veterans will be recognized on November 12.

Mission of the Month

Our October Mission of the Month is the Orion Area Food Pantry along with other local charities. You'll find an offering envelope in your packet of envelopes; however, rather than giving money, please consider giving nonperishable boxed or canned goods instead. Specifically, there is always a need for canned fruit or jars of apple sauce. With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, you may also choose to give a specific food item to help the Orion Area Food Pantry provide a holiday meal to their clients this November or December.

The Orion Area Food Pantry is supported by all area churches. It exists to serve anyone in our school district who may need food. They distribute food on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this ministry, please encourage them to sign up.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual Charge Conference will be held at our church on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. This will also give you the opportunity of meeting our new District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Granadosin.

Bakers Needed

We will sell baked goods at our Quarter Auction Oct. 14. If you would like to donate items, we'd greatly appreciate it! You may drop off your bagged or plated items to the MAC the morning of the 14th or in the church kitchen earlier in the week. To help with food allergies, please label your items.

Please contact Rachel Bollinger at 815-499-3777 with any questions. Thanks in advance!

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your acts of caring during Bev's illness and time of passing. Your cards, visits, calls, food, and prayers meant so much to us. Thank you to Pastor Dave for all your support. Words cannot express how much we value your kindness and friendship especially during this difficult time.

*Don Bielema
Thad & Brian*

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Steven when he was hospitalized following his heart attack. Steven is in rehab now, and we are so very grateful to have him with us. We miss all of you, and we appreciate your cards and prayers for us and for Steven.

Carolyn & Roy Ator

Orion United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 176
Orion, Illinois 61273

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UMW RUMMAGE SALE AND COFFEE

Saturday, October 28 9 a.m. to noon

Please help make our sale a success by bringing items you would like to donate to the MAC beginning the week of Oct. 23. Help setting up (Wed., Thurs., & Fri. mornings) is appreciated as well as packing up Saturday afternoon. Deadline for bringing items is Thurs., Oct. 26. Remember home baked items for the bake sale.

TRIVIA NIGHT

The next fundraising activity for youth mission trips is a Trivia Night on Sat., Nov. 11. Doors open at 5 p.m. with Walking Tacos and drinks for purchase. Games begin at 6. Cost is \$80 for a table of eight. Sign up by calling, emailing, or marking the attendance pad. Please join us!

Come Home for Christmas

Sunday, December 3 at Noon

This is our annual Christmas dinner with an emphasis on missions. Classes, groups, families or individuals are invited to design and donate a Christmas item – this year's theme is Designer's Choice – which will be sold by silent auction at a catered fellowship meal to be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Proceeds from the sale of each item will be directed to a mission of the donor/decorator's choice. Mission suggestions will be available at the church.

Blessings on Your Birthday!

10/01	Garrett Smith	10/20	Darren Winsor
10/03	Beth Carlson	10/21	Reed Herring
	Lonnie Catour	10/22	Tom Pasmore
	Brad Norton		Shelly Foster
10/04	Dave DeDecker	10/24	Deb Miller
	Traci Hutcherson		Tara Parks
	Rob Manning	10/25	Jared Bohland
10/05	Erin Herring		Dakota Ditzman
	Dennis Cooper		Derek Nelson
	Darrell Gainey	10/27	Shaun Gilbraith
10/06	Rob Knox		Melissa Larson
10/08	Minnie Woods		Royce Woodley
10/09	Evan Downing	10/28	Grant Gainey
	Landon Dykeman	10/29	Alice Barnett
10/10	Tom Wright		
10/12	Baillie McCunn		
10/13	Roger Shinn		
10/15	Valerie Hickerson		
10/16	Taylor Larson		
	Tara Miller		
10/17	Bonnie Myers		
10/19	Jake Pasmore		
	Gloria Waldbusser		

**Please contact the church office if you have a birthday to add to the list.*