

That's why to stand on the Scripture, to follow its leading and guiding, will mean following ONLY Scripture in matters on which it speaks. As Luther said, "I am not so senseless as to be willing that the Word of God be made to give place to fables, devised by human reason."

**Wednesday, October 30, 2013 — SOLA GRATIA**

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.*

In the centuries preceding the Reformation, Aristotle was considered the king of philosophers. Though dead for centuries, his influence among churchmen and Bible scholars was supreme. This pagan's philosophic ideas became principles that governed the understanding of Scripture. One of the worst results of this was that saving grace was seen as "an ability God created in people so that they could do good works for their own salvation." When Martin Luther studied out the truth about grace in the Bible, here's what the Holy Spirit enabled him to find:

"According to the usage of Scripture grace signifies that favor of God, which wishes us well and justifies us. That is, it freely grants us the faith which alone justifies us.

"Grace consists in this, that God is merciful to us, shows himself gracious for the sake of the Lord Christ, forgives all sins and will not impute them to us for eternal death. This is grace, the forgiveness of sins for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering up of all sins.

"We who, through our works are unprofitable servants are made children of God through the grace which God shows us in Christ."

Thanks be to God that he has restored to us this treasure -- and that we are able to teach our children from their earliest instruction that grace is God's undeserved love -- love that in Christ acts on behalf of us undeserving sinners.

# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

26 North State Street  
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073



A member congregation of the  
*Church of the Lutheran Confession -- CLC*

Eric Libby, Pastor; Phone 354-4534  
[www.faithnewulm.com](http://www.faithnewulm.com)



**GRACE ALONE  
FAITH ALONE  
SCRIPTURE ALONE**

**NOVEMBER 3RD, 2013 – 23RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
(REFORMATION SUNDAY)

**Pre-service Meditation:** Ps. 46, pg. 134

**Organist:** Kristen Friedrichs

**Pastor:** Opening Prayer

**Hymn 262** — *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**Pastor:** The Invocation

**People:** *Amen.*

**Pastor:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord!

**People:** *Who made heaven and earth.*

**Pastor:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**People:** *And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*

**All:** O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee, and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy; and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**Pastor:** The Absolution

**People:** *Amen.*

## The Scripture Reading – John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?'" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

## The Nicene Creed -- Hymnal, pg. 22

**Hymn 364** — *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

## The Sermon – Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that

The sinner is justified (declared righteous) by God through faith in the work and death of Jesus, not by our work or keeping of the Law. Put another way, the sinner is justified by receiving (faith) rather than achieving (works). Later Luther would say that we are saved by the alien righteousness of Christ, that is, by a righteousness not of our own doing.

## Tuesday, October 29, 2013 — SOLA SCRIPTURA

*Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.*

The key question of the Reformation was: Who shall tell us God's truth concerning our soul's salvation?

It is not surprising that the answer Martin Luther found is evidenced in the very first of the 95 Theses he nailed to the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church on October 31, 1517.

"Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying: 'Repent ye,' etc., intended that the whole life of believers should be penitence."

"Jesus Christ said ..." God led Luther to say and declare that whether the question was relics or indulgences or the Sacraments or anything pertaining to salvation the Word of the Lord is decisive. Indeed, Luther says that in matters pertaining to issues of salvation, "whatever does not have its origin in the Scriptures is surely from the devil himself."

Luther knew that if it was not SOLA Scriptura, then it wouldn't be Scripture at all ... not really ... not finally. Reason and dreams and human authority -- all that amend the Word really strike it out. To add to Scripture is to say it is not sufficient in matters of faith and life.

Luther remarks that it is a presumptuous abomination when men attempt "to teach God his lessons and blue-pencil the 'mistakes' of the Holy Ghost." Error first is satisfied with being accepted on a par with Scripture, but it is not long before it displaces the Truth.

Daily e-mail devotions (Mon. – Sat.), written by various pastors from around the synod, are available through our CLC sister-congregation in Sister Lakes, MI. If you are interested in receiving these devotions, go to [www.redeemer.info/devotional.html](http://www.redeemer.info/devotional.html) and follow the simple directions found on that webpage. Printed below are this

**Monday, October 28, 2013 — SOLA FIDE**

*Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, apart from the deeds of the law.*

Martin Luther was looking for peace when he became a monk. Instead he was brought face to face -- in a snarl that could not be untangled -- with a terrible contradiction. His church, on the one hand, offered him mercy in Christ, but on the other demanded he make amends for his sins.

The Scripture readings, prayers, hymns, and liturgy echoed the words of forgiveness, "Look to the crucified and risen Christ. He has defeated death and overcome the world." But then Luther was told, "Confess, do penance, mortify the flesh, do good works. And be sure you do as many good works as possible, for you never know where you stand. Be a monk, read masses, kneel before statues, pictures and relics, give alms."

"All depends on God." "All depends on you." This internal contradiction put a terrible strain on Luther. After all, if God, who knows us thoroughly, wishes to exercise judgment and justice, what comfort of His mercy remains? Furthermore, Luther asked in turmoil, "How do you love a God who demands such a single-minded love from sinners ... when He knows we cannot give it?"

No wonder then, that for Luther it was like "the doors of paradise had swung open" to him when God through His Word made him certain that the "righteousness of God" in passages like Romans 1:17 expressed the fact of God's free and saving grace, that this Scripture is not talking about the righteousness which God demands of us in the Law, but the righteousness that He freely gives to those who believe the Gospel.

were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

### ***“The ‘Technical Stuff’ We Need to Know”***

#### **The Offertory**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, And uphold me with Thy free spirit.*

**Hymn 371** — *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

#### **The Offering and Prayer**

**Communion Today** -- Confessional Lutherans teach and believe that participation in the Lord's Supper is not only a precious means of grace, but also a statement of agreement with your fellow-communicants concerning the Bible's teachings. If you are a guest here today, before thinking of communing with us you will want to have an opportunity to compare the teachings of our church with your own beliefs. If you have questions or would like to consider communing with us in the future, please speak to the pastor to set up an appointment.

#### **The Service of Communion**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** *And with thy spirit.*  
**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*  
**Pastor:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.  
**People:** *It is meet and right so to do.*

**Pastor: The Prefaces**

**People:** *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth! Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory! Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

**Pastor: The Lord's Prayer**

**People:** *For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.*

**Pastor: The Words of Institution**

**All:** *Amen. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace, Amen.*

+ The Distribution +

**The Nunc Dimittis**

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.*

Pastor: Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!

**People:** *And His mercy endureth forever!*

**The Benediction**

**People:** *Amen, amen, amen.*

**Hymn 376** — *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

+ + +

**Announcements**

- **Today** — Confirmation Class is scheduled to follow this morning's service.
- **Next Sunday** — Grace-Sleepy Eye worship services begin at 9 a.m. Worship here at Faith begins at 10:45 a.m. A Church Council meeting is scheduled to follow next Sunday's worship service.
- **Children's Christmas Service Materials Available:** Children's Christmas Service materials are now available.
- **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day is November 15th beginning at 10:05 a.m. in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall play. Meals are provided for guests and lodging can also be provided, if needed. Please speak with Pastor Libby if you would like more information regarding ILC College Visitor's Day.
- **CLC News:** St. Peter's Lutheran, Iron River MI, has called the Rev. Norman Greve, Eagle Lake MN.



**Our Response of Faith — October 27, 2013**

Attendance: 16

Unified Budget.....	\$315.00
Total .....	\$315.00