



Justification by Faith in Christ Alone

We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. (Galatians 1:16-17 – EHV)

October 31, of course, is the day we celebrate the Reformation of God's Church. What a great time to learn some Latin (don't worry, it's easy)! What do the following Latin phrases mean in English: *Sola gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura*? *Sola* means "alone." So, the three phrases mean, by grace alone, by faith alone, by Scripture alone. These are the three "solas" of the Reformation; and together they teach the truth about justification. Justification is rightfully called "the doctrine on which the Church stands and falls." So important is this central doctrine of Scripture, that if a church (or individual) does not believe correctly about justification they are not Christian. At the time of Martin Luther most of the Church had lost this important teaching. The Church had taught that we are saved not by faith in Christ alone, but also by good works. On October 31, 1517, Luther wrote a series of 95 theses questioning the teaching of indulgences, which could be earned or purchased and gave individuals a certain number of years off of purgatory, a place where one is to go after death in order to pay for their sins.

Luther correctly understood that salvation cannot be earned or purchased. Paul knew it too. The people of Paul's day tried to claim that one is saved not simply through faith in Christ, but also by one's adherence to the Old Testament laws and regulations. The problem with this, of course, is that there is not one of us who is perfect and has always kept the Lord's commands. If our salvation depended on us and our obedience to God's commands, we would all perish. There is no certainty in this teaching, only doubt and despair. By going back over the words of Scripture, Luther rediscovered the truth of salvation as taught by the Lord through Paul. We are not saved by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus. No one can be saved through works of the law, because we are all sinners. But Jesus wasn't a sinner. Jesus kept the law perfectly for us and suffered and paid for our sins on the cross. Without him we are not saved.

So what about those three solas? They tell us how we are justified, which is a declaration from God of us guilty sinners being not guilty on account of Christ. We are declared not guilty by grace alone—it is ours due to a gift of God's love alone, not by who you are or to what church you belong. It is received through faith alone, not by any works we have done or can ever do. And this teaching is found in Scripture alone, our only source of doctrine (instead of getting our teaching from the ideas of mankind). What comfort and assurance does this central teaching of Scripture give us. We don't have to worry or wonder about whether or not we are saved. Christ lived, suffered, and died for us; and so, we are sure and confident in our salvation. Salvation is ours by a gift of God's grace alone, received through faith in him alone, which we find on the pages of Scripture alone. To God alone be the glory!

Pastor Frey

October 2020

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Schabo	427-2990
Chris Ahrens	358-7633
Betty Randall	858-9918
Wendy & Natalie Raschka	560-2193

RETURNING TO PUBLIC WORSHIP We rejoice that we have been able to return to the Lord's house to worship together, but at the same time we want to do so in a safe manner. As many of you are aware, the last few weeks, the 8:00am service has been full, which perhaps made some of our members uncomfortable. First off, we encourage you to attend a different service. Both the 10:30 am and the Monday evening service have plenty of room in order for you to socially distance. In addition, our council has decided to remove the ropes in the front portion of the lectern side of the sanctuary. This section will not require social distancing. We hope that, with enough worshipers sitting in this section, it will leave enough space in the rest of the sanctuary for everyone else to socially distance. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Pastors or Council members.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION Changes for the Lord's Supper will continue for October 4th and October 25th.

- Pastors will sanitize their hands before each table.
- The wafers will be placed in a flat hand; the pastors will be careful not to touch your hand as they distribute communion.
- The common cup will not be used.
- The communion tray for individual cups will be filled with spaces between cups so that you do not touch other cups.
- Communicants will line up in front of the first pew, practicing "social distancing" unless they are from the same household.

BIBLE CLASSES Pastor Frey is leading a Bible Study on "The Christian and Government" every Sunday morning at 9:15 am.

Each Monday at 8:00 am and Tuesday at 5:30 pm, Pastor Gartner is leading a Bible Study on "The Life of Moses -- A Study of the Book of Exodus".

All these Bible Classes are being held at church. If you are not comfortable attending them in person or can't

make these times and you would like to receive a recording of these Bible Classes, please contact one of the Pastors and we will send you the link for these recordings.

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 pm we will have our next Quarterly Voter's Meeting. Since we revised our Constitution, this meeting is now our "Elections and Finances" Voter's meeting. This year the offices of Evangelism Coordinator and President are up for election. We will also be making decisions about other financial matters for this coming year such as salaries and amounts sent to FVL and the Synod. All Voters: please make plans to attend this important meeting.

LWMS All ladies of our congregation are members of the LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society). Due to our current situation with the coronavirus, the LWMS Wolf River fall rally has been cancelled.

Even though our fall rally has been cancelled, we will have the opportunity to contribute to mission work during the September 27 and October 4 weekends. A box for LWMS missions will be in our entryway. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00 pm for Bible study and LWMS updates. Moms, bring your little ones.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, October 20 at 9:00 am for Bible study.

AED COORDINATOR We are looking for a volunteer to oversee our AED device at Church. This person would be asked to regularly monitor this device to make sure that it is working correctly and that the battery and other things associated with this device are up to date. You would also help set up the CPR/AED certification program here at Church every three years. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Denise Hess at 920-788-4033. She has faithfully been doing this important work for many years and could answer any questions you might have. We thank her for her many years of service with our AED and CPR equipment. Note: You do not need a medical degree to do this work.

October 2020

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY The food pantry thanks everyone for their generous support. For October, the food pantry needs these items: Chunky soups, tomato, chicken and creamed soups, pasta sauces, spaghetti noodles and bagged egg noodles, canned fruit (currently there is no limit on fruit at Aldi's), boxed, packaged and canned potatoes, all rice and noodle side dishes, men's and women's deodorants, hand and body lotions, toilet bowl cleaners and bathroom and kitchen disinfecting sprays, paper towels and toilet paper. Thank you for supporting the food pantry. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, October 9**.

VOLUNTEER SHEETS Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a sheet of fellowship activities. This is a way for all members to be involved in some activity and get to know fellow members. There are many ways you can serve, just check the area you would be able to help. Even if you signed up last year, please sign up again. Mail or place completed fellowship sheets in the letter file tray labeled **VOLUNTEER SHEETS** on the counter in the entryway by October 19.

There is always a need for help with cleaning and altar guild. Each cleaning team cleans once every six weeks with each person on the team cleaning a designated area in the church. For altar guild, you along with three other members serve for one month every seven months. Other areas of need are bringing meals to a family of a new born and helping with Brewster Village worship.

GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING AUGUST:

		<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$33,380.00	\$14,880.00
General Fund YTD	\$259,704.00	\$223,045.00
Building Fund	\$1,105.00	
Land Development Fund	\$135.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$1,552.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$378.00	
Institutional Ministry	\$310.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$495.00	
FVLHS Let the Children Come	\$685.00	

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."

1 Corinthians 16:2

CHOIR With the mask mandate being extended until November 21, we are going to continue to hold-off on having choir practice for now. If the mask mandate situation changes, more information will be shared with you. Contact Dave Dahl at (920) 915-3867 with any questions.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP We want you to know that we are here to help you through any troubles. Please do not be afraid to call any of the Pastors or the Church Office with any of your questions. We will do our best to be of assistance. We ask for your prayers and patience as we go through these uncertain times.

Please also keep an eye on each other. Stay in contact with those who are elderly or living by themselves or those who may be going through medical issues. If you happen to run into some financial hardships or know someone who may need some financial help, please don't hesitate to call one of the Pastors.

AN OPTION FOR GIVING YOUR OFFERING: VANCO, the company we use for online giving through our website, now offers an app that allows you to give directly to St. John through your smart phone, VANCO Give Plus. Simply download the app, login/create a username, and then find St. John. This app will allow you to give to whatever fund you so desire, as well as set a one-time offering, or a recurring offering with a specific frequency. For more information, contact Tim Springstroh or one of the pastors. Below are the links for the app.

Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.van.co.gpm>



Apple App Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/give/id1120840616>

