

raised in the perfect splendor of Christ's own body, and that we will live before God in Christ's righteousness and holiness, forever beholding His gracious face.

Luther translated the Bible into the language of the people because by God's Word, the Holy Spirit had convinced Him that the Bible was God's Word. God Himself speaks His very own Words to us in the Bible. God's speech to us, like God Himself, is truthful, gracious, clear, and sufficient for all our needs. By His Word God destroys His enemies, overthrows the strongholds of evil in this world, and confounds the devil and all his works and all his ways. By His Word God reveals His Son, our Savior, to sinners. By His Word God teaches and guides us into true wisdom, godly virtues, and holy works.

Dear Christian, the true celebration of the Reformation is the reading, marking, memorizing, and incorporating of God's Word into your every thought and action. Go to a church that teaches God's Word rightly and purely. Read the Bible with your family and alone in your homes. Talk of it with your loved ones and neighbors when you get up in the morning, when you sit at table to eat, when you walk or work in the way, and when you lie down at night (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). And God grant you the understanding of faith and the joy of the Holy Spirit as you hear and read His precious Word!

FUTURE DATES (see wylcms.org for information)

November 11-13: St. Andrew's Youth Breakaway 5-8 grades, Laramie
February 10-11, 2023: TTGNAJ Convocation, Ramkota, Casper
February 17-19: St. Andrew's Youth Breakaway 9-12 grades, Laramie

THE NEXT ROUNDUP

The next Roundup will be delivered to congregations around November 20 (December 2022 issue).



Wyoming District Round-Up

November 2022

District Website: www.wylcms.org

"...REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS..." (Eph. 1:16)

For **Rev. Ralph Jaeger** (emeritus, Laramie), health
For our active-duty chaplain, **Rev. Ryan Mills (Colorado)**
For **Rev. Neil Carlson (Zion, Chappell and Trinity, South Divide)** continues his rehabilitation at home.

PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Travis Sherman (Grace, Gordon) is serving **Grace, Merri-**
man, NE (Nebraska District) while it considers its future.

Trinity, Gillette served by **Rev. Jon Olson (Trinity, Casper):**
Rev. Zachary Viggers (Alta, Iowa) accepted the divine call and will be installed on November 20.

Prince of Peace, Buffalo (served by **Rev. Rene Castillero, Im-**
manuel, Sheridan) continues in the pre-call process.

Bethel, Lander (served by **Rev. Gregory Sonnenschein, Wind**
River Lutheran Mission, Ft. Washakie and Mt. Calvary, Dubois) is pre-
paring to call a pastor.

Our Savior's, Chadron (served by **Rev. Dan Praeuner, emerit-**
us) continues in the call process.

Trinity, Riverton (Rev. Mark Mumme): Another call list is being
researched for an assistant pastor/head teacher.

Immanuel, Burns and **St. John's, Kimball** are being served in
their vacancy by **Rev. Andrew Dimit (King of Glory, Cheyenne,** assis-
tant pastor) have entered the pre-call process.

Rev. Marcus Baikie (Our Savior's, Cheyenne) returned the call
to a parish in Perry County, Missouri.

The Christian in Community: Faith Bearing Fruit

In Genesis 14 we see how the bonds of faith and family place obligations upon us. Abram (Abraham) and Lot his nephew had separated in Canaan because their flocks and herds were too large for them to live together in the same place. Lot had foolishly chosen the fertile but wicked Jordan river valley, settling in the city of Sodom (near the present-day Dead Sea). In Genesis 14, we read that power struggles among kings

broke out into war, and in the defeat that followed, Lot and all his household were taken as spoil into the north.

When Abram was told this news, he gathered the 318 trained servants of his household and his allies and pursued the victorious army, overtaking them and defeating them in a night raid. He brought back the people of Sodom and all the spoil, including Lot and his possessions. On his return he was met by Melchizedek, king of Salem (Jerusalem) and high priest of God Most High.

In Hebrews 5–7 we are reminded how little we know about Melchizedek. Many church fathers believed him to be Shem, son of Noah. He was God's priest and had (like Abraham and Lot) gathered a congregation of faithful Christians about him. In Psalm 110 and in Hebrews we learn that he and his office of priest anticipated the permanent priesthood of Jesus Christ, who offered his own flesh and blood as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Abram accepted Melchizedek as his superior, listened to his sermon on Abram's coming Seed (Jesus), and received his blessing. We are also told that Abram gave a tenth of his possession to Melchizedek as an offering to God. Mind you, Abram gave a tenth of his own possessions, not of the spoil he had taken in rescuing Lot (which he refused to accept as reward for his help)! And Luther is probably correct in reminding us that Abram gave this tithe to Melchizedek every year.

So consider Abram, the Christian, father of his household and member of God's Church. He committed his entire household to the rescue of the Christian congregation gathered around his nephew Lot. He gave significant offerings from his possessions for the worship of the one true God. Being a man of faith meant that he valued the community God gave him over his own possessions and comfort and security. Being a man of faith led him to give richly from his possessions for the preaching and worship of the true God. He trusted God's promise to him, and so he put his trust in nothing else. His mind and conscience were untroubled by greed, envy, covetousness, or the fear of death.

By faith Abraham "was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10). This city is "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22), the church of Jesus Christ in which we also live here on earth and which we seek among the blood-washed saints of heaven. God grant us the faith of Abraham to trust alone in Jesus and His pure Word. God grant that we, like Abraham, commit our households to the defense and well-being of the church to which we belong, giving also a tithe of our possessions, to the glory of God. And praise God for the joyful sermon and eternal benediction spoken upon us by our great High Priest Jesus Christ.

REFORMATION 500

The Lutheran Reformation is solely a Reformation in the Word of God, the Bible. No other philosophy, no other motivation, no political interest, no psychological crisis, no scientific discovery, no invention of technology, and no other historic event brought about the Reformation. Only God's Word!

This Year of our Lord 2022 we are celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the restoration of God's pure Word to His Church in the language of the God's people. In some 10 weeks time, while hidden at the Wartburg Castle, Luther translated the entire New Testament from Greek into good, easily understood German. Throughout that year (1522) and for the rest of his life, he and his colleagues in Wittenberg continued to strengthen and improve that translation. The German New Testament was published in Wittenberg by September 25, 1522. Luther then began to translate the Old Testament, completing the books of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy) by the middle of December. It would take till 1532 to get every part of the German Holy Scriptures published.

The reading of the Bible by every Christian is the heritage of the Lutheran Reformation. The enemies of the Reformation hate it. Already in November 1522 the Roman Catholic enemies of Luther in Ducal Saxony were forbidding their subjects to own or read the newly translated Bible. In fact, Roman Catholics were forbidden to read the Bible in their homes until after Vatican II (mid-1960s).

The Bible teaches us God's pure doctrine, that is, the unadulterated truth about God, man, and the world. The Bible teaches us that the triune God created all things and made man in the image and likeness of His righteous and holy Son. The Bible teaches us of our sin and our Savior Jesus. The Bible teaches us that the eternal Son of God came to earth as man to fulfill the law on our behalf and give His life as the atonement for our sin. The Bible teaches us that Jesus rose from the dead and now gives to us His Father's forgiveness, life, and salvation. The Bible teaches us that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to us from the Father, and that through the Gospel the Spirit gathers a holy Church. The Bible teaches us to be baptized, to hear and read God's Word daily, to be forgiven in Jesus' name, to receive the Lord's Supper regularly, and to pray. He teaches us to love our congregation, our pastor, our fellow Christians, our common Baptism, and the Supper of our Lord.

The Bible teaches us what to believe and how to live. The Bible gives us God's comfort in hardships, sorrows, and losses. The Bible gives courage to moral cowards, strength to the spiritually weak, and help to those in the mortal dangers of temptation to sin and doubt and despair. The Bible gives us the love of Christ, that we may love our brothers in the church, our family members, and our neighbors in the world, even when they seem unlovable to us. The Bible gives us the unshakable hope and confidence that our future is secure in the eternal purposes of God, that death itself cannot rob us of our life in Christ, that our bodies will be