



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

HEBREWS 13:2



LWML RUM RIVER ZONE FALL RALLY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

8:30 AM—REGISTRATION—\$6.00 9:00 AM—RALLY/MEETING

PASTOR JAKE GILLARD, SPEAKER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN

400 SE 8TH ST, BRAHAM MN

Ingathering for New Pathways, Cambridge-

They provide temporary housing and we can help with Kleenex, toilet paper, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, Lysol Disinfectant spray, Lysol kitchen and bathroom spray cleaner, laundry detergent, \$10.00 maximum gift card for WalMart, Target, Cub, Aldis, gift certificates for hair cut at Great Clips



CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Center City, Minnesota



Thank You!

St. John's Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for
hosting the First Responders
Appreciation Dinner. Everything was
excellent and we appreciate
your support!

Sheriff Brandon Thyen

St. John's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 368
980 West Fourth Street
Rush City, MN 55069

Secretary: Karen Peterson
Church Phone: (320) 358-3623
Church Email: stjohns@midco.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsrushcity.org
Normal Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 8 am - 2 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

400 SE 8th Street
Braham, MN 55006



Secretary: Donna Meyer
Church Phone/Fax: (320) 396-3103
Church Email: ststephens1913@msn.com
Church Website: www.ststephensbraham.org
Normal Office Hours:
Wednesday & Thursday 9 am - 1 pm

Rev. Grant Bode
Phone: (507) 766-6483
rev.bode3209@gmail.com

October 2025

Was the Lutheran Reformation Necessary?

Well, you know the answer already I'd think, as this is the newsletter for our two LUTHER-AN congregations. If the reformation had no bearing then I'd think the word "Lutheran" could be dropped altogether within the name don't you?

So, was the Reformation necessary and are the doctrinal teachings within still applicable to our age?

"Can't we all just get along?" so said Rodney King who, back on March 3rd, 1991, was brutally beaten by the Los Angeles Police at a traffic stop. It was, despite the terrible events he endured, his way of encouraging people not to riot after the trial and police verdict. It has since become sort of a catch-phrase for tolerance. Now some might say if it applies there then it applies here. Is it ecumenical (just getting along) to shun and/or ignore the differences so as to have some sort of peace (if even tenuously achieved and held)?

Back in 1999 the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation signed an agreement on Justification called, "The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification." The intent was to foster a conversation of "getting along" between Catholics and Lutherans. There are benefits to talking, of course. Arguments can be settled by talking (you might wish for example that Ukraine/Russia and Israel/Hamas would converse more about peace and less about war). Talking can help the process, but even more so is a desire for purity of God's Word within.

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Purity in doctrine, teaching and practice... Luther was all about it. In fact, it shaped the Reformation... these 5 SOLAS were/are guiding principles: *Sola (only) Christ, Sola Scriptures, Sola Faith, Sola Grace, Sola Deo Glory*. They are the bedrock of Christianity and any foundation within must be built on them or that edifice will fissure and fail. So much pain, hurt, conflict and even war wreak havoc when they are not paramount. By the way, the LCMS never did sign-on to the "Joint Declaration" as did all the liberalizing Lutheran church bodies. I'm thinking though that now nearly 25 years later, since this statement of "Joint Declaration" that the social-direction (wokeism) within these liberalizing churches has actually widened the gap into a deep chasm.

Luther was right on Justification.... And therefore, the Reformation was necessary... and still is.

We are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ alone!

When we make that the centerpiece and build a sound biblical theology around these then constructive conversations can and do occur. The LCMS is finding more and more global church bodies that agree and are appreciative of a sound biblical doctrinal stance.

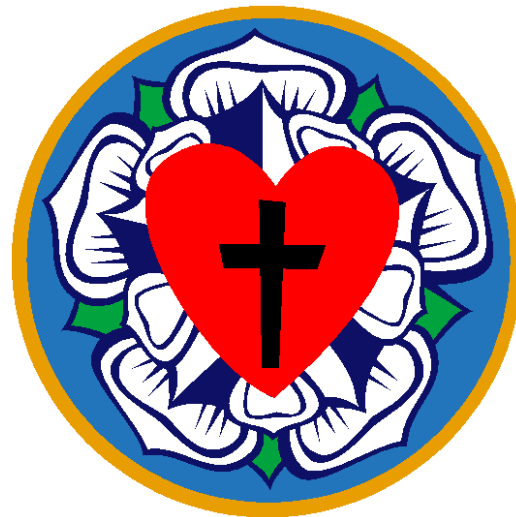
Just as the great Lutheran composer and musician J.S. Bach penned at the end of all his musical compositions... SDG (soli Deo gloria ~ to God only be the glory!). Amen. And so too, it is our Amen, Amen. (Rev. 3:14).

In Christ,
Pastor Bode

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone



Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Parish

St. John's Lutheran Church

1 Scott Friday
6 Hayden Milliman, Gary Wendorf
12 Addison Lewerenz
15 Les Orvis
16 Diane Buehring
21 Hailey Volk
23 Tim & Tessa Knickerbocker



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1 Maddie Nelson
2 Fred Kelling
4 Sandy Davis, Pam Sundermeyer
5 Molly Gudilias, Lori Klepsa, Beau Lucht
6 Mel Grell
9 Jean Ann Mattson
10 Joe & Bobbie Peterson
12 Jim Kelling
14 Jamie & Amanda Sundermeyer
15 Betty Thomas
17 Nancy Eik
18 Sayler Swanson
19 Kelsey Cooper, Daniel & Hannah Gelhar
20 Jessa Peterson
22 Donna Meyer, Mac Nelson, Clyde Ziesmer
23 Tracy Gullerud
24 Jim & Debbie Knickerbocker
30 Hannah Gelhar
31 Ron Johnson, Carlie & Ellie Grell

A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ

Day of Worship	Attend- ance	Offering
8-31-2025	38	\$3,300.00
9-7-2025	32	\$1,385.00
9-14-2025	64	\$1,869.00
9-21-2025	37	\$517.70



Elder: Dennis Gerold
Altar Guild: Lynette Downing

October 5

Musician: Digital (Roxanne Orvis)
Reader: Pastor
PA Tech: David Haley
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Sandy Minor & Lynette Downing

October 12

Musician: Cindy Wendorf
Reader: Brian Moreau
PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing

October 19

Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau)
Reader: Brian Moreau
PA Tech: David Haley
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Diane Buehring & Lynette Downing

October 26

Musician: Cindy Wendorf
Reader: Jill Erickson
PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing