

October 2017 – Continuing to Re-form

The group of people from Peace who went to Germany continually commented on how Martin Luther was a “rock star” and a rebel. He had a desire to see a church that rather than fill people with a fear of God, would spread a message of hope in a God of love. Luther’s understanding of God changed the world. The church started to see itself as communities of hope and acceptance. 500 years later Peace continues to be a place that strives to reach out with God’s open embrace.

On Sunday, September 10, our entire 11:00am worship service walked down the hall and joined The Church at Northpointe, a predominately African American congregation worshipping in the sanctuary. We joined hands, sang a hymn, and prayed together in a display of unity. In a world filled with division, we strive to be one in Christ. This message matters! We continue to be people who re-form.

Our HOPE team recently offered guidance, validation and job connections to participants in the HOPE Works event, helping them re-form their lives with opportunities for meaningful employment. Because you support HOPE, you are people who re-form.

The financial support you pledge to Peace actually does change lives. Your pledge allows leaders of the Peace community to make plans for ministry and outreach. Pledging enables ministries such as Southeast Testament, GRIN, and Friendship Ministries, the opportunity to move forward. On Sunday, October 22nd in worship we will discuss how offering your financial gifts back to God matters. Then on Sunday, October 29th, Reformation Sunday, we will ask you and your family to bring this commitment card to worship. During the service we will have a time where you bring your pledge forward and receive a blessing from members of our Vision Board and Staff.

500 years ago, Martin Luther re-formed the church by leading us on a dual journey - the inward journey of God's unconditional love, and the outward journey in which we share that love with the world around us. Let's take the next steps together by offering ourselves to this mission:

Faith offers us God as our own; love gives us to our neighbor as his own. (Martin Luther).

Peace. – Pastor Doug Warburton and the Stewardship Team

Note: If one member of your household received this letter via email and another is receiving this paper version, it is due to our database not having current emails for both *Head of Household* and *Spouse*. If you'd like to update us please contact Pat at procca@peacegahanna.org.