

From the Pastor

October 31, 2017

Today (October 29th 2017), marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther. Of the many theological contributions Luther made to the church, the concept of the priesthood of all believers is among the most important. In his address to the *Nobility of the German Nation* (1520), Luther says:



“For whoever comes out of the water of baptism can boast that he is already a consecrated priest, bishop and pope, although of course it is not seemly that just anybody shall exercise such office.”

If you are like me, you may be content with knowing you will never be pope, (or even bishop), but it is uplifting to know we all have direct access to God and can all serve and provide each other with spiritual direction.

Here at St. Mark’s we value the concept of the priesthood of all believers. We do our best to help each other serve in the church and world productively according to the gifts God gives us. Toward this end, members of our church and staff have published a packet of material called *Build Up* to help us identify ways we can be involved and put us in touch with those who can connect us to particular areas of service. The packet includes a generosity guide to help us reflect on ways we can experience God’s grace and discover new ways to serve or to grow in our understanding of ways we are currently serving. I will be leading two discussions on the guide. One will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 12th at 2:30 in Room 1203, (right above the sanctuary). The second discussion will be held on Wednesday night November 15th at 6:15 in the Narthex. Butler Touchton will be facilitating that discussion with me.

Please read through the *Build Up* packets. During worship on November 19th we will be presenting our commitment cards to indicate how we will serve and engage in worship along with our estimate of giving for 2018. Thank you so much for all the ways you make St. Mark’s a place all people can discover that they are important to God and to the church!

Blessings,

Craig