

# I-K Lutheran

## *Where God is doing new things*

October 2018

So, how's the 501<sup>st</sup> year of the Protestant Reformation going for you and your local faith community? This time last year many of us were quite busy with many events and activities in observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> year. This year? Not so much. And that's okay.

We tend to think of the Reformation in terms of big historic events and movements. In many ways, the Reformation initiated in 1517 was about big events and the movement has sustained itself – and even institutionalized itself – for half a millennium. But reformation, the experience of being re-formed in Christ, happens more often in small moments in our daily lives and through the regular rhythms of the life of our faith community.



In his reflection on Holy Baptism in *The Small Catechism*, Martin Luther asserts that baptism "signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." Then he quotes Romans 6:4: We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Daily death and resurrection. Born again daily. Daily reformation. By grace. In the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is why regular participation in worship is so important for us. Sure, we drag ourselves and our families across town hoping that we will "get something out of it." And we go to share our gifts with others and to support and encourage their faith. At the center of our worship, however, is the Holy Spirit gathering us together to continue the work of reformation in us, as a community and as individuals. Worship is about dying and rising in Christ, again and again and again...

We pass by the baptismal font, reach in to wet a finger, retrace the mark of the cross on our brow, and we remember that, despite all the wandering after other gods to which we have succumbed during the week, we belong forever to the one true living God who is the author and giver of new, abundant, and lasting life.

In honest confession of and turning away from our sin – the many ways we have failed or chosen to be something other than what God has called and made us to be – all our sins and evil desires are drowned and die, again, and in the bold assertion of God's forgiveness a new person is called forth again to walk in newness of life in the way of the crucified and risen Christ.

Saturated with the reading of scripture and the proclamation of God's Word, fed again with the broken-bodied poured-out love of Jesus, whispering the peace of Christ to one another – in the worship space, the narthex, the hallways, the fellowship hall, the classrooms – we are washed again in the persistent promises of Holy Baptism. By God's grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit, the old person is drowned and dies; a new person comes forth and rises up to live before God in righteousness and purity. What an amazing gift this is!

As we pause this Reformation Day (or Reformation Sunday) to cross the threshold from the 501<sup>st</sup> into the 502<sup>nd</sup> year of the Reformation, may the one, true, living God draw us ever deeper into the reforming power of new, abundant, and lasting life in Christ crucified and risen, for us and for the world.

Did you know that Luther's *Small Catechism* is in the back of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), beginning on page 1160? 1517 Media (Augsburg Fortress) also has an elegant free Small Catechism app. Go to your device's app store, search for "Luther's Small Catechism" and look for the cranberry colored logo with a vine running diagonally through it. For a small fee, the app can also be upgraded to the Study Edition, which includes additional notes, new illustrations, and more. Why not make meditation on the Small Catechism part of your daily devotional life and your preparation for worship each week?

+ Bishop Bill Gafkjen



## 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders and Adult Mentors



**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 – SATURDAY, JUNE 29,  
2019 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

Join us for a week of meaningful community service alongside strong local ministries and non-profit organizations in the Louisville area. Our time will be packed with practical acts of love and service as we engage people with Christ-like empathy and compassion. Evening activities will give us the opportunity to sample the culture and diversity of Kentucky's largest city.

Christ Lutheran Church in Jeffersontown will be our home base for the week. We will spend Friday at Kentucky Kingdom Amusement Park and Hurricane Bay Water Park.

The cost is \$175 per person which is all inclusive. For more information, contact Pastor Dan Fugate, Assistant to the Bishop for Discipleship, at [dfugate@iksynod.org](mailto:dfugate@iksynod.org) or 317.253.3522. You may also wish to check out [www.iksynod.org/ikytm](http://www.iksynod.org/ikytm).



**Indiana-Kentucky Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.