



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
22 N SECOND ST, WATERVILLE OH
419-878-0266
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017
LATE BREAKING NEWS



MARTIN LUTHER AS HYMN WRITER

The sudden bursting forth of the Lutheran chorale is one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of the Reformation. It began in December of 1523. Luther

expressed his appreciation for some of the older German hymns and his desire to find poets who would write new hymns in a proper devotional style.

Before the year was over, several of Luther's hymns and some by his friends were printed and distributed. By late in the summer of the following year, Luther had written twenty four of the thirty six hymns that would come from his pen.

To the modern ear, Luther's verses sometimes sound awkward. They lack the rich emotional overtones and the mellow flow of words which mark the hymns written in the past century. But Luther's hymns were not meant to create a mood; they were meant to convey a message. They were a confession of faith, not of personal feelings. They were written not to be read, but to be sung by the whole congregation. And Luther's people learned to sing them. Practices were set during the week for the entire congregation; and in the home, after the catechism hour, the family was encouraged to sing.

TODAY we sing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", this is called the Battle Hymn of the Reformation. There are various views of the time and place of origin. There is weighty evidence that it was composed in 1529 for the Diet of Spires when the German princes made formal "protest" against the revocation of their liberties and received the name "Protestants". It is based on the theme of Psalm 46; some verses are reminiscent of the text. The tune is Luther's as well. This is a hymn of all Protestantism, not just Lutheranism. There are different versions of the melody. This hymn has been translated into more languages than any other hymn. There are 70-80 English versions. Two examples: "A Safe Stronghold Our God is Still" and "A Mighty Fortress is Our God, A Bulwark". This hymn expresses Luther's heart; it helped him overcome his fears. "The good this hymn has done, the faith it has inspired, the hearts it has comforted, the influence it has exerted, cannot be measured and will first be revealed to us in eternity, with the saints of God." The hymn is a wonderful funeral hymn. In 1545, it was sung at Halle when Luther's body was brought from Eisleben to Wittenburg. It was also sung by Luther and his aides at Coburg castle during the Diet of Augsburg. This hymn bears the first tune written by Luther. Many consider this hymn to be Luther's best.

KEEPING YOU POSTED~

ENDOWMENT VOTING!

It is time to vote for endowment projects. Voting forms were mailed to Zion's members with 20 Mission Endowment projects and 5 Capital Improvement Endowment projects.

Each member has the opportunity to use these voting forms to help allocate Mission Endowment grants among five categories. The first three categories respond to Jesus' command in Acts 1:8 – "Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In addition, there is a category for Trinity Seminary and one for projects recommended by our Synod.

Please take a few minutes to read the project descriptions and fill out a set of voting forms. You can mail them to the office or drop them in the box in the Family Life Center. In order to save postage, only one set of voting forms was sent to each household. More forms are available in the FLC. **Votes will be accepted through NEXT MONDAY JULY 10. Please vote TODAY!**



Special service Sunday, August 6 at 10:00! Zion is hosting the Ugandan Kids Choir and followed by Parking Lot Picnic and fellowship. Zion will provide meat, drinks, & table service. We will share one service with the kids choir and picnic will follow. If weather does not permit outside

picnic we move inside. Please bring a dish to pass and plan for an awesome day.



We are in need of volunteers to host the choir Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Please call the church office in you are able to help and watch for more details.



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY FROM THE STAFF AND COUNCIL. THANK YOU GOD FOR ALL OUR FREEDOMS AND BLESSINGS.

OFFICE CLOSED TUESDAY!

Dear Friends and Members of Zion,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At a recent church council meeting we discussed how “The church is the hope of the world.” We all know that there is chaos and turmoil in our world, but one thing remains true, “We ARE the hope of the world.” We can say this because of the love of God and we are called to share that love.

Last Sunday we were reminded of that love through Martin Luther’s favorite Bible verse from Romans 8:39,

“Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

That hope can clearly be seen in all of the children at Zion, in our “Kids for Christ” (KFC) program on Sundays, in the 60 children in our pre-school program during the week, or in the 200 or so children who will be at VBS in July. That hope is seen in our youth program- “Youth on a Mission.” It is also seen in our beautiful flower gardens around our church as they are in full bloom and color. God is good for allowing us to BE the hope for the world and witness His hope everywhere we go.

At our recent church council meeting we discussed God’s hope to our members, to our community, and to our world. In the midst of this hope, we also wanted to make you aware that we are just “breaking even” with our finances. We share this now knowing that during the summer, giving is often decreased as folks are on vacation or away more than usual. Please continue to be generous givers, as God is to us, so we may continue to BE the hope of the world.

As you read this letter, we are in the process, for 21 days, of praying for our church and our financial situation. Please pray with us this prayer:

Heavenly Father, we trust you that you will stir us to use YOUR gifts wisely, as we share your hope and love. As you are a generous giver to us, help us to be generous givers in fulfilling the mission of being hope to the world. We thank you and trust you with our church and our giving. Amen.

If you have any questions, please contact any church council member. Thank you.

Jon Rhoades-President
Thom Ovacek- Vice President
Carol Rosebrock- Secretary

Sherry Moon
Barb Burger
Lynne Sellers
Nick Sargent