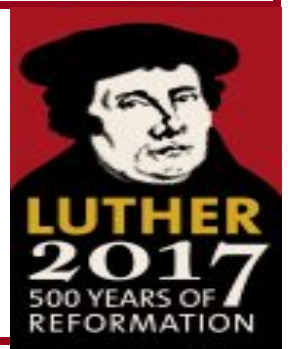


It's STILL All About Jesus!

Psalm 90 Philippians 2:1-11 Luke 2:21-33

December 31, 2017

Pastor Dave Bolte



This past year has been the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. It was a year to remember God's grace and mercy as He worked through Martin Luther and the Reformers to bring the Gospel to the front and center of the Holy Christian Church.

- ✓ We **celebrated** Martin Luther nailing the **95 Theses** to the door of the Wittenberg church.
- ✓ We **rejoiced** in the bold courage of the Reformers as they stood firm on God's Holy Word rather than the traditions of men.
- ✓ We **learned** about the Martin Luther, his life and his family, his journey and his struggles.
- ✓ We **thanked** the Lord for His goodness to us in bringing us into the Lutheran history and heritage where we know and believe the gospel of free grace in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Martin Luther began the Lutheran Reformation, and we reap the benefits even now, 500 years later!

Perhaps the most important thing to remember as we look back in this milestone 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation was that it was *all about Jesus!* Its all about His grace and mercy that took Him to the cross for each of us.

Even now, as we finish up celebrating this Advent & Christmas season, we re reminded that it is *all about Jesus!*

- † **God the Creator** comes into the world in the Person of Jesus Christ to bring us life and light. Only Jesus is the Light of the World Who's resurrection from the dead gives us eternal life!
- † Jesus is **the long awaited Messiah** of the Old Testament, who fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies! He is the One "anointed" and "chosen" to be our Savior. He was born in Bethlehem so that He could live a perfect life and die on a cross in Jerusalem for us.
- † Jesus is **the Very Son of God**, who reveals to us the grace and truth of the Father; in Him we have grace upon grace; blessings upon blessings from God's loving hand.
- † Jesus is **the Savior of the World**, who's death and resurrection has rescued us from sin, guilt, condemnation, shame, and death. There is no other option; there is no other savior besides Jesus!

Its All About Jesus.

The Advent and Christmas season was *all about Jesus!*

The Lutheran Reformation was *all about Jesus!*

And our daily lives are *all about Jesus* as well!

As we wrap 2017 today, and begin 2018 tomorrow, it's a time of resolutions, evaluations, and reflection; it's a time when you think back over the years and look forward to the new year. Today, as you think about your life, make sure that your life is

All About Jesus.

That means that you

- recognize and realize His presence and power at work in your life each day.
- It means that you live as a forgiven sinner; trusting in Christ's love, grace, and mercy for you.
- it means that you believe that the Good Lord is at work in your life through His Word and Sacraments;
- it means that you have confidence that your Savior knows you and cares about the details of your life.

As Lutheran Christians, we are **Christ centered, grace filled** believers.

Our lives are all about Jesus!

- † It started in **Holy Baptism**, as you were marked with the sign of the cross and united to the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- † Your life is shaped and formed by the **Holy Word** of God; Holy Scriptures mold you into a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- † You are fed and strengthened by God in **Holy Communion**
- † You live each day by the **grace of God**; letting the Light of Christ shine forth through you.
- † You are **faithful in your vocations** as you glorify God and service other people with your gifts, service and work.
- † You intentionally **raise your children** in the Christian faith, creating a Christ-centered environment in your home and teaching them the ways of the Kingdom of God.

- † You interact with other people in **love, kindness, and patience**, because the Lord Jesus has dealt with you in love, kindness, and patience.
- † And someday, your **life will end** when the Lord Jesus will graciously take you from this veil of tears to Himself in **Heaven**.

From start to finish,
From Baptism to Heaven,

Our lives are all About Jesus.

This Christmas season reminded us that Jesus is our **God** and **Creator** who came into the world to be our **Savior**. **But there is even more to it than that!** The Lord Jesus is your **Comforter**; He is your **Friend**; **He travels with you through life**; He is your **Defender**; He is your **Protector**. The Lord Jesus promises to **watch over your life!** He promises **provide all that you need** for you body and life!

We worship a God who cares about us --- He is concerned about every single detail of your life!

Our lives are all about Jesus!

Today marks the end of 2017.

It also marks the end of the 500th anniversary celebration of the Lutheran Reformation.

BOTH of these things reminds us,
that *in all things* and *at all times*,

Our Lives Are All About Jesus!

Amen.