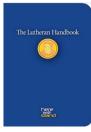




Monthly publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

## Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Happy October! This year our new confirmation class starts in October. I'm excited to have Kellen and Ryan Masse, Kendall Riley, and her friend who worships at St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church, Ellen Bates in the new class. We will meet together at least once a month for two years to study the Bible, the Creeds, the small catechism, and other important information about a life of faith as followers of Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit.



The book I use to help guide our time together is The Lutheran Handbook. I'm sure some of you have seen it before. It was published in 2005, and I saw copies of it when I arrived here in 2017. To me, it's an informal but educational resource. If you haven't seen it or read it yet, I encourage you to do so.

When I think of October I also think of Reformation and Martin Luther. Reformation is always October 31, but we celebrate it at church on the closest Sunday; so this year it is October 27. I figured I would share a few of the details about Martin Luther and the Reformation from The Lutheran Handbook.

It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to a church door in Wittenberg setting the Reformation in motion. One of Luther's main attacks was against the sale of indulgences which claimed that people could buy their way into heaven.

Seven important things Luther said (and one funny one) and what they meant:

"When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said, 'Repent', he called for the entire life of believers to be one of 1. repentance." (95 Theses, 1517) Luther meant that faith and it's Christly acts of love and service are never to be separated from real life. Faith isn't just a hobby, it's an entire way of life!

2 "The Law says, 'do this', and it's never done. Grace says, 'believe in this', and everything is already done." (Heidelberg Disputation, 1518) This statement highlights how important Martin Luther believed it to be that Christians understand the difference between God's law and the gospel. A life free to serve others begins with us. No matter how well you keep the law, only the free gift of the gospel can save you.

"A Christian is perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." 3. (The Freedom of a Christian, 1520) By this, Luther meant that Jesus Christ is a Christian's only Lord - a Lord who commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason...I am bound by the Scriptures I have 4. quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot, and I will not, retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen." (Speech at the Diet of Worms, April 15, 1521) With this bold and defiant statement, Martin Luther drew a line in the sand and started an age of reformation for the Christian church.

"Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and 5. the world." (Letter to Philip Melanchthon August 1, 1521.) Jesus came to save sinners. There's no point in denying you're a sinner. But more importantly, knowing you're a sinner will bring you closer to Jesus Christ, the one person who can save you from sin and death.

"This is most certainly true." (Small Catechism, 1529) The freedom God declares through Jesus Christ can be fully 6. believed and should not be doubted. Luther wanted the word Amen to be spoken with complete confidence.

"It's true. We're beggars." (Luther's last written words, February 16, 1546) This is Luther's final testimony on 7. humankind's total dependence on the grace and mercy of God and to life's character as an absolute gift.

cont. on pg. 5.

**WhatsInside** 

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- Raise the Roof Update Pg. 7 Pg. 8 Reformation Pg. 9 Celebrations
- Pg. 10 Calendar of Events

## September Council News

The Church Council met for its regular monthly meeting on September 19, 2024, in person and by Zoom. Devotions were led by Pr. Ashley.

The following items were thoroughly discussed: 1) The "Raise the Roof-Raise the Kids" Campaign with gifts totaling \$615,237.00 toward the goal of \$665,425.00; 2) Moravian Church Ministry; 3) SURE Information Gathering/Update following worship on Sept. 29th; and 4) Removal of a dying old oak tree and other tree pruning.

Approved the following:

The follow items were approved:

 Advent and Christmas Worship services on Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 7 P.M., Christmas Eve Service at 7 P.M;
 Appointed JoAnn Jordan and Marty Hillerich as delegates to the Oct. 26 Mid-Gulf Conference; and 3) Set the date of Dec. 8 for a Special Congregational Meeting following worship to act on three items: Election of Church Council Members, Elect Nominating Committee for 2025 and Adoption of the Spending Plan for 2025.

Announcement was shared: Members wishing to attend The Mid-Gulf Conference on Saturday October 26, are asked to contact Irene Felicetti or Pastor Ashley.

# Message from the Church Office

## Pastor Ashley and the Parish Administrator will never email or text you asking for donations of money or gift cards.

Please ignore these scammers. You should always contact the church office if you are not sure.

The Messenger is the newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Mailing address: 2256 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota FL 34239-2499



Telephone: 941-955-6479 Fax: 941-955-8600 ECLC Preschool 941-955-6480 Email: *StPaul-Admin@verizon.net* Preschool email: *StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net* Council email: *StPaul-Council@verizon.net* Pastor email: *prashley1010@gmail.com* Web site: *www.StPaulSarasota.org* Editor: *Sue Scherr* 

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA.

Pastor: Rev. Ashley Nicolls

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Hillerich

## Executive Committee

Irene Felicetti, President JoAnn Jordan, Vice President Don Hillerich, Secretary George Hutfilz, Treasurer

## Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch, Lori Fountain-Guillaume, Amy Hildreth, Marthe Hildreth, Don Hillerich, JoAnn Jordan, Bob Lariviere, Nanacy Parmakian, Judy Roberts, Alexandra Wise, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

#### Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring - Jan Kruse Christian Education - Seeking volunteer leader Communications - Sue Scherr Early Childhood Learning Cntr - Marilyn Hutfilz Evangelism - Bob Lariviere Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Paxton Fellowship - Carol Grosch & Alexandra Wise Finance - George Hutfilz Food Pantry - George Hutfilz Outreach Ministry Fund - Seeking volunteer leader Property - Seeking volunteer leader Social - Judy Roberts Stewardship - George & Marilyn Hutfilz Worship and Music – Sharon Wittren Parish Administrator - Tracy Bateman Director of Music - Fonda Davies

The Messenger is published monthly and distributed without charge to St. Paul Lutheran congregation members and friends.

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MISSION STATEMENT As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through Baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all; so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.



1

# ECLC News

The VPK class is playing a game called "Betty Boo Boo" trying to match letters on the bandaids to the letter on her boo boos.



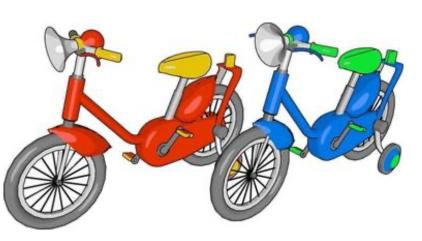


If you would like to assist in the preparation, during the Trike-a-Thon, or afterward for clean up, please contact our ECLC Director, Lisa McLean. You can leave a message for her at the church office as well.

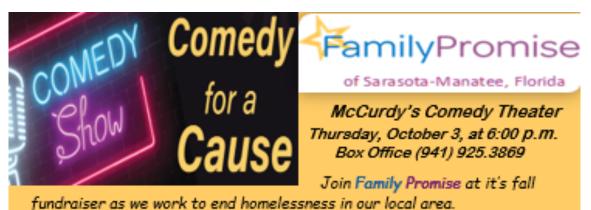
October 8 9:30-11:30a

l-a-

Come support our young riders as they go around the circle. You can sponsor a specific child or make a donation to the ECLC Trike-a-Thon to show your support. Rms 1 & 2 9:30-10:30a Rm. 3 & VPK 10:30-11:30a



# Family Promise Fundraiser!



Tickets are \$31.75 with \$25.00 donated directly to our agency. Be sure to buy tickets designated for Family Promise reserved seating from mccurdyscomedy.com/shows or through the Box Office.

Ten Silent Auction baskets designed to appeal to families and couples alike.

<u>Silent Auction Info</u>: You don't have to attend **to bid and win** one of the awesome baskets being created for this event.



Baskets include: "Cruise the Bay" (just what it says and an Uber gift card so you don't have to drive), "Stay-cation on Siesta Key" (ocean front condo weekend with beach supplies), "Hooray for Hollywood" (movie tickets and dinner), the ever popular "Booze Basket" and many more.....

50/50 raffle tickets will be availble the night of the event, too.

Thank you Thank you Thank you

# Hope Seeds

On Monday, September 16, Hope Seeds met from 1:00-3:00p. There was a lot of conversation, laughter, and fellowship. (And of course assembling a lot of seed packets.) 3,000 carrot seed packets and one family pack consisting of 250 bags each containing 12 different vegetable seeds were assembled. The family pack was to be shipped to a missionary in Haiti.

Hope Seeds meets each third Monday of the month. Come when you can, and leave when you must. We welcome all to help each month from 1:00-3:00p.









## Pr. Ashley's Article Continued Pg. 1

8. "Your manure cure didn't help me either." (Letter to wife Katie in 1537) Medieval home remedies for skin rashes weren't always what they were cracked up to be. Luther tried one of his wife's home remedies, and apparently it didn't work.

God's peace and blessings.

PrAshley



rager tournstry

St. Paul offers many ways to pray with and for loved ones, the community, and the world!

**Online Prayer Chain** - an email goes out weekly with prayer requests. Please let PrAshley know if you want to be a pray-er.

**Prayer Crosses** - Located in the Fellowship Hall, the Sanctuary, and outside for prayers to be placed either in or on. Any prayer request put on the cross in the FH or Sanctuary will be put on the outside Hope Cross.

**Prayer Zoom** - Talking with God (see below) facilitated by Deacon Kim Heindl meets every Thursday at 4:00p.

# Talking with God

As people of faith it is quite natural that we talk to God. In quiet moments, in moments of uncertainty or challenge, and in times of joy. It is part of our worship and helps us grow personally and communally in our relationship with Jesus. I would like to invite you to join a group of us that gather every Thursday at 4p via Zoom. We talk, share our lives, joys, concerns, and we pray. No stress and easy to be part of! Follow the link below (it is the same every week) or email Kimberly Heindl for an invitation: kaheindl@comcast.net.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552



October 12	Adopt-a-Road	8:00a		
ctober 19LBJ Speaker Event1:30pJoin award winning Sarasota author and historian, Liz Coursen, as she discusses LBJ's actions anf activities in Florida during this tumultuous time in our state and nation's history.				
October 21	SURE Community Problems Assembly Pineshores Presbyterian Church	6:00р		
October 26	Mid-Gulf Conference Faith Lutheran	8:30a-12:00p All are invited		
Come and join fellow Lutherans from other local ELCA congregations for a morning of learning, worship and				

fellowship. You will have the chance to meet the new Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission, Rev. Carlos Hamm.

Solidarity March

1,000+ people marched over the Ringling Bridge on November 19, 2023, against hate.

Sarasota's Christian and Jewish Communities invite you to declare your thoughts and feelings for solidarity against hate by marching together over the Ringling Bridge on Sunday, October 6, 2024, starting at 3:00p. Our Sarasota Ministerial Association, which we are a member of, is co-hosting with the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and the Sarasota-Manatee Rabbinical Association. The March is in recognition of the one year anniversary of the October 7 massacre in Isreal.

Free parking will be available at the Palm Avenue Parking Garage at 1289 N. Palm Ave. in Sarasota, and of course at many places in the immediate area. The gathering location will be at the Eloise Werlin Park, .7 miles from the parking garage, and directly behind the Hart's Landing Bait Shop at 920 Ringling Causeway. Public restrooms are located at the park, and the bait shop has a supply of drinks and snacks available for purchase. Security and bottled water will be provided.

Volunteer Opportunites for those who want to walk the full 3 miles, or the .7 miles from the parking garage and back, email solidaritymarch2024@gmail.com. Questions can be directed to that email as well.

If we don't use our voices, others will use our silence.



# Raise the Rood

# Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids!

Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or mailed to the church office. Be sure to indicate that it is for the campaign. Thank you.

For online giving: http://bit.ly/3ZZOdoH

To quote a fund raising professional: "It is amazing what the members of St. Paul and friends have given to the campaign". As members of St. Paul we too are overwhelmed with gratitude for what God has done. To preserve an architectural gem and provide a safe and Christ centered Early Childhood Learning Center, God has opened hearts and check books to the tune of \$615,237.00 toward the goal of \$665,425.00 leaving a balance of \$50,188.00.

To reach the goal, and for anticipated additional increases of the project, pledges payable over 15 months, memorial gifts, cash (checks), IRA gifts and stocks are welcome. Consideration of additional gifts; if one has already been given, are encouraged too. For confidential information, contact Pr. Ashley or Pr. Don. Thanks be to God, and bless you for your support and prayers. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter!





On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther "posted" the 95 Theses in protest against the church.

Here modern historians have questioned two things. Since the 1960s some scholars have thought it highly unlikely that Luther ever nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. They point to the fact that Luther never mentions it. Also, the posting is first mentioned in a sketch of Luther's life written shortly after his death by a colleague, Phillip Melanchthon, who didn't arrive in Wittenberg until 1518, well after the alleged act.

While some scholars (including this author) still argue that such a posting really did take place, all agree that the more important "posting," which we know occurred that day, was in the mail as an enclosure to a letter addressed to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz, head of the German church. The original, dated letter is in an archive in Stockholm, Sweden.

But the notion that the 95 Theses were, from their inception, a protest rests on the mistaken idea about the function of such "theses" in late-medieval university life. In those days, to receive any university degree students had to defend theses, usually composed by their professors and posted on the churches' doors in advance of the oral defense.

In addition, as a professor of theology, Luther had the right to hold "quodlibital disputations" — debates on any subject whatsoever to clarify church teaching, which usually were presented in the form of theses. In the case of the 95 Theses, Luther was clearly thinking in those terms. His intent wasn't protest but open debate about an issue over which there was great uncertainty: What were indulgences and how did they relate to a Christian's sorrow over sin?

It was the reactions to Luther's theses — the archbishop sent them to Rome because he suspected they contained heresy — that turned a sharp inquiry over church practice and teaching into protest and reform.

Article from Living Lutheran at livinglutheran.org.









Oct. 13Mark & Esther SmithOct. 17Bob & Kim LariviereOct. 26Brian & Suzanne Gregalot

## Ethel's 100th Birthday Celebration!

Ethel's 100th Birthday is on October 11! We will celebrate her at worship and during coffee hour on Sunday, October 13. There will be a basket for cards. If you can't attend in-person her address is: 4740 Village Garden Drive, Sarasota, FL 34234





	1924 Figures	
Average income	-	\$2,196
Unemployment		5%
New Car		\$265
New House		\$7,720
Gallon of Gas		\$.11
Loaf of Bread		\$.08
Gallon of Milk		\$.14
First Class Stamp		\$.02
Life Expenctancy		54.1 years
Metal Bed with Mattress		\$26.95
Tweed Knickers		\$1.55
Victrola		\$150
16 Inch Oven/Broiler		\$59
Chevrolet Roadster		\$480
Dow Jones Average		100

New Address for Frank & Joan Sciani

If you wish to contact Frank and Joan their new address is: 5152 Hidden Drive Greenfield, WI 53221



CAI ENDAR OF EVENTS

**Oct. 1 Tuesday** 5:30p Community Meal

Oct. 2 Wednesday 8:00a Property Ministry 6:00p Bell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice

Oct. 3 Thursday 9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Zoom 6:00p Moravian Band Practice

**Oct. 4 Friday** 6:00p Moravian Bible Study

Oct. 5 Saturday 9:00a Food Pantry Distribution 11:00a First Communion Class 4:00p. Moravian Youth Group Meeting

Oct. 6 Sunday 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a God Speed John Beyer 11:00a Confirmation 12:30p Moravian Service

Oct. 7 Monday 1:00p EvANGELism Meeting 7:30p Worship & Music Zoom meeting

Oct. 8 Tuesday Ministry Reports Due 9:30a Trike-A-Thon ECLC 5:30p Community Meal Oct. 9 Wednesday 8:00a Property Ministry 6:00p Bell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice

Oct. 10 Thursday 9:30a Food Pantry Prep 12:00p Finance Meeting 1:00p Executive Team Meeting 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom 6:00p Moravian Band Practice

Oct. 11 Friday 6:00p Moravian Bible Study

Oct. 12 Saturday 8:00a Adopt-a-Road 9:00a Food Pantry Distribution 4:00p Moravian Youth Group Meeting

Oct. 13 Sunday 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Ethel's 100th Birthday Celebration 12:30p Moravian Service

Oct. 14 Monday Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day

Oct. 15 Tuesday Messenger Deadline 9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal Oct. 16 Wednesday 8:00a Property Ministry 6:00p Bell Practice 7:00p Choir Practice

Oct. 17 Thursday 9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Zoom 6:00p Moravian Band Practice 6:30p Council Meeting

**Oct. 18 Friday** 6:00p Moravian Bible Study

Oct. 19 Saturday 9:00a Food Pantry Distribution 1:30p LBJ and FL Civil Rights Movement Presentation 4:00p Moravian Youth Group Meeting

Oct. 20 Sunday 9:30a Worship Service 12:30p Moravian Service

Oct. 21 Monday 1:00p Hope Seeds

Oct. 22 Tuesday 9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal Oct. 23 Wednesday 8:00a Property Ministry

Oct. 24 Thursday 9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom 6:00p Moravian Band Rehearsal

Oct. 25 Friday 6:00p Moravian Bible Study

Oct. 26 Saturday Moravian Deep Cleaning 9:00a Food Pantry

9:00a Food Pantry Distribution 6:00p Moravian Youth Fellowship

Oct. 27 Sunday 9:30a Worship Service 10:45a Halloween Candy Bagging 12:30p Moravian Service

Oct. 29 Tuesday 9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal

Oct. 30 Wednesday 8:00a Property Ministry

Oct. 31 Thursday Halloween

9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Zoom 6:00p Trunk-or-Treat 6:00p Moravian Band Practice Members



•For all those serving in the U.S. Military •The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. •The Florida Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assistant to the Bishop Pastors Carlos, Derek, Nicole and Rob, Specialists Kim & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana. •SURE - Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity.
•Community Meal & Food Pantry Guests. •Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. •Hope Lutheran Church, Gulf Cove (Port Charlotte) •St. Paul members, St. Paul ECLC teachers and students and the Arlington Park neighborhood.

Marilyn - S. Weckwerth's aunt

#### Beetle/O'Hara Family Susan - Cindy Paxton's friend friend John Bever Tunde - Irene Felicett's friend Henry Blosser Sandi Acevedo - Acevedos sister-in-law Susan Burmaster Clinton Allen - Jim Paulsson's friend Doug Benoit - St. Paul volunteer Sue Fisher John Miller Sheryl Brandes - Sue Scherr's sister-infriend James Paulsson law Betty Smowton Buete & Pearson family - Brian McCulley's Karin Zukowski familv Caroline Burmaster - Susan Burmaster's **Homebound Members** sister-in-law Theresa Alger Todd Couch - Sandy Choquette's son Sharyn Brodnax Mike Cunnigham - H. Roberts' friend sons Donna Casala Cody Eddleman - John Beyer's husband Evelyn Gulliksen John & Joy Emanuelli - Roberts' friends Lindy Lindemann Gladys Faraone - H. Robert's friend June Manselle John Foor - Ryan's friend sister Anna Mathisen Susan Gallagher - Dorothy Boller's Virginia McQuaig daughter Michael Reiter Gallagher Family - Dorothy Boller's incousin Carole Wilson laws Susie Hazel Friends and Family Lois & Niklaus Heisler - Irene Felicetti's Alice - JoAnn Jordan's friend familv Bethany - Gail Seyfarth's granddaughter Katy Hernandev - M. Acevedo's niece Bill - Jan Kruse's friend Nicole Ketler - Susan Burmaster's friend Brad - Cindy Paxton's brother Philip Koepke - Irene Felicetti's friend Cassandra - Irene Felicetti's friend Kate Kretschmann - Lindy Linderman's David - Cody Eddleman's step-dad friend David - JoAnn Jordan's neighbor Karen Kugler - Marty Hillerich's friend cousin Debbie & Frank - Scherr's friends Kenny Manselle - June Manselle's son Ed - Sandy Choquette's friend David McCall - Judy Roberts' brother family Greg - Jan Kruse's friend Kevin McKinney - Susan Burmaster's

Kevin *friend* 

LaShonda - John Beyer's friend

Lucas - Scherr's neighbor's grandson

Marsha McKinney - *former member* Pam Mills - *Daniel Mills*' sister Becky Nobles - Lindy Lindermann's Linda & Jim Norris - Doris Scholotterback's family Karen Paulsson - Jim Paulsson's sister Manny Ribas - Cindy Schlotterback's Clint Shantz - former member Brian, Kenny & Tommy Schlotterback -Doris Schlotterback's sons Hailey Schlotterback - Doris Schlotterback's granddaughter-in-law Rob, James & Mike Scianni - Sciannis' Donna Shepherd - Gail Seyfarth's sister Bethany Smith - Smiths' daughter Muriel Stephenson - JoAnn Jordan's Noel Scott Studenwalt - Smiths' nephew Jolea Swann - Earleen Ashbrook's Bill Sweeney - Hutfliz's grandson Jean Taffe & family - Susan Burmaster's cousin Bill & Jean Thompson - Dorothy Boller's sister & brother-in-law David Van Ness - Missy Craig's brother Elaine & Mark Vanderweight - Jim Paulsson's friends Curtis Weckwerth - Rick Weckwerth's John & Janet Welther - Ethel Hamilton's

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2Corinthians 1:3-4

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

& Early Childhood Learning Center

2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34239

941-955-6479 Preschool 941-955-6480
 940 -955-8600
 www.StPaulSarasota.org

## Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor Rev. Don Hillerich, Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Schedule9:30aService of Worship In-person9:30aService of Worship on Facebook Live





## St. Paul Mission Prayer

God of grace and love, you created us as your children and have brought us to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are not perfect people, but this church is the perfect place for imperfect people. Thank you for your grace through Christ given to us. You call us to proclaim to everyone we meet that your grace is for them too. As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we ask you to help us joyfully share your word and serve your people, so that together our lives make a difference in your kingdom here on earth. Strengthen us in our mission together; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.