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February 1, 2017

Dear Reformation Members and Friends,

Throughout this year we will be looking towards the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation – commemorating Martin Luther’s act of nailing the 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, thus putting into motion what would become the Lutheran tradition as we know it today. This year our Lenten journey will include several opportunities for us to look back over this half-millennium of history, reflect on our own understandings of this Lutheran tradition we claim, and celebrate what God is doing in the world through the church today.

Below is a list of several special opportunities during this season of Lent and we invite you to participate as we journey to the cross and celebrate at the empty tomb.

- We begin our Lent journey on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with worships at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. Both worships will include the celebration of Communion and the imposition of ashes.
- Then, each of the following Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on March 8, we will gather for a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. in Creighton Hall followed by Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 7:30. The scripture readings during the worship will come from the Psalms. Martin Luther called the Psalms the “little Bible” because he felt within them one could find a summary of all of scripture. If you cannot attend the soup supper, please plan to still join us for Evening Prayer.
- Small groups will be reading and discussing the book *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* by Heidi Neumark, a Lutheran pastor serving in New York City. Through her personal journey, Neumark provides a contemporary Lutheran witness, weaving Lutheran theology into the challenges and graces of her story. Please see the separate sign-up sheet for the days, times and locations of those groups. Books are available on the counter outside the sanctuary and as a download from Kindle.
- Our Lent Devotions will also be an opportunity to provide a Lutheran witness to our faith – responding to Martin Luther’s famous words: “Here I stand.” Please go online to <http://tinyurl.com/jdn6nor> to submit your response or complete the enclosed form and return it to the office.

Our Lent journey will then conclude with our Holy Week worships and our joyous Easter celebration!

We hope you will join us as we make this journey of renewal together throughout this season of Lent.

In Christ,

Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

## **Reformation Lutheran Church**

### **2017 Lent Devotion: Here I Stand**

When pressed at the Diet of Worms\* to recant his theological position, Martin Luther famously stated "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. May God help me. Amen."

These words propelled the Protestant Reformation, as we know it today, into full force. No longer were Luther's points simply meant to be fodder for discussion or debate. Luther's words drew a line around that which his faith held to be true bounded by the Word of God.

For our Lent Devotion this year we are focusing on the things that are central to our faith - the things on which our faith stands. Simply put, what is it that you hold to no matter what?

The devotions have three parts:

1. In one (or two) words name what is central to your faith.
2. Use two or three sentences to explain.
3. Write a brief prayer to conclude your devotion.

All are welcome and encouraged to submit responses.

The responses received will be used in the daily devotion email. Your name will be included with your devotion, but your email address will not be made public.

Please contact Pastor Alina or Pastor Wayne if you have any questions.

Please submit your responses by February 15.

\*The Diet of Worms was a meeting in the city of Worms where Martin Luther was summoned by the church authorities in the Roman Catholic Church. There he was questioned about his writings and asked to recant his position.

**What is one word (or two, at most) that expresses what is central to your faith?**

**In two or three sentence explain why this is central to your faith?**

**Write a brief prayer to conclude your devotion.**

**Your name**

**Your email**

### Lent Small Group Discussions

#### *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* By Heidi Neumark

The 2017 Lent groups will be reading and discussing the book *Hidden Inheritance* by Heidi Neumark, a Lutheran pastor serving in New York City. Neumark’s book focuses on her journey of discovering her family’s secret of their Jewish faith, surviving the Holocaust, and finding themselves scattered throughout the world. Neumark places the challenges and graces of this discovery in conversation with her own Lutheran understand of life and faith in what is a beautiful memoir.

- All groups begin the week of February 26.
- Group sessions will last about 60 minutes.
- Copies of the book are available at Reformation and as a Kindle download

YES! I/we will join a discussion group!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your preferred day and time:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sundays at 9:45 am at Reformation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mondays at 1:00 pm at Reformation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mondays at 7:15 pm at Reformation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at Reformation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thursdays at 2:00 pm at Reformation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fridays at 9:30 am at Reformation (Child care will be provided)

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