

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

REFORMATION SUNDAY: OCTOBER 29, 2017

Luther's Bible



This year Presbyterians celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. The theses, which criticized the sale of indulgences by church officials, are considered the opening salvo in the Protestant Reformation—a movement that emphasized individual relationships with God and salvation through faith alone.

Luther is also celebrated for a second piece of writing: his translation of the Bible into German. After Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther in 1521, the reformer took refuge inside Wartburg Castle. There he completed his translation of the New Testament, based on Erasmus's 1516 Bible text. First printed in September 1522, the "September Testament" does not include Luther's name on the title page, an elision meant to limit church reprisals.

The Old Testament translation proved more difficult, owing in part to Luther's struggles with Hebrew and his insistence that the text be accessible to all Germans. "The translator must not be led by the Hebrew words," Luther wrote. "He should make sure that he really understands the sense and ask himself: 'What would the German say in such-and-such an instance?'" His editorial philosophy required inventive interpolations. For example, he replaced the word "chameleon," which would have been unknown to sixteenth century Germans, with "weasel."

It took Luther and a team of fellow scholars twelve years to translate the Old Testament, which was printed in 1534 together with Luther's New Testament. Despite criticism for the way he valued certain books of the Bible over others and for editing passages to fit his own theology, Luther's Bible was an immediate and lasting success; one Wittenberg publisher alone printed 100,000 copies between 1534 and 1574. Many Germans regarded it as a work of literary genius, the way English readers would revere the King James Bible in the century to come.

Reformation Sunday materials are provided by the **Presbyterian Historical Society**. For more information on the Reformation and PHS, visit us at www.history.pcusa.org/reformation-sunday

Above left Portrait of Martin Luther, engraved by John Sartain, 1835.

Above right Title page of Luther's translation of the New Testament, 1522. *PHS Rare Books Collection.*



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus



Inside this issue:	
Keep in Prayer	2
Financial Information	2
Happenings	3
Happenings	4
Stewardship	5
Per Capita	5
Joyful Noise	6
Welcome School	6
Children's Ministry	7
Youth Fellowship	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays	10

Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael G. Elliott (Pastor)-pastor@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

June Kouba (Church Administrator/Treasurer)-admin@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Linda Reffert (Children's Ministry Director)-lkreffert@aol.com
Tu, W, Th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (hours may vary)

Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)-youthdirector@bellevuefpc.org
Tu, Th 10:30 am to 3:00 pm (hours may vary)

Rob Rose (Children's Music Director)-afchap08@gmail.com

Alice Renner (Chancel Choir Director)-akrenner@cox.net

Liane Kirmis (Westminster Bells Director)-rkirmis@windstream.net

Dirk Lindner (Organist)-dirk16@cox.netE

Eric Van Sky (Financial Secretary)-eric.vansky@yahoo.com



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Mona Klingler, sister of Sue Tabler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Gary Marks as he awaits a new kidney.
- ◆ Prayers for Carl and Denise Seaman as Carl battles pancreatic cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Cherie Wallace who is suffering with a broken vertebrae.
- ◆ Prayers for Genie Fox who is improving after a stroke.

Bakersplus.com

Baker's is offering the community rewards program again in **2017**. You **will not** need to re-enroll. The church received **\$252.51** from the **third quarter** of 2017. If you have not enrolled please do, this helps us pay for various items that are not budgeted such as the new TV in the classroom downstairs and new light weight tables for the Craft Room.

Financial Information

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$37,581.14	\$279,800.46
Expenses	<u>\$44,548.62</u>	<u>\$305,836.94</u>
Difference	<\$6,967.48	<\$26,036.48



Happenings

Fall Clean-up Day

Get out your rake, get out your gloves, shovels and clippers and join us on Saturday, November 4th for a fall clean-up.

Maybe you haven't thought about it, however, our church building and the grounds are a part of our mission outreach to the community.

We'll be starting at about 9:00 am and with enough volunteers, will be done by Noon.

The weather has been great for outdoor work and you'd be surprised how quick the time goes when you're having a good time visiting with your church family.



Poinsettia Sales- Be sure to stop by the table in the narthex to order poinsettias for gifts or for your own home. The Fellowship Committee will sell beautiful top quality plants that are available in 2 sizes (6" and 8") and 4 colors (red, white, pink, and marble). Stop by the table in the Library for more information or to order your plants. Sales begin Sunday, October 1st and continue through Sunday, November 5th.

Troop 467, the Boy Scout Troop that meets at our church on Thursday nights, has a treat for you...**a chili feed!** The event will take place on Sunday, November 5th at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. This is a fundraiser for the troop to help raise money for camping equipment and fees. Thank you for your support!



Operation Christmas Child

Children in 118 countries receive miracles through shoeboxes collected by Operation Christmas Child. Approximately 7,900,000 shoebox gifts in the United States, plus another 2,400,000 from nine other countries are donated.

The gift of a simple shoebox filled with toys, treats, and basic supplies will bring joy to the children and hope to their parents who can not offer their children even the simplest of gifts for Christmas.

As the 2017 Operation Christmas Child campaign draws near, will you and your church family

prayerfully consider how you can help us reach more children this year? Remember, a small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, and what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. The empty shoeboxes are available at the table in the narthex and will need to be returned by Sunday, November 12th.



A big **Thank You** to Pastor Mike for his visits and prayer while in the hospital and at Hillcrest Rehab. A special thanks to all of you who have called, prayed, sent cards, sent or brought flowers, brought gifts and provided food. I appreciate everything and so enjoyed your visits at the hospital, Hillcrest and my daughters home. I appreciate everything and everyone of you, such great support in my time of need. God Bless each and everyone of you. **Flossie Flora**



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus



Happenings



Join us for Ladies' Lunch. We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month at noon. November we are going to meet the **third Thursday, November 16th** due to Thanksgiving and we will be meeting at Quick Bites in Olde Towne, Bellevue. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 402-291-1104 or e-mailing admin@bellevuefpc.org.

Angel Tree

Sunday, November 19th the Angel Tree will be ready for you to choose your Angel. Our Angel Tree gifts support Logan Middle School students and their families.

We can help more families celebrate Christmas, no matter their financial status.

Each angel on the tree has a gift request and a child's age for your



reference. All gifts should be returned, unwrapped to the Church by Sunday, December 10th so they can be distributed to families the next weekend.

You may put your gift in a shopping bag or a pretty Christmas bag if you choose. Do not wrap. Thank you for your support!

Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation to elect officers for 2018 will be held on Sunday, November 19th, immediately following the worship service. Although the meeting will be short, it is an important event for the congregation. Please plan to be present and participate.



Advent season begins on **Sunday, November 26th** and we'll start the season this year in our traditional way...with Hanging of the Greens.

Join your church family at 5:00pm that day in Fellowship Hall. We will have dinner and then begin putting up the trees and decorating whatever and wherever we can! Start the Advent season by joining your church family for a time of fellowship, worship, and giving to others in our community.

Youth Mission Silent Auction & Luncheon-

It is time for our annual fundraising event beginning **Sunday, November 26th**. The proceeds fund our youth mission projects for 2018. We need your help in providing donated craft items, holiday gift items, gift baskets for children and adults, themed baskets, babysitting hours, yard work, books and toys...you name it!

Items or descriptions of items will be on display, with bid sheets, during the first two weeks of December.

The congregation is invited to bid on any items they may wish to purchase.

Sunday, December 10th will be the last day for bidding. The bidding will close 30 minutes after worship service and the winners will be announced at a luncheon, hosted by the youth and youth leaders, following the service.

If you would like to contribute or have any questions, please contact Shelli Dart at the church office (291-1104). Thank you for your support!



2018 Stewardship Campaign Results as of October 23, 2017

I previously reported that there were 59 pledges turned in on commitment Sunday, October 8th totaling \$156,618. Since then we have received another 20-25 pledges. In early November I'll provide another update with the revised totals. Our goal, according to the 2018 Estimated Budget, is to receive \$265,000 in pledges which reflects an increase of about 5% over the pledged amount for 2017.

To those of you who have already turned in your 2018 pledge, we sincerely thank you for your generosity. If you wish to pre-pay part or all of your 2018 pledge---be sure to turn in your contribution before December 31, 2017.

If you haven't turned in your 2018 pledge, please do so using the white pledge card. Additional cards are available on the Name Tag table located in the Narthex/Library. We need your pledge NLT November 5, 2017 so the Finance Committee can do its important work of putting together the 2018 Operating Budget later in November. For any questions regarding the 2018 Stewardship Campaign please contact me or our Financial Secretary, Eric Van Sky.

Bob Jeffus
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Debt Pay-Off Campaign As of October 23, 2017

First Presbyterian Church's outstanding building loan balance is now down to \$267,800. In July 2013, it stood at \$750,000. The monthly loan payment is \$6,372.98

So far, the Debt Pay-Off Campaign has received almost \$90,000 which reflects about \$55,000 in pledged contributions and almost \$35,000 in non-pledged contributions.

The Debt Pay-Off Fund contains \$33,931. With continuing known contributions of \$3,500 to \$4,000 per month, we will be able to make loan payments for the remainder of 2017 and 2018---but not beyond. If you have not pledged, or you are not contributing to the Debt Pay-Off Campaign, we prayerfully ask you to do so. Wouldn't it be marvelous if we could have the

loan fully paid off in early 2019? Including last year's loan refinance this would save the church about \$30,000 in interest expense, plus free up money every year for future growth and mission work. Please use the RED pledge card located on the name tag table. Please continue to use the PINK envelopes for your contributions. Thank you again for your generosity. As a church family we are truly Blessed. If you have any questions, please contact me or Eric Van Sky (Financial Secretary).

Bob Jeffus
(402) 733-2642
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Per Capita – Per person

Per capita is important to being Presbyterian! It is the way Presbyterians mutually share governance expenses to make mission and programs possible.

The required total Per Capita amount due from each congregation is a combined request from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly - of which each congregation is a part. We owe \$38.33 for each person (Per Capita) on the active rolls of our church. In 2018, the estimated apportionment due for our church will be \$11,537.33.

Please write Per Capita in the memo portion of your check. If you do not contribute, funds will be taken from somewhere else in our budget to ensure First Presbyterian Church meets the required total Per Capita.





Making a Joyful Noise!

It's getting closer! We began rehearsing our Christmas Cantata last week. It is a brand new one, called "Joy to the World". It has a lot of traditional carols, as well as some newly composed songs. The thing I really liked about this one, is that the narration centers around the traditional Christmas story, but focuses on hope. With everything that has happened in the world this last six months, I feel that we really need to focus on the hope that only Christ can bring us.

I was going to rehearse this at the end of our rehearsals, but if there are those that want to sing only the cantata, we can use the first fifteen or twenty minutes of rehearsal. You can then be off to whatever else you have to do. So if you want to JUST sing in the cantata, let me know 402-884-6697 or see me at church.

We would love to have you! Come and make a joyful noise with us, **Alice**



**Set your
clocks back
Sunday,
November 5th
2:00 am**

Welcome School

News from Welcome School: October has been super exciting and full of activities!

Mid-October we hosted a fun Father's Night Out for all the students and their Dads. After doing activities at Welcome School, the Dads were able to treat their kids to a Dairy Queen treat. We had an amazing response that night and very engaged Dads!

We had a visit from the Bellevue Fire Department. They talked to us about fire safety and the kids got to sit in the fire truck!

If you were to walk by the Welcome School classrooms, you would see centers reflecting a camping ground, an ice cream and pizza parlor and a farm with a horse!! It's so fun to watch the kids so engaged in their learning every day.



Fun on Dad's Night



A visit from the
firefighters



Blowing Bubbles



Sorting Colors



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Do you know what I forgot to mention in last month's article? I forgot to list our 3rd graders who received Bibles in Worship. They are:

Christopher Reilly, son of Tim & Cindy; Kathryn Robertson, daughter of Dan & Paulette; Ian Rose, son of Rob & Sarah;

Elizabeth Routt, daughter of Neal and Angela and granddaughter of Marilyn Routt; Jayden Tarvin, son of Steve Tarvin and Audrina Urwin, daughter of Brian & Beth Urwin. Bible presentations are one of my favorite parts of my job and I have been tickled to witness and hear stories of our kids reading and loving their new Bibles.

Speaking of 3rd grade Bibles, we had a wonderful visitor to Sunday School a couple weeks ago. For the last 32 years, Bibles have been given to children at First Presbyterian through a special memorial fund in memory of Virginia Puls Sones. Virginia was a life-long member of our church and had a great love of our Lord and of children. When she passed away, the family asked to use her memorial fund to provide Bibles for kids. What I didn't realize, until just recently, is that Virginia Puls Sones was the mother of Becky Berg. Once I heard, I asked Becky to come visit Sunday School. Becky brought pictures of her mom and told stories that helped us get to know her and appreciate her, beyond the nameplate in each Bible. As you can imagine, Becky gave a delightful presentation!

Thanks go out to Mike and Sue Tabler for helping with the October Movie Night. It was a smaller than normal turnout, but quite heavy in itty bitty kids. And I was sure grateful to have Mike and Sue's help.

Before I write my last thank you, I want to mention a couple of upcoming events that I hope

children will participate in. Hanging of the Greens is coming up at 5 PM on Sunday, November 26th. There will be dinner, and then while adults decorate the church for Christmas, the children are invited to join Ash Hudson and I for Christmas crafts. She will be leading a gingerbread project and I will have some other smaller craft projects available.

The Children's Christmas Eve Service will be the 10:30 AM service this year and I am delighted in the response I have received already and the ways that kids want to share their talents. We've got kids participating in a variety of ways. We've even got a child who asked if he could create some art to be used as an insert in the bulletin. If your child has an idea about how they would like to participate in this joyful service – whether it's in a conventional role, or it's outside the box, please talk to me, soon.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who helped put on our 2nd annual Trick or Treat Around the Church. Support from our church was amazing! Thanks to June Kouba and Pastor Mike for working with me to set up all the tables, and to Shelli Dart and the Youth for running all the games in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the following people who hosted tables: Mike & Sharon Elliott, June Kouba, Randy Reffert, Megan Warren, Don & Wendy Fenster, Dawn Matthews, Cathy Talmadge, Chuck & Mary Nelson, Lila Rickel, the Rose Family, Mike & Sue Tabler, Mary Jo Schiefelbein, Curt & Kitty Hart, Anne McDaniel, Deb Hudson, Chuck & Matthew Clark, Jody Van Houten, Lou & Nancy Worm, Bonnie Viernes, Carole Warnes & Nancy Blazek on behalf of the Membership Committee, LeAnn Jobes, Gary White, Bill Falt, Rita Kingery, Rick Kirmis, Cindy Reilly, Julie Daugherty Braun, Joyce Luster, Bev Snowden, Jean Jacobson and Marie & Suzie Zipse.



Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Song lyrics are going through my head this month instead of scripture for the quote but it's quite timely, "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son."

When we are counting our many blessings this year with family and friends at Thanksgiving time let's remember to give thanks for the greatest blessing we all have received, for free, without earning it, just through amazing grace. What a gift!

We started October with our first time serving at the Open Door Mission with our newly named outreach - YAS - Youth Active Service. The enthusiasm and excitement and willingness to serve was apparent the moment we walked into the serving area and our coordinator, Lauren, started taking about needing 2 people for this project and 2 people for that, the kids just started going and doing without having to be asked or assigned, they jumped right in. We served dinner to residents of the Lydia House and the Open Door Mission. The first people in line for dinner were children, these were kids younger than our youth and some their same age, a mom with 4 kids, one pushing a stroller. It really put a face and humanized homelessness and helped the youth feel more comfortable talking to the people we served and gave them a heart for coming back and serving more often. The original plan was to go every 3 months but they asked to go more frequently so we are signed up to go every two months to drop off donations and serve dinner. Not because an adult leader asked, but because the youth felt inspired and asked. I'm so very proud of our kids!



youth from NE and IA. It will be a wonderful weekend having fun, meeting new people and enjoying the beauty of fall at camp. I hope you can join us!

November is a fun kick-off to the Holiday season and we will start with Youth Fellowship Cookie Baking night on Sunday Nov 12 from 3 - 5 pm. Becky Berg has offered to teach the youth to make her world famous cookies which we will be sending to Deployed church family and our

students away at college. What a special treat! Many thanks to Becky for her willingness to join us for the night and her patience teaching us the secret of the perfect cookie!

Nov 15 is the Illuminate/WOW Thanksgiving Family Feast, please remember to RSVP so we know how many family members will be joining us for dinner that evening.

The Angel tree will be up and ready by Nov 19th, right in time for Black Friday shopping. We are partnering with Logan Fontenelle to support families in need during this Holiday Season with the help of Emily Fenster, thank you Emily!

Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday Nov 26th and along with all the delightful activities planned for that night we will also start setting up the tables for the Youth Holiday Silent Auction, our annual fundraiser with baskets and gifts you can all bid on with the winners announced on Dec 10th at our Annual Soup Luncheon following the Children's Christmas program. You can drop off your themed baskets or donations any time before the 26th or even a week before the luncheon. If you have any questions please let me know.



Count your many blessing and give thanks this Holiday Season. Also, a grateful heart is a giving heart, do something special for someone this month, just because.

Be a Blessing! Shelli

November Youth Events

Nov 3 - 4	Camp Calvin Crest Retreat
Nov 12	Youth Fellowship - Cookie Baking
Nov 15	Angel Tree Sign-up begins
Nov 15	Illuminate/WOW Thanksgiving Family Feast
Nov 22	No Illuminate or Confirmation
Nov 26	Hanging of the Greens and Youth Holiday Silent Auction Set-up



~ November 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thru	Fri	Sat
			1 All Saints Day 5:30p Confirmation Class (CR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	2 7p Troop 467 7p Worship Mtg (CR)	3	4 9a Fall Clean Up
5 Parity Sunday 8:30a Planning (CR) 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Boy Scout Chili Feed 11:30a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 7p Venture Crew 26	6 1:15p Heritage Ridge 2p Harmony Court 2:45p Richmond Village 7p Women's Bible Study (VVR)	7 Election Day 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 5:30p Christian Education Mtg (L) 6p Mission Mtg (VVR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 8:45a PEO (VVR/FH) 5:30p Confirmation Class (CR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 6p Finance Mtg (Admin Ofc) 7p Choir Rehearsal	9 6p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR) 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p PW Bible Study (Noden home) 7p Troop 467	10	11 Veterans' Day 10a Women's Book Club (VVR)
12 OCC Shoeboxes due back Undie Sunday 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:30p Rose Private Event 2p YF Cookie Day	13 7p Women's Bible Study (VVR)	14 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 5:30p W.O.W. Thanks-giving Feast 7p Choir Rehearsal	16 12p Ladies Lunch (Quick Bites) 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467	17	18
19 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Congregational Meeting (Sanc) 11:30a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	20 7p Venture Crew 26 7p Women's Bible Study (VVR)	21 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	22 7p Choir Rehearsal	23 Thanksgiving 10a Private Event (FH)	24 1p PieceMakers Quilt Group	25
26 Next Sunday Parity Sunday 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 5p Hanging of the Greens	27 7p Women's Bible Study (VVR)	28 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	29 5:30p Confirmation Class (CR) 5:30p W.O.W./Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	30 6:30p Foundation Meeting (VVR) 7p Troop 467	Notes:	



First Presbyterian Church
1220 Bellevue Blvd. South
Bellevue, NE 68005
Phone: 402-291-1104



Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellevue, Nebraska
Permit No. 16

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

November Birthdays:

2 Joyce Luster	18 Andrew Oxtoby
3 Jim Millard	19 Diana Bowder
6 Brooks Brink	21 Isabella Keaton
6 Margaret Jackson	23 Christy VanRyckeghem
7 Callie Pancoe	24 Ed Hink
8 Willis Regier	24 Don Martin
10 Henry Lytle	24 Bethany Dart
13 Marty Griffin	26 Roger Freier
15 Virginia Eidenmiller	28 Sharon Elliott
16 Rick Holbert	29 Jack Reilly
17 Ethan deZafra	30 Ashley Hudson
17 Chuck Nelson	



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus

