



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Aberdeen, SD Oct/Nov 2025

Paul Gerhardt

There are many famous people during the time of the reformation. Martin Luther of course is the most famous, but you have others such as Ulrich Zwingli who was the leader of the Anabaptist. They believed that baptism was just a sign, and you can see how his theology is still around today. At the same time, you also have John Calvin who started his own church as well and to this day you have Calvinist. These three, along with several others, get the prominent time and space when discussing the Reformation, even among LCMS circles. However, there are so many other important figures during the Reformation that we hardly talk about and today I want to bring attention to just one of those figures, Paul Gerhardt.

Gerhardt was later in the Reformation, not born until 1607. So, 61 years after Luther's death. However, his contribution is still with us to this day. For Gerhardt is not well known as much for his theological writing as he was for his hymnody. Gerhardt so beautifully put the Reformation's teachings to words that could be sung. In total Gerhardt wrote over 100 hymns and to this day we have 16 of his hymns in the LSB. His hymns include "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" (LSB 596), "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (LSB 449-450), "Evening and Morning" (LSB 726), and many others.

One of the aspects that can be seen in many of Gerhardt's hymns is the hope that is found in Christ. A hope that is not wishful thinking but hope that is rooted in the resurrection and what is to come because of all that Jesus' has done for us. Take for example some the things he wrote in "Evening and Morning" where in stanza one we get "Comfort in sadness" and in stanza two, "Calm all my terrors". Or if we go to "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" we see and get to sing the joy we get to have because of Jesus' suffering on our behalf. Gerhardt correctly roots us in Jesus and all that He has done for us.

Gerhardt's focus on this is not a surprise. Not only was he deeply Lutheran but Gerhardt did not have an easy life. In 1937 Swedish soldiers, during the 30 Years War, set his hometown on fire where he lost his house, all his possessions, and his church. He was later removed from his parish in 1666 because he would not accede to Calvinist demands of his ruler Elector Friedrich Wilhelm. Also, four out of five of his children died in infancy and his wife died in 1667, 9 years before his death when his sole surviving son was only 6. His life was full of tumult and heartache and yet he continued to place his hope in Jesus his Savior. That is then what we see in his hymns and what we too get to sing, especially when our life was like his.

Gerhardt's legacy remains to this day as we join in singing the hymns he wrote 400 years ago, but more importantly we get to sing our faith and Gerhardt's faith. We get to sing all that Jesus has done for us and why we place our hope and trust in Him despite all that the world throws at us. Gerhardt continued the Reformation legacy of presenting the Gospel clearly for all to see and sing and today we get to reap that wonderful blessing. May God bless you all as we once again celebrate the Reformation and the rediscovery of the Gospel.

In Christ,
Pastor Smith



Johann Tetzel

(born c. 1465, Pirna, Saxony [Germany]—died Aug. 11, 1519, Leipzig)

Johann Tetzel is the most identifiable bad guy in the story of the Reformation moment and Luther's life. He studied theology and philosophy in Leipzig and entered the Dominican Order in 1489. The Dominican Order was founded by Saint Dominic de Guzman in 1216 devoted to a common life centered on contemplation, study, community, and service, known as the "holy preaching". Tetzel came from an order that specialized in preaching, and he became famous for his preaching and spent most of his time preaching about indulgences especially the Jubilee indulgence.

Albrecht the Archbishop of Mainz had gone against canon law and accumulated three bishoprics (Mainz, Magdeburg, and Halberstadt). He had to pay a confirmation fee (wink, wink) to go ahead having three, so he borrowed 20,000 guilders from Jacob Fugger to pay it. He needed to pay back the loan, so he spoke with Pope Leo the X about a special indulgence to pay for the construction of St Peter's in Rome. Half of the income would go to Rome and half would stay with Albrecht. These were a new plenary Indulgence that

worked complete forgiveness and exit from purgatory which made it possible to charge more and made the indulgences more desirable. But who would sell them? Johann Tetzel. Tetzel overstated Catholic doctrine in regard to indulgences for the dead. He became known for a couplet attributed to him:

*As soon as the gold in the casket rings
The rescued soul to heaven springs*

Luther wrote specifically against this in the 95 Thesis, he states,

27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

28. It is certain that when money clinks in the money chest, greed and avarice can be increased; but when the church intercedes, the result is in the hands of God alone.

Later in life, Tetzel was accused of perpetrating frauds and embezzlements. Karl von Miltitz accused him so Tetzel retreated to the Dominican monastery in Leipzig and eventually he was exonerated of these accusations. He was worn down however and stayed there until his death. When Tetzel was on his deathbed, Luther wrote to his old enemy to comfort him and bade him *"not to be troubled, for the matter did not begin on his account, but the child had quite a different father."*

Tetzel died and was honorably interred before the high altar of the Dominican Church in Leipzig, a common practice. Our reformation story is filled with all sorts of characters. Tetzel was doing what he was trained and told to do but who knows. Perhaps he had true faith, and we will see him and Luther laugh over old stories. Who knows? But he is an interesting figure in the Reformation.



There is one member of Martin and Katie Luther's household that we normally don't hear to much about - the family dog.

At some point, Luther adopted a dog whom he affectionately called Tölpel, which translates to English as "fool". Whether this name was indicative of the dog's personality or meant as an ironic joke isn't clear. In either case, Tölpel was a full member of the family who apparently followed his master around the Black Cloister and played with the Luther children.

Tölpel, and dogs in general were occasionally mentioned by Luther in his famous Table Talks. We include a few of these quotes here:

"The dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were dogs not so common. Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest."

When Luther's dog Tölpel happened to be at the table, he looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes, Luther said, "Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish, or hope.

And then when one little boy asked Luther about if his puppy would go to heaven too, Luther patted the dog on the head and said, "Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail."

This illustration of a dog is from George Turbervile's 1576 Booke of Hunting.

-Rebecca DeGarmeaux

K4C is off to a good start! This year we are learning the Nicene Creed. We will be connecting it to scripture and learning why creeds unite us to the body of Christ. A new addition this year is Pastor Drevlow coming in to add music for us. We appreciate all the church has done to help this ministry succeed.

Love,

Laura Drevlow & Pastor Smith



The Youth Group took a trip to Sica Hollow State Park on Sunday, October 5th. They had quite an adventure with hiking and a bit of Bible Study. A few shenanigans were had as some of the kids raced down the hills. We are happy to report no permanent injuries, and all shoes were found after Max's cart wheel down the hill!



Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

Fall 2025

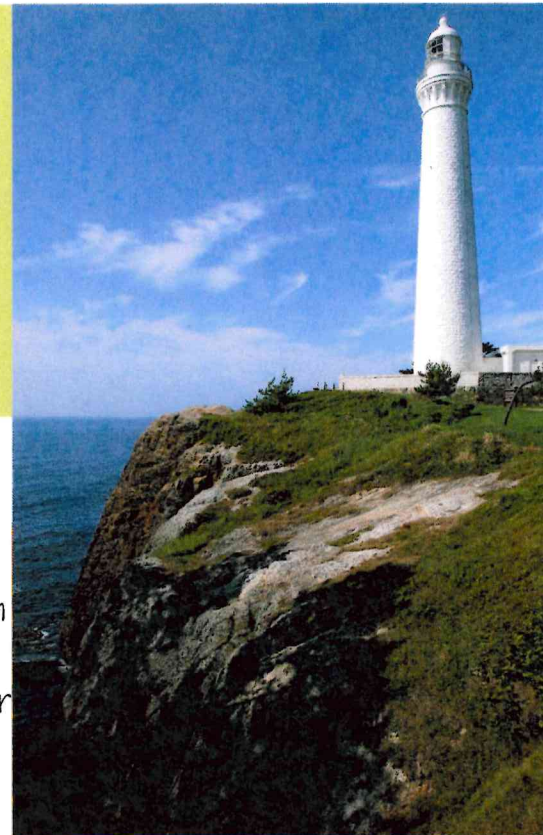
Thankful for Friends!

The Lighthouse Preschool is off to a wonderful start! We will be spending quite a bit of time this fall reflecting on the blessings God has bestowed upon each one of us. One blessing that our preschoolers are very grateful for is their new friends! We are blessed to have 12 children in our program this year, and each one has their own unique personality. As we learn about each other, we are also learning about how we are blessed to share our faith with others. This October, we will be spending some time talking about the Reformation and how we can be grateful that the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to bring us to faith, and how he enables us to teach others about the wonderful news of Jesus Christ!

Throughout the month of October is our pasta fundraiser! We will be selling fun pastas to help us raise money to purchase an AED machine for the preschool. Please consider supporting our fundraiser and purchase some unique gifts for family and friends! We will have a table set up in the narthex where you can easily purchase these items, or you can take the information home and order online. The items will be shipped to you or a family member at no extra charge!

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for their donations of snacks! Snack time is always a favorite part of our day! Please remember to save your Kens and Kesslers receipts as we can turn these in for cash for the preschool! We also collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house.



Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 10th- NO SCHOOL-
Parent Conferences

Oct. 13th- NO SCHOOL-
Columbus Day

Oct. 30th- Pizza w/the
pastors

Nov. 26-28- NO SCHOOL-
Thanksgiving break

Reminders:

Do you have a Thrivent Membership and are willing to take a Thrivent Action Team Money Card out to help us with a project? Please let Jenelle know!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 10am Bible Study 5:15 Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	2 9am Quilting 6pm Preschool Board Mtg 7pm Women's Bible Study	3 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	4 6am Bible Study
5 2pm RGI/Lutheran Family Service Meet & Greet	6	7	8 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	9 9am LWML Mtg 7pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir /7:30 Bell Choir	10 No Preschool (Conferences)	11
12 12:30pm Prayer Service 5-7pm Youth Group	13 Church Office Closed No Preschool	14 6pm Men's Club Bible Study	15 10am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	16 9am Quilting 7pm RGI Meeting 7pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir /7:30 Bell Choir	17 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	18 6am Bible Study
19 1pm Gathering God's Flock	20	21	22 10am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	23 9am Quilting 7pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir /7:30 Bell Choir	24 Congregation Game Night 6pm	25 6am Bible Study
26 12pm Annual Voter's Mtg with lunch 5-7pm Youth Group	27	28	29 10am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	30 9am Quilting 7pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir /7:30 Bell Choir	31 Abn Circuit Reformation Service @ Groton 7pm	

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
 & Lighthouse Preschool
 Rev. Ryan Drevlow
 Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



Every Sunday
 Divine Service @ 8am
 Bible Study & Sunday School @ 9:30 am
 Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 6:00am Bible Study
2	3	4 7 pm Elder Meeting	5 10:00am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	6 9:00am LWML Mtg 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir/7:30 Bell Choir	7 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	8 6:00am Bible Study
9 12:30pm Prayer Service 5-7pm Youth Group Meeting	10	11 6:00pm Men's Club Bible Study	12 10:00am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	13 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir/7:30 Bell Choir	14	15 6:00am Bible Study
16 1:00pm Gathering God's Flock	17	18	19 10:00am Bible Study 5:15pm Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	20 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm RGI Meeting 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 Choir/7:30 Bell Choir	21 5:30-7:30pm Youth for Christ	22 6:00am Bible Study
23 5-7pm Youth Group Meeting	24	25	26 10:00am Bible Study 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Confirmation	27 Thanksgiving Day Worship Service 9:00am	28	29
30						