

No. 1

Fall 2017

# the *W*ine

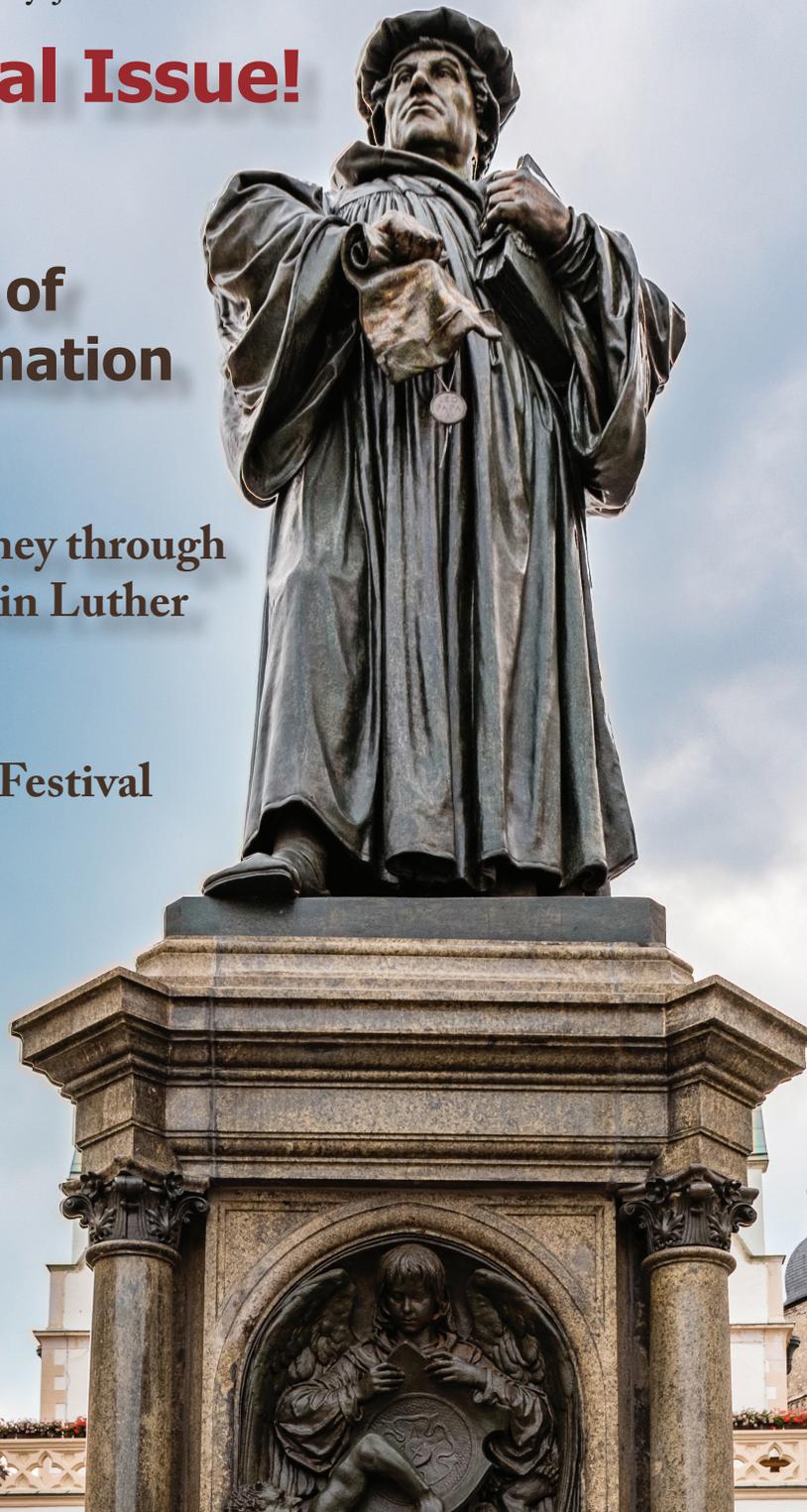
The quarterly journal of RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

**Inaugural Issue!**

**500 Years of  
the Reformation**

**A pictorial journey through  
the life of Martin Luther**  
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**Luther Choral Festival**  
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*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.  
-John 15:5*

**W**elcome to our first edition of *The Vine!*

*The Vine* has been created and designed to provide our members and guests alike with more in depth information about Red Hill Lutheran Church & School, while intentionally focusing on our vision to make Christ-centered, emotionally healthy, disciples of Jesus, one life at a time.

The theme for the 2017-2018 Ministry Year at Red Hill Lutheran Church is “**Building on the Foundation.**” Scripture is clear: the foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ. He is the “author and perfecter” of our faith (*Hebrews 12.2*); He is the “cornerstone” (*Ephesians 2.20-22; 1 Peter 2.7-8*), upon which our lives are built. In order to “build up” our lives and deepen (perfect) our faith, Jesus has commissioned *His church*.

Our hope is that *The Vine* will be one more way in which we are building upon the foundation of Jesus, by featuring information that we feel is important to our lives of faith.

In addition to several articles spanning across our church and school ministries, in this inaugural issue, we are featuring a deeper look into the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation including several members of our congregations’ journey through Germany and other European cities visiting the monumental sites where Martin Luther led the Reformation as well as retracing the monumental steps of Luther.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

## *What We’re Talking About In This Issue!*

The commitments that guide us as followers of Jesus are our Core Values. As we begin a new year in the life of Red Hill, let’s all take a few moments to revisit our core values so that we may strengthen our relationship with God and one another.  
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Martin Luther is widely acknowledged to have started the Reformation with his Ninety-five thesis written in 1517. Follow his journey in a pictorial chronology.  
Page 10.

Youth and Family Ministry is an integral part of Red Hill’s mission as we endeavor to equip our youth and families with tools to live godly lives. We are excited about all that is planned for the coming year.  
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Take a musical journey through Europe as seen through the sights and sounds of Red Hill’s Director of Music as we tour many of the landmarks important to our Lutheran heritage.  
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# Building on the Foundation

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

The theme for the 2017-2018 Ministry Year at Red Hill Lutheran Church will be: “**Building on the Foundation.**” Scripture is clear: the foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ. He is the “author and perfecter” of our faith (*Hebrews 12.2*); He is the “cornerstone” (*Ephesians 2.20-22*; *1 Peter 2.7-8*), upon which our lives are built. In order to “build up” our lives and deepen (perfect) our faith, Jesus has commissioned *His church*. Biblically, our theme is based on the Apostle Paul’s description of the plan, purpose, and outcome of Jesus’ church:

*And (the Lord) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4.11-16)*

From this text (and other Biblical passages—see Appendix I), we see that the church’s ministry is described as “building up the body of Christ” so that we may grow in faith, love, and unity. This “building up” both defines the very nature of the church, as well as its core ministries: *Word and Sacrament*. The Lutheran Confessions tell us:

...that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel...It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4-5 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (*The Augsburg Confession*: Article VII).

The outcome of being *built up*, of deepening spiritual maturity through the church’s ministry of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, is, as the Ephesians text tells us, *love*; loving God and others in healthy, God-honoring ways—this is Christian discipleship!

At Red Hill Lutheran Church, we seek to build our lives upon Jesus Christ, growing in faith, hope and love. Consequently, our purpose, mission, vision, strategy, as well as the desired outcomes of our ministries (targets), describes the culture and climate we seek to create as a disciple-making church.

## **Purpose, Vision, Mission, Values, and Ministry Targets of Red Hill Lutheran Church**

Red Hill Lutheran Church and School exists through the command, promises and power of the Triune God. In the Gospel of Matthew, we receive Jesus’ commission and promises:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28.18-20)*

By His authority given Him by the Father, Jesus *sends* the church into the world. Additionally, Jesus describes the purpose of this sending: to Baptize and teach through His Holy Spirit with us always. This is both the church’s ministry and the way the church continues to *reach, equip, and release* disciples of Christ into the world. Martin Luther describes this reality in his explanation of the Third Article of the *Apostles’ Creed*:

I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true. (*Luther’s Small Catechism*)

Both Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions affirm that in His love, what God began with Israel and fulfilled with His church, is the creation of a *family*, a family that is being built up, growing in faith, hope, and love to the glory of God. In order to create and sustain His family, the church, Jesus has commanded His church to **make and send disciples**. A disciple is one called through the Gospel to be a *student*, an *apprentice* of Jesus. God has promised that He will feed and equip His disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, for faithful living. In obedience to God’s Word, our *purpose, vision, mission, core values, and ministry targets*, guide our disciple-making efforts:



**Our Purpose** (Why We Exist):  
“Know Christ. Make Christ known.”

**Vision Statement** (What We Aim to Achieve):  
“Making Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciples of Jesus, One life at a time.”

**Mission Statement** (How We Will Achieve Our Vision):  
“Reach and serve our local community, Equip their hearts, minds, and souls, and Release them into the world to share God’s love.”

### **Core Values (Commitments that Guide Us)**

Worship through Word and Sacrament – We believe the heart of the church’s ministry is the corporate Worship of the Triune God through Word and Sacrament. Through the corporate Worship services, God meets us and serves us through His means of grace. Our commitment is to preach the Gospel in its purity and truth, and administer the Sacraments as prescribed by Scripture. (*Deuteronomy 6.4-5; John 4.23-24*)

Biblically Faithful – We believe the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God and His Word is the basis for all we do. (*John 8.31-32; 2 Timothy 3.16*)

Lutheran Theological Identity – We believe that the Lutheran Confessions, as explicated in the Book of Concord, are a pure exposition of the Word of God. As such the Confessions ground us in the Gospel: “*Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, revealed through Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.*” (*John 10.27-30; Romans 3.21-26*)

Christ Centered – We believe the church is called through the Gospel of God’s grace received through faith; we are saved and justified through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Everything we do must flow from our relationship with Jesus Christ. (*Mark 1.14-15; Luke 9.23-25*)

Emotionally Healthy – We believe that spiritual maturity and emotional health are inseparable. Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (EHS) is a commitment to the whole person—body, mind, and soul, through every stage of life. Emotional health involves our relationships with God and others, focusing on how our needs, vulnerabilities, patterns of communication, and ways of understanding our emotions impact those relationships. Emotional Health flows from one’s identity in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit transforming the deep places in the soul, where our true self, as created in the image of God, exists. (*Matthew 5.21-48; Ephesians 2.11-22*)

Disciples – We believe a disciple is a “student,” an “apprentice,” of Jesus—we are learning how to live our lives as Jesus would live them. We grow and deepen our discipleship through specific, spiritual disciplines (Worship, Bible Study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and

Servanthood). As we grow as disciples of Jesus (Christ-Centered), and experience the Spirit’s transforming power in our emotional lives (emotional health), we will be equipped to love God and others to the glory of God. (*Matthew 28.19-20; Mark 12.28-31*)

Christian Maturity – We believe in fostering spiritual growth through Worship, Bible Study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood/Evangelism. (*Acts 2.42-43; Philippians 2.12-13*)

Mission Driven – We believe in helping members achieve their highest potential to fulfill God’s calling to reach out boldly to others. (*Matthew 28.18-20; Matthew 25.31-46*)

Accountability to God and Others – We believe that God blesses us with abundant spiritual and material gifts and out of love and gratitude; we use them effectively in service to Him and to each other. (*Romans 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9*)

### **Ministry Targets (What We “Aim at” through Our Ministries)**

**Target 1: Vibrant Worship.** A growing number of participants are personally engaged in relevant, Gospel centered, and uplifting Word and Sacrament worship experiences, building a more intimate relationship with God.

**Target 2: Enthusiastic Study of God’s Word.** An expanding number of people who are fervently studying God’s Word (Bible Studies, Small Groups, Solitude and Silence, Student Ministries, Preschool, Day School, Sunday school, etc.) resulting in a more vibrant faith life. We seek to know:

- o What we believe
- o Why we believe
- o The implications of the above

**Target 3: Community Life.** Support and meet the needs of those we serve in all stages of their lives through our school, small groups, classes, seminars, retreats, and the development of healthy relationships characterized by professionalism, openness, trust, and care. Likewise, we encourage the discovery and practice of our members’ God-given spiritual gifts, hearts, abilities, personalities, and experiences so that they may be active participants and leaders in our ministry and mission field.

**Target 4: Congregational Care.** The mutual care and support of those who are experiencing illness, crisis, grief, and life-transitions. This is accomplished through pastoral care, congregational care, small groups, and life development classes.

**Target 5: Mission and Service.** An ever-increasing number of people are accepting our invitation to live a life of sharing the Gospel through missions, social concerns, and sharing the Jesus story (Evangelism and action).

## The Mission, Means, and Marks of Discipleship at Red Hill Lutheran Church

While the purpose, vision, mission, values, and targets, outlines our commitment to, and desired outcomes of, making disciples of Jesus, the *Mission, Means, and Marks* of discipleship answer the specific questions of *what is a disciple, how we make disciples* and what would a disciple of Jesus *look like* in our particular community?

### The Mission: Making Disciples. What is a Disciple?

As Luther taught, the Christian life (discipleship) begins, continues, and ends through the power of the Holy Spirit, uniting believers to Jesus Christ. Discipleship is a daily journey of learning, loving, and living with Jesus. Consequently, our definition of a disciple is:

*“A person, who day by day surrenders to the divine call through Jesus and through the Spirit, is learning to live his or her life as Jesus would live it, for the purpose of loving God and one another.”*

### The Means: How Are Disciples Made?

In order for disciples to grow in faith and deepen their love for God and others, particular spiritual disciplines are necessary. Disciples need disciplines! Biblically and historically, there are five, core, spiritual disciplines, or means, through which the Holy Spirit transforms people individually and corporately to be like Jesus:

- **Worship** (Word and Sacrament)
- **Bible Study** (Reading and Applying God’s Word)
- **Biblical Community** (Emotionally healthy connecting with others in groups and daily life)
- **Daily Prayer** (Solitude and Silence)
- **Servanthood** (Serving God and others at and beyond the church)

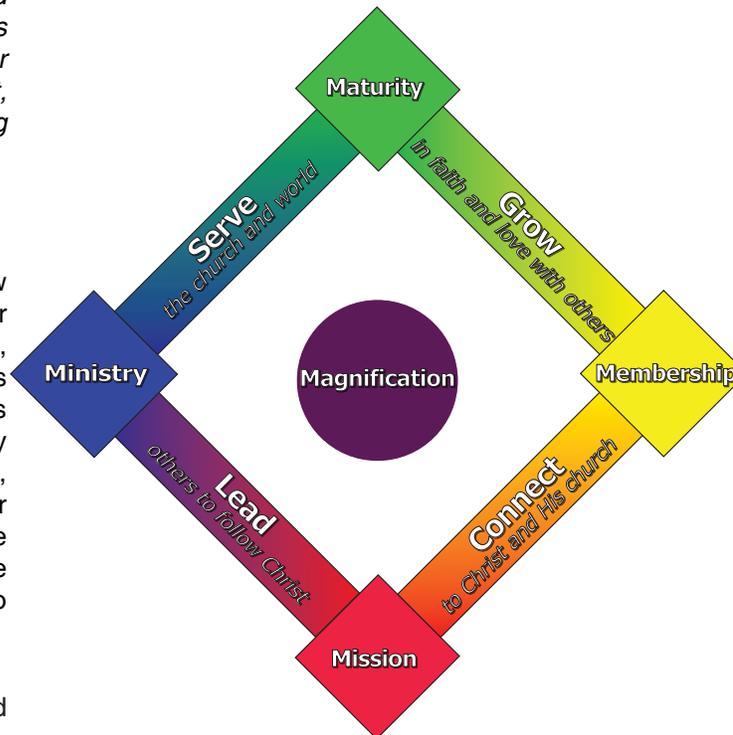
### The Marks of Discipleship: What Does a Disciple Look Like?

Jesus said that if we belong to Him we will be known by our love (*John 13.35*) and we will bear the fruit of discipleship (*Galatians 5:22-23*). The *mission* of making disciples, who are equipped through the *means* of the five core spiritual disciplines, will result in lives that express distinctive “*Marks of Discipleship*,” particular characteristics and attitudes that reflect a life that is committed to loving God and others. A *Christ-Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciple* will be

characterized by:

- \**Tenacious Serenity* (An increasing serenity that comes from our identity in Christ)
- \**Radical Attachment* (A surrendering heart that ascribes ultimate value and meaning in God)
- \**Subversive Spirituality* (A commitment to living the alternative vision of the Kingdom of God)
- \**Habitual Humility* (A concern for others balanced with gratitude for one’s self)
- \**Authentic Service* (Serving Christ by serving our neighbor)

Our continuing goal is that every sermon, *Compass* study, class, and/or group, will seek to intentionally develop one or more of these “Marks of Discipleship.” We are in the process of developing an assessment tool or congregational “*Rule of Life*,” that our members can use to monitor and track their spiritual growth.



Again, our Biblical theme-text for this year, Ephesians 4.11-16, tells us that the outcome of spiritual maturity is loving others; actions such as “speaking the truth in love,” and that when the body of Christ, the church, is deepening in spiritual maturity; it is like a healthy, physical body where the ... “*whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*” One way we seek to obey this aspect of discipleship is through our ongoing focus on

Emotionally Healthy Spiritually (EHS).

A key belief of EHS is that “Emotional health and spiritual health are inseparable. It is not possible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.” EHS leads us to integrate our discipleship, our theologies, and our Biblical worldview with every aspect of our lives, particularly the everyday relationships common to all: our families of origin, our nuclear family, our friendships, work relationships, and neighborhood. God will not only heal the deep places in our lives, God will also equip us to love and serve others authentically. In EHS, we learn how to:

- \*Be honest and clear in our communications with one another.
- \*Resolve conflict in a Biblically healthy way.

- \*How to “fight fair.”
- \*Affirm one’s limits.
- \*Understand, celebrate, grieve, forgive, and be healed from, family of origin issues.

Through EHS, God will restore the divine image within, leading us to be the people that God has created us to be. It is my conviction that if we are known to be a church and school where the deep issues of life are honestly and Biblically explored, and that people can learn how to relate in healthy, God-honoring ways, we will truly make a difference in people’s lives and in this community.

**The Corporate Strategy: The Pathway of Discipleship**

The purpose, vision, and mission of the church is fulfilled corporately as individuals follow the *Pathway of Discipleship*; a process through which disciples are equipped to become *Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy, Disciples*.

**2017-2018 Church-Wide Ministry Initiatives**

**Ministry Initiative 1: Youth and Family Ministry (Phase 3)**

We will continue the development of our Youth and Family Ministry Team focused on creating a Christ-centered, integrated, comprehensive family and student experience for families with students 0-18 years of age, utilizing the “Orange” curriculum and small group model. This year, under Phase 3, we will focus on the elementary grades (K-5), as well as strengthening the integration between the church and school.

**Ministry Initiative 2: “Disciple U”**

We believe that one of our strengths is our commitment to “*deeper discipleship*.” Rather than a superficial spirituality, or a “dumbing down” of Biblical and theological truths, *deeper discipleship seeks to engage the real truths, commitments, and questions of scripture, tradition, and theology, and how this engagement intersects real life. Deeper discipleship is the commitment to teach, equip, heal, and encourage our members so that they can live lives of integrity and hope, serving their neighbors in the name of Jesus.* As our theme text from Ephesians reminds us, one aspect of Christian maturity involves learning the truths of Scripture, understanding what we believe, and why what we believe matters for daily life. In our relativistic culture, where the culture’s definition of tolerance is valued above truth, as disciples of Jesus, we must be grounded in God’s Word “*so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*” (Ephesians 4.14)

**Worship (Word and Sacrament)**

The weekly Worship of God through Word and Sacrament is the “heartbeat” of the church. Through Word and Sacrament, God serves and feeds us so that we can serve Him and others faithfully through our day-to-day lives. Our

commitment at Red Hill is to preach the Gospel in its purity and truth, to teach the whole counsel of God’s Word, as it comes to us through Law and Gospel, and administer the Sacraments as commanded in Scripture. The weekly sermon and *Compass* series explore Biblical and theological issues, and addresses Biblical living questions.

Here is a brief outline of what we will be studying in the coming months:

**September: “Back on Track: Living for God”**

- <sup>1</sup>9/3: “My Morning”
- <sup>2</sup>9/10: “My Day”
- 9/17: “My Night”
- 9/24: “My Sunday”

**October: “Always Reforming” Reformation Faith and the Church Today**

- 10/1: “*Solus Christus*”
- 10/8: “*Sola Gratia*”
- 10/15: “*Sola Fide*”
- 10/22: “*Sola Scriptura*”
- <sup>3</sup>10/29: “Standing Up”

**November: “Radical Faith” (The Biblical Doctrine of Stewardship)**

- <sup>4</sup>11/5: “Radical Being”
- 11/12: “Radical Giving”
- 11/19: “Radical Mission”
- 11/26: “Radical Hope”

**(Advent Begins)**

**December: “Walking With Jesus Day by Day” (Church Year Spirituality)**

**“God Came Near” (Advent and Christmas)**

- 12/3 (1 Advent): “Stay Tuned”
- 12/10 (2 Advent): “Walking Wet”
- 12/17 (3 Advent): “Pointing the Way”
- 12/24 (4 Advent/Christmas Eve): “God Came Near”
- 12/25 (Christmas Day): “The Eternal in Time”
- 12/31: “Promises Fulfilled”

As we begin this new Ministry Year, as always, please pray for God’s glory and His will to be done through us. Ask God how you can get involved in the ministry of Red Hill and what next steps God will have you take on your journey with Jesus.

You will be in my thoughts and prayers! Thank you, for being part of our family here at Red Hill.

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1 Labor Day Weekend.  
 2 Rally Day.  
 3 Reformation Sunday.  
 4 All Saints Sunday.

## “Who is Jesus?”

Wednesday Mornings 7:15a.m. to 8:00a.m. in the  
Prayer Chapel - Teacher: Pastor Seth

One of the most important subdivisions of theology is *Christology*, which is the study of the person and work of Christ. Almost every major religion teaches that Jesus was a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man. Many cults even claim to believe in Jesus Christ. The problem is that these religions and cults do not believe in the Jesus Christ presented in the Bible. The Bible tells us that Jesus was infinitely more than a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man. Who is Jesus? This question has been asked in every generation since Jesus was born! Kings and Presidents; the wealthy and the poor; children and adults alike, have asked this question.

For Paul, his entire life was to be found in Christ; Jesus was the focal point of his teaching, preaching, and ministry among the Corinthians, and was the one for whom Paul would willingly suffer and die! What kind of man can elicit this kind of devotion and turn a man like Paul, who one day willingly persecuted Christians, into a man who passionately and fearlessly sought converts to Christianity? Only Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ. More books have been written about Him, more art dedicated to Him, and more songs written and sung to Him, than any other person in human history. So, the questions remains, “Who is Jesus to you?”

Beginning on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will examine the person, work, and power of Jesus Christ. Just what does the Bible teach us about Jesus? We will study the culture and history around the time of Jesus, particularly the *messianic expectations* of that era; how both the Old and New Testaments describe what Jesus (the Messiah) came to do in this world; we will discuss subsequent critical studies about the person referred to as “Jesus of Nazareth.” Was Jesus simply a spiritual teacher of religious wisdom as some claim? Or, was He, as Peter confessed, “*The Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God!*”? (Matthew 16.16) Finally, we will examine how we can know and love Jesus personally, living daily for Him! Questions and issues to be explored will be:

- Jesus Before He Was Born
- The Radical Message of Jesus
- The Controversial Life and Times of Jesus
- The Miraculous Death and Resurrection of Jesus
- The Jesus Left Behind
- How We Can Trust and Follow Jesus Today

In addition to our Bible study, we begin our time with singing some of our classical hymns and pray for one another. At the conclusion of the study at 8:00 a.m., many in the class reassemble at Coco’s Restaurant in Tustin for breakfast and continuing conversation. Join us!

Bring your Bible (if you don’t have one, we’ll get one for you!), your questions, your doubts and desires, and join us for the study of God’s Word. You are always welcome!

## Baptism at Red Hill

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

Martin Luther said this about Baptism: *Indeed if I had the matter under my control, I would not want God speak to me from heaven or appear to me, but I would want—and my daily prayers are directed to this end—that I might have the proper respect and true appreciation for the gift of Baptism.*

Are you interested in Baptizing your child? Are you interested in being Baptized yourself? Perhaps you just have some questions about Christian Baptism; what it is and what it’s about? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are invited to take the next steps for Baptism at Red Hill. The next steps are:

Contact Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, Donna Kunz, at the Church Office: 714-544-3131 ext.100 or [dkunz@redhillchurch.org](mailto:dkunz@redhillchurch.org). You will then be sent a Baptism packet including two resource booklets and a registration form. You are asked to read through these resources and share them with your prospective sponsors. Complete the registration form and bring it with you to our meeting, which is the next step. After reading the materials, contact the Church Office to make an appointment for this meeting.

During your meeting, you will be provided with an overview of Christian Baptism and the Service of Holy Baptism as administered in the Lutheran Church, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have from the readings. After this meeting, the Baptism can be scheduled during one of the two Sunday morning Worship services. (Sponsors are welcome to attend the meeting, but it is not mandatory). May our Lord guide you in this significant step in your Christian life!



## What is Community?

By Angela Calderon

What do you think of when you hear the word “Community”? Many limit the meaning of community to simply a group of people that live in a common area, have common interests or enjoy fellowship activities together. At Red Hill, we are working to change the worldly culture view of community so that the true biblical meaning is better understood and lived out by our members whom we love and serve.

Biblical Community is the intentional investment in each other’s lives. You’ve heard the expression, “see a need, and fill a need”. More and more we can observe this behavior in our members. The love and care shared is very inspiring. Recently one of our members needed to move out of their home, and with a quick post on The City communication system, we had many willing to help fill the need. But those that offered help were not strangers to the person in need. They were people who had developed a relationship over time through continued time spent together in bible study, retreats and other service tasks, that is, in community building.

When you have an experience where another person drops what they are doing to focus on your need, and prays for you personally, it’s incredibly powerful.

I recently read an article that clearly describes biblical community. It explains why Christian community is one of God’s greatest gifts to his people, and that simply put, Christian Community is all about sharing a common life in Christ.

You can read the full article at <https://bible.org/article/community-god-s-design-growth>.

If you take nothing else away from this article, I hope you heard.....***none of this can happen in private isolation, to be known, you must first know others*** and while you need times of being in solitude so you can hear the still small voice of God speaking to you, it takes other Christians for Jesus to wrap His arms around you so you can tangibly feel His love for you. Even though God comes to us in our baptism through no effort of our own, it takes our intentional steps toward Him through life with other believers also trying to live out this journey of faith, in order for His peace to surround us and fill us with His Joy.

My prayer is you will find your way, take a step out of our comfort zone and join a group or common activity so you can begin to build those relationships that you’ll come to rely on during life’s struggles and trying times.

## Sunday Hospitality

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

Is our church a “welcoming community?” Do our guests know that they are valued? If you are a first-time guest, how easy is it to find your way around the campus?

If you would like to help us in our ongoing desire to be a hospitable, faith community, we have multiple opportunities for you to team with others in this effort. These are some of the ways that you can help.

### Worship Greeter

By serving as a Greeter, you have the opportunity to make Red Hill’s first impression on our guests. Many times people make a decision about a church based on their first impressions. You have the opportunity to convey that from the moment people set foot on our property.

### Hospitality Host (Welcome Table)

By serving as a Hospitality Host, you are present at the Welcome Table, answering questions and generally welcoming our guests and members. A Hospitality Host goes one step further than the greeter and, particularly with our guests, seeks to answer questions, make connections, help with next steps, and generally make our guests feel welcomed and encouraged to return to Red Hill.

### Ministry Resource Tables Team

By serving at one of the program Ministry Tables on the church patio, you will have the opportunity to provide to guests and members, information about our (your) ministry (and perhaps other ministries) and how to get involved in a particular ministry. By informing people in the church about our classes, groups, and events, you play a part in helping them get plugged into the life of the church.

### Worship Service Usher

By serving as an Usher you have the opportunity to help people to have a positive experience in Worship, helping them to feel comfortable, safe, and served at Red Hill. As with Greeters, many people make a decision about a church based on their first impressions. As an Usher, you have the opportunity to impact our guests’ first moments at Red Hill and overall Worship experience.



# A Pictorial Journey Through the Life of Martin Luther

by Pastor Joel Kelly

## Eisleben



Luther's Birthplace



Erfurt Cathedral

His father was a miner and sent Luther to study law at the university of Erfurt in 1501. On July 2, 1505, Luther got caught in an intense thunderstorm and cried to St. Anne, vowing to become a monk, if she saved him. Surviving the storm, he returned to Erfurt and joined the Augustinian Monastery the very next day.

Luther was a highly conscientious monk who struggled with his own sinfulness compared to the holiness of God. He feared God's wrath and spend countless hours laying prostrate on the floor of the Monastery chapel. Perhaps it was here that he received the inspiration for his seal – the Luther Rose – from the stained glass window behind the altar.

Luther was ordained a priest in 1507 at the Erfurt Cathedral.



Baptismal Font (St. Peter and Paul's Church)

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, south of Berlin, to Hans and Margarethe Luder. He was baptized the next day, the Feast of St. Martin, at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.

## Erfurt



Monastery

## Indulgence

In 1509, Luther traveled to Rome and was aghast to find rich, corrupt priests and bishops selling indulgences to expand the church treasury. Indulgences were certificates that promised forgiveness of sins and escape from punishment in purgatory in exchange for a price.



"Rose" in stained glass – inspiration of Luther's Rose

## Wittenberg



*Castle Church Doors*



Luther was soon excommunicated and branded a heretic. Summoned to Rome to face charges, Luther refused to go. Instead, Emperor Charles V convened an Imperial Diet at Worms, where Luther was asked to recant his writings. After thinking it over through the night, Luther refused to recant, and was quoted as saying, "Here I stand, I can do no other. So help me God."

In 1512, Luther received his doctorate and began teaching theology at the university in Wittenberg. Here he discovered in Paul's letter to the Romans that sinners are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Outraged by the thought that God's grace could be bought, Luther desired to debate the issue publicly. On October 31, 1517, he nailed his 95 theses (topics for discussion) to the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church.

## Eisenach



*Wartburg Castle*

Fearing for his life, Luther's friends "kidnapped" him and took him to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. For ten months, Luther lived in the castle as Junker Jorg (Squire George) and worked tirelessly on translating the New Testament into German from the original Greek.

## Leipzig

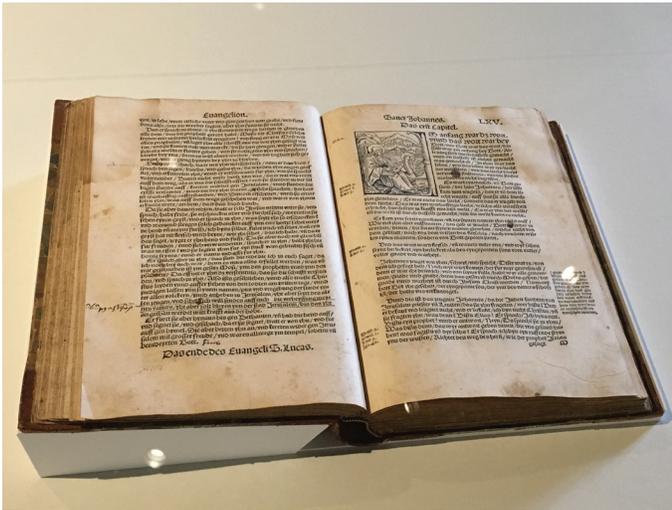


Buoyed by the printing press, Luther's ideas spread quickly throughout the region. In 1519, Luther traveled to Leipzig to debate John Eck on the authority of the church at the Pleissenburg Castle. (On this was built the New Town Hall.) Luther would return to Leipzig 20 years later and preach the first "Protestant" sermon at St. Thomas Church.



*Luther's study in Wartburg Castle*

## Eisleben



This "September Testament" was revolutionary, bringing the Bible to the masses and shaping the modern German language.



*Church of the last sermon (St. Andrew's Church)*

## Wittenburg



*Table in Lutherhaus*

Luther returned to Wittenburg in 1522, where his ideas had continued to blossom. He continued to teach, lecture, and write. Students flocked to the university to study under Luther and he would hold informal talks around his dinner table at Lutherhaus, with students packing in the room to debate and discuss while the beer flowed. Katie Luther would sit at one of the bar stools pictured and make sure that all attendees never ran out of beer.

Several attendees took copious notes, and many of these talks have been published as *The Table Talk of Martin Luther*.



*House where Luther died*

In 1546, Luther made the long and arduous journey to his hometown. He was not well and delivered his final sermon at St. Andrews Church. He died on February 18, 1546.



*Tomb inside Castle Church*

Luther's body was buried in the church that made him famous – the Castle Church of Wittenberg.



# Discipleship Defined

by Pastor Joel Kelly

If you were to ask any pastor of any Christian church anywhere in the world what the role of the church is, the answer would likely be the same – to make disciples of Jesus. This is reflected in the vision statement of Red Hill: “*Making Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciples of Jesus, One life at a time.*” We are disciples who make disciples.

While most churches agree on our call, the methodology of disciple-making will look different depending on geographic region, denominational affiliation, church history and tradition, cultural influences, etc. Therefore, it’s important for us to define what discipleship looks like at Red Hill.

First of all, we define a disciple of Jesus as “*A person, who day by day surrenders to the divine call through Jesus and through the Spirit, is learning to live his or her life as Jesus would live it, for the purpose of loving God and one another.*” This is a robust definition, but to boil it down into simple terms, a disciple is a follower of Jesus who is being transformed into his likeness. Transformation doesn’t happen by accident. It happens through daily submission to the work of the Holy Spirit and participation in the life of the Body of Christ.

Relatedly, we must see discipleship as a process. At Red Hill, our goal is to help members become mature followers of Jesus through:

- **Connecting** to Christ and his Church
- **Growing** in faith and love with others
- **Serving** the Church and the world
- **Leading** others to follow Christ

## 1. Connect

People connect to Jesus and other members of Red Hill in various ways: Connection Groups, Family First Fridays, musical performances, and fellowship events. However, the primary discipline of connecting to Christ and his church is weekly worship. In worship, we receive from God His gifts of Word and Sacrament and are joined together with other believers to become the Body of Christ. The capstone class for connecting is our New Member Class (101). The person attending this class will learn about the mission, vision and purpose of Red Hill and our Lutheran identity. At the conclusion of the class, they are asked to make a commitment to become a member of the church.

## 2. Grow

People grow in faith and love with others through Growth Groups, Bible studies, classes, and Disciple U. The primary disciplines of growing are regular Bible study and Biblical community. Growing disciples are ones how are spending time in God’s Word both personally and corporately. The capstone class for growing is *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. This class brings together emotional health

and contemplative spirituality to help participants cultivate a deep, personal relationship with Jesus. At the conclusion of the class, participants are asked to make a commitment to taking personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth.

## 3. Serve

As people grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ, they will desire to live like him by serving others in the church and world. This can take place through short-term mission projects or trips, or ongoing service groups both inside and outside the church. The primary discipline of serving is servanthood. We serve others in Jesus’ name because he first loved and served us, and commanded us to go and do likewise. The capstone class for serving is *Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life*. Participants will learn their unique gifts and calling and begin the process for understanding how God wants to use them in ministry. At the conclusion of the class, participants are asked to make a commitment to ongoing ministry in the church, both where they are needed and where they are gifted.

## 4. Lead

People lead others to follow Christ when they discover God’s unique calling on their life and use their gifts and passions in ongoing ministry. While ministry is about serving others, mission is about leading others to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The capstone class for leading is Building Healthy Leaders. This class takes a fresh look at how ministry leaders are developed based on how Jesus developed his own disciples. It presents a holistic and Biblical model for equipping people to become ambassadors for Jesus in their home, church, community, and world.

We’ve adapted and used a baseball diamond to give you a visual of the process. The goal in baseball is not to get a runner on first, but to move him all the way around the diamond and cross home. In the same way, our goal as a church is not to make members (first base), but Christ-Centered, emotionally healthy disciples (home plate).

It’s important to note that just because you’ve “made it around the bases” doesn’t mean that the journey is over. Discipleship is a life-long journey, or as Eugene Peterson says, a long obedience in the same direction. We continue to connect, grow, serve and lead while we disciple others. I recently heard a pastor say we should look like sheep from the front and shepherds from the back. This means that we are followers of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, while we also lead others to follow him.

So the question is, where are you in your discipleship journey? Are you still in the batter’s box? Are you comfortably resting at first base? Are you stranded in scoring position? Or maybe you’re still in the dugout! No matter how you answer that question, there’s a next step for you. Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do

in order to take that next step on your discipleship journey. Here are some ways you can connect, grow, serve, and lead at Red Hill this fall.

## **CONNECT**

Whether you are new to Red Hill, have been here for a while, or are just checking things out, coming to one of our Connect Events is a great way to get to know others. This year, we're starting a new program called Family First Friday. On the first Friday of each month, we'll have a special fellowship event that's fun for the whole family. These events are designed especially to integrate our church and school families. Please see Jennifer Brenner's announcement on page 22 for more dates and information on these events.

### ***Women's Mini-Retreat***

September 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

You and your friends are invited to join us for this exciting opportunity to come together and build community with other women of faith. We begin on Friday evening at the Tustin Meadows Community Room to focus on the practice of journaling, prayer and walking with Jesus in a way you may never have imagined. On Saturday, we will participate in a Beth Moore simulcast in the CLC Fellowship Hall, which will encourage us through the journaling process. Tickets are \$35. Contact Angela Calderon for more information: [acalderon@redhillchurch.org](mailto:acalderon@redhillchurch.org), or 714-878-3274.

### ***New Member Class***

Begins Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

If you're ready to make that commitment to join the church, or would just like to learn more about who we are, please come to the next New Member Class on Sundays beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see Pastor Seth's article on membership on page 25 for more information.

## **GROW**

As Pastor Seth wrote about in the lead article, one of our ministry initiatives this year is to further our commitment to deeper discipleship through a program we call "Disciple U." Disciple U is an intentional, education-based program designed to help our members learn and grow in their faith through systematic study of the Bible, Theology, Spiritual Formation, and Christian Living.

### ***Disciple U – Sunday***

Sundays at 10:00 and 11:30am

*Gospel of John*

Begins September 10th

This fall, we will begin a new study on the Gospel of John. John's concern is to tell us about Jesus Christ; his book is a 'gospel', a proclamation of the good news. John is especially conscious of the 'big picture'; Jesus' life and mission represent the critical central moment of all existence and all history, so he begins his account by setting Jesus against the widest possible horizon; he relates him to God and his eternal purposes, and to the entire life of the universe. John's Gospel was written sometime after the

Synoptic Gospels, perhaps as late as AD 90. Because the facts of Jesus' life had already been recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John takes a more theological, doctrinal approach as he writes. Bring your Bible and join us on Sunday mornings at either 10:00 or 11:30am for this informative study.

### ***Disciple U – Midweek***

Wednesdays at 7:00pm and Thursdays at 9:00am

*Basic Christianity*

Begins September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Join us on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings for an eight-week series on Basic Christianity. In this class, we'll answer questions like, Who is God? Who is Man? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus Die? Can I Trust the Bible? What is the Holy Spirit? This class will be taught by Pastor Joel and utilize a large-group lecture followed by small-group table discussion. The same class is offered two times in the week – once on Wednesday night from 7:00-8:00pm and again on Thursday morning from 9:00-10:00am.

### ***RHLW Women's Circles***

First Tuesday of the Month

All women of Red Hill are invited to join one of our Circle Bible studies that meet on the first Tuesday of the month. This year, we are studying the letters of John. Circles meet throughout the day both at church and in homes. Please contact the church office for specific times and locations, or look for the Circle listings in the weekly announcement page.

### ***Thrive: True Identity Conference***

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

9:00am-5:00pm in the CLC

By retraining your brain to learn new skills and deepening your relationship with Jesus, THRIVE: True Identity equips you to live from the heart Jesus gave you. You will practice hands-on, interactive exercises designed to equip you to express God's character through your life and relationships so that joy steers your life more than pain and negative emotions. This seminar is being presented by Chris Coursey in conjunction with Life Model Works of Southern California. Advance tickets are \$75 for Red Hill members. Please contact Angela Calderon ([acalderon@redhillchurch.org](mailto:acalderon@redhillchurch.org)) for more information.

### ***Other Opportunities***

In addition to all the offerings mentioned above, there are a plethora of other groups and classes that meet throughout the week. Please see Angie Calderon at the Biblical Community table on Sundays or search for groups on The City.



## SERVE

Serving others in the name of Jesus is the call on the life of every Christian. You can serve inside or outside the church, on short-term projects or ongoing ministries.

### ***City of Angels Orphanage Trip***

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

As many of you know, in January 2016, Tijuana had a huge storm, which caused a flood at the City of Angels Orphanage. Mexican social services moved the children to another orphanage until the orphanage was brought up to current standards. This required a lot of time, money, volunteers, and skilled labor. But the good news is that, after 19 long months, the orphanage is once again open! Praise the Lord! We are planning a day trip to bring much-needed supplies and reconnect with the kids and staff. You can sign up by contacting Pastor Joel at the church office. All ages are invited, but passports are required.



*Some of our wonderful volunteers!*

### ***Mentor UP with Orange County Rescue Mission***

Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm

Mentor UP is a Christian ministry that provides group mentoring to fatherless boys ages 6 to 16. Weekly meetings include dinner, Bible study, games and sports. Red Hill is excited to partner with the Mentor UP chapter at the Orange County Rescue Mission. Mentors are currently needed to serve on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00pm. All applicants are pre-screened. For more information or to apply, please contact Pastor Joel.

### ***Other Opportunities***

Other service opportunities include musical groups, Lay Ministry groups, Mission and Outreach groups, the prayer group, hospitality team, deacons and quilters. For a full list of available service groups, please search for groups on The City or see Angie Calderon at the Biblical Community table on Sundays.

## LEAD

Leading is not something that you usually volunteer to do. Usually, you are asked to serve in a position of leadership. This is a great honor... and responsibility! Part of our mission as a church is to identify and equip leaders for ministry and mission in the world.

### ***Small Group Leaders Workshop***

Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00-8:00pm in the CLC

If you are, or would like to be, an adult Small Group Leader, you are invited to join us for this workshop on being an effective group leader. This will be a refresher for some, and new information for others, but it's important that all group leaders attend for the purpose of support, encouragement, and accountability. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Angela Calderon by Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Micro M. Div. Program***

Another new and exciting program we are launching at Red Hill this fall is the Micro M.Div. program. The Micro M.Div. is an 18-month leadership program focused on increasing the competency, character and capacity of Christian leaders to optimize their calling in God's kingdom. This certificate program is offered through The Master's Institute Seminary in Minnesota working in partnership with local congregations like Red Hill. Our first cohort of seven students begins this fall. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Pastor Joel at the church office.

Just reading through all this can seem overwhelming! But remember that we are only asking you to take one step – *your* next step. If you need help, just ask! You are welcome to contact one of the Pastors or our Groups Coordinator, Angie Calderon, to help you on your journey.



*Red Hill Volunteers at City of Angels Orphanage*

# Red Hill Kicks off the New School Year!

By Dr. Paul Marquardt, Principal

The 2017-18 School Year at Red Hill Lutheran School (RHLS) began on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with over 400 students enrolled in Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The scripture verse and theme for this school year are below and tie into the Expected Student Learning Result (ESLR) we are focusing on this year: ABLE AND TALENTED students.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”*

The tag line is **“Many Gifts, One Spirit”**



Academic Focus: Expected Student Learning Result (ESLR) - **Able and Talented**

This ESLR encourages students to develop all gifts and talents.

Students will use their unique God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to develop self-confidence and to glorify God.

Students will...

- Pursue athletic and healthy lifestyles.
- Demonstrate friendly competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

- Develop creative talents in music, drama, creative movement, and art.
- Explore a variety of extra-curricular activities.

This new school year finds the addition of several new programs and the expansion of others.

New programs include:

## **Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Automation & Robotics course.**

This Automation and Robotics (AR) course allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

Students will use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Mr. Matt Smith who attended an intensive weeklong training workshop to be prepared on the exciting and integrated curriculum for this course is teaching the new course.



## **New STEAM lab**

This new lab allows students to explore **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math** concepts in a very practical and hands-on fashion. This program, directed and taught by Mrs. Sara Bridgman, takes the STEAM program to a new level of student engagement and involvement.

## **New Opportunities for Music**

**String Orchestra:** This brand new orchestra is a new ensemble intended for students in the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. This ensemble is intended to be a place for students to go after 4<sup>th</sup> grade if they would like to continue on the Violin or learn Viola or Cello. All levels welcome. The String Orchestra meets under the direction of Mr. Ben Hunter Monday and Thursday mornings before the start of the formal school day.

**Kinder – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Children’s Choir:** This choir is directed by Dr. Linda Brown and is intended for RHLS students and RHLC members in Kindergarten up through Second Grade who enjoy singing and would like more opportunities to sing in a choral setting. Performances will be at select Sundays throughout the school year. Meetings are held on Wednesday’s after school in the church sanctuary.

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir:** This choir is also directed by Dr. Linda Brown and is intended for RHLS students and RHLC members in Third Grade through Fifth Grade who enjoy singing and would like more opportunities to sing in a choral setting. Performances will be at select Sundays throughout the school year. Meetings are held on Thursday’s after school in the church sanctuary. Other performances will be declared as the school year progresses.

## Red Hill Graduates Moving on Boldly

By Dr. Paul Marquardt, Principal

As Fall approaches, the RHLS Middle School eagerly anticipates the return of our new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and welcomes our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We are also praying for a wonderful start to high school for our group of thirty, 2017 Red Hill Lutheran graduates.



Let's not forget the amazing class they were.

### Where are they going to high school?

- 50% are going to private high schools (Crean and OLU)
- 50% to public (Foothill, University, El Toro, Tustin, and Troy)

### Did they get accepted into honors classes?

- 76% of RHLS graduates were accepted into honors, including honors geometry, algebra 2, English 1 and 2, history, and biology.

### How did the 8<sup>th</sup> graders perform on standardized tests?

- This class was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Pacific Southwest District, which includes Lutheran Schools from California, Arizona, and Nevada.
- They scored in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile in Language Arts and 81<sup>st</sup> in Math, well above the National Percentile Ranking.
- Their grade equivalent on testing averaged 13+, which is the post high school level.

### How prepared are they for high school?

Here are some quotes directly from them. We look forward to hearing how high school is during one of the many welcome alumni visits!

*Coming to Red Hill Lutheran was the best decision my family and I made. This school has changed me and made me the best I could have been.*

*As part of our challenging education here at Red Hill, we were stretched in areas of leadership, serving, and making endless faith connections. These were the values that have shaped us into who we are as responsible and caring individuals. Thanks to Red Hill and everyone here who has influenced us, we will stand strong in the truths we've learned from our time here so we can face life's challenges while staying true to God.*

*Red Hill has been a great place for me throughout my middle school years. I have grown as a leader and increased my work ethic. I have grown spiritually and I feel that I will be prepared for high school.*

*RHLS has been an amazing school for the past 11 years. It has helped me grow my relationship with God. Also, I have met many great people and had many great experiences with them. Lastly, RHLS has helped me reach my academic goals and helped me prepare well for high school.*

*Red Hill Lutheran has been my home for many years. Since the day I came I had met wonderful people who I still care for today. Although I am sad to be leaving my family at RHLS, I'm eager to go and spread God's love elsewhere. This school has shaped me to be who I am today, and I am so happy that God was and is still a part of my journey. I feel blessed to have all these wonderful teachers, and I'm glad I got at least one year with our amazing new principal. Thank you for filling me with knowledge, as well as the promises of God throughout my time here.*

*I feel I have absolutely loved my middle school experience here. All of my teachers were amazing and the best. I am definitely very sad to leave but I will be back plenty. I also feel that I am very prepared for high school because of how RHLS prepared me.*



*2017 RHLS graduating class!*

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## **A Message from Our School Board**

by Danalyn Belgen

The governing and policy-making body of Red Hill Lutheran School is the School Board, which consists of members of Red Hill Lutheran Church who are appointed by the Church Board of Directors for a one-year term. Newly appointed members serving from August 2017-July 2018 are: Mrs. Danalyn Belgen, Chair, Mrs. Peggy Greene, Mrs. Kari Rigoni, Mrs. Sonja Scott, Mrs. Carolyn Driscoll, Mr. Rollo Pickford, and Dr. Mark Colon.

The School Board met in Executive session on Tuesday, August 8. Meeting topics included a regular report from Dr. Marquardt, a financial report, and the School Board's

self-review. The bulk of the meeting was spent in a discussion of the strategic plan for the School. Over the course of the next several months the School Board will update long-range goals related to the general themes of Faith and Spiritual Development, Academics, Staff Development, Marketing, Financial Stability, and Facilities.

The next scheduled School Board meeting is October 10, 2017. Agenda topics will include: ASB report, teachers' representative report, Principal's report, finance report, and continued discussion on the strategic plan.

# Looking Back, Moving Forward

## *Keeping Youth and Families Connected to Christ*

By: Jennifer Brenner, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Looking back on this year in Youth and Family Ministry, there are so many things to be grateful for as part of God’s plan, provision and purpose in developing His disciples and keeping our youth and families connected to Christ. Among the many blessings, some that stand out, would include the surge of 25 new adult volunteers and a dozen youth junior leaders within the Sunday and Wednesday ministries who chose to invest in the lives of children, one week at a time, as well as, the authentic partnership that grew between our Church and School through joint events and family experiences. We also discovered that there is incredible richness gained when blending the energy of new small group leaders with the wisdom and insight of experienced leaders resulting in a depth to youth and family ministry. We were eager to partner with parents in reaching hearts for Christ and equipping students in their faith journey through the infusion of a new ministry strategy called Orange.



For those who may not be familiar with “Orange”, it is a comprehensive and integrated ministry strategy for children

ages 0-18 that combines two major influences with one end in mind, to have a greater impact in the lives of students for Christ. This strategy includes the love of the family (red color) and the light of Christ/Church (yellow color); hence, the color “Orange”.

Our RHL core values focus on:

- Making disciples of all ages, using a Bible based, comprehensive curriculum that is integrated and streamlined across all age groups 0-18 years.
- Understanding this is a process that builds across stages of a child’s life, including the fact that “Confirmation begins at Baptism”
- Building a ministry with families, not for and not to them
- Knowing it takes at least (5) significant adult relationships in the life of a child 0-18 to have the greatest impact on making disciples

The Orange strategy uses a small group model with small group leaders who are asked to commit weekly, hopefully over consecutive years, as they invest in the lives of students. Parent involvement and family connection with concepts learned each week is also paramount to the success of this strategy. It’s not just about what happens on the initial ministry day that’s most important; rather, it’s what happens in the life of a child the rest of the week. To give better insight into the Orange strategy, this chart serves to explain this shift from a traditional model, to a small group strategy:

<b>Orange Strategy</b>	<b>Traditional Model</b>	<b>Small Groups Model (RHL)</b>
Goal	Education	Spiritual Formation
Focus	Teach Bible	Make Disciples
Model	Classroom	Circles
Time	Sunday Morning	Throughout week
Priority	Present Lesson	Dialogue and Community
Volunteers	Recruit Teachers	Develop Leaders
Evaluation	Church Practices	Personal Faith
Emphasis	Knowing Scripture	Knowing God

As we look back on this year and move forward this fall, we are increasingly reminded that the single best way to keep our kids on track and families connected to Christ, is to focus on Christ first! We will still work hard to provide experiences for students and families that enrich their relationship with God and with one another, yet moving forward into the fall, it is our desire to be intentional with those efforts so as not to draw attention away from the real reason we are gathered together in the first place, to know Christ more and make Christ known.

A 2013 article, titled *“Sticky Faith: What Keeps Kids Connected to Church”*, highlights a comprehensive and longitudinal study completed by the Fuller Youth Institute which found that it’s not enough for students to just attend Sunday or mid-week type ministries, even those that are well-crafted and Christ centered, but students need to develop a personal faith that sticks! “The term *sticky faith* is defined by researchers at FYI as faith that is “part of a student’s inner thoughts and emotions and is also externalized in choices and actions that reflect this faith commitment.” It is a faith that “celebrates God’s specific care for each person . . . in the global and local community of the church” and that “shows marks of spiritual maturity but is also in the process of growth.” It is this kind of sticky faith that we want to develop in students, for it is this kind of faith that becomes a way of life, capable of influencing people’s everyday decisions as well as their interactions with the world around them” (Bradbury, 2013).

This “sticky faith” mindset is what will move us forward into this new season of Youth and Family Ministry at RHL. As this article further suggests fostering a “lasting and consequential” faith for our students means that our ministry is one that is “Christ-centered, infused with grace and built on intergenerational relationships and intergenerational worship.” The concept of being intergenerational is really about enlisting five adults (parents can be included) from various walks and aspects of life who are willing to dig in and engage in a student’s life with the sole purpose of reflecting Christ and encouraging that lifelong relationship with Him. It is definitely something we desire to cultivate here at RHL even more in the coming season. We want our students and families hungry for God’s Word everyday, desiring to open their Bible, and at times struggle with the content, asking questions, as they develop into emotionally healthy and spiritually mature disciples for Christ.

Source: <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2013-05/sticky-faith>

## 2017-18 MS-HS Family Ministry Preview Night! Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

We are excited to share with you an overview of the ministry year, including important dates and Confirmation specific information, winter/summer retreats, service opportunities, the role of parents and the small group leaders and small group ministry. We will also discuss the upcoming preparation for the 2019 National Youth Gathering for our HS students.

- MS (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Families: 6:00-7:00pm
- HS (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Families: 7:30-8:30p



### The Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation in the Lutheran Church is a designated period of instruction during middle school years in the Bible, Christian history, and the Lutheran Confessions. At Red Hill, Confirmation instruction takes place in both a large and small group format, where students learn about what it means to serve Jesus as a Middle School student through their lives now, as well as following Jesus for the rest of their lives. Our youth are not just the church of tomorrow—they are the church today!

Whether you are certain or have more questions about the possibility of your son or daughter being Confirmed, we ask that you attend the fall **parent orientation as part of the Family Ministry Preview Night on Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm in the Christian Life Center.**

Pastor Seth will describe the goals of Confirmation, major learning themes, and expected parent/student involvement to be confirmed at Red Hill. You will also visit with Mrs. Brenner, your small group leaders and our new acolyte coordinator who all play a very critical and significant role in our students’ Confirmation experience. If you have any questions regarding Confirmation, you may contact Pastor Seth at 714-544-3131 ext. 110 or [sbritton@redhillchurch.org](mailto:sbritton@redhillchurch.org).

## **Youth and Family Weekly Ministry**

***We're Moving!...Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Youth Group*** is moving to Wednesday Nights, 7:00-9:00pm starting August 30<sup>th</sup>! Fellowship, Dessert, Worship, Study & Small Group Time

**Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** youth group stays the same, Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm Fellowship, Dinner, Message, Worship, & Small Group Time

**Children's Ministry (Infant-5 years old):** Sundays 9:45am-11:15am

2017-18 Orange Opening Day! (Infant-5<sup>th</sup> grade)! Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the 10am service We are thrilled to welcome returning and new families Infants-5<sup>th</sup> grade for our **Orange Opening Day!** Parents and students will meet small group leaders and enjoy a special gathering, activities and treats celebrating the start to a new ministry year together. Our monthly themes will be introduced and parents will learn about ways we can partner together through the Orange ministry strategy. We're looking forward to this day!

### **NEW in Children's Ministry this fall:**

**Family Worship Sunday:** All students **ages 3 and up** will now join us at the 10:00am service on the first Sunday of each month. There will be a special Children's Message given and the service will include youth volunteers making it truly a family time of worship together. We will still provide nursery care for those children ages 0-2 years old.

### **NEW this Fall.....RHL Family First Fridays!**

As we continue to create authentic connections with Church and School families, we are offering a new ministry experience this year called **Family First Fridays!** This is a beautiful opportunity for all of our RHL families, both Church and School, to intentionally and consistently come together on the first Friday of most months during the school year in fellowship, service, Bible study and/or worship. Our goal is to build relationships between and with families, thereby, making stronger connections as One Body in Christ!

### **Our first family night together is the Welcome Back BBQ on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**

Tonight we celebrate the return from summer for all our Church and School families. Food, games and fellowship make for a memorable time together! Advanced tickets will be available in late August. You don't want to miss this opportunity to connect with one another in faith and fellowship!

**Other Family First Friday experiences to look forward to this fall:**

### **October 6th: Tustin Tiller Days Float Building and Family Dinner Night**

Join us as we help to build the parade float for RHL while enjoying fellowship and a dinner meal on campus together. Advanced meal tickets will be available in September.

### **November 3rd: Reformation Celebration Movie Night and Family Dinner**

As part of celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we will enjoy a family dinner experience and watch the movie "Luther". Bring your lawn chairs and blankets! Advanced tickets will be available in October.

### **December 1st : Christmas Caroling and Outreach to the RHL neighborhood**

Hot chocolate, holiday treats and Christmas Carols...what a wonderful way to celebrate the Season of Christ's birth with our RHL neighbors. Our Church and School families will have the opportunity to sing Christmas carols for local residents and share the joy of the Christmas season with others.

*\*\*All Family First Friday events start on our RHL campus unless otherwise noted\*\**

### **Senior High Summer Forest Home**



### **Junior High Fun at Forest Home!**



# Congregational Care, Prayer and Share

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

As we begin another ministry year, the spiritual, emotional, and physical care of our congregation will continue to be one of our highest priorities. The goal of the Congregational Care ministry at Red Hill is to provide spiritual care for those facing life's challenges, and to equip our faith community to express mercy and care for one another.

In times of crisis, grief, transition, and confusion, we believe and trust that God is with us and will never abandon us. God works through His church, empowering us to be His hands and hearts that reach out to others. The Pastors, staff and volunteers of our church, will offer appropriate care, prayer, and support for you through the difficult and painful moments of life. Here are the ways that our church will care for you:

## **Pastoral Care**

Often, difficult and painful times of life happen suddenly. At other times, we may know in advance that a life-change or challenge is approaching. You are encouraged to call the Church Office (Pastor) when:

- You are anticipating or have experienced the death of someone near to you.
- You or someone in your family is sick, hospitalized, and/or will be having surgery (Hospital/home visitations).
- A child is born. We can visit in order to welcome and bless this new life and gift from God!
- You are struggling with a significant decision about health care and faith.
- You lose a job, home, important relationship, and/or facing a significant transition in your life.
- You are deeply questioning your faith.

In addition to meeting with one of the Pastors to explore your situation and needs, we also have referrals to competent, Christian Counselors and other resources for longer-term counseling or spiritual direction.

## **Deacon Ministry Team**

At Red Hill, we desire to be a church that expresses mercy and care for others—inside and outside our church. While every Christian is considered a priest (1 Peter 2.9) and is expected to offer mercy to their neighbor, historically the church has called, trained, and set-aside, certain leaders who have spiritual gifts of mercy. In the New Testament, these leaders were known as *Deacons*, taken from the Greek word, *diakonos*, which means “servant.” These servants, or *Deacons*, were charged with caring for the needs of the local church through acts of mercy and kindness.

At Red Hill, the responsibilities of the Deacon Team are:

- Visitation of our members who are hospitalized and/or homebound; Bringing Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend weekly Worship at Red Hill.

- Anointing with Holy Oil and praying with and for those who are in need of prayer for any reason.
- Sitting with someone and talking about life issues and challenges such as losing a job, a difficult relationship, or significant changes in one's life.
- With staff assistance and church resources, helping church members with possible financial needs and concerns.

**If you would like to serve as a Deacon, you are invited to join the Deacon Team on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 P.m. in the Christian Life Center (CLC). After the meeting, if you desire to move forward, the next step will be a personal interview with Pastor Seth. Upon successful completion of the interview, you will be installed as a Deacon.**

If you have any questions about Congregational Care, need a Deacon to connect with you, or would like to serve in this ministry you can contact: Pastor Seth Britton at 714-544-3131 ext.110; [sbritton@redhillchurch.org](mailto:sbritton@redhillchurch.org), or Donna Kunz, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor, at 714-544-3131 etx.100; [dkunz@redhillchurch.org](mailto:dkunz@redhillchurch.org).

## **Red Hill Care Counsel Team**

When a quality of life or life threatening medical diagnosis is received, many of us are traumatized by two emotions: fear and denial. At Red Hill, we have a team of knowledgeable and compassionate people to help empower our church members to make more informed decisions as consumers of medical care.

By asking the *Red Hill Care Counsel Team* for assistance with sorting out issues, we can advise you as to how you may gain insight into maximizing your health care benefits, obtain a second opinion at a center of excellence and assist you with helpful tips when talking with your doctors.

If you have any questions about Red Hill Care Counsel, contact: Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor Donna Kunz at [dkunz@redhillchurch.org](mailto:dkunz@redhillchurch.org).

## **“Flower Ministry”**

Every Sunday, flowers are given by Red Hill members in honor or memory of an important person in their lives. After Worship, Sheila Feher and Sarah Chamberlain take those flowers to the homes and hospitals of those facing illness and at times, celebrations of life.

Contact: Donna Kunz, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor Donna Kunz at 714-544-3131 etx.100 or [dkunz@redhillchurch.org](mailto:dkunz@redhillchurch.org).

If you are interested in serving in one of these ministries, you can contact the church office. You could be used by God to ensure that our congregation is a congregation that cares!

# Red Hill Lutheran Church & School, and the Mission Field

By Dr. Scott Browne, Board of Directors President

*“Our church spends X dollars on Y missionaries, operating in Z countries around the world!”*

*“I’m raising money for my Spring Break Missions Trip, where my group will spend 2 weeks in country Z teaching Vacation Bible School to the youngsters in a village.”*

*“Mother Theresa spent decades of her life in the poorest parts of India, working with and serving the poorest people... now that’s missionary work!”*

*“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, near and far, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.” Jesus’ Great Commission, from The Message.*

Missionary work is commanded by Jesus, but many people inside and outside the church seem to tell us it must be exotic, foreign, dangerous, and worthy of a Hollywood movie, to really “count” as missionary work.

And yet, when we look at the mission of Jesus, the lives of the Apostles, and the Great Commission, we see that these things are true of some missions, but not all missions are required to contain danger, travel, and drama.

Each week at Red Hill Lutheran Church and School, between 400 and 500 people gather for Sunday worship, another 300 plus in our school, and many more in our Bible Studies, circles, prayer groups, and family life programs.

This is missionary training, but where is our exotic mission field?

Well, we have missionaries that are students, located at public and private schools throughout Orange County, places like Orange Lutheran, Crean Lutheran, Red Hill Lutheran, Mater Dei, Foothill, Tustin, Hewes, Utt, and several elementary schools. These Red Hill missionaries take time to talk with the “unpopular” kids, they refuse to cheat on tests, they don’t take part in the obvious problems – drinking, drugs, vandalism – but also the less obvious ones – gossip, hazing, or teasing. They work hard in their classes and athletics, respect authority, and take the inevitable disappointments along the way gracefully. It’s odd, but have you noticed they never use the crude language others do, and they never seem to be around at the end of a dirty joke? They are not shouting with an open Bible at lunchtime, but people notice. People ask, “Why are you different?” Our missionaries say, “Because I follow Jesus.” No extended monologue on apologetics, just the personal statement, plus an invitation, “If you’d like to know more, I’d be happy to share with you.”

We have missionaries located throughout Orange County as business owners. They work hard, charge reasonable rates, go the extra mile, are generous with their employees, do not work for cash to avoid taxes, don’t inflate their invoices, don’t live a lavish lifestyle by overcharging their customers

or underpaying their employees. It’s odd, but have you noticed they never use the crude language others do, and they never seem to be around at the end of a dirty joke? They are not shouting with an open Bible at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, but people notice. People ask, “Why are you different?” Our missionaries say, “Because I follow Jesus.” No extended monologue on apologetics, just the personal statement, plus an invitation, “If you’d like to know more, I’d be happy to share with you.”

We have missionaries located throughout Orange County as employees. They work hard, go the extra mile, are helpful to their coworkers, do not steal time, supplies, or cash from their employers. They don’t inflate their expense accounts, they show up for work on time, stay the full time, and put in their best efforts. Their attitude with customers, even in the middle of a long and difficult day, is an absolute blessing! It’s odd, but have you noticed they never use the crude language others do, and they never seem to be around at the end of a dirty joke? They are not shouting with an open Bible in the employee break room, but people notice. People ask, “Why are you different?” Our missionaries say, “Because I follow Jesus.” No extended monologue on apologetics, just the personal statement, plus an invitation, “If you’d like to know more, I’d be happy to share with you.”

We have missionaries located throughout Orange County, as teachers...as retired persons...as parents...as coaches...as police and fire personnel...as health care workers...as authors...

And we have local missions served by Red Hill members. Ask Bill Calderon about Street Team, or our church and school families about Smile Train, or Village of Hope, or Mary’s Shelter, or building houses in Mexico.

Make no mistake, foreign missionary work is important, but not more important than the mission field in which God has already placed us: our family, our friends, our school, our work, our neighborhood. It is not the preaching of words that is important, but the preaching of our actions, especially those that contrast with the culture in which we find ourselves immersed: **s e l f - c e n t e r e d**, destructively competitive, dismissive of standards of right and wrong, combative rather than cooperative.

No one really knows for sure if St. Francis of Assisi said these words, but I think they are fitting: “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”

We are all in the mission field, and God can honor our actions, often more than eloquent words, in bringing people to His kingdom!



# Church Membership: We Are the Body of Christ!

By Rev. Dr. Seth Britton

A few years ago, when I asked a regular attendee about joining our church, he told me that membership wasn't necessary—if he attends a church (and he had been “shopping” around for a while) then that is *his church*. He added: “I do not even think membership is in the Bible—why should I be a member of a church?” If asked such a question, what would your answer be?

Is the word “membership” in scripture? Not in the way we normally define the word. The early church consisted of groups of believers committed to Jesus and one another even to the point of death! This is the Biblical understanding of “membership.” Pastor and author Ed Stetzer, commenting on the resistance of some Christians to church membership, writes:

*In the New Testament, people in churches are recognized as being in some sort of community.*

*It's just that the reality is how community is expressed in Scripture has fallen on hard times over the last couple of thousand years.*

*Membership is often misunderstood, misapplied or not applied at all.*

Why do we encourage church membership at Red Hill? Church membership properly understood reflects commitment beyond ourselves. Church membership is not an opportunity to say, “I'm a part of a club,” or now “I am due religious goods and services,” rather, membership is a scriptural expression of covenant; a personal commitment to a particular community in order to grow in faith and serve our Lord and His people. Additionally, we believe in church membership because:

## **Membership Reflects What the Church Is.**

One of the primary metaphors of the church in Scripture is the human “body.” Just as a body cannot afford one of its “members” saying, “I don't need this body,” neither can Jesus' “body.” Again, quoting Stetzer, he believes that “too many churches or Christian gatherings look like piles of dismembered body parts, not a body knit together as God's agent, his body, his kingdom, at work in the world. To reject the value of membership is to deny what God has already established in fact.”

## **Membership is Biblical**

The Scriptures speak a great deal about our need for spiritual authority (See Hebrews 13:7, 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:10-12). Unlike our culture that questions any type of authority, and views such authority as limiting our “freedom,” the New Testament sees true, Biblical authority as a primary means *for our freedom*. The letters of Paul particularly, considered a believer's incorporation into a local church community as indispensable to spiritual maturing and discipleship. In fact, removing a person from “membership” in a local church family was Paul's ultimate means of church discipline.

God has created us in such a way that we need the guidance and stability that only a larger community and the spiritual authority of leadership within a local church can provide. This leads us to a third consideration:

## **Membership Serves as an Anchor of Stability**

Being part of a church family and community will help you to remain faithful when bad times, fatigue and disappointments come your way. I will never forget what Rick Warren at Saddleback Church said during a conference I attended. He said that someone once told him that they didn't need a local church; that he was a member of the “spiritual, invisible church.” Rick said, “Well, when you are sick, dying, or in need, then the spiritual and invisible church can come and meet your needs and visit you!” Honest and true! The issue of stability; not jumping from one church to another, is a critical discipleship issue.

## **Becoming a Member of Red Hill Lutheran Church: “Class 101”**

If you are not a member of a church, is God calling you to commit to a church family where you can grow, serve, and be a part of God's plan to redeem and reconcile this world? Or, maybe you are not a Christian? Perhaps you have been searching and questioning and desiring to connect with God in your life? The good news is: God wants you!

If you are considering becoming a Christian or joining Red Hill as a follower of Jesus, or if you have questions about Christianity or the church, you are invited to join us for the next “**Class 101**.” Class 101 is a six-week course, offered twice annually (fall and spring), which examines the core teachings of the Bible, the Christian faith, the Lutheran understanding of the faith, and what it means to be a member of this particular body of believers.

**The next “Class 101” meets weekly, beginning on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.** Registration for the class can be made on Sundays by marking your Worship Response Card or by calling/emailing Donna Kunz, at 714-544-3131 ext.100 or dkunz@redhillchurch.org. Registration closes Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>. As this class is in many ways an “adult Confirmation class,” even if you are a member of Red Hill and would like to learn more about our faith, and/or spend some time reviewing our core beliefs, you are welcome to attend!

One of the goals of the 101 class is to enable those new to the church to meet others and begin the life of discipleship and personal connecting here at Red Hill.



**All Saints Church - Wittenburg**

*Photo: Manny Olmedo*

# Luther Choral Festival: Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation in Europe

By Jason Harney

As far as anniversaries go, 500 years is a pretty big one. Even Hallmark doesn't have a specific gift for the five-century mark. So, how does one celebrate the five hundredth year of the Lutheran Reformation? Well, if you are Jason Harney, the Director of Music at Red Hill Lutheran Church, members of the RHL Chancel Choir, Pastor Joel, members of the Red Hill Lutheran congregation, and members of Mr. Harney's Aliso Niguel school choir community, you travel to Germany!

In the summer of 2015, the plans started coming together to make this trip a reality. After much recruiting and planning, the final tour group was comprised of sixteen students, 15 adults from the school group, twenty-one RHL members (singers and non-singers), five guests from other choirs, and three from the Harney family. One challenge that loomed before the planners was this: how to run a musical tour that would appeal to non-musicians, and also make it a historical Lutheran tour that would appeal to non-Lutherans. Pastor Joel, Jason, Megan Schuller (the tour assistant), and the MCI tour planners worked hard to create an itinerary that would satisfy both contingents and result in a satisfying travel experience for all involved.

A tremendous amount of work goes into planning a trip like this. In addition to the extensive musical repertoire that the choir was expected to perform in Berlin, they also had to learn separate repertoire for their performances in Trebbin, Leipzig, and Prague. Also, as is often the case on trips such as this, the singers had many impromptu opportunities to sing in stunningly beautiful and historic venues. With the crucial input and support of Dr. Linda Brown, music was selected and rehearsed over the course of several months leading up to the tour. Pastor Joel contributed by supplying the tour group with some written materials to help prepare them to truly appreciate the cities, churches, and sites that they would see

## Berlin

The tour began in Germany's capitol. Upon arriving, after a brief stop at the Brandenburg gate, the first activity was a one-hour long boat tour on the River Spree through the heart of downtown Berlin. This turned out to be the perfect start to our time in Germany, as it was a truly lovely day, and the fresh air suited us well after having been cooped up in an airplane for many long hours. It is fair to say that our time in Berlin was mostly musically focused. The



*Maestro Harney preparing the combined chorus in Berlin*

festival concert, which included a total of 278 singers from all over the United States, was scheduled for June 17. That gave us just two and a half days of rehearsal and prep time to put together some very difficult repertoire, with a very large choir, in a highly reverberant cathedral, with a professional German orchestra!

I was honored to be asked to spend some time warming up and rehearsing the large festival choir on the morning of our concert. In fact, as I was about to take the podium to do this, one of the tour planners asked me if I knew anything about Luther and the Reformation, and might I be comfortable

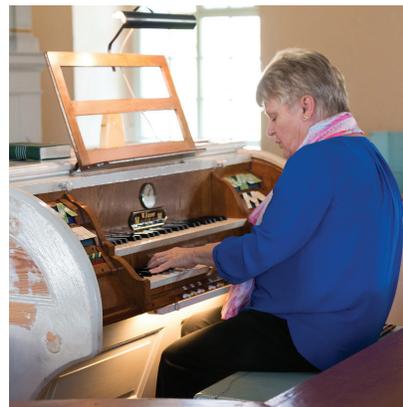


*Inside Berlinerdom during rehearsal*

speaking to the group? So, I had the pleasure of talking about these topics and even praying with the group that morning. This was an unexpected privilege.

The concert in Berlin was a success, and although I wish I could report that this was due to the dynamic conducting of our famed leader, Helmut Rilling, unfortunately, he had recently experience some physical difficulties, and was not up to his usual standards and reputation. In spite of that, the concert came off very well, particularly Felix Mendelssohn's *Psalm 42*. The orchestra was also very strong and supported the choral forces well.

The morning after our Berlin concert, we packed up and headed to the outskirts of the city. What transpired that morning was one of the highlights of the trip for us all. The Parish Church of Trebbin has been operating in some capacity for almost 800 years. Through epochs, wars, border changes, Reformation, the era of Communism, and



*Dr. Brown playing the Trebbin organ*

many other changes, it persists. The church building is centuries old and is decorated in Baroque style within. We discovered that the same organ builder who had designed the enormous instrument in the Berlin Cathedral also

constructed the small provincial organ in Trebbin; Dr. Brown was allowed to explore and play the instrument. Led by a very earnest young Pastor, the service was conducted entirely in German, but followed a similar liturgy to our won. In the place of the 'We Believe' was the 'Wir

Glauben'. In place of the 'Our Father', they spoke the 'Unser Vater'. At various times during the service, we were directed to perform some of our tour repertoire. As it turned out, the sermon was based upon Luke 16:19-31, and we happened to have a song of that exact scripture (the Holy Spirit at work!). At one point in the service, the Pastor invited me up to talk about our group and about our church, at which point I deferred to Pastor Joel.

We thoroughly enjoyed our brief time in Trebbin.

### Wittenberg

On that same Sunday, we traveled on to Wittenberg, where we would spend the afternoon steeped in one of the most important locales of Luther's Reformation. We toured the famed Castle Church of Wittenberg; this is the site upon which Martin Luther famously nailed his 95 Theses. The original wood doors were lost to fire long ago, but they have been replaced with bronze doors that bear a carving of all 95 theses. Some of the words from Luther's most famous



hymn, Ein Feste Berg (A Mighty Fortress) are inscribed around the imposing tower of the Castle Church. Inside the church we saw where Luther had often preached, and the site where he is entombed. Making our way through the town of Wittenberg, we found that the entire city is dedicated to the memory of Martin Luther. There are several statues and monuments to him in the city, and his residence, on the opposite side of town from the church, is a museum dedicated

to his memory and influence on the landscape of the modern world. We toured his home, where some of the rooms are still in original condition from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and saw his courtyard and gardens. We enjoyed seeing the portico that

he gave to his wife as a birthday gift. There was a seat on each side: one for Luther, one for his wife.



*Our Choir, under the direction of Jason Harney, performing in Prague.*

### Leipzig

After a wonderful afternoon in Wittenberg, we continued our journey to Leipzig, the city of J.S. Bach. The next morning we took a

guided tour of the city, with particular focus paid to Thomas Kirche. Martin Luther preached in St. Thomas Church in 1539 heralding the arrival of

Protestantism in Leipzig. Bach's 12 children and the infant Richard Wagner were baptized here, and both Mozart and Mendelssohn performed here. After a relaxing lunch, we had the opportunity to perform a twenty minute choral recital in Thomas Kirche. This was a very memorable experience,

particularly for those of us who are musicians and have long admired the work of J.S. Bach. Another highlight in Leipzig was hearing the stories from our tour guides about the revolution in 1989 that resulted in the fall of Communism. Most of our tour was spent in cities and regions that were once located behind the 'Iron Curtain', and it was fascinating to hear the perspective of people who had lived under such oppression. St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig was one of the flashpoints of the uprisings that eventually toppled the Berlin wall and the eastern bloc nations.

### Erfurt & Eisleben

On Tuesday, June 20, we left our base at Leipzig for a day trip to two smaller towns of importance in Lutheran history: Erfurt and Eisleben. Erfurt is the town in which Luther was studying the law when he had his cathartic experience in a thunderstorm. Upon surviving the storm, he pounded on the door of a local monastery and committed his life to serving God and preaching the Gospel. We got to visit that Augustinian Monastery, where we saw the room in which he took his orders as a priest, and where he studied and worshipped. In addition to that site, we were all quite charmed by the medieval town of Erfurt.

The town of Eisleben has the distinction of not only being the birthplace of Martin Luther, but also the site of his death as well. Luther had a special affection for this small

*“Reflecting upon the trip, with a few weeks of perspective, I believe it was one of the best tours that I have ever been a part of. The musical elements were satisfying and powerful. The Lutheran and historical elements were meaningful and impacting.”*



J.S. Bach's tomb

town, and it was said that his favorite place to preach was in the pulpit there. He preached on his last night there, before passing away at a local hotel. We toured the house in which Luther was born, which is now a museum to his memory and the history of Eisleben.

### Leipzig/Dresden/Prague

The next day represented a long travel day for us. We began in Leipzig at the Bach Museum, which was wonderful

fun! The museum is filled with interactive musical exhibits, displays, and games. Some of the group chose to visit the Luther Museum in Leipzig instead, which Pastor Joel reported was well worth the visit. We then headed for Prague, our long day of driving was broken up by a visit to the city of Dresden.

Much of the city was destroyed during WWII, but has since been rebuilt. The Dresdeners have the habit of building things back *exactly* as they had previously looked, so the city has a much older feel and appearance than it truly deserves. Nicknamed the "Florence of the Elbe", Dresden has an exceptional artistic and architectural heritage. Our guided tour included the Cathedral, the Neustadt Quarter, and entrance to the world-famous "Zwinger Palace" with its Old Masters Gallery.

### Prague

Upon arriving in Prague and settling into our hotel, many of us hopped on the metro to visit the famous Charles Bridge at night, when it and the palace looming above are illuminated. It was quite an adventure to roam the city streets at night. The next morning we took a lengthy tour of the city, seeing the Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, Our Lady of Tyn Church, the Astronomical Clock, and the Jewish Quarter. Prague, since it was not bombed much during WWII, is perhaps the best preserved of the large cities in Europe. It is a stunning place to visit and tour!

The next day we were all quite focused on our concert in Old Town Square, but first we took a walking tour along the



Prague

Vlatava River and into the city. It was a very peaceful and pleasant perspective on the city. After lunch we performed our concert in St. Nicolas Church, we were thrilled to see that not only did we have a full audience, but that the audience was very enthusiastic and appreciative. The choir, who by now, had had several opportunities to perform together and to perfect our repertoire, were in wonderful form! It was by far the best singing we had done on the tour. Special recognition should be given to Dr. Brown, who played multiple choral pieces with great style and excellence, as well as accompanying soloists, *and* singing herself on several of the *a capella* selections! Also, our soloists Megan Schuller Donoff and Erin Theodorakis both sang brilliantly. All in all, the concert was a tremendous success, and a fitting cap to the musical portion of our tour.

Reflecting upon the trip, with a few weeks of perspective, I believe it was one of the best tours that I have ever been a part of. The musical elements were satisfying and powerful. The Lutheran and historical elements were meaningful and impacting.

I am blessed to be a part of the community at Red Hill Lutheran Church.

Remember, the Chancel Choir is open to any and all. Please consider joining us for the coming season of worship. And, if you are inclined to travel and intrigued by this journal ...start saving those euro! Italy 2020 is coming up next!



Jason Harney beside a poster for our church choir's performance in Prague

## Luther's Seal

By Pastor Joel Kelly

"My Compendium Theologiae" (summary of theology)

One of the most recognizable and enduring symbols of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that came to represent Luther's theology. A version of this seal, also called Luther's Rose, began to appear on the title page of Luther's writings by the early 1520s as a symbol of authenticity of his authorship. There is a similar rose in the stained glass at the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt where Luther was a monk that perhaps provided inspiration to Luther for his seal.

The final symbol was largely designed by Lazarus Spengler at the time of the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. Spengler (a relative of our own Jerry Spangler), was an ardent supporter of Martin Luther and a leader of the Reformation in Nuremberg. After submitting his artwork to Luther for approval, Luther responded in a letter to Spengler on July 8, 1530. Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

*"Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology."*

### Black Cross and Red Heart

*First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but*

*it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).*

### White Rose

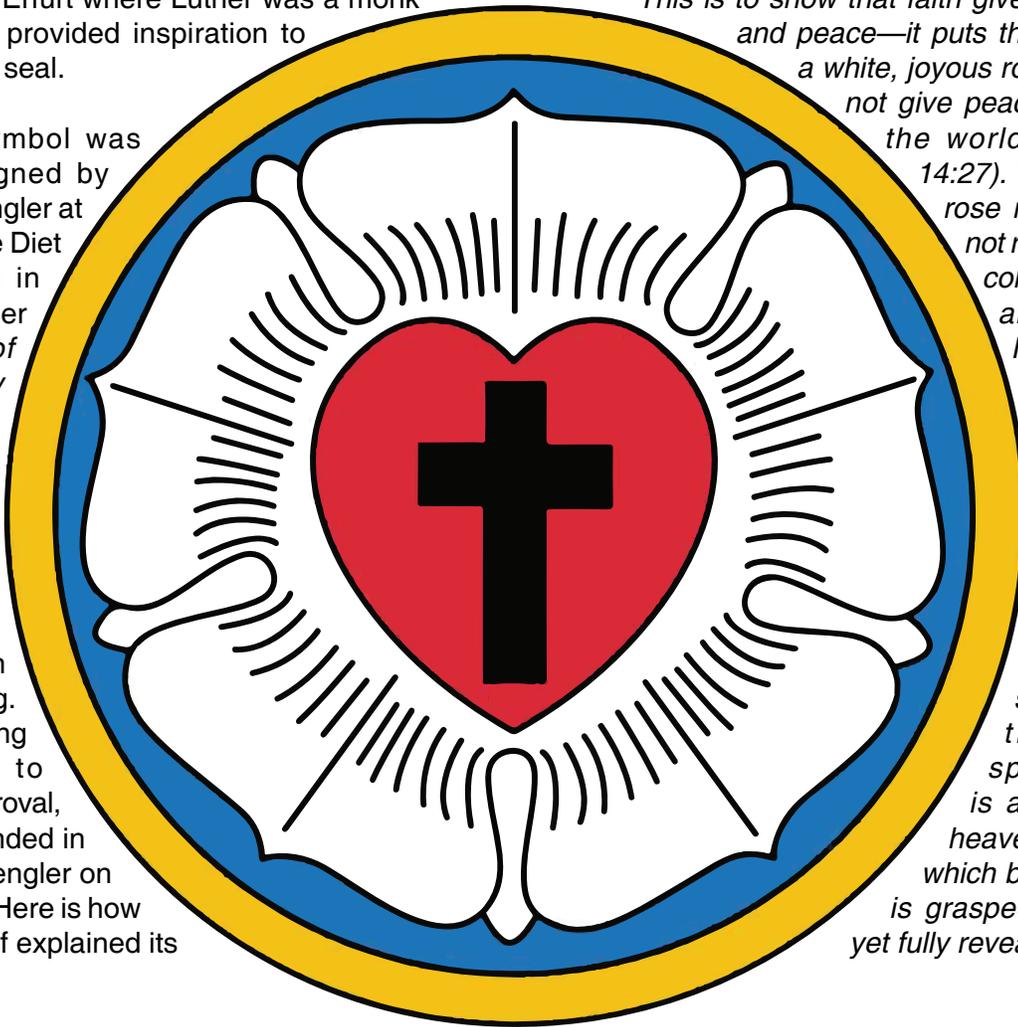
*The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).*

### Blue Background

*This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.*

### Golden Ring

*Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*



## What Is the Altar Guild?

By Bettie Ore

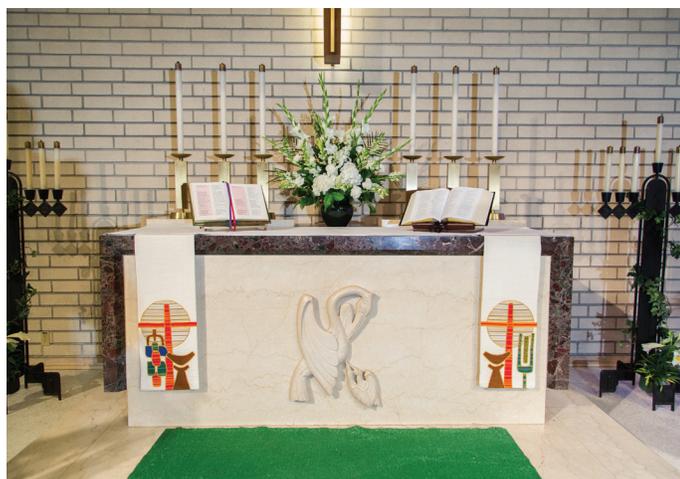
Since there has been a change in the leadership of the Altar Guild, I wanted the opportunity to greet you all. I have taken over the coordinator position for the Altar Guild. I would like to recognize the great work that Laura Hendricks had done for the previous 10 years and thank her for her many hours of selfless dedication to our Lord in this most important ministry.

So many of you may say, what exactly is the Altar Guild and what do they do? Good question!

The purpose and work of the altar guild is to assist in creating and maintaining a climate of worship for the congregation in the space designated and dedicated to the placement of the altar. The work of the altar guild is more than housekeeping. The altar guild is responsible for the care of the chancel and its furnishings, the communion ware and linens, and the vestments for the clergy and the acolytes. It is good to be reminded that we worship God and not things or traditions. The function of the guild is to be an aide to worship. The use of candles, hangings, flowers, and all other symbols is to be recognized for what it is- an expression of what we believe and not mere decoration.

Mostly our team consists of ladies, however, there is no reason our men friends cannot be part of our team also. I am looking for folks willing to serve on the altar guild. The time commitment is low, about 4 hours a month for the month you are signed up to serve, and additional time during the high festival months of Christmas and Easter. Our team prays for all our parishioners as we go about our preparation for the Lord's Supper on Saturdays. We pray for the body and blood of our Lord and Savior to strengthen everyone who partakes and renew in them the comfort and spirit of the Holy Spirit. It is a very important part of our worship team and it would be an honor to have you serve!

If you are interested at all or would like more information about how you can get involved, please contact me at 714-315-1443 (call or text) and email at [lk4tood@aol.com](mailto:lk4tood@aol.com)



*Our Sanctuary Altar*

## Altar Symbols and Their Meanings

By Bettie Ore

Many of you have asked about the meanings of the symbols and icons used in our worship and in the structure of our sanctuary.

Probably the most asked question is "Why is there a pelican on the front of the altar?" The symbolism of the mother pelican feeding her babies is rooted in an ancient legend that preceded Christianity. The legend was that in time of famine, the mother pelican wounded herself, striking her breast with the beak to feed her young with her blood to prevent starvation. Another version of the legend was that the mother fed her dying young with her blood to revive him from death, but in turn lost her own life. Given this tradition, one can easily see why the early Christians adapted it to symbolize our Lord, Jesus Christ. The pelican symbolizes Jesus our Redeemer who gave His life for our redemption and the atonement He made through His passion and death. We were dead to sin and have found new life through the Blood of Christ. Jesus continues to feed us with His body and blood in the holy Eucharist.

In the sanctuary, the altar is the focal point. It has come to symbolize God's presence and His sacrifice for us. It is from the altar that Christians receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and it is to the altar that we bring our gifts of love and devotion. It is, at least in a figurative sense, the gathering place of the "communion of saints". The altar dominates the chancel area and we make it as beautiful and as nearly perfect as we possibly can.

There are many different styles of altars, our altar is called a rectangular tomb altar, so constructed as to remind us that our Lord died for our sins and was laid in a tomb.

Dressing the altar is a procedure that has become traditional, based on historical precedence. First, the top of the altar, or mensa, is covered with the *cerecloth*. This is a piece of heavy, coarse linen or unbleached muslin that is the size of the top of the altar. The function of the cerecloth is to protect the mensa and the fair linen and to provide a cushion for the missal stand and the communion vessels.

Next, on top of the cerecloth, are the seasonal altar hangings or paraments. These are changed according to the Christian calendar. These are made of a high quality material such as silk, linen, wool, or cotton and may be hand woven and lined.

On top of the paraments is placed the *fair linen*. This is a piece of fine quality linen the exact width of the altar and long enough to drop over the ends of the altar to at least one-third the height of the altar. This is symbolic of the linen clot in which Christ's body was wrapped for burial. It has been traditional to embroider five crosses on the fair linen to represent the five wounds of our Lord. The crosses are placed so that there will be one near each of the four corners of the altar mensa and one in the exact center. The fair linen is kept on the altar at all times.

# Coming to Red Hill Lutheran This Fall

## Reformation Sunday

### 500 Years of Reformation

October 29, 2017

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00am

Oktoberfest lunch is served in the CLC immediately following the service.

Pastor Joel Kelly will give us a visual photo journey through the life of Martin Luther.

The day concludes with a performance by Chorale Bel Canto performing works by Bach and others that lifts up the ideals of the Reformation!

Special activities for the kids, too.

Invite your friends and family as we celebrate the "Birth of the Lutheran church" and the Reformation.

## Small Catechism Concert!

November 12 at 4:00pm

Join Dr. Linda Brown, Marty Schaefer, and others for a musical examination of the Small Catechism!

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm

## Christmas Fantasy Concert

Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm

Join our Chancel Choir, Orchestra and soloists as we celebrate the season with a performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (Marty Schaefer, soloist) and a big Christmas carol sing-a-long!

## Christmas Worship at Red Hill Lutheran

Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24

10:00am - Combined Sunday Worship

3:00 & 5:00pm - Family Worship with Live Nativity

7:00 & 9:00pm - Traditional Worship with Candlelight

Christmas Day - Monday, Dec. 25

10:00am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
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