

TITONKA, IOWA

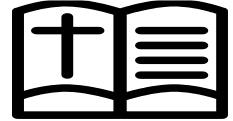
VOL. XXVVVI No. 10  
October 2024

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
John Heille, Pastor  
TITONKA, IOWA 50480

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## GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA MORNING CIRCLE



**LEADER**  
Joyce Welsh

**WHEN**  
Thurs., Oct. 10 @ 9:15 a.m.

**WHERE**  
Church

**HOSTESS**  
Marie Schutter

### COMMUNION SET-UP

October 13 & 27  
Harold & Sandra Harms

### COMMUNION CLEAN-UP

October 13  
Nick & Nikki  
Trunkhill



October 27  
Kevin & Gail Hamilton

### ALTAR FLOWERS

October 6 & 13: Carol Heesch  
October 20 & 27: Vicky Nelson



**USHERS:** Daryl & Jeannette  
Chapin, Mike Heyer and Rick  
Welsh

**ACOLYTE**  
Rowan Welhousen



**JR. USHERS**  
Alyvia Lium  
Remy Welhousen

## Freedom and Reformation

Right at the end of October Lutherans remember something distinctly their own—Reformation Day. I had no idea about Reformation Sunday in my Catholic childhood. It was news to me as a 19 year old wandering into Central Lutheran Church in Winona, MN. I knew a little about Martin Luther—but I was about to discover the way Lutherans remember this young priest and his message of freedom in Christ.

Biographers tell us that Martin Luther grew up the son of a prosperous miner. Martin's father hoped he would become a lawyer—but Martin made a promise to God in the middle of the thunderstorm. He pledged his life to God as a friar—praying to St Anne that he would be saved from the lightning.

Martin was a good student—and he followed the direction of his teachers—but he found no peace for his soul. He did everything his religious superiors taught. He followed all the rules in worship and in his life as a brother and later as a priest. But the longer Martin stayed in the Augustinian cloister the more he wrestled with his deep feelings of sin and unworthiness. One of Martin Luther's teachers said he should study scripture. Picture a 20 something man with an intense sense of guilt. Luther's troubled conscience was on fire. This young man could see every flaw and sin. As hard as he tried Martin never found peace with God—that is until he started reading the New Testament.

As Martin read Paul's letters and Jesus' words in the gospels he discovered the Good News—that Jesus came to set sinners free by faith. Martin learned that real freedom came to earth in the flesh and blood person of Jesus. Martin's fears and troubles found relief in Jesus.

Some say the Martin Luther and the Reformation is just ancient history, but the need for freedom in Christ remains today just like it did for Luther. Today people still believe they need to be perfect to earn God's love—today people believe they have to earn God's grace. The need for the Gospel is still very real in our world today—and that's why Martin Luther's message still matters.

This month we will remember Martin Luther and his call to reformation and as we remember let's give thanks that we have good news for hurting souls. Martin's message rings out loud today. There is freedom in Christ that comes from faith. We can't earn our freedom; Jesus gives it freely to us by faith. As a believer inside the church today I see the Reformation message as the freedom message troubled souls need today.

The message of Freedom in Christ mattered above all for Luther. He and the other reformers gladly risked their lives to preach to the world. Luther's goal was helping troubled consciences find peace in Jesus.

May we remember the freedom we have in Jesus – and may God help us learn to share that freedom with the people of our generation.

AMEN.

Peace and blessings,  
John

10 Minute Bible Study  
**John 8--Freedom**

In Christ people find freedom—all because of Jesus' cross and resurrection.  
But religious people have struggled with the freedom and forgiveness Jesus offers.

**Read John 8:1-11**

What does this story have to teach us about freedom?

What does this story teach us about God's judgment verse the judgment of religious people?

Why is it uncomfortable to be accused of being like the scribes and the Pharisees?

How is this story Good News for sinners?

Jesus came to set sinners totally free. Free from sin, free from death, free from the Devil.  
The moment God can do the most good for us is the moment we can do the least for ourselves.

**Read John 8:31-33**

Many religious people in Jesus' day believed they had no sins holding them back, but Jesus said he came to make them free.

What are the sins that cling to us that we don't see?

Why did they say "We have never been slaves?"

**Read John 8:34-36**

What does it mean to be slave to sin?

What does it mean to have a permanent place in God's family?

### 3 Church Youth Nights 2024-2025

DATE	Meeting place Destination	ACTIVITY
Sunday, October, 2024 13 6pm	Titonka Care Center	Pumpkins and games
Sunday, November 10 6pm	St John's	Murder Mystery hide and Seek
Sunday, December 8 6pm	Buffalo Creek Community Cen- ter	Gym Night
Sunday, January 12, 2025 4:30 pm	Good Hope Destination Summit House	supper out in Britt Game Night
Sunday, February ????	Good Hope Destination Mount Kato	Snow Tubing
Sunday, March 9 6pm	Immanuel	Make food movie night
Sunday, April 13 6pm	Good Hope Destination Grotto	Tour return about 8:45
Sunday, May 4 4:30 pm	Good Hope Destination ?????	Kayak, fishing, cookout
Sunday, June 8 6pm	Titonka Pool	Pool night

# PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

OCTOBER LAUNCHES MEMBERS OF GOOD HOPE INTO OUR ANNUAL  
CORN AND CASH INGATHERING.

THIS IS A SPECIAL TIME FOR US.  
A TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF ALL THE THINGS  
WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH  
-AND WE HAVE ALL BEEN RICHLY BLESSED.  
TO SHOW OUR THANKS TO GOD,  
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO  
THE WORKINGS OF THE CHURCH.

YOU MAY LEAVE A CORN DONATION AT THE ELEVATOR,  
YOUR CASH OFFERING MAY BE PLACED IN  
THE OFFERING PLATE IN AN ENVELOPE ON SUNDAY MORNING  
MARKED "CASH OFFERING"  
OR PLACED IN GLORIA BARTELT'S BOX

CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE USED FOR CURRENT EXPENSES.

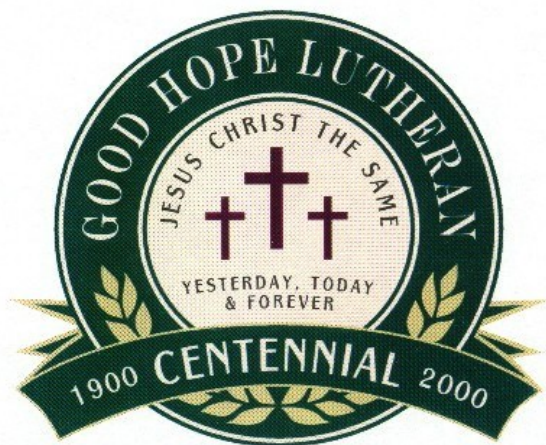
*"For the harvests of the Spirit, THANKS BE TO GOD.  
For the good we all inherit, THANKS BE TO GOD.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
THANKS BE TO GOD."*



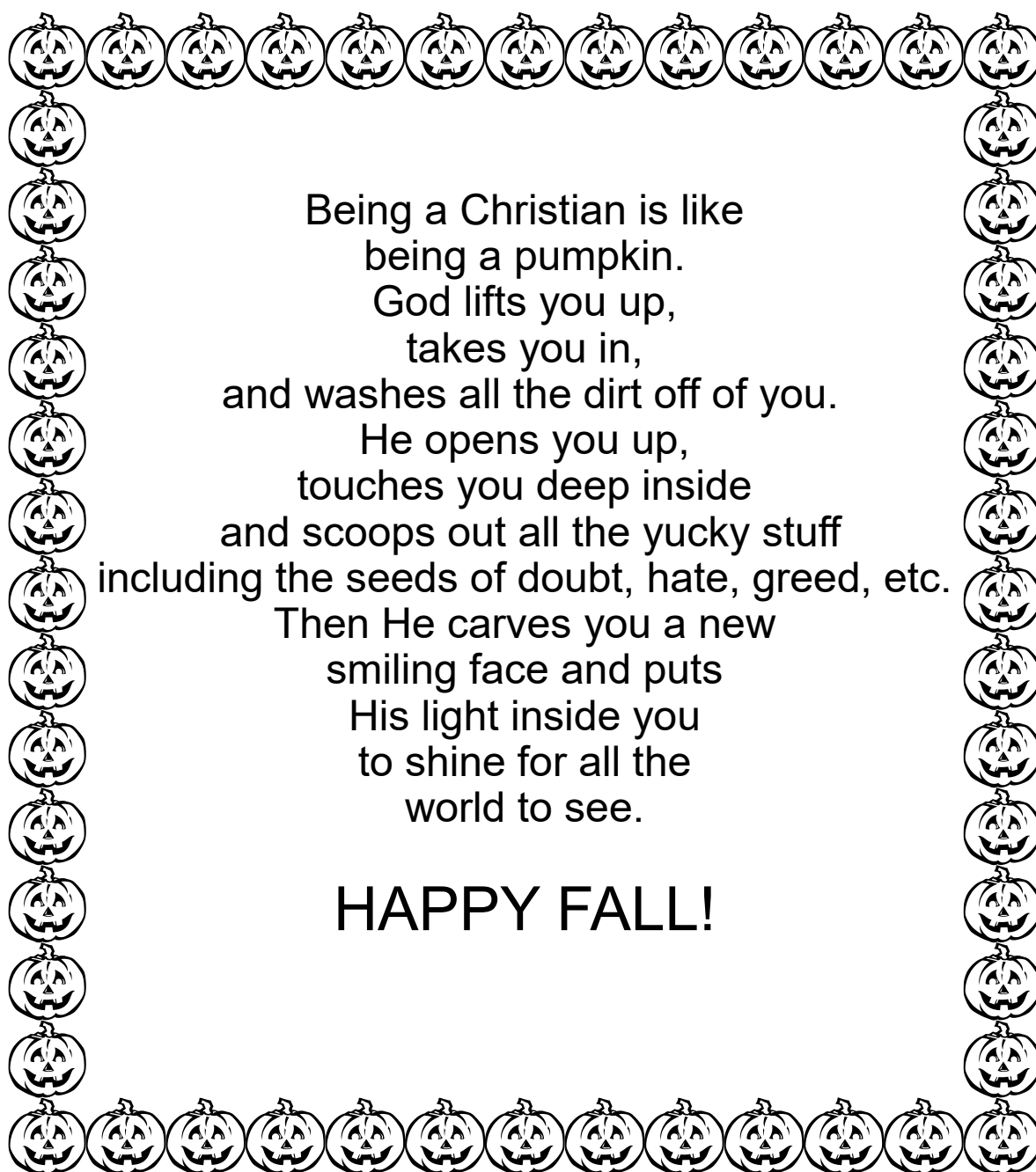
PASTOR JOHN HEILLE

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TITONKA, IA 50480

Return Service Requested



TITONKA, IOWA



Being a Christian is like  
being a pumpkin.  
God lifts you up,  
takes you in,  
and washes all the dirt off of you.

He opens you up,  
touches you deep inside  
and scoops out all the yucky stuff  
including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.  
Then He carves you a new  
smiling face and puts  
His light inside you  
to shine for all the  
world to see.

**HAPPY FALL!**