

# The Hilltop News



## BY FAITH ALONE

The Protestant Reformation began 500 years ago this month, when Pastor Martin Luther walked up to All Saints Church in Wittenberg, on October 31, 1517, and posted 95 Theses on the door. This was a list of theological disputes he had with the Roman Catholic Church. His ecclesiastical superiors had him tried for heresy, and he was excommunicated in 1521.

Because the United Church of Christ emerged out of the Protestant Reformation, we will be celebrating our heritage during October. The Still Speaking Writer's Group of the United Church of Christ has published "A Study Guide for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation." Our worship liturgy and my sermons will be lifting up the ways in which Martin Luther and the other Reformers have impacted our lives, both within and outside of the church. If you have a favorite hymn that comes out of the Reformation, let June or me know and we will try to include it in our worship liturgy.

Matt Fitzgerald, of the Still Speaking Writer's Group, begins the study guide with these words: "Some of the life-threatening, flabbergasting ideas that exploded out of those years are now a part of the air we breathe. 500

years ago people died for them. But time turns the revolutionary into the everyday. We take key Reformation claims for granted. We can't even see them, they're just a part of who we are. Other Reformation claims are covered in dust, obscured and stuck away in a neglected corner of the church, like a long-forgotten Van Goh languishing under wraps in someone's attic."

With the help of the study guide we will be lifting up some of the central claims of the Reformation. Some we have already embraced, others will be a surprise – some good, some not so much! "Brace yourself."

This following prayer attributed to Martin Luther is a good way for us all to get started on this journey back to the past:

Eternal God,  
You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, though perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that Your hand is leading us  
and Your love supporting us,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

*peace,  
Margaret*

OCTOBER 2017

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#### *Pastor*

Rev. Margaret Diz Philip  
*Council*

Kelly Day, pres.

Neil Glaser, treas.

Liz Konneman, sec.

Dale Konneman, grounds  
Janet Moehsmer, bldg. fund

#### *Music Director*

June Jones

*Custodian*

Neil Glaser

*Office Admin.*

Gail Schneider



Join the Gateway Ringers as they present a program of Celtic Ayres and Dances, including songs such as “Luck of the Irish”, “Annie Laurie” and “Londonderry Gardens”. All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact [info@gatewayringers.org](mailto:info@gatewayringers.org) or visit our website at <http://www.gatewayringers.org/>.

### Concert times & dates:

October 15, 2017, 4 pm, Kirkwood Baptist Church, 211 N. Woodlawn Ave, St. Louis 63122

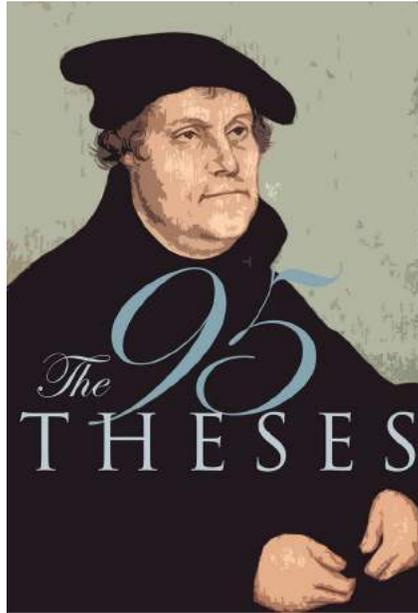
November 5, 2017, 4 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, ELCA, 327 Woods Mill Rd., Ballwin, MO 63011-4300

Contact: Jamie De Geer 636-391-6685



ROAD RALLY  
& POTLUCK LUNCH  
OCTOBER 29 - 11AM  
\$5 donation per person  
More info will appear in  
the weekly email.

## The *Ninety-five Theses* or *Disputation on the Power of Indulgences*<sup>[a]</sup>



are a list of propositions for an academic [disputation](#) written in 1517 by [Martin Luther](#), professor of [moral theology](#) at the [University of Wittenberg](#), Germany, that started the [Reformation](#), a [schism](#) in the [Catholic Church](#) which profoundly changed Europe. They advance Luther's positions against what he saw as abusive practices by preachers selling plenary [indulgences](#), which were certificates believed to reduce the temporal punishment

for [sins](#) committed by the purchasers themselves or their loved ones in [purgatory](#). In the *Theses*, Luther claimed that the [repentance](#) required by Christ in order for sins to be forgiven involves inner spiritual repentance rather than merely external [sacramental confession](#). He argued that indulgences led Christians to avoid true repentance and sorrow for sin, believing that they can forgo it by purchasing an indulgence. They also, according to Luther, discourage Christians from giving to the poor and performing other acts of mercy, believing that indulgence certificates were more spiritually valuable. Luther sent the *Theses* enclosed with a letter to [Albert of Brandenburg](#), the [Archbishop of Mainz](#), on 31 October 1517, a date now considered the start of the Reformation and commemorated annually as [Reformation Day](#). Luther may have also posted the *Theses* on the door of [All Saints' Church](#) and other churches in Wittenberg in accordance with University custom on 31 October or in mid-November. The *Theses* were quickly reprinted, translated, and distributed throughout Germany and Europe. They initiated a [pamphlet war](#) with indulgence preacher [Johann Tetzel](#), which spread Luther's fame even further. Luther's ecclesiastical superiors had him tried for heresy, which culminated in his [excommunication](#) in 1521. Though the *Theses* were the start of the Reformation, Luther did not consider indulgences to be as important as other theological matters which would divide the church, such as [justification by faith](#) and the [bondage of the will](#). His breakthrough on these issues would come later, and he did not see the writing of the *Theses* as the point at which his beliefs diverged from those of Rome.

# OCTOBER MINISTRY— USO

In October, we collect items for the USO of Missouri. The USO OF MISSOURI, INC. is a private, non-profit organization, whose mission is to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families. The following is a WISH LIST from [usomissouri.org](http://usomissouri.org):

FOOD ITEMS
Pre-packaged Lunch Meats
Hot Dog Buns
Sandwich Bread (wheat and white)
Sliced Cheese
Fresh Fruits or bags of fruit (store bought)
Bulk Cereal (Fruit Loops, Raisin Bran, Frosted Flakes)
Bottled Water (12 oz. or smaller)
Starkist Tuna Packets (individual)
Jalapeno Slices
Slim Jims (individually packaged)
Chex Mix (individually packaged)
Fridays Potato Skin Chips (1 oz.)
Potato Chips (individually packaged)
Fritos/Doritos (individually packaged)
Cheese-Its (individually packaged)
Maruchan Instant Lunch
Cookies (individually packaged)
Raisins (individually packaged)
Nuts (individually packaged)
Beef Jerky (individually packaged)
Trail Mix (individually packaged)
Snack Cakes (individually packaged)
Candy Bars
Muffins (individually wrapped)
Vienna Sausages (small cans)
Rice Krispie Treats (store bought)
Folgers Coffee (medium roast)
Fruit and/or Vegetable Juice Boxes
Meat and Cheese Tray (store bought)
Vegetable Tray (store bought)

NON-FOOD ITEMS
6" Paper Plates
10" Paper Plates
Styrofoam Bowls (12 oz.)
Food Trays/Boats (2 lb.)
Indv. Wrapped Drinking Straws 7 3/4"
Lysol Cleaning Wipes
Styrofoam Cups (10 oz.)
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS
Toothpaste (travel size)
Shaving Cream (travel size)
Mouthwash (travel size)
Razors
Kleenex individual packs

SPECIALTY ITEMS
New, Unwrapped Toys
International Calling Cards

- The following are items we cannot accept:**
- Chewing gum**
  - Crayons/Markers**
  - Ramen Noodles bricks**
  - Homemade Foods**
  - Used Toys**
  - Books**
  - Styrofoam plates**
  - Greeting/Note Cards**
  - Magazines older than 3 months**
  - Items past expiration**





# PubCrawl

to benefit kids

*Hosted by Neighborhood Houses  
Young Professionals board*



## Pub Crawl to benefit Neighborhood Houses

### When

Saturday, November 4, 2017 from  
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM CDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

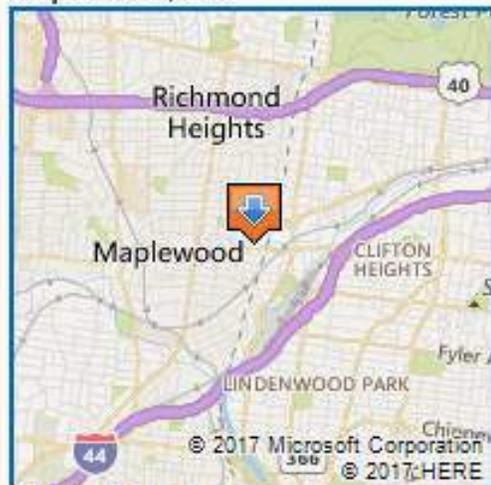
Join the Neighborhood Houses Young Professionals Board for an afternoon of fun in Maplewood to support the mission of Neighborhood Houses!

Visit 5 popular Maplewood bars, including Schlafly Bottleworks, Tapped, Boogaloo, The Post and The Juke Joint.

### Where

**Schlafly Bottleworks**  
7260 Southwest Ave  
Maplewood, MO

Raffles and drink specials at each location. Register by Oct. 27 for an exclusive Pub Crawl t-shirt.



[Driving Directions](#)

Visit the Neighborhood Houses Facebook page for ticket info.

## UCC sending first round of assistance to partners in Puerto Rico

The United Church of Christ is sending the first of many grants to church partners in Puerto Rico on Friday, to get drinking water, first aid, and fuel to as many people as possible on the hurricane-ravaged island where life-saving supplies seem to be limited.

The denomination dispatched a \$10,000 solidarity grant on Sept. 29 to the Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en Puerto Rico (Christian Church-Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico - ICDCPR) to equip pastors and lay leaders assessing the needs in dozens of local communities.



"ICDCPR will be conducting an assessment with pastors and lay leaders in approximately 5 to 10 towns in Puerto Rico on this first initiative," said the Rev. Angel Rivera-Agosto, Global Ministries (the common ministry of the UCC and Christian Church Disciples of Christ) executive for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Part of this evaluation will be worked through visits to affected areas, interviews with victims, valuation of damages and seeking alternatives to overcome the crisis created by the passing of the hurricane. Partners will be handling first aid kits, electric generators, drinking water, water filters, non-perishable food, battery-powered radios, batteries and other in-kind donations according to the needs they will be facing. We estimate serving 5,000-10,000 church members and community neighbors through 20 communities."

Three and a half million Puerto Ricans are facing a devastating humanitarian crisis. In the 10 days since Hurricane Maria decimated the U.S. commonwealth with 150 mph winds, more drenching rains, flooding and mudslides have left millions without power, 40 percent without drinking water, and long lines for food and limited fuel. More than 11,000 are in shelters, and countless homes have been damaged. The majority of roads on the island are severely damaged or destroyed. Communications continue to be a challenge because cell towers and phone lines are down.

On Thursday, the Trump administration temporarily waived the Jones Act, a 97-year old set of restrictions which limit shipping between U.S. ports to U.S. owned-and-operated vessels, to help get fuel, medicine, food and water to Puerto Rico, but the problem getting supplies off the docks in the U.S. and into the hands of the people who need them remains.

UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, in an action alert, is urging church members to stand with Puerto Rico by reaching out to lawmakers, telling them to hold federal and local authorities accountable for the immediate distribution of aid, and to ensure that Puerto Rico has the long-term capability to recover and rebuild, by making the lifting of the Jones Act permanent.

Zach Wolgemuth, UCC Disaster Ministries executive, has been in touch with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) contacts, and said he hopes to link their resources with those who need them. "One of my jobs in the immediate future is going to be helping connect our Global Ministries church partners with FEMA resources and other organizations where we have longstanding partnerships and relationships. This work has already begun."

More than a half a million dollars has already been donated to the UCC disaster relief fund for recovery assistance following Harvey, Irma and Maria, much appreciated gifts that will be used to restore lives around the affected regions.

You can donate through St. Thomas to the Hurricane 2017 Relief Fund by writing "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line on your check.



*If you have knowledge of someone on the Prayer List who no longer needs our prayers, please let us know.*

Content removed for web edition.

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Cereal

Razors

Bar Soap

Dish Soap

Body Wash

**The following items are CRITICAL**

Snacks (granola bars, pudding cups, crackers etc.)

Canned mixed vegetables - please, no green beans!

Tomato Products



Compassus Hospice invites you to volunteer with them. Share your passion, time and talent. As a valuable part of the Compassus team, volunteers provide companionship, caregiver support, administrative assistance, bereavement support and more. Contact Karen Riley, Volunteer Coordinator at 314-731-4700 or [Karen.riley@compassus.com](mailto:Karen.riley@compassus.com) to schedule an interview.

### COUNCIL CONTACTS

President	Kelly Day	314-307-7890 kmday44@gmail.com
Treasurer	Neil Glaser	636-391-0279 njglaser@att.net
Secretary	Liz Konneman	636-458-5643 enkonneman@live.com
Buildings & Grounds	Dale Konneman	636-458-5643 dalekonneman@hotmail.com
Building Fund	Janet Moehsmer	636-458-1058 jmoehsmer@gmail.com

# October 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1:30pm Centering Prayer	4 Ladies Guild (Finger Food Luncheon)	5+Jeff & Ginger Barton	6	7*Jackson Mudd
8	9	10	11*Katie Reich	12*Tyler Schnatmeier	13	14
15 11am Congressional Budget Meeting	16	17*Daniel Busch *Joyce Ponce 1:30pm Centering Prayer	18	19 2pm Book Club	20 *David Kilburn	21
22*Greg Schnatmeier *Kevin Wainman	23*JoAnn Barton	24	25	26	27	28*Janet Moehsmer
29 11am Road Rally *Ginger Barton	30	31				

St. Thomas UCC  
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Chesterfield, MO 63005  
www.stthomasucc.org

Phone: 636-532-3556

E-mail: ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



Worship: 8:30 (summer) & 10:00 am (all year)

11:00 am Fellowship Time

We are ADA Accessible.

Childcare is provided during Worship.

Office Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please call first if you need to stop by!

Office Phone: 636.532.3556

## About Us

### Mission Statement

We are St. Thomas UCC, a caring faith community welcoming all to share with us. You will find us supportive, nurturing, and encouraging. Our worship is traditional yet contemporary, applying scripture and Christ's teachings to everyday life. Accepting all who come as family, we are St. Thomas UCC.

### Value Statement

We are a close-knit welcoming community. We cherish and honor the traditions of our 100 years past. With respect and compassion we work together. We strive to grow in our faith by serving the community. We embrace and celebrate our youth and the promise of each new generation of God's children. We seek God's blessings and wisdom in the joys and challenges of our daily lives. We grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings while being respectful of our differences.

### Vision Statement

We seek to :

- Invite others to join in our faith journey
- Explore worship opportunities
- Enhance our fellowship and service outreach
- Expand our use of technology
- Increase our community involvement