

# NEW LIFE NEWS

New Life is a church of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Volume 10, Issue 10

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## LCMS NEWS

**Kieschnick urges mission on `new frontier`** "It is time for The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod to turn the world upside down for Jesus," Synod President Gerald Kieschnick told Synod leaders -- board and commission members and executive staff -- shortly after many of them had been installed into office Sept. 18.

**Amendment meant for `clarification` draws opposition** An amendment to the Synod's Constitution adopted by this year's Synod convention and sent to LCMS congregations for ratification is drawing some opposition. But the chairman of the floor committee that offered the amendment says it is simply a "clarification" that would not change the way the Synod historically has operated.

**Grant for post-9/11 ministries helps children `feel safe`** Three years after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, needs continue to surface in New York City, including the needs of children who live under the constant threat of another assault.

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## From The Pastor's Heart A Time For Reformation!



*"Get up! Consecrate the people and say,  
'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow;  
for thus says the Lord, God of Israel,  
'There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel.  
You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away  
the devoted things from among you.'"* – Joshua 7:13 (ESV)

**T**HIS OCTOBER NEW LIFE WILL CELEBRATE OUR 9TH ANNIVERSARY (OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>) AND REFORMATION DAY (OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>)! The celebration of God's beginning our life together is easy to comprehend, but what do we mean by "reformation"? "Reformation" involves improvement by correction and presupposes formation and deformation. In church history it refers specifically to the 16th century movement to restore the church, which was founded and formed by Christ Himself. Mainly due to the papacy, she had been deformed.

An anti-Christian doctrine was being promulgated that good works have the ability to earn a person's way into heaven. Earlier, Waldo, Wycliffe, and Hus had unsuccessfully attempted to reform this teaching; but were unsuccessful. Reform Councils of the church had also tried to root out corruption from the medieval church of Rome, but could not.

The man of the Reformation was Martin Luther, and the beginning of the Reformation may be traced to his question: *"How do I obtain a gracious God?"* About in 1514, God's answer came to Luther through these Bible passages: Psalm 31:1; Psalm 71:2; & Romans 1:17 "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, *'The righteous shall live by faith.'*" Our salvation is not based upon *our righteousness*, but upon *God's righteousness*, a righteousness that He freely gives to those who believe in Jesus. Now, once again, God spoke clearly and with authority through His Word.

But did you know that God intends reformation to be an ongoing event in our lives? May I ask: *“Is there need of reformation in your life?”* Like the reformers, have you allowed God to speak to you in all the Law and Gospel clarity and authority of Scripture?

In Joshua 7 God helped reformation take place: He had already brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He had formed a special relationship with them by His covenant, He had blessed the Israelites with great successes at both Gilgal and Jericho; but now at Ai, they had met shameful defeat! 3,000 Israelites were routed by what was considered “only a few men.” Why? Because the Israelites 1) had become self-confident, 2) they had neglected prayer, and 3) they had become disobedient and insensitive to sin (an unacceptable situation because even one person’s sin affects the whole group).

Have we ourselves faced disillusionment and defeat in our own Christian walk for this very reason? God has told us that we cannot stand for Him until the devoted things are removed. We need to confess our sin, ask Christ to restore and continue what He began in us through Word and Baptism (but which by our old nature, this world’s influence, and the devil’s temptations had become deformed), thank Him that it is totally by His grace that we are saved (1 John 1:9), and once again take up our cross and follow Him! This is all that Christians are asked to do: Then by the power that God gives us we will be able to stand strong before God’s spiritual enemies. Then the Reformation will have had all of God’s intended empowerment for you and me! May He bless our Reformation Day!

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Chip* <<

## 牧師的心聲 一個改教(更正)的時候！

“你起來，叫百姓自潔，對他們說：  
你們要自潔，預備明天，  
因為耶利華以色列的上帝這樣說：  
以色列啊，你們中間有當滅的物。  
你們若不除掉，在仇敵面前必站立不住。”  
約書亞7:13

在十月本新生命堂將慶祝建堂九週年(十日)及的改教日(三十一日)！慶祝上帝使我們生命的開始是件容易瞭解的事，但是“改革”對我們有甚麼意思？“改革”含有連接、必須先形成又變形三層面。在教會的歷史中特別地提及在十六世紀改教(更正)教會的運動，大體上針對的是教皇之職權，為使教會歸還到基督親自建立和組成的原樣。

一個反對基督教的教義被公佈，即一個人可以靠行善之法得以進入天堂。更早就已經有名叫Waldo, Wycliffe, 和Hus的嘗試改革(更正)這種教法，但是不成功。教會的改革會議、也曾嚐試要根除中世紀羅馬教會的謬誤，但也未能成功。

馬丁路德就是宗教改革(更正)之人物，而宗教改革可追溯到他的問題上：“我怎能獲得一位慈愛的上帝？”大約在一五一四年，上帝藉著聖經金句回答了路德：即詩篇31:1；71:2；和羅馬1:17 “因為上帝的義，正在這福音上顯明出來；這義是本於信，以致於信。”如經上所記：

“義人必因信得生。”我們的救恩不基於我們的義，乃基於上帝的義，這義是祂白白地賜給那些相信耶穌之人的。現在上帝也再次、清楚又帶著權柄地如以上向我們說話。

你知道上帝有意把我們的生命改革(更新)，並使它成為一種不斷發生的事件嗎？請問：“在您的生命中有那裡須要改變(更新)？”像改革者，您是否允許上帝在聖經的律法和福音上、清楚並權威地向你講話呢？

約書亞記第七章中上帝在那裡改革(更新)：祂曾經帶領以色列人出了埃及，並用祂的約與他們建立了特別的關係，祂曾祝福使以色列人在吉甲和耶利哥兩地大大的成勝；但當時在艾城，他們卻大遭恥辱的挫敗。三千以色列人被“幾個人”追趕而逃跑。為甚麼？因為以色列人：1.)變得太過自信；2.)又疏忽了禱告；3.)不服從且對罪麻木(罪是一種不能忍受的局勢，即使一個人犯的罪也會影響了全家族)

在基督徒的旅途中，我們自己也有因以上的原因而面臨幻滅和挫敗嗎？上帝曾告訴我們，直到我們把當滅的物除掉，我們不能為上帝站立得住。我們必須懺悔自己的罪，祈求基督來改革(更正)我們(那被老我、世俗和撒旦的試探所變質的)並繼續祂藉著真道和洗禮所作的工作，感謝上帝！完全靠著祂的恩典我們都被拯救了。約翰一書1:9 讓我們再次背起自己的十字架來跟蹤祂！這是所有基督徒蒙召的使命：靠著那加給我們力量的上帝，就能夠在屬靈的敵人面前站立得穩。然後，上帝所企劃的(改教日)就能夠使您與我得到力量！願祂祝福我們的改教日！

在基督裡的

傅昌黎牧師 <<<

## God Wants Your Heart

*God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son  
so that everyone who believes in him will not die  
but will have eternal life.*

John 3:16



TO WHOM DOES GOD give his beloved Son? God gives him to the world--the lost multitude who never deserved it. They could only expect to remain lost and condemned without him. God gave his Son to the lost so that they might be saved. Then, what should you do for this loving God in return? Nothing! Don't go on pilgrimages. Don't do this or that good work. Instead, simply believe in Christ alone. Then you will be able to get rid of your old nature and cling to him. Your faith, of course, should be the kind that produces good works.

You cannot take hold of this gift--the Son of God--with your hand. The Son of God cannot be contained in a jar. He is only grasped with the heart and by faith. When this gift comes into your heart, when you believe in Christ with your whole heart, then you won't be the same person. Even if you once were a thief, an adulterer, or a murderer, you will become a new person, for you have the Light in your heart.

What the Lord Christ wants first and foremost is your heart--a heart that believes in him alone. God wants your best, not your mouth or your hand, but your heart. He wants you to be righteous on the inside. When you believe in Christ, your heart becomes clean. Peter says that faith cleanses hearts (Acts 15:9). That same faith doesn't permit you to be arrogant or proud. For when the heart is cleansed, the hands, eyes, feet, and all other members are also cleansed. You will act differently than before. Faith won't permit you to be a sinner, fornicator, or adulterer any longer. So your entire life will reflect what's in your heart.

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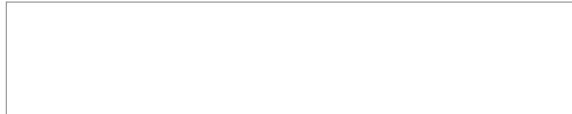




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Please submit November newsletter  
contributions to Mellissa Lau  
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by Sunday, October 24th.

New Life News is a monthly newsletter, communicating the vision and mission of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California. The VISION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to bring the life-changing word of God to its community and to care for and nurture all those that hear it. As a spiritual family, we shall edify those in our fellowship and reach out to the unchurched. In so doing, we will teach, train, and equip new disciples to grow in their faith through Bible study, witnessing, service, and missions.

The MISSION of New Life Chinese Lutheran Church is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Our primary mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the unchurched community, disciple them in the body of Christ, and equip them for Christian service and spiritual leadership through Christ-centered worship and Bible study groups.

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