

## Be In The Word from the Pastor's Heart

One of the truths that Luther uncovered in the Reformation was the sole norm of faith and doctrine being scripture - the Word of God. At the heart of scripture is the Gospel of Jesus Christ --the promised Messiah and Savior sent to redeem man through His death and resurrection. In the pages of the Word we are called by the Spirit to believe, trust, and have faith in the only One who can redeem us. The Word continues to feed and nurture us as we grow in our discipleship. As we celebrate the Reformation this month we also celebrate what God is doing and can do to us through His Word. The following are comments Luther made in response to Colossians 3:16 "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly."

"One must ponder this Word constantly, and always some new fire to arouse the heart will be found. Christians never read the same teaching enough. For the Gospel does not concern itself with knowledge; it concerns itself with feeling. But we slip every day. The flesh, sin, death, and the world assail us. Not for even one moment are we safe from spiritual adultery. This is how it is because sins surround us on all sides and weaken godly feelings. Besides, the world persecutes us.

Hence it is necessary to hear the Word of God constantly, to proclaim the death of Christ constantly, and to ponder constantly, in order that our feelings may be enlightened. Christ says (Matt. 7:13): 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us...'. For no one is safe for even one hour, but all are daily in a most precarious state. Now they stand, now they fall, and now an evil conscience. Therefore, Christians must live every day by the Word as the body lives by food. He who does not have the Word or ponder it soon becomes a sorry wretch. If I do not reflect on a verse of a psalm or a statement of the Gospel, my heart is completely full of sins. A return to the Word guards against sins. The heart should always be grinding. If the grain, namely, the Word of God is good, the flour will be good, and the bread will be good." LW, 16, pp.30-31

These words give us strength as we await a new pastor at Bethany. We are grateful for God's reminder to "be in the Word" and may the Spirit lead us all to a deeper use and appreciation for His Word. The Lord will bless our "grinding of the Word."

"Grinding" His Word with you,  
Pastor Russ