

LIMEY PASTOR

Rehearsals, reflections, Reformation

Doug and Shane Fritz, his wife, who were among the founding builders of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, invited us to the German Dinner at their new church, "Calvary Lutheran" — a Missouri Synod church in Stayton — last week. Shane had just returned from visiting Luther's monastery in Germany as a way of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Shane had created a marvelous slideshow of her visit depicting Luther's journey from a neophyte monk to an enemy of the Pope who commanded a loyalty of the German nobility, and had revealed the true words of the Bible in the peoples' tongue.

This is the year of new beginnings. Can there be a renewal of Reformation?

Doug Fritz is one of the most jovial people I have ever met, loaded with a farmer's energy and the intelligence and compassion of a teacher. You can see him in the mind's eye behind either a plow or a bulldozer. Doug is reminding me of the Prophet, making the way straight. It was a joy to meet with them and share the life of this church in Boardman this year and the one before.

Doug is a reformer too.

My wife received an invitation by Salem's central Seventh-day Adventist church this coming weekend, an event also celebrating the liberating power of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, at 7 p.m. October 27-29. It is good to think that this ties us together.

The Reformation was the liberation of the Gospel of Christ into the people's possession and it changed everything. Instead of a church making up reasons for people to make payment to the church, such as telling people that people's ancestors can be sprung from the half-hell of purgatory by a donation to the coffers of the church, it actually became a true conveyor of the word. It proclaimed!

The Catholic Church was truly helped and galvanized by this action, even though its fiscally-minded rulers didn't think so at the time. It is different now. Even today, the still living Pope Benedict is regarded as one of the greatest Lutheran scholars, and he made a pilgrimage in 2011 to the monastery in Erfurt, where Luther studied and prayed and received his revelation of understanding.

Truly the church in its large diversity and many versions is beginning to return to a wholeness, which truly it hasn't seen before. It is beginning to like itself more and be kind to its people more.

This last Friday, in the darkness, in my own tiny corner of the church in Aurora, my friends and I started our Church of the Night, a contemplative service using improvised flute, keyboard playing Taize songs, centering prayer and a brief lectionary and concise sermon — a service designed for people living with little time available.

To my surprise, the service was enjoyed and workable, and it brought out of its innards a surprising feeling of great peace. It was a bright, singing peace that carved out the darkness with Jesus' presence.

May these 500 years mark a new beginning of Christ's work in the world and of our redoubled efforts to call out his name out loud in song!

Amen.

Colin Brown is the former pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

PENDLETON

Soup supper supports mission work

Event also features fair trade craft sale

East Oregonian

Homemade soups will be served up in Pendleton as a fundraiser in support of mission work.

In its 34th year, the Presbyterian Women's Soup Supper features four varieties of soup, including clam chowder, chicken noodle, vegetable beef and a gluten-free vegan tomato-basil. The event is Friday, Nov. 3 from 5-7 p.m. in the Rogers Fellowship Room at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

In addition to soup, the meal includes bread, relishes, beverages and homemade desserts. Additional homemade noodles, also used in the soup, will be packaged and available for purchase. Also, tins of homemade cookies will be for sale.

Before and after dinner, people are invited to peruse the large variety of fair traded crafts from developing countries. Among the unique items are toys, musical instruments,



Photo contributed by Kathy Keener

A number of ladies are busy making noodles in preparation for the annual Presbyterian Women's Soup Supper. In its 34th year, the event is Friday, Nov. 3 at the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church.

crèches and jewelry. The one-of-a-kind and innovative products celebrate the diverse gifts of artisans around the world. The sale continues Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Purchasing the products

helps in providing food, medicine, housing and education for the artisans' families. Support of the project assists with steady employment, skills training and an opportunity for a better future. In addition, there will be a selection of

coffee and chocolates for sale. All proceeds from the event helps support mission and church work locally, across the nation and around the world. For more information, contact fpcp@pendletonpresbyterian.com or 541-276-7681.

BRIEFLY

Presbyterian Church announces potluck

PENDLETON — A potluck meal is planned at Tutuilla Presbyterian Church.

Held the last Sunday of the month in October and November, the upcoming event is this Sunday at noon in Lowry Hall, behind the church, 45682 Tutuilla Road, Pendleton. Open to the public, those planning to attend are invited to bring a dish to share, but it's not required.

In addition, the church plans to have a booth during the Altrusa Bazaar, which is Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Pendleton Convention Center. People have been meeting for craft nights to prepare items for the event.

For more information, call Bonnie Burke at 541-969-6173.

Methodist church sets special fifth Sunday events

PENDLETON — A special fifth Sunday service is planned at the First United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

The service, which begins at 9 a.m., features special

singing and a message by Karl Ramsey. Also, a potluck is planned after the service. The church is located at 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

Also, those attending are invited to bring socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants and coats to help replenish the clothes closet. Clothing for men is especially needed.

For more information, contact preachervet@gmail.com or 541-276-2616.

Nazarene church hosts fall festival

HERMISTON — A trunk-or-treat event, games, inflatable toys, food, fun and lots of candy is featured during an event at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

The Fall Fest is Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at the church, 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Non-food and trinket alternatives will be available for kids with food allergies.

Community members are invited to bring a vehicle, decorate it, dress up and hand out candy. For more information, call 541-567-3677 or visit www.hermistonnazarene.org.

U.N. official: Most of world lacks real religious freedom

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Three-quarters of the world's people live in countries that either restrict the right to religion or belief or have "a high level of social hostility involving religion or belief," the U.N. special investigator on religious rights said Tuesday.

Ahmed Shaheed told the General Assembly's human rights committee that religious intolerance is prevalent globally — and rising around the world.

He said over 70 countries currently have anti-blasphemy laws that can be used to suppress dissenting views, in violation of international human rights standards.

Shaheed, a former politician and human rights expert from the Maldives, urged those countries to repeal the blasphemy laws.

He also called for the repeal of all laws that undermine the exercise of the right to freedom of religion or belief — or discriminate against that right.

Shaheed urged countries to adopt and enforce "adequate criminal sanctions penalizing violent and particularly egregious discriminatory

acts perpetrated by state or non-state actors against persons based on their religion or belief."

He said governments must also pay "particular attention" to uphold the obligation to protect religious minorities.

"Increases in unlawful government restrictions against religious groups remain one of the primary and most fundamental factors resulting in higher levels of religious intolerance in any given society," Shaheed said.

Some forms of discrimination are direct, such as prohibiting some or all religions or beliefs, he said. But others may be indirect, like zoning laws that prevent construction of certain houses of worship or bans on refugees or immigrants, "ostensibly for national security reasons, from countries where majority populations belong to particular faith communities," he said.

The special investigator, or rapporteur, on freedom of religion or belief is an independent expert appointed by the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council.

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Sunday School: 9:30am
Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade) Wed Men's Study 6 PM
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

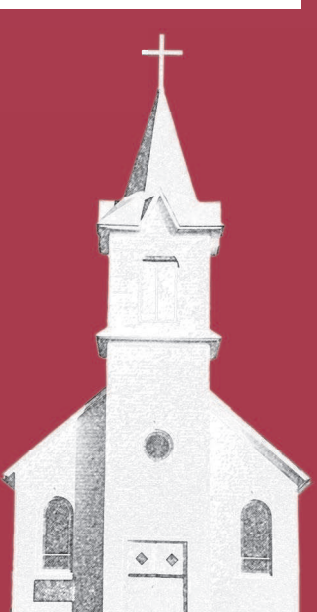
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To share your worship times call 541-278-2678