October 31

More Than Just Trick-or-Treat Day

There has been a lot of chatter on the SWA Facebook page about alternatives to the traditional, secular Halloween celebrations. As Lutherans, we may want to take this opportunity to focus on the events of October 31, 1517 to teach our children the historical significance of our Lutheran origins—especially since most of us will attend a church on the last Sunday of the month where Reformation Day will be celebrated. The following website provides an overview of that history, including a short Q&A about Reformation Day, a biography of Martin Luther and an explanation of his role in the event that would shape Christianity for generations to come. For more details about the history of Reformation Day, visit www.stpaulskingsville.org/reformation.htm.

For links to recipes, songs, games and other fun and educational Reformation Day activities, visit www.oldlutheran.com/oldlutheran/page.php?page=reformation.

(continued on page 2)
Another alternative to the traditionally scary themes is to participate in area harvest events, such as pumpkin carvings, day time costume parties, “trunk-or-treat,” hayrides and corn mazes. We invite you to join in the discussion on the SWA Facebook page and post your favorite activities or events that your church is hosting, to that ongoing and growing list of ideas.

If you are interested in the modern day Halloween Spooktacular celebration, a calendar of local events can be found online at events.fortwayne.com/fort-wayne-in/events/halloween.

Reformation Scavenger Hunt

Learn about Martin Luther’s life

Introduce what God did through the Reformation

Have fun making family memories

Realize that the True Treasure is the Lord Himself, by faith alone in Christ alone

Preparation

1. Create a list of clues to lead your participants through some distinctive locations from Martin Luther’s life and provide historical accounts from major events in the Reformation.

Some starter ideas have been provided on the following pages. After reading through the provided clues, consider your own space and where you want each clue to be found; add more details or reword your descriptions as needed. Make the hiding places easier for young children and more challenging for older children.

2. Print out the clues and cut them apart.

3. Place each clue inside an envelope clearly labeled with the clue number and the hiding location on the front of the envelope.

4. Hide the clues in their designated locations.

5. Gather five dolls to serve as your ‘nuns’ and hide them prior to your party. If possible, hide them outside in a place that requires a good search with a flashlight (kids like that!).
6. Gather a working flashlight for each child to search for the nuns and set them aside.

7. Prepare a beef pot roast dinner (or beef hot dogs) to serve as the Papal Bull after finding and reading clue #8.

8. The day before the hunt, bake a “Diet of Worms” cake (any cake with your favorite frosting), then top with crumbled Oreos® to look like dirt, and stick some gummy worms in the “dirt.”

9. Rent, buy or borrow the Luther movie. Be advised that the 2003 version has scenes that may not be appropriate for younger children; a more kid-friendly alternative is the 1953 version.

10. Prepare candy, or another special treat, in separate bags for each child.

11. Find a Scripture to add to the treat bags, so the kids know the treat represents the True Treasures we have in Christ. Keep them hidden until the nun search. Then set them out at the final destination just before showing the Luther movie.

The Scavenger Hunt

Begin by announcing that you are going on a Reformation Scavenger Hunt and read the first clue to your participants.

**CLUE #1**

Hello! I’m Martin Luther. I’m a lawyer and I’m heading back to school. I’m going by the Stotternheim route (give two or three clues to describe your backyard). I’ll leave a letter there for you.

Your friend, Luther

**CLUE #2 (hidden in the backyard)**

My, oh MY! There was a terrible thunderstorm! Lightning hit so close to me I thought I was a goner! It scared me so much, I told Saint Anne I’d become a monk. So now I’m off to join an Augustinian Monastery (describe your basement).

Your friend, Luther

**CLUE #3 (hidden in the basement)**

Well, fellow travelers, I tried and tried to be a good monk. I denied myself food and water, blankets when it was freezing, and comforts of a bed or pillow. The hard, cold, stone floors are not very comfortable, in case you’re wondering! I just wanted to rid myself of sin! Since I’m a lawyer and know how Law works, it’s hard for me to read the Bible because I know I’m not measuring up to the Great Judge’s standards! I know if I were to stand in front of God right now, I would be guilty of sin and would not be allowed in the Kingdom! But, as much as I’ve tried, I can’t find a way to purge myself of sin. I’m heading to Rome (describe the mailbox) on a pilgrimage. Hopefully there, I can find the treasure I seek... a way to be completely pure!

Your friend, Luther
CLUE #4 (hidden in the mailbox)

I was so excited to come here to Rome! I couldn’t wait to see the mother city of our church! But, I must say, I’m really disappointed! The church here is very corrupt! They don’t seem to care much about God or what is right. Priests and Deacons alike are doing wicked things and indulging in all kinds of sins. I am excited to go to visit some Relics, though, and am sure I will find some consolation for my soul there in the relics! (describe the bathroom)

Your friend, Luther

CLUE #5 (hidden in the bathroom)

I’m very saddened. The relics did not help me at all! I thought I could get right with God by touching some really important church relics, but I know now that something isn’t quite right in that. I’m going to the Steps of the Scala Santa, that should help me in my search for Truth and real Treasure! (go to the steps)

Your friend, Luther

CLUE #6 (hidden near the steps)

You’ll never guess what happened!!! When I was walking up these very steps, doing what they told me to do (the Hail Mary’s and the Our Father’s to set people free from purgatory), that Scripture, “the just shall live by faith” came to my mind, and I realized that this is NOT the way to earn God’s favor! It’s NOT by my “good work”, but BY FAITH! Now I realize Jesus’ sacrifice was perfect and good enough to cover my sins. I have to believe what He says is True; trying to earn my way to heaven will never be good enough — oh, NO! Who is THAT guy? I think it’s Johann Tetzel, the German Dominican preacher that I’ve heard about so much! Let’s go listen to see what he has to say! (go to the main entryway of the house).

Your friend, Luther
CLUE #8 (taped to the front door)

Well, I nailed my 95 theses on this door, the Wittenburg Castle Church door. It didn’t do what I thought it would! It started a revolution. No one in the Church wants to talk about the things that don’t line up with Scripture. They want the church to stay just as it is! But people have printed copies of my theses and distributed it, so many people are asking questions about what is true, what God says, and what we are supposed to do to follow God. I think it’s good to test everything and see if it’s true before you just blindly believe it!

Anyway, after that, the Pope got mad!!! He sent me a Papal Bull (basically a warrant for my arrest) that told all the people to get rid of and burn all my books, and to stop teaching that people need the Bible. He thinks we just need to do what he says. I think that misleads the people! Instead of throwing my books into the fire, I just threw his Papal Bull into the fire. No one EVER does that! I could be in BIG trouble!(go to the kitchen and eat Papal Bull dinner; after you’re done, you can find the next clue somewhere in the kitchen)

Your friend, Luther

CLUE #7 (hidden near the entryway)

That snake! Tetzel was trying to SELL salvation to people! He told them that they could buy pieces of paper that would free them from sin (those papers are called Indulgences), but we all know only the Lord can forgive sins! It’s time for me to do something! I think I’ll write a theses that says the things the Catholic Church is doing that I see not matching Scripture, and if I post it on the Wittenburg Church Door on All Saint’s Eve, I’m sure all the scholars that come to town will want to sit and talk with me about these issues. Maybe we can help change the church and make it line up with what the Bible says it should be. I sure hope people will listen!(go outside to the front door)

Your friend, Luther
CLUE #9 (hidden in the kitchen)

Here we are in Worms, Germany! They brought me to the Diet of Worms where I was told I needed to recant my work, to take back everything I said in my books and I told them something like this, “If you can show me in Scripture where I was wrong, I sure will recant. But until I’m convinced by the Word of God and by Reason, I cannot and will not recant. To do so would go against my conscience. That’s not wise or good to do. So, here I stand, knowing there will be consequences. I can’t do anything other than that, so help me, God.” They hated what I said and I could tell they wanted to kill me on the spot, but there were too many people there who agreed with what I said, so they knew they would start a riot if they sentenced me to death. So, they said I was a heretic and kicked me out of the Church. In celebration of what God did in my life and through the Reformation, please eat a Diet of Worms cake before going to the field outside for your last clue.

Your friend, Luther

CLAUE #10 (hidden in a field where the nuns are hidden)

Well, you’ll never believe it, but I married a run-away nun! She is a godly lady! At the age of nine, she was sent to a convent near Grimma. When she was 16 she took her vows to be a nun. She learned Latin and as she studied the Scriptures and learned about what God was doing in the Reformation. She was convinced that being a Nun was not what God demanded, but what man did. I want you to go all over the field and try to find any nuns that need safety.

There are five nuns hiding here in the field that contacted us for assistance. They ran away from their convent since hearing of the Reformation and since reading God’s Word for themselves, they realized that earning their way to God by staying in a convent won’t ever work. They put their trust in Jesus to save them. Can you use your flashlight to find them and make sure they are safe? (When you have collected all five nuns, go to the living room couch)

Your friend, Luther

Finding the Treasure

After the children have found all the nuns, return to the living room (or wherever you plan to view the movie) and have a treat bag ready for each child. Close by reading aloud this last “clue.”

THE TREASURE

Congratulations! You found the treasure! Many people work their whole life and find that their work never earned a place for them in Heaven. The true treasure we find is Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace alone, by faith alone, by the Word of God alone! There is freedom and joy in these treasures. Enjoy your treat as you watch the Luther movie tonight. Happy Reformation Day!

Article provided by Dana Palmer, fourth year seminary wife.
Hospitality Committee Offers Meal Train and More

If you are expecting a baby or need help for any other reason the Meal Train is the most common way the hospitality committee can help. MealTrain.com is an online tool for coordinating meals for families in need. When a need arises among our seminary family, Hospitality Committee Chair, Kristie West, posts an announcement on Facebook (or via email) including the MealTrain.com link for the family in need.

“The Hospitality Committee is here to help out any SWA sister when there is a need.”

Kristie West
Hospitality Committee Chair

Volunteers should click on the link and follow the step-by-step instructions to add themselves to the schedule of meals. Any special requests, allergies or restrictions will be provided in the specified link.

Once you have signed up, prepare a meal for the date you’ve chosen and deliver it according to the instructions provided online. It’s that simple, and it’s a great way to help other Seminary families—and maybe make a friend while you’re there.

If you have a need that we can help with, or if you know of another Seminary wife who does, please contact Kristie.

E-mail: kmwest55@gmail.com
Phone: 513-218-4247
Facebook: Kristie West

Kristie and Aaron West and family
Bringing Home the Brakebush

We have a new co-op food blog! “Bringing Home the Brakebush” was created for wives (or whoever does the cookin’ in your house) to share recipes with one another; specifically recipes that feature co-op ingredients.

We all need new ideas to spice up our cooking and keep things interesting. The blog name comes from former seminary wife Audrey Daenzer’s personal blog where she shared personal stories, posts, and recipes. As part of her new life as a pastor’s wife she is retiring her old blog and making a new one. She kindly willed her blog name over to SWA. You will see some of her recipes on our blog.

The blog has categories to help us easily find recipes; they are sorted by meal (i.e. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Dessert) as well as by ingredient (i.e. Ground Beef, Pork, Brakebush Chicken). So, for instance, if you brought broccoli home from the co-op and wanted to cook something new with it, you could click on or search for “Broccoli” and all sorts of fun ideas would pop up for you to try.

The blog is still very new, so we need your recipes! Any and all recipes are wanted; both simple and complex! You don’t have to be a professional cook to submit a recipe. The only requirement is that you cooked something featuring co-op ingredients, you liked it, and you think others might like it too. The more recipes we have, the better the blog will be.

You can submit a recipe to the blog moderator at grace.verage@gmail.com. You can also post it to the SWA Facebook group (Student Wives Association or SWA) and Grace will post it to the blog from there. If the recipe is from an online source then all you have to do is send the link to the website along with any modifications you may have made to create a more delicious or more co-op friendly dish.

The food co-op is such a blessing. Let’s have fun sharing ideas!

Grace Verage
Blog Moderator

www.bringinghomethebrakebush.wordpress.com

Pear Custard Pie
by Martha Stewart

3 Comice or Bartlett pears, peeled, halved, cored, sliced
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

3 large eggs
3/4 cup milk
1/4 teaspoon salt
Confectioners’ sugar

Find detailed instructions for this and other co-op inspired recipes online, at www.bringinghomethebrakebush.wordpress.com.
Meet Grace

My name is Grace Verage. I am married to Kyle Verage (4th year Seminary Student) and we have a four month old son, Peter. During Kyle’s first year at Seminary, we were engaged and I attended IPFW where I lived in their student housing. We were married the summer after his first year. Then, during his second year, I finished my degree at IPFW. We both worked part time at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop during those first two years.

We spent last year on vicarage in Cookeville, Tennessee. Can I tell you, I never thought I’d live in Tennessee?! I am originally from California and moved to Indiana to go to Valparaiso University on a swimming scholarship. That’s where I met Kyle; he was a swimmer at Valpo too (originally from Wisconsin).

So, long story short, the fact that we were moving to Tennessee for vicarage was a shock but it turned out to be quite the adventure! There is a ton of absolutely gorgeous sightseeing to do in Tennessee! Although Kyle was very busy with his vicarage duties, we were able to explore downtown Nashville, the Grand Ole Opry, Knoxville, numerous state parks with beautiful waterfalls, go hiking, and go caving. I had a part time job waitressing at a cute local restaurant and wine bar. It was interesting to experience another subculture of people. I had my son Peter at the very end of vicarage and it was neat to be able to share that experience with the friends we made at our vicarage church.

“Can I tell you, I never thought I’d live in TENNESSEE?!”

“I tell you, I never thought I’d live in Tennessee?! I am originally from California and moved to Indiana to go to Valparaiso University on a swimming scholarship. That’s where I met Kyle; he was a swimmer at Valpo too (originally from Wisconsin).”

Now I’m focusing on how to do this whole ‘MOM-THING’.

*Cheers*
Meet the SWA Board

Rebekah Christiansen

I was born and raised an Ohioan of the East Cleveland variety. I explored every nook and cranny of the creek and woods stretching the length of our street and beyond. This was possible due to the kind neighbors who let me adventure through their property. The woods and creek were, at times, my classroom and my study hall. I was homeschooled, so during nice weather I would do my “home” work outside. My mother homeschooled us through our church’s school from K-8, so not only did I get to know my fellow classmates and graduate with them from 8th grade, but I also participated in the school sports programs and field trips.

My high school years were split between homeschooling and taking dual enrollment classes at the local community college. Then, I temporarily moved to Hillsdale, Michigan where I acquired my undergraduate degree from Hillsdale College. After a well rounded liberal arts core, a successful senior Art show, and 4 months in Spain, I graduated with a double major in Art and Spanish. I continued directly into my graduate work through Concordia, Seward. I enrolled in an online education program in which I got a teaching certificate for Spanish and Art. I have three more classes until I can claim a Masters in Education from this program.

Throughout my time in Cleveland, I participated in a variety of activities including basketball, horseback riding and band (I love the flute). I continued most of these through college and even added a few, like dance (modern, ballet, and ballroom) and choir. I met my husband on the first day of Freshman orientation—

“I was born and raised an Ohioan of the East Cleveland variety...the woods and creek were, at times, my classroom and my study hall.”
"I met my husband on the first day of Freshman orientation—so he tells me, but I don’t remember meeting him until the third day of orientation."

so he tells me, but I don’t remember meeting him until the third day of orientation). We were both part of the same circle of friends and eventually became more than just friends. After graduation, we spent a year and a half in a long-distance relationship before we were able to be in the same place at the same time—Seminary.

I occasionally play the flute, compete in basketball, and go dancing here in Fort Wayne. I miss horseback riding, but I relish the opportunity to teach homeschool students Spanish and Art (K-12), working at a local coffee shop (stop by and say hi, I work at Higher Grounds on St. Joe Center and Maplecrest), along with being the SWA president. My husband and I are preparing to go on winter vicarage in December. I’m excited to see where we end up.

My collage of jobs here in Fort Wayne includes teaching homeschool students Spanish and Art (K-12), working at a local coffee shop (stop by and say hi, I work at Higher Grounds on St. Joe Center and Maplecrest), along with being the SWA president. My husband and I are preparing to go on winter vicarage in December. I’m excited to see where we end up.

My Undergraduate College Had a Saying, “It’s the People”

I learned very quickly that the people of Hillsdale, MI were what made that community one of the greatest places I have ever been. That saying is also true here at Seminary. “It’s the people.” It isn’t the spacious campus or the festive events that make Fort Wayne a good moment in my life. It is the faith that binds us together with our eyes set on the same goal. It is the friends we meet—who not only support us through the interesting circumstances of life, but also push us to be better Christians. It is the professors who take time to get to know us, even though we are not students, and their wives who strive to familiarize us with the community. It is the conversations continuing long after a SWA event has ended. New people and places make me nervous, and that made the transition into this new, transient community difficult for me; but the Seminary community welcomed me with open arms. Seminary is more than a moment in time, for the people that make up this community will be with you for the rest of your life.

- Rebekah Christiansen
Kimberlea Lessman

I have been married to my best friend Brad for 10 years and we have three children; Jasmyne (7), Aspen (5), and Aidan (3). We moved here from Spearfish SD, but my husband and I grew up in Northeast Wyoming. First and foremost, I am a devout and conservative Lutheran, next I am a wife and then a mother. While I am doing those, as I always am, I am also a photographer and I work part-time as the church secretary at St. Paul Lutheran Church-Gar Creek in New Haven. I have a passion for photography as it allows me to capture the beauty of this world that God gave us and to help families create memories that will last a lifetime. I deeply enjoy doing photography and am richly blessed to be able to do it wherever God takes us.

I am also blessed in the fact that Concordia Theological Seminary has been so good to us and SWA itself has been so good for me. During our first year, I was able to meet new people and feel like part of the community here. I think that having these women to lean on has made this journey so much easier. I pray that God will grant all the wives the same experience. All the wonderful women on this year’s board are working hard to make sure everyone feels welcome and wanted. This is a place for growing—not just for our husbands who grow into pastor’s—but also for us women as we grow into pastor’s wives. I’m sure there are plenty of us who have a hard time imagining themselves as a pastor’s wife, I’m one of them. The role is so important but I believe that we are blessed to be in that position, and that while God will equip our men to lead a congregation, He will also equip us to be the help mate our husbands need.

So, as you spend your time here, doing what wives of seminary students do, may God bless you in all you do and mostly may God support your growth as well as your husbands. I look forward to meeting all the ladies that I may not have had the chance to meet, and I hope to see you all at an event or class this year! God’s Blessings.
Laura Henry

My husband, John, is in his fifth year of seminary. He is the Graduate Assistant for Concordia Theological Quarterly. I am a stay-at-home mom to Johnny (3) and Luke (1). Our seminary story began in 2008, when John and I graduated from college in Minnesota, got married, and moved hundreds of miles away from family to Fort Wayne—all in a matter of two months. We welcomed Johnny to our family that first spring as well. I think we spent all of our second year catching our breath.

Our vicarage year at Trinity Lutheran Church in Reese, Michigan was one we will never forget. We couldn’t have imagined how greatly God was planning on blessing us there. Luke joined our family (with our pastor’s wife as our OB nurse!), and we were immeasurably blessed by the many challenging, yet affirming experiences that the year brought.

Now, at the beginning of our fifth year, I can honestly say that Fort Wayne is “home.” Like many of you, seminary life is all we’ve ever really known as a married couple and a new family. It has been so wonderful to connect to the people and places of Fort Wayne, worship in so many of the great churches here, get to know our neighbors, and to be a part of the greater seminary community. I’m so thankful for this extra year here, and I am blessed to serve on the Student Wives Association.

“Our seminary story began in 2008, when John and I graduated from college in Minnesota, got married, and moved hundreds of miles away from family to Fort Wayne—all in a matter of two months.”
Dalas Mueller

I was born in Tennessee in March of ’89. Being a military brat, I grew up all over the place, so the upheaval of seminary hasn’t been too much of a shock. I attended Concordia University in Saint Paul where I met my dear husband, Jake. We were married after nine short months and the week after graduating. I have two minors: Christian Outreach and Confessional Lutheranism. After the wedding it was straight to seminary, and shortly thereafter we learned we were expecting!

We now have two children. Evangeline (2 1/2 years) was born at the end of our first year in seminary and Stephen (2 months) was born at the end of our vicarage in Waterford, Wisconsin. Jake is now in his last year at the seminary and we are very much looking forward to call day and a new adventure for our family.

Although seminary life can be crazy at times, I have very much enjoyed my seminary experience. The fellowship within the seminary community is a wonderful gift, and there is so much available for us wives to learn and do while we are here! It hasn’t been all rainbows and posies, but those experiences that I would not have chosen for myself (especially vicarage), I now see as invaluable lessons that God orchestrated for me to learn before taking on the delicate and vital role of pastor’s wife.

“Being a military brat, I grew up all over the place, so the upheaval of seminary hasn’t been too much of a shock.”

*Also serving on the board: Treasurer, Nichole Lauterbach, Fourth Year. Biography to be featured in the upcoming issue.