



Yucca

Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit:

I truly enjoy the month of October. The cold bite of a Fall evening enhances our time on our porch. The changing of the leaves. The early sunsets. The beautiful colors that paint the autumn leaves and the sunsets as well.

It is also the month for Halloween ... trick or treat. And speaking of trick or treat, I have included a list of definitions (from Martin Luther's "7 Characteristics of the Church") that characterizes a true or "treat" church. Lets take stock. How is our church doing? Are we keeping to the straight and narrow of actually being a true church? Or, are we in danger of slipping down the slippery slope of a good-intentioned church that has been tricked into feeling we must compromise our values and mandates, for the cause of inclusion and relevancy?

MARTIN LUTHER'S 7 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH W. Robert Godfrey

Martin Luther gave a full statement of his doctrine of the church in his 1539 treatise *On the Councils and the Church*. He expanded on this basic understanding of the church in answering a most basic question for Christians: "But how will or how can a poor confused person tell where such Christian holy people are to be found in this world?"

As Christians found themselves living in a world with two competing claimants to the title of the true church, they faced the question as to how they could tell which was the real church of Christ. Luther presented several characteristics that Christians should look for in order to recognize the church. His discussion, interestingly, paralleled Reformed considerations of the marks of the church. But Luther was presenting more than marks. His full discussion really explicated his doctrine of the church, particularly through seven elements of its visible life.

(Continued on Next Page)

1. The Word.

First, the holy Christian people are recognized by their possession of the holy Word of God. Luther always returned to the foundational importance of the Scriptures and the gospel in his approach to any doctrinal question. The church must have and cherish the revelation of God.

2. Baptism.

Second, God's people or the Christian holy people are recognized by the holy sacrament of baptism, wherever it is taught, believed, and administered correctly according to Christ's ordinance. The church possessed and administered the sacrament of baptism as taught in the Bible, a visible expression of the gospel.

3. The Lord's Supper

Third, God's people, or Christian holy people, are recognized by the holy sacrament of the altar, wherever it is rightly administered, believed, and received, according to Christ's institution. This too is a public sign and a precious, holy possession left behind by Christ by which his people are sanctified so that they also exercise themselves in faith and openly confess that they are Christian, just as they do with the word and baptism. Again, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper must be treasured by the church as Christ has taught it in the Bible.

4. Discipline

Fourth, God's people or holy Christians are recognized by the office of the keys exercised publicly. That is, as Christ decrees in Matthew 18:15–20, if a Christian sins, he should be reprov'd; and if he does not mend his ways, he should be bound in his sin and cast out. If he does mend his ways, he should be absolved. That is the office of the keys. For Luther, the real church exercised discipline over its members. This element of Luther's understanding has often been missed, but he was crystal clear about it.

5. Biblical Offices

Fifth, the church is recognized externally by the fact that it consecrates or calls ministers, or has offices that it is to administer. Luther recognized that the Bible established office in the church—not the sacral caste of priests—but the minister who faithfully preached the Word and administered the sacraments. Luther's focus on the simplicity and importance of the congregation came to quite radical expression, for his day, in his belief that in principle the congregation has the right to call its own minister. As early as 1523, he had written a treatise titled *That a Christian Assembly or Congregation Has the Right and Power to Judge All Teaching and to Call, Appoint, and Dismiss Teachers, Established and Proven by Scripture*. Ministers were not a mysterious order created and imposed by a hierarchy, but were to emerge from the congregation.

6. Worship

Sixth, the holy Christian people are externally recognized by prayer, public praise, and thanksgiving to God. Where you see and hear the Lord's Prayer prayed and taught; or psalms or other spiritual songs sung, in accordance with the word of God and the true faith; also the creed, the Ten Commandments, and the catechism used in public, you may rest assured that a holy Christian people of God are present. The church was visible in its simple, Word-centered worship.

7. Suffering

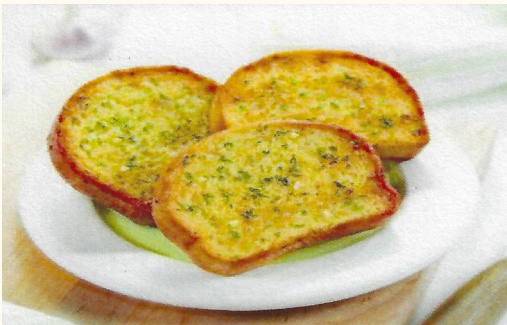
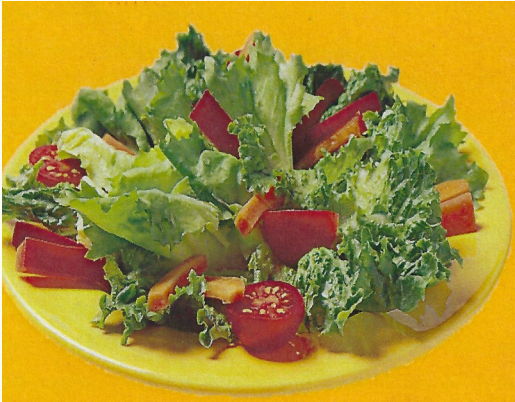
Seventh, the holy Christian people are externally recognized by the possession of the sacred cross. They must endure every misfortune and persecution, all kinds of trials and evil from the devil, the world, and the flesh. Since the servant was not greater than the master, as Jesus had taught, the church would suffer in this world as it served Christ faithfully.

Luther's Source

Luther derived these seven points from the first table of the Ten Commandments and recognized that, though these elements were never perfect in the church, they were truly present: These are the true seven principal parts of the great holy possession whereby the Holy Spirit effects in us a daily sanctification and vivification in Christ, according to the first table of Moses. By this we obey it, albeit never as perfectly as Christ. But we constantly strive to attain the goal, under his redemption or remission of sin, until we too shall one day become perfectly holy and no longer stand in need of forgiveness. These seven characteristics were only the beginning of what could be said about the church. He said: In addition to these seven principal parts there are other outward signs that identify the Christian church, namely, those signs whereby the Holy Spirit sanctifies us according to the second table of Moses. . . . We need the Decalogue not only to apprise us of our lawful obligations, but we also need it to discern how far the Holy Spirit has advanced us in his work of sanctification and by how much we still fall short of the goal.

Blessings, Pastor David





Spaghetti Supper

WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS

Beginning October 17th

**at The United Churches
in the**

Basement Fellowship Hall

4:30 — 6:00 PM

Donations Appreciated

Basic Needs Boutique

Bearly Used Boutique

Also open:

4:30 — 6:00 pm

During Spaghetti Supper

*In case of inclement weather check
The United Churches Facebook Page:*

[https://www.facebook.com/
unitedchurcheshotsprings](https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurcheshotsprings)

NOT SERVING ON:

Thursday, November 23rd

December 23rd & 28th

Final Night: April 17th, 2025

(NO CALL AHEAD ORDERS)

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

HOT SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY

The Hot Springs Food Pantry began in 1990 when local churches joined forces to address hunger in our community. Today an all-volunteer team works tirelessly to support the pantry and continues the fight against hunger in our area.



HOURS OPEN

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am — 12:00 pm

ADDRESS

**107 North Chicago Street
Hot Springs, SD**

PHONE

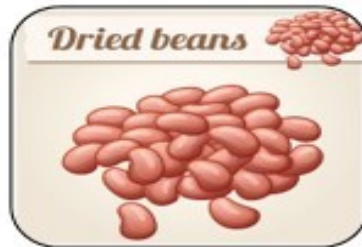
605-745-4034

Hot Springs Food Pantry

MOST NEEDED ITEMS



RICE



DRIED BEANS



EGG NOODLES (WIDE)



CANNED MEAT



PEANUT BUTTER



CANNED SOUP

This is also a great opportunity to help the Food Pantry "stock up" with holiday items such as: pumpkin, instant potatoes, stuffing, cranberry, etc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

**A BOX FOR DONATIONS IS LOCATED
AS YOU ENTER
THE BETHANY ROOM**



SEND
**GOOD
NEWS**
GREAT
JOY



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Pack a box • Donate • Pray

**Remember to pick up an
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox
at the church to fill!
Empty boxes are located in the Bethany Room
and in the Fireside Room.
We will be gathering shoeboxes to send for
distribution in mid-November.
Let's work to bless others ...
... as God has blessed us!**



Hard for you to shop?!?!

The United Churches of Hot Springs SD has a link where you can build a shoebox online! Go to our church's online page by clicking the link below, then just click the button that says "Build a Shoebox Now" on the page.

THE UNITED CHURCHES LINK:

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe6fe32a-5cda-4d88-b7af-2a227d66c74a>



October BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

October Anniversaries

01 Steve & Cheryl Keller
01 James & Pam Forbord



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Mary Martino | 13 Melinda Koppinger |
| 7 William Coffield | 18 Cindy Meadows |
| 10 Annie Zwetzig | 21 Mavis Olstad |
| 11 Sandra Nichols | 27 Kadlin Humbracht |
| 12 Lisa Welch | 29 Cherie Largent |
| 12 Frank Mason | |

If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office: by email: ucassist@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.

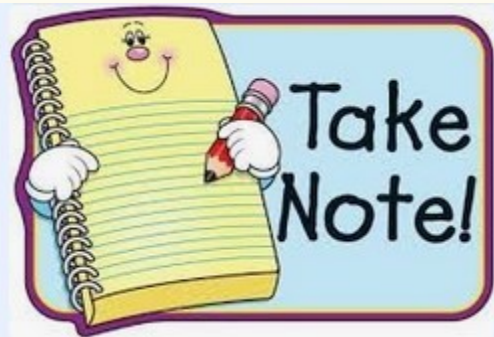
THIS AND THAT

UNITED WOMEN:

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 15th at 1:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. Join us for a time of spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship and sharing!

PASTOR DAVID'S SERMON SERIES / THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------|
| October 6 | "Lasting Legacy" | John 14:18-31 |
| October 13 | "Vine & Roses" | John 15:1-8 |
| October 20 | "Cost Discipleship" | John 15:9-27 |
| October 27 | "Redeemed" | John 16:1-15 |



NOMINATING TEAM:

Our Nominating Team has begun meeting. Please pray about where God would have you serve next year! Thank you to all those who currently serve on committees or teams!

ATTENTION CHURCH COMMITTEE & TEAM LEADERS:

It is that time of year again ... **ANNUAL REPORTS!** Annual Reports from church committees and teams are due in the office by January 1st, 2025 ... don't let this sneak up on you!

Basic Needs Boutique News!

Beginning with this Spaghetti Supper season, the Basic Needs Boutique will no longer be able to carry any household items. We will continue to carry basic need/ personal care items. Please pass the word!