



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog* *October 27, 2019*

### **Reformation Sunday – Take It Seriously**

Bible Reference: Romans 3:19-28

Have you ever found it odd what someone chooses to take seriously? When you first hear about it you are like, “Why is this a big deal to them?” It could be a room in the house where no one is allowed to ever go in. It could be that you’re not allowed to eat in their car. It could be clothes that you can’t touch, or food that can only be prepared a certain way. There is probably a history or story behind why they take that particular thing so seriously, but without knowing the story, the behavior just seems odd.

In the Lutheran church, specifically the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the thing we take seriously is theology. Going through the process to be a pastor and studying in the seminary is a serious thing, and it is impressed upon the students to take theology seriously. We have a story for this too, a time in history that has shaped our beliefs. You see, before the Reformation, theology got messed up. The church had gone down a dangerous path of believing and teaching that we could get to heaven on our own. This idea wasn’t new. In fact, we can look back in Scripture to the time where the people tried to build a tower to heaven—literally (Genesis 11:1-9). But the thought that we can get ourselves to heaven is not Scriptural, therefore we guard our theology to keep history from repeating itself. On the other hand, we are also guilty of taking it so seriously that we never look at the big picture, so this Sunday we’ll do both.

This Reformation Sunday we will take time to look at Scripture and see the words that made Martin Luther so passionate about this issue that he was willing to risk his position in life (taking it seriously). We will also look at the big picture and remind ourselves that we won’t be perfect in this, for only Jesus is perfect. That allows us space to try, fail, ask for forgiveness and help from the Holy Spirit, and try again.

*God's Peace,*  
*Pastor Will*