



The land yields its harvest;  
**GOD, OUR GOD,  
BLESSES US.**



#### In this Issue:

Financial Update	3
EHV	3
Reformation News	4
Birthdays	4
Outreach	5
Notes & News	6
LWMS Fall Rally	6
Meetings	7
Devotion	8

# The Reporter

## October 2019

The Reporter

Volume 17, Issue 09

### “Moral Centric Software”

by Pastor Proeber

Just a little over two weeks ago, I read an article in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. In bold letters it was titled, “UCSB professor and team creates moral-centric software.” Naturally the headline caught my attention and peaked my curiosity. The article explained how a program was designed to determine a moral foundation which would unite people rather than divide them.

The task to create such a program began against a backdrop of accepted morals—fairness and cheating; harm or care for other people; sensitivity to authority or not adhering to an authority; loyalty or disloyalty; purity and impurity. These moral foundations were evaluated by 800 coders who answered specific questions about each. The last step measured the weight differences each of the coders assigned to a specific area (i.e. one person may hold fairness higher than adhering to authority). The end result was a program which combined computer algorithms with text mining and evaluations of the 800 coders. Or, as it is described moral centric software. The purpose of this is to help people understand there is not a good morality or a bad morality. Moral sensitivities are just differently distributed and this acknowledgement allows for common ground.

If you have a hard time sorting through all this, that makes two of us. I found the entire idea and practice rather confusing, and even a little troubling. My initial concern is that this is nothing more than morality by committee. Yes, there were 800 people recording their impressions. Still, even though the 800 coders came from different backgrounds and different moral beliefs, they maintained a common bias.

Consider what the Lord says about the sinner and the sinner’s heart. “To be sure, out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and blasphemies. These are the things that defile a person” (Matthew 15:19). We also know “the mindset of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God’s law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7,8). There are numerous additional passages which reveal the natural human condition. Consequently, although there are 800 coders working independently, each offering a particular moral view, the results are flawed because people are flawed. Now, if you attempt to average or weight each response, what will the results be? What could possibly come from sinful human beings creating a moral-centric software program? If the thought of this doesn’t trouble you, it should.

Just look at the rationalizations, clarifications, and justifications we can make at the drop of a hat. All of them sound feasible. All of them offer something more desirable. Still, what does my subjective morality have to do with God’s objective morality?

*Continued on page 2*

*Software, from page 1*

Any hint of an objective truth was strangely missing from the article. Yes, the proposal was to come to some form of an objective understanding, but drawing it from an averaging of subjective responses doesn't seem to provide anything which could be called objective. Maybe that's why the concept of moral centric software sounds so appealing. It would allow you to set your own standards based on your delineation of what is good morality or what is bad morality. Our Lord has something completely different in mind. This was already stated at the foot of Mount Sinai.

When the Lord rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, he brought them to his holy mountain. There he handed down not only the Ten Commandments, he also provided them with everything which became the foundation for his covenant with them. It was comprehensive. It was clear and without question. It was impossible to argue with what he revealed. Now that didn't mean the people of Israel received the commandments with joyful, willing and faithful obedience. They reinterpreted what God gave them. They bristled with anger at his commands. They rebelled against everything that was for their good. The end result was they were held accountable for their sin against God's Law.

This reveals the inherent weakness of the moral centric software. If anything, it would allow a person to believe what is fine for you is fine for you, and what is fine for me is fine for me. This outcome has to be accepted because it is part of the overall premise—there is no good morality and there is no bad morality. There is a word which ultimately describes this reality—chaos.

A much better source for morals is what the Lord offers us in his Word. Sure many people would argue that Judeo-Christian principles are no better than any other. Consider this. Which other law code or covenant was divinely inspired, divinely recorded, and divinely demanded a standard of perfection? There are other law codes recorded throughout the millennia, but all were products of human beings—Law Code of Hammurabi (Babylon), Doctrines and Covenants (LDS), and Koran (Islam). Each had a human author, and surprisingly each changed as times and people changed. God's Law never changes because God never changes. God's Law stands unaffected by changing times and morals.

This consistency is what provides us with a sure and solid foundation. We always know where we stand with God. We also know what he has done to provide the guidance we need for life. There is nothing left to chance. Nothing left to personal interpretation. Nothing left to figure out. What the Lord says is complete and withstands the test of time.

Moral centric software. It sounds interesting, possibly even helpful. It might answer some lingering questions and long-standing debates. It might even lead to agreement in regard to morality. Unfortunately, it can and will never answer what is the most important question, "What must I do to be saved?"

This is why we hold to the Word and will of our Lord. Not only is it a lamp to our feet and a light for our path, it is the good news of forgiveness and perfect righteousness through which we are saved.



O God, root out all heresy, and of false teachers rid us  
who proudly say, "Now where is he who shall our speech forbid us?  
By right or might we shall prevail; what we determine cannot fail;  
we want no lord or master!"

Defend your truth, O God, and stay this evil generation,  
and from the error of its way keep your own congregation.  
The wicked everywhere abound and would your little flock confound,  
but you are our salvation!

*Christian Worship 205 st. 2 & 4*

## Third Quarter Financial Report

by Al Todd



It is the end of the third quarter 2019 and I would like to provide a brief financial report on the how we are performing relative to the 2019 approved budget, and relative to the same period last year.

Through the third quarter of 2019, offerings for the General Fund, excluding special fund offerings for things like Synod Mission support, Grounds, California Lutheran High School, etc., were \$104,112 which was about \$6,164 short of our General Fund budget of \$110,275. During the same period, our total expenses were \$109,212 which was \$4,464 less than the \$113,676 we budgeted.

If we subtract the expenses from the offerings we get a decrease in the General Fund, again as of the third quarter 2019, of \$5,100. On a year over year basis, we have had a balance in the General Fund at the end of September 2018 of \$42,006. At the end of September 2019, the General Fund balance was \$36,927.

The Church Council is closely watching the expenses and have managed, as mentioned above, to keep them well under the 2019 approved budget. However, General Fund offerings have not kept pace with the approved budget, seeing an average shortfall of about \$700 per month in 2019.

Please prayerfully consider the importance of the ministry of Our Redeemer in your daily lives, and the blessings we all receive from membership in a church that preaches and teaches the pure word of God to an increasingly hostile and dying world. May God grant that we all ponder the tremendous price that was paid by our Savior Jesus Christ for our eternal salvation, and plan our giving according to the rich grace we have received.

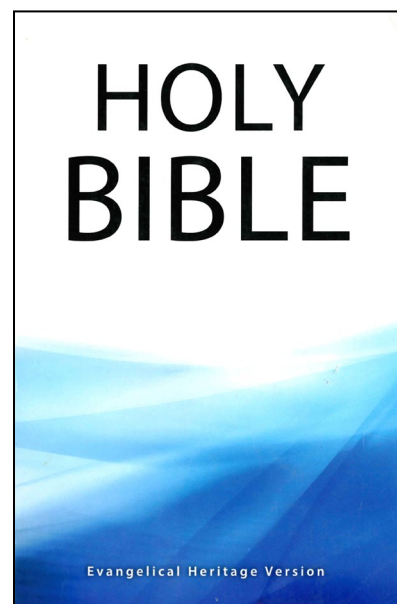
Please let me know if you have any questions about the financial condition of Our Redeemer.

## Evangelical Heritage Version

We recently received the first shipment of EHV Bibles from Northwestern Publishing House. While there are a few copies yet to be passed out, all the copies have been spoken for. If you are still interested in ordering an EHV for your personal use, please speak with Pastor Proeber.

What makes the EHV a good version to consider is the entire translation from the original Hebrew and Greek was undertaken by WELS and ELS pastors and professors, so there are no cautions regarding the exposition of important doctrinal passages. Great care was also taken to make it readable and easy to understand for 21st Century Christians. There are also little touches like the single column format, introductions for each book of the Bible, as well as references to parallel passages and Old Testament quotations.

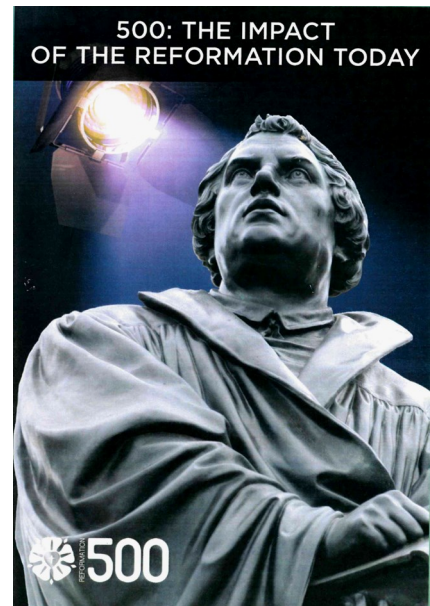
If you would like to order a copy sooner rather than later, you may go the [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net) and order it directly. On the other hand, if you can wait a little longer, we can put together a larger order (10) to take advantage of the bulk discount.



## Reformation Celebration

Every year we have three opportunities to observe the Reformation. The first is our regular worship service which will be **Sunday, November 3rd**. The chief focus of the service will be the “Solas” of Martin Luther—By Grace Alone, By Scripture Alone, By Faith Alone, By Christ Alone. The 9:30 am service will also give us the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Make sure you make this special service a part of your Sunday schedule.

Prior to the celebration of the Reformation, we will have our annual Reformation dinner and movie on **Sunday, October 27th**. This year we will watch the DVD—The Impact of the Reformation Today. It was produced by Concordia Seminary in observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (1517-2017). The film is described in this way: “A lone monk’s actions 500 years ago continue to have a great impact. In this presentation, renowned Luther scholars from around the world reveal how the Reformation surrounds us more than we realize through religion, politics and our society. This thought-provoking documentary was four years in the making, with portions shot on location throughout Germany where the actual Reformation events occurred.” Everything begins at 5:30 pm.



The third opportunity to observe the Reformation is the Los Angeles Circuit Reformation Service. It will be **November 3rd at 4:00 pm**. Those who have made the trip down to St. Paul’s First, North Hollywood, have always enjoyed the service and fellowship afterwards. This year, Professor / Pastor Wade Johnson from Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, will be our guest speaker. As always, there will be the combined choir, the children’s choir, and handbell ringers. Last but not least, there will be the dinner where old friendships can be renewed and new ones made with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Circuit. Please speak to Pastor Proeber about car-pooling opportunities.

## October Birthdays



We rejoice in the many blessings God has given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless all richly as they celebrate another year of God’s goodness and mercy.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Greg G.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle K.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Deborah P.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Erle P.
13 <sup>th</sup>	David G.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim B.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Darby J., Jr.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Michelle J.





The Outreach Committee meets regularly and plans activities through which the members of Our Redeemer can plant the seeds of the Gospel in the lives of their family members, friends, and neighbors who need to know Jesus.

Some of these activities are attached to a worship service, such as Easter and Christmas. Others are non-worship events—Beach-Bike-Barbeque, Reformation “fest” and the Pre-Thanksgiving Pot-luck.

The goal is to build a relationship with people through which they can be introduced to the Lord, his Word, and our congregation.

The end of the Church Year offers many opportunities to invite people to come and see the great things God has done for them. Seize every opportunity!

## Outreach Opportunities

### Reformation Fest

---

On Sunday, October 27th, we will gather for an evening of friendship, food, and education. The night will begin at 5:30 pm with a German themed dinner. Other dinner items are also welcome.

At 6:30 pm we will view the DVD— “The Impact of the Reformation.” It was produced by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

The evening closes with dessert and friendship. Plan today to come, and plan to bring along some friends.

### Thanksgiving

---

On Sunday, November 24th at 5:30 pm, we will hold our annual pre-Thanksgiving pot-luck and fellowship. It is always an enjoyable evening with plenty of good food to go around. In the past, invited friends have thoroughly enjoyed this evening get-together. Make sure, you invite them again!

In conjunction with our pot-luck, we will have our regular Thanksgiving worship service. It will be Thursday, November 28th at 9:30 am. In so many ways we have seen the Lord’s rich blessing, and want to “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his love endures forever.”

### Advent

---

The first Sunday of Advent will be December 1st. During our regular 9:30 worship service we will begin to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord at his coming. In addition to our regular Sunday worship, we will have two mid-week Advent services. These will be at 7:00 pm on December 4th and December 18th. Don’t let this time of year catch you unprepared!

### The Birth of Our Savior

---

Christmas is always a special time at Our Redeemer. Not only are there the worship services on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:00 pm, and Christmas Day, December 25th at 9:30 am, there are also the other get-togethers and opportunities to invite people to “come and see the great thing the Lord has accomplished.” One of these is our Church Decorating and Chili Dinner on December 15th. The afternoon begins decorating the church, and the evening closes with Christmas caroling at Mariposa, Wood Glen Hall, and fellowship. Watch for more information regarding this afternoon and evening event.

As we approach this special time of the year, invite the people you know to hear what the Lord has done for them. Not only will it give you an opportunity to share your faith, it will also give you an opportunity to share your joy in Christ.

## Notes & News

### ✝ Music Update

Both the handbell and mixed voice choirs are practicing for Reformation, the End of the Church Year, and the Christmas Season. Many of the songs are familiar with tradition melodies. There are also a few modern arrangements of well known hymns. All are firmly based on God's pure Word.

As always, there is an open invitation for people to ring and sing. Neither requires specific skills, just a willingness to serve the Lord and a commitment to make practices. The Handbell choir practices on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm, and the mixed voice choir practices on Thursday evenings, at the same time.

If you are interested in either of the choirs for the Fall, please speak with Debbie regarding the bell choir, or Pastor Proeber for the mixed voice choir.

### ✝ Bible Class

The Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes continue to meet through the Fall. The Sunday Class is coming to the end of the study on "Dying to Live." It has been a good review of the importance of the Means of Grace in our lives as God's people. The third section of the study looks at the "Liturgical Life of the Christian." It is more than what you might expect considering prayer and worship is a daily part of our life. Bible Class is at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings, following worship and refreshments.

The Wednesday evening class has completed the first 5 chapters of the Book of First Kings. It is transitional study which takes us through the reigns of Solomon and to the beginning of the divided kingdom. What makes this study even more appropriate is that it reveals God's undeserved love to rebellious sinners. This is a theme which remains current even in the 21st Century. The class meets at 7:00 pm every Wednesday unless otherwise noted.

### ✝ Sunday School

Christian Education for our children just started in September. Currently we have classes for older children, and for 3 year olds. Remember, Sunday School is scheduled on the first and third Sundays of the month. Classes meet during the hymn of the day and the sermon. Please speak to one of the teachers for more information: Sonja Todd, Pam Schueler, or Sue Proeber.

The Board of Education is always looking for extra teachers to help with the bi-weekly / monthly rotation. If you can give of your time to lead these little ones to their Savior, please speak to John Favuzzi.

## Lutheran Women's Mission Society—Fall Rally



The Fall meeting of the Golden West Circuit will be **October 12th** at Zion Lutheran Church, 1001 West 223rd Street, Torrance, California. The featured speaker will be Sheila Frey speaking on outreach work in Russia—"To Russia with Love."

Registration starts at 8:15 am, and the rally will end around 2:15 pm. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. A light breakfast and lunch will be offered at the church.

For more information, you may speak with Sonja Todd. Bulletin inserts with maps are available on the table outside.



## Reporters Wanted

Book review? Personal Story of Faith?  
Event report? Potluck—gathering? Party? Field Trip?

Half-page to three pages  
Reviewed for scriptural consistency  
Due by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Email to Carl Schueler (cfs\_home@hotmail.com)  
or Pastor Proeber (pastor@orlcsb.net)

***A simple and rewarding way to serve!***

Thanks to Al Todd for his article in this month's *Reporter*. There is a standing invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. Throughout the past volumes, articles authored by members have made every issue more interesting. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber or Carl Schueler for advice. Thanks!

### Meetings for October

Church Council            Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00 pm  
Committees                Tuesday, October 7th at 8:00 pm

### **Congregational Voters' Meeting** **Sunday, October 13th after the worship service**

Outreach Committee    Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 pm

*If you have a question regarding a specific area of ministry, please contact a member of the appropriate Board. He will be happy to help.*



### October 13th Congregational Meeting

Following the Sunday worship service and refreshments at 11:00 am, the congregation will hold its 3rd Quarterly Congregational meeting for 2019 in the sanctuary.

The Business Meeting will include the normal review of our congregation's ministry. New Business will include a

progress report on the Council's reorganization, as well as our current financial status.

Each of these topics is important, because they are a reflection of the type of ministry we hope to achieve by God's grace and with his blessing.

This meeting also offers the opportunity for

any member of Our Redeemer to raise questions, or make suggestions to improve our overall ministry to our members of the people in our community.

Plan to attend. The time is well spent. It is beneficial. It is a means by which we can serve in love.

## Devotional Corner

### A Patient Life

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have preserved . . . The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

*James 5:10-11*

Ask just about anyone, with what do they struggle the most? Eventually people will admit patience. It is hard to be patient. It becomes especially difficult when the challenges of life become more intense. So, how does one live a patient life?

We can start by considering those who were patient. The prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord are a good example. Another example is that of Job. We could also study any individual who exhibits remarkable patience. This could be anyone from a farmer to a therapist.

In order to live a patient life, one has to have confidence in God's ability to act at the right time and in the right way. This trust is the very heart of patience. It is also the focus of the prayer, "Lord, your will be done."

This request requires patience to wait for the Lord to bring about his good will. While we may desperately want God to follow our timetable, he has his own. He works according to his wisdom for which there is no comparison. He also works according to his power for which there is no equal. Both of these traits are combined with his undeserved love. This is why we can live a patient life. We have every confidence God has everything in control, and his plans take every nuance into account.

There is one additional source of patience to which we can turn. It is Jesus, our Savior. With undeserved love and patience he did not deal with us as our sins deserved. He forgave us. He washed us clean and declared us not guilty - not only once, but daily and without limit. He also intercedes for us and assures us everything will work together for our blessing. It is this knowledge which provides not only a source of patience, but also the ability to live a patient life.

### Prayer

Lord, forgive me for my impatience. Give me the strength of faith I need to say, your will be done.

Daily devotions can be accessed through [www.whataboutjesus.com](http://www.whataboutjesus.com) or [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). Please follow the instructions to view daily devotions and to subscribe to them. They are also available as "podcasts."