

Long Beach Presbyterian

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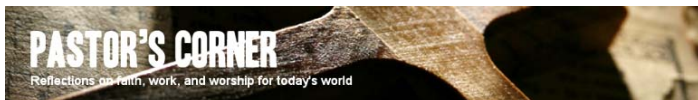
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John Calvin and the Reformation

We are heirs of the Reformation. In this Pastor's Corner we will examine two of the giants of the Reformation: Martin Luther and our own John Calvin. This is gleaned from a variety of sources and what my few remaining brain cells remember about Church History.



First and Second generation reformers

Calvin was only 8 years old when Luther was nailing the document that began the verbal debate of the Reformation to the door of Wittenberg Castle. This 26 year age difference made Calvin a second generation reformer. It was on Luther's shoulders that Calvin stood. His inheritance was "a rich theological legacy that he was able to cultivate."

Luther was the great prophet of a new movement. Let's be clear though it was never his intent to begin a new Church and it was certainly never his intent to begin one named after him! Calvin, on the other hand, could methodically reflect on the new ways of thinking given to the Church by Luther's insights. So Luther was the prophet while Calvin was the systematic theologian. Dr. R. Scott Clark said, "Calvin and the Reformed orthodox did a marvelous job of helping to put Luther's great Reformation insights into a more comprehensive and conventional context."

Different Personalities

In today's language we would say Luther was an extrovert and Calvin was an introvert. Luther often had guests at his house who argued these new ideas while partying with him. Even though we know Luther was plagued with depression all of his adult life he loved public ministry. Calvin on the other hand would have stayed away from public ministry all together except for the fact his friends convinced him it would be a sin not to share his theological insights in a public ministry.

Different Vocations

Although Luther was a professor of the New Testament he was best known as a preacher who had a larger than life personality. His message was flocked to by ordinary people who loved the way he presented himself. Calvin as never known for the zing of his personality, rather, he was known for his intellect and the way his mind was stayed on the Glory of God. Luther was always a "heart" man who focused

on the maids and the children in his congregation. Calvin likely was more focused on the doctors in his congregation.

Different Physical Appearances

Luther was a large man who at least in later life was big and barreled chested. Calvin always had stomach ailment so was much frailer in appearance. Calvin had the habit of eating one meal per day. Luther had a spark of vitality about him while Calvin appeared to be somber in expression.

Different Theologies

Both Luther and Calvin were passionate about the recovery of the biblical Gospel. Yet they often saw this goal through different sets of glasses.

Luther saw salvation through the prism of the need of saving faith and the joy of trusting Christ. The place Calvin started was with the glory of God. Calvin saw salvation as a process by which God is being glorified through the salvation of a transgressor so that justification by faith took second place.

In matters of church and state Luther was more than willing for the government to supervise the administrative affairs of the church. Calvin, a lawyer before he became a theologian, wanted no interference of the state in church affairs. To Calvin the state and the church should remain totally autonomous from each other. This doctrine of Calvin was passed on in the reformed tradition to Baptist and other believing bodies.

The Lord's Supper also had a difference in the two men's theology. Luther saw Christ physically present in the elements of communion. Christ was miraculously "in, with and under" the forms of the elements. Calvin accepted that Christ was "spiritually present" in the Supper. What Luther interpreted as physical; Calvin saw as spiritual in the hearts of the believers. Again, it was never Luther's intent to separate from the Roman Church.

Baptism was another point of difference. Luther saw baptism as the means through which "sin is forgiven; death and the devil are conquered and eternal life is granted. Calvin saw baptism as an external sign whereby one is grafted into the visible church. For Calvin baptism did not save anyone. We practice baptism in the tradition of Calvin when parents and congregation promise to hold the covenant on behalf of the child until they make their own profession of faith at Confirmation.

The Church is Reformed but it is also always reforming. We hold the spotlight of Jesus Christ on all scripture. Where Christ did not speak we do not make something up. Where the law of love found in Christ changes the old law we reform. Reformation is never done. God's Word and God's people are alive and changing.

Fondly,
Pastor Jim





Jill Lyons – 3rd Sara Parker – 25th
 Martin Flurry – 5th Wyld Lee Strahan IV – 25th
 Judith Nides – 9th Vance Justice – 30th
 Susan Hightower – 21st



Don't forget to set your clocks *back* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4th or you'll get to church an hour early on the 5th!



Thank you to all who continue to bring food donations in support of the Long Beach

Community Food Pantry. As we prepare to give thanks for all that we have, please remember those in our community who are not so fortunate.

Needed items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, stews, canned tomatoes, baby foods, snacks, fruit juice, raisins, soda crackers, cereal, tea, coffee, baking items, flour, honey, salt, pepper, spices, sugars, ketchup, mustard, relishes, spaghetti sauce, dry pastas, canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, puddings, cake and cookie mixes, cheese whiz/Velveeta, macaroni and cheese, diapers and formula.



Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon

Our Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, November 12, 2017. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where you can see what others are planning on bringing and indicate anything that you plan to bring. Please remember that everyone from the congregation is invited to come and celebrate regardless of whether you are able to bring something or not.



This year LBPC is excited to be the host for the Long Beach Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service. It is set for Sunday, November 19th

and will be held at Long Beach Presbyterian Church. The service will begin at 6:00 pm with a reception to follow.



Session

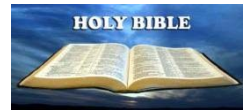
- In October we collected a total of \$436.82 for our Outreach offering which was forwarded to Long Beach Outreach.
- The October Session Meeting is scheduled for October 29th which is after the date of publication for this issue.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
September 2017	\$ 6,923.35	\$ 4,177.51	\$ 2,745.84
YTD 2017	\$ 48,858.69	\$ 39,673.52	\$ 9,185.17



Our readers for the month of November will be:



5th – David Braud Sr 19th – Tal Flurry
 12th – Steve Dees 29th – Keith Cox



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Barnett Family	Jamie
Boswell Family	Ken Pell
Cono Caranna & Family	Peterman Family
Corcoran Family	Ramsay Family
Billie Holzweissig	Mikey Sawyer
Matthew	Becky Schruff
Tom, Regina	Stacey Stone
& Isaac McCarty	Mary Westmoreland



Find us online at
<http://LBPCUSA.org>



And our Facebook page at
<http://Facebook.com/LBPCUSA>.

You can view our Facebook page even if you don't have a Facebook account but, if you do have one, click the Like button to be notified when we post updates.



PLEASE send us information to include in the Beacon

- By email: Lbpcusa@outlook.com
- By hand: Place in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.
- By phone: Leave a message on the church answering machine at 228-863-7633.
(Phone messages are checked on Saturdays)



To receive the Beacon by email, please send a request including your name and email address to Lbpcusa@outlook.com. Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.