

**OCTOBER 2017**

**Thanksgiving Display**

This year Phyllis Merth and Sheila Bravo have once again graciously offered to be at the church to receive and arrange harvest items to beautify the chancel area for Thanksgiving. They will be in the church on Saturday, October 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please bring your items at this time, or leave them earlier.

**Reformation Sunday**

October is the month of Thanksgiving and the month of Reformation. This year we give thanks for 500 years of Reformation, 500 years since Martin Luther sought to re-anchor the Church in the core insight of the New Testament: that we are saved by God's grace, not by any merit of our own, but only through the self-giving sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross out of love for the world.

The actual Reformation Day is Tuesday, October 31, but we hope to do some justice to this significant anniversary on Sunday, October 29 in a special service. At this writing the details of that service have yet to be worked out, but the

intention is to focus on music and celebration.

**Getting Ready for All Saints' Sunday**

Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on October 31, the Eve of All Saints' Day. His choice was partially symbolic because All Saints' has to do with salvation, and because, from a Biblical perspective, all believers are "the saints" and "the priesthood of all believers". This year, for All Saints' Sunday (November 5) we are once again inviting you to purchase a red carnation in memory of loved one who has passed away. Carnations are \$2, and you may either buy one to remember several loved ones, or buy one for each loved one. On that Sunday these carnations will be our altar flowers, and the names of the loved ones will be printed in the bulletin.

To facilitate this, our choir director Shayla, has put together special envelopes on which you can list the names of your loved ones and indicate how many flowers you are purchasing.