



## SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EVENTS

# Weekly Worship Services & Religious Events

### Living Word Lutheran Church

14422 Meridian East  
Puyallup, WA 98374  
(Meridian Habitat  
Community Center  
Formerly Puyallup  
Amphitheater)

*But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [Romans 3:21-25]*

There is a milestone anniversary coming up on October 31. No, I am not talking about the anniversary of Halloween, but rather something that predates Halloween on that date. This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the church door of the Wittenberg Castle. Some people debate whether he actually did that, but what is not up for debate is how Luther changed the world. Much could be written about this event, but I haven’t been allotted enough words in this article to do that topic justice. Rather, I want to proclaim to you a central tenet of the Reformation.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law... to be received by faith. Think about the implications of this; being made righteous before God APART from the law. First, you need to accept the fact that you are indeed a sinner, deserving of hell. Next, imagine being raised in a system where you had to try to appease God enough in order to save yourself from eternal torment. If you had enough money you could buy an indulgence to expedite your time in purgatory and move straight to heaven, that is, if you did enough and obeyed the Church. Luther was raised in this system and was tormented by the fact that he could not please this angry God. He was tormented until he read and finally understood Romans 3. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law. Now, it wasn’t a matter of trying to please God to be saved, but rather being freed to please God because you are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. The focus was no longer on our works but rather on the work of Jesus on the cross. This revelation is what propelled the Reformation. It’s all grace; a free, undeserved gift.

The fact still remains that you are sinner. You deserve eternal death, but Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead that your sins would be forgiven. The fear of trying to appease an angry God is gone; actually, it never should have been there in the first place. The Reformation was about freedom and putting the focus where it should be, on Jesus. Receive Jesus and then glorify him through your works. Praise be to God and Amen!

Come worship with



*Rev. Eric  
Hullstrom,  
Pastor*

Meridian Habitat  
Community Center  
14422 Meridian East,  
Puyallup, WA 98374

Sunday Worship • 9:00am | Sunday School • 10:30am

[www.livingwordlutheranchurch.com](http://www.livingwordlutheranchurch.com)

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