

Anniversaries

This month, we celebrate two anniversaries, the 125th anniversary of our congregation and the 475th anniversary of the presentation of the “Augsburg Confession,” as well as this year being the 425th anniversary of the publishing of the entire *Book of Concord*.

What are the “Augsburg Confession” and *Book of Concord*? See the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) in this newsletter.

Why should I care? Because the *Book of Concord* (sometimes called by its Latin name, *Concordia*), summarizes what it means to be Lutheran and stands against many of the false and dangerous teachings in the Christian church, including some Lutheran churches who reject the *Book of Concord*.

Our teachings have withstood over 400 years of scrutiny without anyone legitimately finding contradiction with Scripture. Our congregation has likewise withstood 125 years of attacks by the enemies of Christ, including the devil, the world (sinful influences of society), and our own sinful nature.

So what's the secret to 125 years? Is it the friendly attitude of our members? That's important, but not the key. Is it our commitment to Scriptural teachings? Again important, but still not the key. In fact, the key isn't in anything we've done. St. Paul's in Delaware, Iowa exists, as does the LCMS and the entire Christian church on earth, purely by the grace (undeserved love) of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's people.

God loves us. He loved us by sending Jesus to take away our sins on the cross. He loves us by sending His Spirit to give us saving faith through Word & Sacraments. He loves us enough to strengthen and preserve us to life everlasting. Thanks be to God not only for the past 125 years, but for eternity with Him!

