

“Again For the First Time”
Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2008
By Rebecca Enney

Well, here is Uncle Floyd, once again working on his annual chore of washing the portrait of Martin Luther. Martin Luther is the man who reformed the church about 500 years ago. That means that he saw some things that the church that were not quite the truth so he worked hard to make the church more true. Today is Reformation Sunday and we are called Lutherans because of the work that Martin Luther did in the church way back then.

“Oops!” Uncle Floyd dropped his squeegee behind the painting. So he climbed down and went out of sight behind Martin Luther.

Just then, Pastor Ed walked in. Sometimes Pastor Ed likes to talk to Martin Luther as he walks past! And so this night, speaking quietly, in case anyone might overhear him and think him silly, he whispered in mock seriousness “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free? What IS the truth?”

Uncle Floyd, behind the painting and still looking for his squeegee said to himself “I reckon I can’t find it!”

Pastor Ed jumped! Martin Luther had answered him! “You can’t find the truth!?” gasped Pastor Ed.

Uncle Floyd suddenly realized what was happening. Pastor Ed thought that the painting of Martin Luther was talking to him! So Uncle Floyd decided to have some fun and said “I reckon the question is; Can YOU find the truth?”

Pastor Ed thought he recognized that voice! “That is NOT Martin Luther, that is Uncle Floyd!” So Pastor Ed decided to have some fun too! Pretending to be talking to the painting, Pastor Ed said “Martin, of all people, YOU DO know the truth! You have not lost it! The TRUTH is right in front of you!”

Uncle Floyd asked “In the bottle of Windex?” And Pastor Ed said “The Cross of Christ is in front of you!”



(oops, there should be a bottle of Windex in this photo!)

And Uncle Floyd, forgetting that he was pretending to be Martin Luther asked “How is the Cross of Christ the Truth?” And Pastor Ed said “The Lord has sent his only son to die for our iniquities. He will remember our sin no more. That is what brings us to Truth.”

Uncle Floyd sat down and got comfortable. Pastor Ed said “You knew that didn’t you?” And Uncle Floyd said “I reckon I hear it in church every week. But today it feels like I’m hearing it . . .again for the first time . . .!”

Hearing it again for the first time. That happened to Martin Luther as well. Martin Luther studied the scriptures and knew all the lessons well that the church taught. But one time, as he read the passage from Romans that we heard this morning, Martin ‘Heard it again for the first time.’ He began to understand it in a new way.

Uncle Floyd and Pastor Ed got into a deep conversation and both eventually were sitting facing each other, no longer pretending. They sat there and talked and talked!

Sometimes, when we least expect it, God reveals himself to us again. God used Pastor Ed (and Martin Luther) to renew and reform Uncle Floyd’s faith. I hope that happens to you some day!

THE END