



Seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Special October Dates

First Edition Book Club.....Oct. 3	Eileen Burns hosts at the church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....Oct. 4	Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday
Dorcas Quilters meet.....Oct. 7	
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost.....Oct. 11	Pastor Appreciation Sunday
Columbus Day.....Oct. 12	No classes at FLS
WOW Bible Study.....Oct. 13	Lifelight: John, Part 2
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost.....Oct. 18	CARDS 4 KIDS Fall Card Sale begins
Dorcas Quilters meet.....Oct. 21	
OWLS.....Oct. 22	
Reformation Day (observed).....Oct. 25	
Reformation Day.....Oct. 31	



The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.

Martin Luther

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It's Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and the most important, not-so-visible way to show your appreciation is to pray for him, and for his family.

1. Pray for your pastor's family.

"... if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination" (Titus 1:6).

The people who most intimately feel the burden pastors carry are the people who share a home with him. With schedules stretched to the max, many pastors regularly miss family meals because of the needs of the church. When they do make it home, many have little emotional collateral to spend with their wife and kids because they have been wrung out through the course of the day.

Pray for God's strength for your pastor. May he have enough energy to love and shepherd his own family after having to spend most of the day loving and shepherding other families in the church. Pray that he can find the time and opportunity to sow Gospel truths into the hearts of his family in the same way that he gleans Gospel truths for his weekly sermons. Pray that even as he is utterly exhausted, he loves his wife and precious kids with as much fervor as he loves the hurting congregants in his church.

2. Pray for your pastor's walk with Jesus.

"For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach" (Titus 1:7a).

The leaders of our churches must be above reproach. They need to be blameless and unassailable. They need to be distinctly set apart. Pray that your pastor stands against the temptations of satan. It may seem ridiculous to pray in that way, but if the devil tempted Jesus, you better believe that he'll go after the man who proclaims the Gospel of Jesus. Pray God will put godly men in your pastor's life with whom he can be honest and who will hold him accountable. Pray that he would

have the strength to say "No" to the enticements of the enemy.

3. Pray for your pastor's love of others.

"... He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined" (Titus 1:7b-8).

People can be really hard to love sometimes. Days can stretch far beyond the physical and emotional limits of many pastors. The wrong person can cross a pastor at the worst time possible and words and actions can produce hurt and regret in the lives of the church or community members. It takes a lifetime to be loving, but it only takes a split second to be unloving.

Pray that your pastor can soak in the fact that he is loved by his Creator and Savior. Pray that he will love others just like the Father who has redeemed him and called him. Pray that the watching world will see Jesus in your pastor because he loves like the Lord he proclaims.

4. Pray for your pastor's love of the Word.

"He must hold firm to the trustworthy Word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9).

When schedules and psyches are stressed, often the first thing to get cut is personal time in Scripture. Yet this is the spiritual food for every believer, much less for elders and overseers. God's Word is the pastor's supply and sermon foundation. Time in the Bible is immensely valuable.

Pray that your pastor would say no to "good" things in order for him to soak in the very Word of God. Pray that he would preach Scripture boldly without bowing to the cultural thought of the day. Pray that he would love the promises of God above the praise of men.

— Excerpted from *Four Ways to Pray for Your Pastor*, by the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership for Pastor Appreciation Month, October 2020



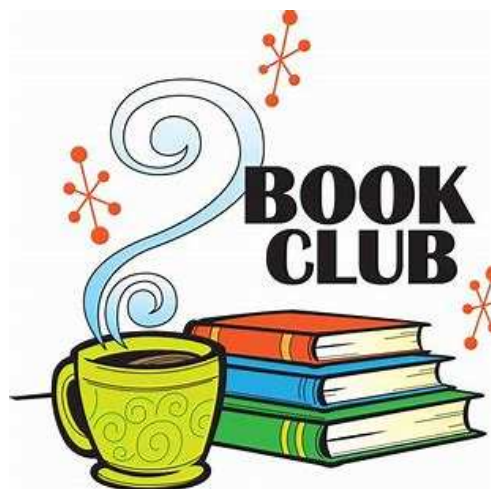
Lutheran Women
in Mission

Sunday

Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated at any time.

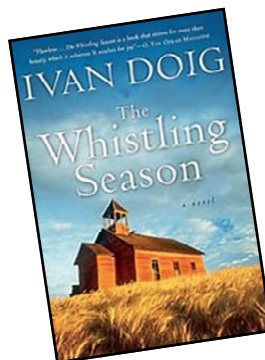
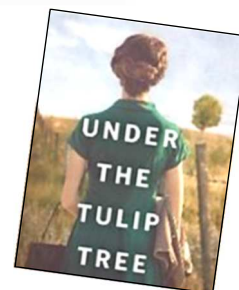
This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.* For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2026, our focus is on **Supporting Missions.**

Christ Jesus, our Lord, asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. There were so many mission efforts taking place. As believers today, we also are eager to follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord does allow us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts.



First Edition Book Club members will meet at **10 a.m.** on Saturday, October 3, **at the church.** Eileen Burns will host. Club members are currently reading — and will discuss — *Under the Tulip Tree* by Christian author Michelle Shocklee.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Eileen immediately at (406) 475-2265.



In November, members will meet at **10 a.m.** on Saturday, November 7, at the home of Joyce Burgett. For this meeting, members will read — and discuss — *The Whistling Season* by Montana author Ivan Doig.

Please RSVP to Joyce by Wednesday, November 4, at (406) 439-2707.

THERE! THAT OUGHT TO
DISPEL THE MYTH THAT WE'RE
AN ELDERLY CONGREGATION
THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO
REACH OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE.



The First Word

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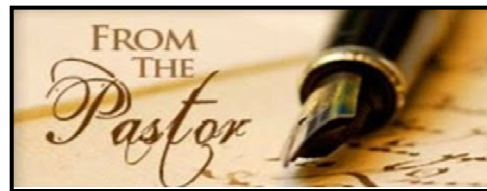
Rev. Larry A. Miller..... Pastor
Linda Fromm..... Editor
Shari Miller..... Calendar/Servant Schedule
Volunteer Staff..... Printing/Collation

Deadline for the November First Word is Wednesday, October 21.

Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or email to: lindafromm@mac.com

Reformation Sunday

Why Remember It ... Again?



On October 31, 1517, a Catholic priest named Martin Luther posted **an invitation to a debate** on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany. The invitation, entitled "Ninety-Five Theses" or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," listed 95 statements about the some quite basic issues Luther had with the Pope, with the way salvation and forgiveness were being taught to God's people, and with the misuse of Holy Scripture.



Luther, who was growing in his understanding of faith, Scripture and church history, and tradition, wanted to engage the church in a debate about these things so that the real mission of the church could be reclaimed. The

problem: **no one responded** to his invitation, and the debate was never held. Perhaps they didn't understand how important it was? Maybe they were afraid - after all, Luther was confronting the most powerful people on the planet. Possibly their favorite TV show was on that night. Whatever the reasons, no one came, save Martin Luther.

So why wasn't that the end of it? Why are we still talking about this cranky priest and his radical ideas? Well, this, of course, was not the end of it. People copied down Luther's work and the newly invented Gutenberg printing press was used to help distribute it throughout Christendom. Debates were held, people talked, Scripture was studied and the Spirit moved in the Church again. **True Christian freedom, based in the Scriptures rather than church tradition or culture, was let loose in the church, and the world was changed.**

"But that was then, this is now," you might say. "Times have changed - why do we need to go back to the frustrated monk and his concerns about the Pope and the church?" The answer is simple: **the church continues to be distracted by culture, power and money and needs to be brought back to the Holy Scriptures as the source of its faith, life and direction for ministry.**

Unless we have Scripture at the source of who we are and what we do as a church, we are simply building on a mist, on the changing whims of culture and the political correctness of the moment. Without Scripture, what we say and do has no more importance or value in the Kingdom of God than what a religious cult or any other human institution might do.

Please know without a doubt that there are those within the church who have a social and political agenda that if allowed to go unchecked, would take the church so far from the meaning and intent of Scripture that we might as well just join a service club (no offence to service clubs). The response one often hears from these people: "Why are you so slavishly following Scripture? You're making Scripture itself an idol that gets in the way of following God! We just need to follow Jesus" - no matter what the Scriptures actually say.

Yeah, fine. But without a genuine respect for and understanding of the Scriptures, we really have no true sense of what Jesus said and did for us and for our salvation, or what the disciples taught, or what's in the Old Testament, or what the Apostle Paul was so concerned about. If we ignore the Bible every time it contradicts our sensibilities, why are we bothering with it at all? What's the point?



I guess it's a good thing Luther didn't listen to these people, either, but kept to the truth of God's Word! **As we remember Reformation this month let's do the same!**



**In the Name of the Savior,
who speaks to US
so powerfully in His Word,**

Pastor Miller

He commended himself and the church to Christ's mercy

In later life, Martin Luther had become internationally known. Despite his return to Wittenberg from hiding at the Wartburg, Luther remained an outlaw due to his condemnation at Worms. However, Saxony was isolated enough that he was safe from the emperor so long as he remained there. Thus, his role became one of providing guidance to others.

Luther adopted a new role as leader of a new church body. He discovered that many of the laity were ignorant of his reforms. After translating the Bible into German, he wanted the laity to be able to engage with it. Therefore, he wrote his Small and Large Catechisms in order to provide good theology that the laity could understand, an entry point into the Scriptures, and right order and behavior.

In this period, Luther also had to address theological problems. In addition to his continued challenges with Rome's response to the Reformation, he also faced other reformers who transformed his ideas to their own ends.

First, Luther clarified the relationship of the church and the state. Due to the Peasants' Revolt, he was faced with a theological question of how "social" his Gospel needed to be. Luther responded by developing his two kingdoms theology. This theology holds that we must

distinguish clearly between God's Kingdom of Power and His Kingdom of Grace. Christians should act in society according to their consciences — which are informed by their faith — but Luther did not believe



that the church should dictate government policy.

Second, Luther had to address competing views of the Lord's Supper. Luther had successfully refuted the "transubstantiation" view of the Roman church, but the issue was confused by the view that the soul fed on Christ only spiritually, as Calvin later popularized. Others argued that the Sacrament only "represented" Jesus' body. This caused Luther to insist on the real presence, emphasizing that while transubstantiation was in error, it did not mean the solution to that error was

to separate the Sacrament from Jesus altogether. Instead, he remained bound to the clear words of Christ, "This is my body."

Third, Luther addressed the problem of good works. Some reformers twisted Luther's doctrine of being justified by grace without works to mean that good works were, in fact, a hindrance to salvation. This caused Luther to argue continually that good works are the proper result of faith. We are justified by faith alone, nevertheless, Christians should lead a sanctified life.

Luther became an internationally important figure. Wittenberg was a destination for young thinkers, and Luther was a hero to many. Students began taking note of everything he said; his publications were spread widely, and princes asked him for advice. Luther was least comfortable with this last political role. He was not a skilled politician and would sometimes be too aggressive in his responses.

Luther's role later in life was to encourage and to instruct. He remained resolved and consistent in his thought, despite feeling pressure from all sides. He was simultaneously heroic in his faith and human in his failings.

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org*

Christian Symbol



LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth, and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*, reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful Living, and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

— *The Newsletter Newsletter*

Rev. Vincent Heier of the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis recently welcomed a group of visiting Missouri-Kansas Lutherans meeting in St. Louis Cathedral with these words:

"We are pleased to provide the cathedral. Please don't nail anything to the doors."

— from *Holy Humor* by Cal & Rose Samra

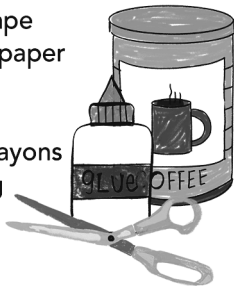
Give Thanks with Music



Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

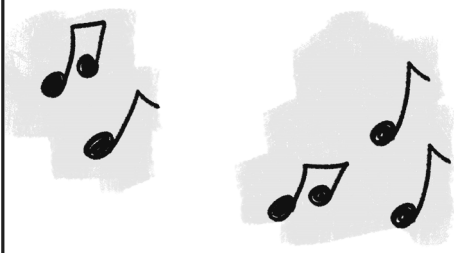
What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



Just for KIDS!



A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY	
a = 7	e = 8
i = 10	o = 9
u = 11	y = 6

"He _____nd _____ll h_____s f_____m _____l _____

A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w_____r_____d_____v_____t_____nd

A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G_____d-f_____r_____ng; h_____g_____v_____

B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g_____n_____r_____sl_____t_____th_____s_____n

A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n_____d_____nd pr_____y_____d t_____G_____d

A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r_____g_____l_____rl_____." _____cts 10:2, NIV

A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Celebrate Fall with special greeting cards!

Fall is in the air ... and greeting cards for Halloween and Thanksgiving will be available for purchase starting on Sunday, October 18, in Ziegler Hall. Packages of 8 cards are \$5.

Many thanks to those who purchased cards this past summer! Proceeds from those sales went to the "Joy Vibe" youth group to support their trip to the Creation Museum in Glendive, Montana.

I appreciate all the donated cards, stickers, envelopes, etc. that I have received this year for this ministry!

Janice Larison
CARDS 4 KIDS



Images shown are for illustrative purposes only. They are not actual cards.

You'rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrxfctly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx dif-fxrxcx.



Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxrxcx bxcaxs a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxcxsxry, rxmymbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxry much."

— The Newsletter Newsletter

Just for fun, ask your kids or grandkids to tell you what the missing (x) letter is!

October Birthdays

October 2
Korbyn Jurenka

October 5
Rhaely Alexander

October 6
Julia Warsinski

October 7
Arthur Worthy

October 8
Paul Taylor
Ross Veach
Kathy Winslow

October 10
John Champagne
Paul Lanter
Charles Olson

October 11
Maddox Rickman

October 12
Sylvia Lonquist
Larry Miller
Clark Spranget

October 13
William Staffeldt

October 15
Cheryl Brown

October 16
Alexander Balcerzak
Steven Johnson
Melanie Middlebrook

October 18
Owen Carson
Peter McCarthy

October 19
Gale Everson
Abigail (Abby) Wood

October 22
Natalie Baumann

October 23
Marvin Blokzyl Jr.
Chris Frank

October 24
Jeff Huotari
Christine Lanter
Sean O'Malley
Norma Jean Walker

October 25
Sharon Carson
Isla Johnson
Madison McCarthy
Olivia McIntosh

October 26
Javri Pearson

October 27
Cassie Cooper
Mathieu Lebahn
Michelle O'Malley
Philip Tullis

October 28
Rachel Blair
Caden Stockburger

October 29
Ryan Hanson

October 31
David Johnson



Happenings at First Lutheran School

Director
Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher
Shannon Champagne

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Lori Radtke

After Care Provider
Lillian Buhr

Pastor
Larry A. Miller

Why send your child to a Lutheran school?

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's School Ministry assists, equips, and uplifts school educators, district staff, and especially education executives and congregational leaders so that through them children may be equipped as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Here is why you should send your child to a Lutheran school. Lutheran schools:

Are **driven by a commitment to the Gospel** and focused on a mission of bringing hope and healing to students and families.

Are **governed by committee members who clearly understand their roles** and focus on the vision and policies that effectively govern the operation of the school.

Meet or exceed state and national academic standards at all grade levels.

Have **educators who model visionary leadership**. They practice stewardship of resources, build up others, and empathize with others.

Have **educators who model servant leadership**.

Have **educators who model spiritual leadership**. They study God's Word, share their personal faith story, apply Law and Gospel appropriately, exhibit a passion for ministry, act courageously, equip God's people for service, care for others, demonstrate integrity, and pray.

Lutheran Early Childhood Centers and Elementary Schools

More than 1,200 early childhood centers and preschools are operated by congregations and Christian day schools within the LCMS. More than 87,000 children, ranging in age from infant/toddler to 5 years of age, are involved in these programs. Additionally, our congregations operate 880 elementary schools which serve approximately 113,000 students. More than 650 early childhood centers and elementary schools are accredited under the National Lutheran School Accreditation program.

Source: <https://www.lcms.org/school-ministry>

In 2023, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod tasked the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) with articulating the “theology and philosophy of Lutheran Education.” The CTCR produced a theological report to clearly produce and articulate how the Lutheran doctrines should govern education within our Lutheran institutions. This article is a summary of the report that was produced and distributed in May 2025.

The overarching principle that guides Lutheran Education is the truth of Holy Scripture. We believe in the truth of the inerrant Word of God and follow God's command to make disciples of all nations. The truth of

Holy Scripture is the guiding principle in the education that First Lutheran School provides. At the center of the Word of God is Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason for the work that is done at First Lutheran School, and He is the focus of our education. On a practical level, and in keeping Christ as the center of God's Word in our education, we consider three different spheres. These spheres or domains correspond to our Christian creeds. Therefore, the teaching of First Lutheran School focuses on the gifts of creation, the redemption from sin, and our Christian life or sanctification.

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

THE MISSION of First Lutheran Church is
"Sharing God's Word with Everyone, Everywhere!"

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Tune in to **"The Lutheran Hour"**—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM
or listen on **"Family Talk"** on Sirius XM 131
"Woman to Woman"—Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

How do Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day differ?

What is All Hallow's Eve?

Though the original roots of All Hallow's Eve (Halloween) aren't certain, it has been traced back to the countries of Ireland, Britain, and France. The Celts of Ireland, Britain, and France divided their year in halves: the light half and the dark half. The light half consisted of the Spring and Summer months when the days were longer and the nights were shorter. The dark half was the opposite. It consisted of the Fall and Winter months with longer, colder nights and shorter days. To mark the end of Summer, the Celts held a harvest festival known as *Samhain* steeped in superstition and fear of evil. It is celebrated on October 31 beginning at sunset and ending at sunset on November 1.

This ancient Celtic pagan harvest festival was also associated with human death. The Druids built bonfires in order for people to make sacrifices of crops and animals. Those who participated in the festival would dance around a bonfire. Some of the dances were a representation of the circle of life and death. The Celts also believe that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the dead and living became blurred. It was believed

that fairies and ghosts of the dead could freely return to earth, and that these spirits could hide in livestock, haunt the living, and destroy their crops. For this reason, they concealed their real identities from the spirits through the use of costumes made from animal skins and heads. Following the Roman conquest of Britain, British Celts adopted the Julian calendar and fixed the date of *Samhain*'s observance to November 1. The holiday was Christianized as Halloween by the early church. Over time, it has evolved into a day of activities like making jack-o-lanterns from pumpkins, bobbing for apples, trick-or-treating and other festivities.

What is All Saints Day?

Around 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV reconsecrated the Pantheon in Rome. He renamed it the Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs. He established the anniversary as a day of celebratory remembrance for all of the Church's martyrs. Later, Pope Gregory III changed the date to November 1 during the dedication of St. Peter's Basilica to "all saints," in an effort to combat pagan worship.

November 1 became All Saints Day,

otherwise known as All Hallow's Day. Christians would come together on this day to ask for God's protection from evil in the world, as well as blessings. Patrons would dress up in costumes of evil spirits or saints in order to depict the battle between good and evil.

What is All Souls Day?

All Souls Day commemorates the faithful departed. This day is observed in the Catholic Church as well as the Eastern Orthodox churches. Roman Catholics believe that the souls of the faithful who at death have not been cleansed from their sins and punishment could attain heaven and are instead sent to purgatory. It was believed, based on certain books of the Catholic Bible that these trapped souls could be helped by prayer. They could then be cleansed of their sins and receive full sanctification to gain entrance to heaven. The custom of setting apart this day for intercession was established by Saint Odilo of Cluny. This practice spread throughout Europe and eventually to the Western Church.

— www.christianity.com