

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: The Rev. Timothy Weisman
Zion Lutheran Church of Pittsfield
office@zionlutheranpittsfield.org
(413) 442-3525

PITTSFIELD: American Guild of Organists to present “Great Hymns of the Reformation”

The Berkshire Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present “Great Hymns of the Reformation” at Zion Lutheran Church, 74 First Street, Pittsfield, on Sunday, October 22 at 3:00pm. This program commemorates the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation through hymns and organ music.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. As a result of the reforms of the following decades, a body of new hymns developed that were not in Latin, but in the vernacular, which allowed them to be sung and understood by the whole congregation. Among these hymns, we can name “A Mighty Fortress is our God,” attributed to Luther himself, “Our Father, Who in Heaven Art,” a versification of the Lord’s Prayer, and “Now Thank We All Our God.” These hymns and several others will be sung in the October program at Zion.

Several member organists from the Berkshire Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be performing, including Scott Bailey, Thomas Damrosch, Nancy King, Edwin Lawrence, Amy Renak, Thomas Tuthill, and Timothy Weisman. The Berkshire Chapter is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding this year.

Zion Lutheran Church has recently completed a major renovation to give its sanctuary more flexibility for worship and other events. For this concert, the organ console and audience seating will both be turned so that the audience will be able to hear the church’s pipe organ to best advantage and watch the organists in action.

A reception will follow the performance. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit programs of the church and of the Berkshire Chapter. Zion Lutheran Church is fully accessible.

IN BRIEF:

American Guild of Organists to present “Great Hymns of the Reformation”
Sunday, October 22, 3pm
Free-will offering; reception to follow
Zion Lutheran Church
74 First Street
Pittsfield MA 01201
<http://www.zionlutheranpittsfield.org/>