

Insert for October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

WORSHIP MUSIC

Prelude: *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"* setting, David Lasky
Offertory: *"God Is for Us a Refuge and Strength"* Charles Anders
Communion: *"Softly and Tenderly"* arr. Will L. Thompson
guest flutists, Suzanne Prince and Shannon Lane
Postlude: *"Built on a Rock "* Edward Broughton

Gathering Hymn: *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"* ELW 504
guest flutists, Suzanne Prince and Shannon Lane

- 1 **A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

- 2 **No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

3 **Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.**

4 **God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY,

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your work, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Second Reading: Romans 3: 19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel:** John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: “O Word of God Incarnate”

ELW 514

1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

2 The church from you, dear Master,
received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.

3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.

Sending Hymn: *"The Church's One Foundation"*

ELW 654

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Prayer List Relationships

CLC Members – Bob Bocclair, Jim Pickels, Linda Pickels, Frannie Kirkpatrick, Brooke Meisel, George & Jeannine Springer, Vincent Baltor, Cheryl Glaubinger, Willy Carey, Donna Ruggles, Susan Merkle, Charlie Peterson.

Family Members and Friends – Kitsy Cochran (wife of member John), Jennifer Whitesides (Jim and Edith Ingraham's daughter), James Conway (grandson of Pam & Barry Kintzer and Suzanne & Doug Conway), Marietta Julienne (Mari Julienne's mother), Jamie Glendenning (Pauline Glendenning's daughter-in-law), Avery Cooper Small (Diane Ransone's grandson), Sally Stevens (friend of Diane Kellogg), Leslie Reppard (friend of Bob & Sandra Bocclair), Tenny Walsh (Trenton Hizer's sister), Christy Mayes (friend of Cathy Lantz), Mary Lisa Laches (Friend of Laura Greenday), Kathy Harman (friend of Pam and Barry Kintzer), Sherry Clements (daughter of Virginia Hanky & niece of Ann Marie Farnsworth), Shirley Kitchen (mother of Pam Kintzer), Austin Hobson (Faith Hobson's son), Hailee Singleton (friend of the Jim and Edith Ingraham), Phillips family (friends of Tinky Keen), Denise Derer (sister of Jennifer John), Gilliam family (friends of Faith Hobson), Darlene Tignor (sister of Suzanne Conway), Pete Moss (Paul Quel's cousins husband), Claire (Friend of Faith Hobson), Kate Hoffmeyer (Niece of Carol Jones), family of Jenny Christiansen (family of Jim Ingraham), Renovacion Apostolica Casa de Dios's pastor and congregation.

SERVING CHRIST LUTHERAN

Music Director Linda Keener	Disciples People of Christ Lutheran	Pastor Rev. Liz Radtke
Bulletin, Inserts, Newsletter Carol Jones Diane Kellogg Jim Ingraham Carol York	Streaming Media Fred Riedl Kayley Greenday Diane Kellogg	Assistant Minister Bill Franz, Commissioned Lay Minister

PASTOR

Rev. Liz Radtke

(804) 337-3174

pastor@christlutheran.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Carol Jones

adminassist@christlutheran.org

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Patty Franz

council_president@christlutheran.org

Upcoming Dates

October 25: 4th Sunday Bible Study on Matthew

October 27: Quilting, 10:00 a.m.

November 1: All Saints Sunday

November 1: First Sunday Service Project

November 1: Daylight Savings Time ends

All Saints Sunday is November 1, 2026. As we have in the past, we will list the names of those who have gone to their eternal home in the bulletin for that day. If you would like the names of any family or other loved ones recognized in this way, please complete the card that will be in the Sunday bulletin insert. You may also either email your request to adminassist@christlutheran.org. The deadline for submitting your request is Thursday, October 29.

Bible Quest Note: This Sunday we also celebrate *Reformation Sunday*, the birth of the Lutheran Church. Martin Luther did not start out life intending to be a revolutionary. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees, he decided to become an Augustinian monk and earned his doctorate in 1512. He moved to Wittenberg and lectured on the Bible at the university there while also serving as the preacher at the town church. During this time,

Martin Luther, unlike his contemporary King Henry VIII of England, did not set out to, or intend to, create a whole new church. Historian Geoffrey Parker writes:

“Luther ...gradually focused on a particularly important issue for Christians: sin and salvation. How can the sinner be saved? His close reading of the Bible suggested that good works and insincere penance would not suffice: only complete faith in Christ could assure salvation. Luther became concerned that a practice by some of his fellow priests, was leading Christians astray, offering them a false security. These priests toured Christendom distributing indulgences that promised the living and the dead remission of ecclesiastical penalties, and of time in purgatory, in return for a contribution toward the cost of rebuilding the basilica of St. Peter’s in Rome... On October 31, 1517, Luther presented a set of ninety-five objections to the practice...posting them on the door of a local church, the normal way of requesting a public debate at the time.”

Thanks to the recently invented printing press, copies of Luther’s posting quickly spread thorough out Europe and ultimately made it to the desk of Pope Leo X in Rome. He was not happy when he read it. The rest, as they say, is history.

In retrospect, the simple fact that Martin Luther died peacefully in his bed in 1546 at the age of 62 rather than being burned at the stake for heresy, as so many others were during his time, is, in and of itself, a miracle.

Music Notes: What would Reformation Sunday be without singing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*? The choral anthem for this day is taken from Psalm 46, *God Is Our Refuge and Strength*. The hymn for communion is *“Softly and Tenderly”*, a flute duet.

COPYRIGHT CREDITS:

Prelude: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* – setting, David Lasky © 2011 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory: *God Is for Us a Refuge and Strength* – Charles Anders © 1969 Augsburg Pub. House.

Postlude: *Built on a Rock* – Edward Broughton

Communion music: *Softly and Tenderly* - arr. Will L. Thompson (C) 2021 Hope Pub. Co.

Hymns:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God – Text and Music, Martin Luther. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Introduction arr. Wayne Fritchie.

O Word of God Incarnate – Text, William W. How. Music, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, in Public Domain.

The Church's One Foundation – Text, Samuel J. Stone. Music, Samuel S. Wesley, both in Public Domain.

(Permission to print and/or livestream music in this service obtained from OneLicense,