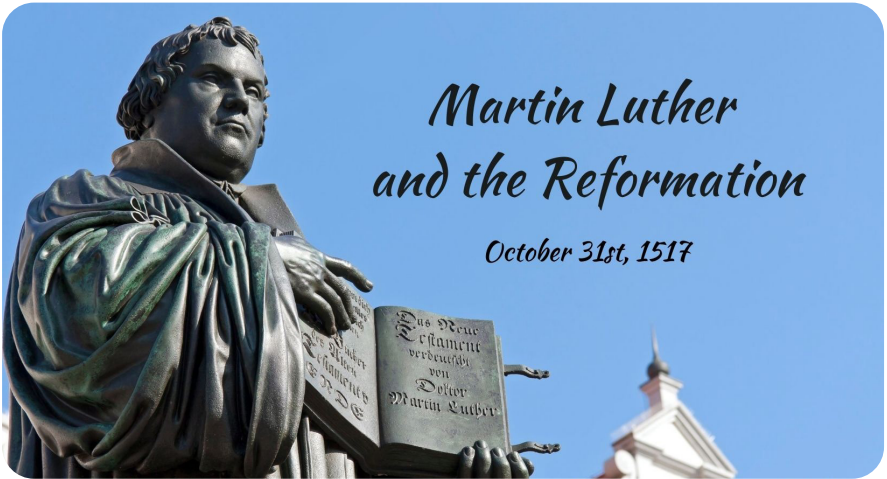




Sunday, October 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.



# *Martin Luther and the Reformation*

*October 31st, 1517*

“Moved by the Spirit - Free Indeed”

Pastor Erik Allen



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2201 E. 106th Street, Carmel IN 46032 ☎ [kogcarmel.org](http://kogcarmel.org)



## A MIGHTY FORTRESS

Martin Luther grew up in Thuringian village listening to his mother sing. This was an area of Germany known for its music. He joined a boys' choir that sang at weddings and funerals, and he became proficient with the flute (recorder).

During the Reformation Luther was determined to restore worship to the German Church including congregational singing; working with skilled musicians he helped create new music to be sung in the vernacular. Often he "borrowed" popular secular melodies for his hymns, though occasionally a tune brought criticism and he was "compelled to let the devil have it back again" because it was too closely associated with bars and taverns.

In the forward of Georg Rhau's collection of choral motets titled, "Symphoniae iucundae", Luther wrote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits". Luther's most famous hymn is "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott", "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", based on Psalm 46. In times of hardship and danger Luther would often resort to this song saying to his associate, "Come Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm."

This is a difficult hymn to translate because the original German is so vivid. At least 80 English versions are available. The most popular in America was translated by Frederic Henry Hodge, but an older version appeared in the Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book of 1868:

"A Mighty Fortress is our God. A trusty Shield and Weapon  
He Helps us free from every need. That hath us now o'ertaken."

The British version of "A Mighty Fortress" is Thomas Carlyle's translation:

"A safe stronghold our God is still. A trusty shield and weapon  
He'll help us clear from all the ill. That hath us now o'ertaken."

It is a mighty heritage we have for a theologian, preacher, professor, musician, and songwriter to put all of his talent into sharing the Word of God so completely. Let us search ourselves to ensure that we are using all of our talents to set forth God's Word to all we know! And whatever translation we sing, we know that we serve a Mighty God!

In His Service,  
David Moscrip

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress"

Jacob Weber

Announcements

## GATHERING

Song

Show Us the Ancient Paths

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 46)*

P: God is our refuge and strength,

**C: a very present help in times of trouble.**

P: Though the earth should change and the foundations tremble,

**C: we will not fear, for God is with us.**

P: The living Word renews the church and sets God's people free.

**C: By grace we are saved, through faith we are made new.**

P: Come, let us worship the One who reforms our hearts,

**C: and sends us into the world with courage and hope.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

*(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)*

Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**C: Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

## Prayer of the Day

**C: Amen**

*please be seated*

WORD

Lesson Romans 3:19-28

Gospel John 8:31-36

## Gospel Response

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Erik

Sermon                      “Moved by the Spirit - Free Indeed”                      Pastor Erik

Hymn                      A Mighty Fortress is Our God                      ELW 504

## Graduate Recognition

## The Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code  
or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



## Special Music

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Martin Luther  
arr. Henry Kihlken

## Offering Prayer

**P:** God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

Prayers of the Church (the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)

Members: Cheryl, Anita, Sue, Sally

Family & Friends: Leota, Janet, Anna, Kate, Mark, Mike, Lucille, Margie,  
Joe, Wes, Emily, Karla, Leon, Dee, Dale, Carol

## COMMUNION

### Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*please be seated.*

## Distribution

*All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome.*

*Those who do not wish to take Communion may come forward for a blessing.*

*Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.*

## SENDING

### Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Song

Oh How Good It Is

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

"Toccata on A Mighty Fortress"

John Leavitt

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Commitment Sunday**

*"Moved by the Spirit - Moving together, Making a difference"*

We will be celebrating Commitment Sunday on November 15. You should have received a letter explaining our theme, along with other helpful information this past week. Please do take some time to read through it as it is very informative. Then please prayerfully consider how you can help to be part of the incredible ministry that happens here at KOG. Questions, see Susan Kraabel, Craig Ellis or Pastor Erik.

### **Memorial Service**

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 14 for Vicki Sampson. Visitation will begin at 12:30, followed by a service at 2:00 with a reception in Fellowship Hall after the service. Please keep Eric and the rest of the Sampson family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

### **Trunk & Treat**

It's upon us! We still need help this Wednesday preparing food and setting up-beginning at 2:30. We also still need candy for our Fire Fighters and Police. And, of course we could always use more trunks. Sign up at the Bulletin Board in the Gathering Place to help in any way.

### **All Saints Sunday**

We will be celebrating the souls we have lost this past year on Sunday, November 1. If you would like to have a loved one listed in the bulletin, please email me [leslie.french@kogcarmel.org](mailto:leslie.french@kogcarmel.org)

### **Altar Poinsettias for Christmas Eve**

I know it's too early for this, but .... we need to have our order for Poinsettias into Heartland Growers by November 2! Crazy! The cost is \$12.00 per plant. Send me an email if you would like one or more (let me know the number). You can be specific (as to who they will honor or remember) later. [leslie.french@kogcarmel.org](mailto:leslie.french@kogcarmel.org)

### **Directory - Today is the Last Day**

If you want to be included in our new Church Directory we need some information from you. Please pick up a sheet at the Usher's Table, complete it and drop it off on my desk (last one in the office). It may be too late to have your picture taken, but you could stop in the church office to see if you can squeeze in after worship. If not, email a picture and I'll do my best to work with it in the format needed for our new Directory. [leslie.french@kogcarmel.org](mailto:leslie.french@kogcarmel.org)

### **Save the Date**

The Fraziers will be hosting another Euchre Night on Saturday Nov. 7. Please bring a snack to share and a non-alcoholic beverage of your choice. Fun begins at 7:00 pm.

## CHRISTIAN ED, YOUTH GROUP AND BIBLE STUDIES

### **Sunday Morning Children's Programming**

Sunday morning programming for all students is at 9:00 back in the Cross & Crown section of the building. Students in K-5th grade will meet in the Gloryland area. Lead teachers for this group are Brandon Hulse and Liz Lichtenberger, with several assistants.

### **Confirmation Sunday at 9:00**

The class is called *Faith Conversations with Pastor Erik; Confirmation & Beyond*. High School students are welcome (encouraged!) to attend as this gives our older youth a chance to keep exploring and refining what they believe. Pastor Erik believes their experiences and questions will add a great deal to the conversation. Join us in the Cross & Crown area.

### **Youth Group for Grades 6-12**

Our youth meet tonight at 5:00 as a large group (but may split into smaller groups depending on the theme of the night). We are focusing on the Parables this year with some of our favorite traditional events thrown in (Advent calendars, 95 Reece's, etc.).

We are asking each family to host a dinner or two this year, please. This includes set up, providing, and cleaning up the meal for the group. Dinner is typically served around 5:45 pm but is very flexible. See Jenn Stump if you would like to sign up to provide dinner.

### **Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Join us Wednesday mornings in the Cross & Crown area from 8:30 to 10:00. The resource is The Wired Word which uses current events as lesson topics for each meeting. Relevant scripture is provided to guide the group's discussion in applying the lesson to our faith in today's world. Come and join us as we dig into God's Word together!

### **WOW (Women on Wednesday)**

We meet in the Parlor from 9:15-11:00 each Wednesday morning. We have ladies new to studying the Bible along with those more experienced, but rest assured, all are welcome! We are currently studying "Matthew, Together by Grace Bible Conversations."

## DEVOTIONS

### **THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Evils of this World**

We might think that God's beloved children would have special perks and advantages in life, kind of like how a good job comes with perks and a nice benefits package. But baptism does not deliver us from worldly peril and misfortune. Jesus tells his followers that the world may hate them (John 15:18), and Scripture warns that evil can prowl like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). We also know the pull of desires that lead us away from the life God intends for us (Ephesians 4:22). We do not face these struggles alone. The risen Christ is with us always (Matthew 28:20). God's promises of mercy, made known through Jesus, will not fail us. So let us take heart because we know the Lord of hosts will not forsake us!

### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 4:46–54 “Hearing Is Believing”**

We often hear the saying, “Seeing is believing.” We may assume that if God wants to strengthen our faith, God will send special signs, miracles, and wonders to confirm grace. But consider how Jesus meets the official in this story. His son is gravely ill, and the father comes to Jesus in desperation. Jesus speaks of people's desire for signs and wonders, then gives the official a word: a promise. The official sees no miracle before he leaves. He has only Jesus' word—and trusts it. Jesus' word does not fail. The father learns on the way home that his son has been healed at the very hour Jesus spoke. *Grant me faith in your word, O Lord, that it may be my comfort. Amen.*

### **MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:161–168 “David's Faith”**

Many of us know what it's like to be treated unfairly or even face hostility. Perhaps someone gives you a cold shoulder at the grocery store or speaks about you unkindly when you are not there. Imagine facing the power of a government set against you. The psalmist describes that kind of fear and pressure. Even amid the threat, the psalmist says, “My heart stands in awe of your words.” This is faith: trusting God's word even when circumstances are frightening. God's promise can comfort us amid all that troubles us—the world's hostility, the pull of sin, and the powers that seek to harm us. Like the psalmist, we can find our treasure in God's word. *Grant me faith to treasure your promise, O Lord. Amen.*

### **TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Hosea 13:14 “Death Without Its Sting”**

Death's appetite seems insatiable. It takes the great and the small, the rich and the poor. It can be hard to understand why death comes to people whose lives seem so different, or why suffering touches both the righteous and the wicked. Scripture does not ask us to call death fair or to pretend that grief is easy. It names death as an enemy. Sin and death hold power over human life, but they do not have the final word. So as people of faith we take heart! The price has been paid, not by us, but by Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Christ has broken death's claim and opened the promise of life with God. God's mercy is for you. We will live! The sting of death will not last forever. Christ is risen. *Grant me resurrection hope, O Lord. Amen.*

**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: John 4:31–42 “Doing God’s Will”**

Jesus says that His food is to do the will of the One who sent Him. And, in a wonderful way, God’s will gives us life, too. Luther’s explanation of the Third Petition reminds us that we pray for God’s will to be done among us: that God would break the plans of evil and keep us firm in the word. God provides for us in many ways. God gives us strength to resist evil and comforts us with the promise of forgiveness. Through Scripture, preaching, and the life of the community, God teaches us and sustains our faith. We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. *Lord, thank you for the life and comfort your word gives. Amen.*

**THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10–17 “Standing Against the Devil”**

The letter to the Ephesians pictures the struggle against evil as a battle. God does not leave us to face it alone. In baptism, God joins us to Christ, and the passage describes the gifts that help us stand: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. These gifts help us resist what would harm us and remain grounded when the struggle is long. We do not stand because we are strong on our own. We stand because God is faithful, because God’s word holds us, and because Christ is with us. *Lord Jesus, who holds the field forever, protect us through every trial and keep us rooted in your promise. Amen.*

**FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7–13 “The Church’s Treasure”**

The church in Philadelphia is one of only two churches in the opening chapters of Revelation that receives no rebuke. The letter praises them for keeping God’s word and holding fast to Christ, even though they have little power. This brings comfort to us, especially when the church seems weak or we feel overlooked. Our hope does not depend on being powerful or admired. God’s Word is our treasure and our stronghold. Christ holds the door open and promises life to all who remain in his care. *Dear Jesus, help us abide in your word and receive it as our greatest treasure. Amen.*

**SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:1–13 “A Psalm for the Troubled in Spirit”**

This psalm gives voice to people in distress—those troubled by abandonment, sorrow, hostility, and the nearness of death. It is especially good to remember and pray when the trials we have considered this week come upon us. In quiet and contented times, it may be easy to remember God’s mercy and promises. But when fear or grief arrives, our strength and confidence can falter, and it may be hard to hear God’s voice above all the noise. Thanks be to God for friends, siblings in Christ, and faithful mentors who come alongside us—not only with kind words, but with God’s word when we need it most. *Make us strong, and let our hearts take courage as we wait for you, O Lord. Amen.*

