Christ Lutheran CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP
We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!
God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP
A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in Room 110.

RESTROOMS
Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION
Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* arr. Cherwien

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider filling out a Connection Card online (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.

Prayer requests can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider preparing your space for Communion: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

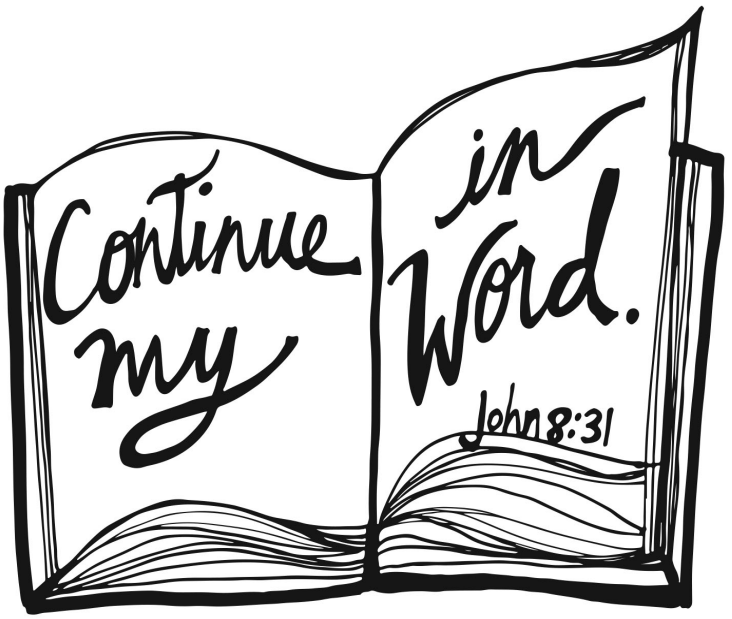
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



GATHERING HYMN ELW #503 ***A Mighty Fortress is Our God***



PRAYER OF THE DAY
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A silence is kept before the prayer.

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 word, 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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME
The assembly is seated as children are invited for a time together.

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

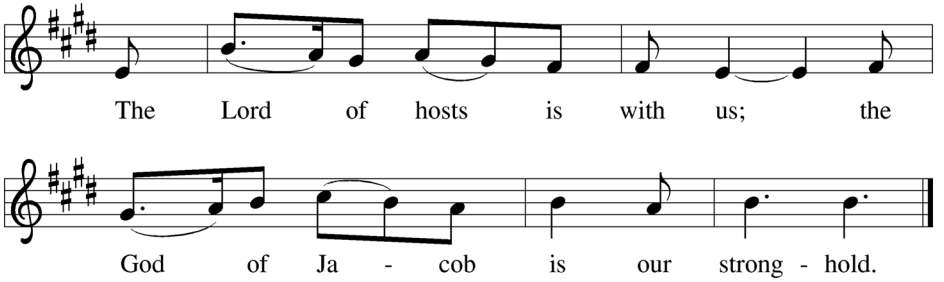
31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made
with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of
Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I 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.

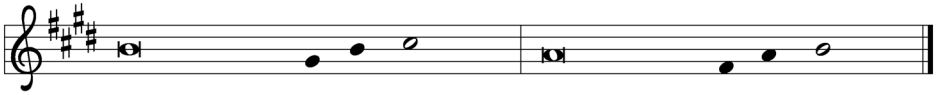
PSALM 46

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



[1]God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
[2]Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
[3]though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
[4]There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
[5]God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
[6]The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
[7]The LORD of | hosts is with us;
he God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
[8]Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
[9]behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
[10]"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
[11]The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

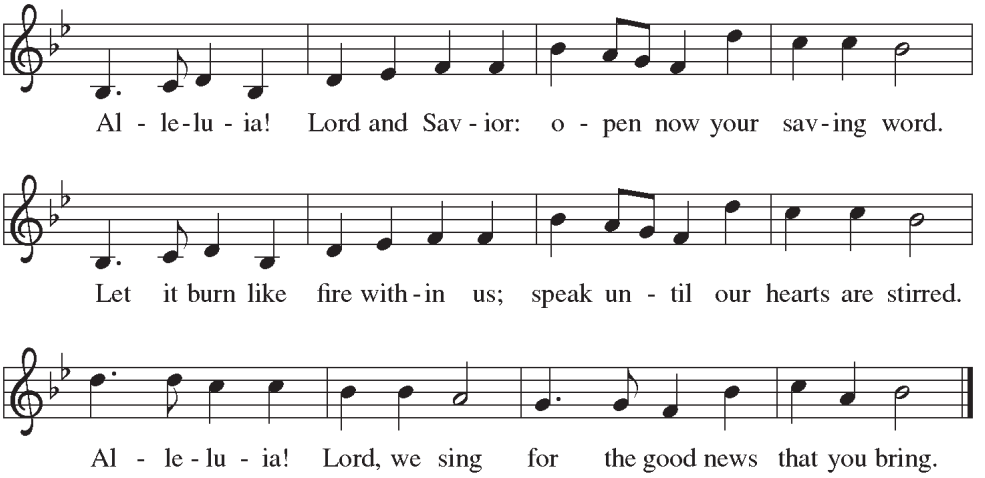
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is
attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God; 24 they 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 ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36
Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

31 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.

SERMON
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #517 ***Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word***

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations— further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.
As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed, especially the waters, soil, and air affected by our local industrial legacy. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. We pray for the nations and territories of the Caribbean – protect vulnerable lands and people, empower churches, and nurture justice. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.
With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead, including Phillip Nicolai, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, Simon, and Jude. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: Peace be with you!

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the offerings of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Lutheran World Relief lwr.org and ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response elca.org/hunger and elca.org/disaster

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.

OFFERTORY (8:00 a.m.) *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* Manz

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.) *Rejoice in God* Schütz/Grundahl

Rejoice in God, all Christendom, your hearts and voices raising, with glad new songs, rejoicing come, God's wondrous mercy praising. Sing unto God with psaltery, let harps and strings accompany your hymns of praise and honor. The word of God is always true, and we may trust it ever. What God has promised, God will do, for love will fail us never. We sing of truth and righteousness, the earth which God did make and bless is full of love and goodness. Our soul now waits for you, O God, our help and our protection. Our heart rejoices in your word, we trust in your direction. Your mercy God, upon us be according as we hope in thee. You are our mighty refuge. All Christendom, in God rejoice!

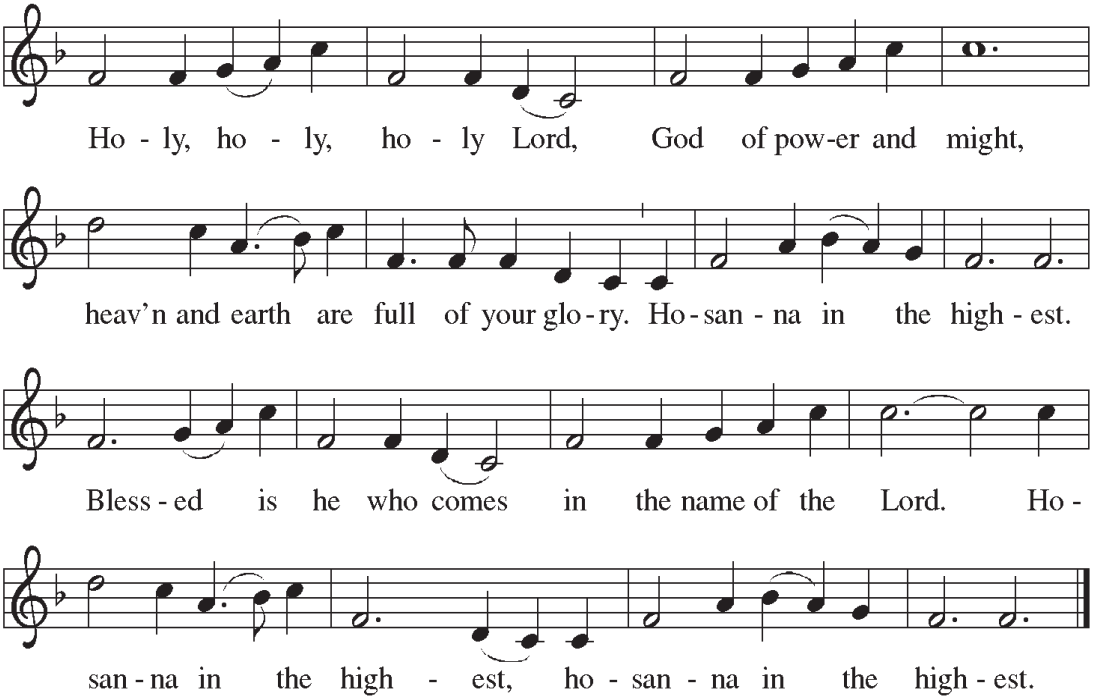
OFFERING PRAYER
The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Blessed are you, O God,
maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER
Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION
*The pastor invites those **worshiping via livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

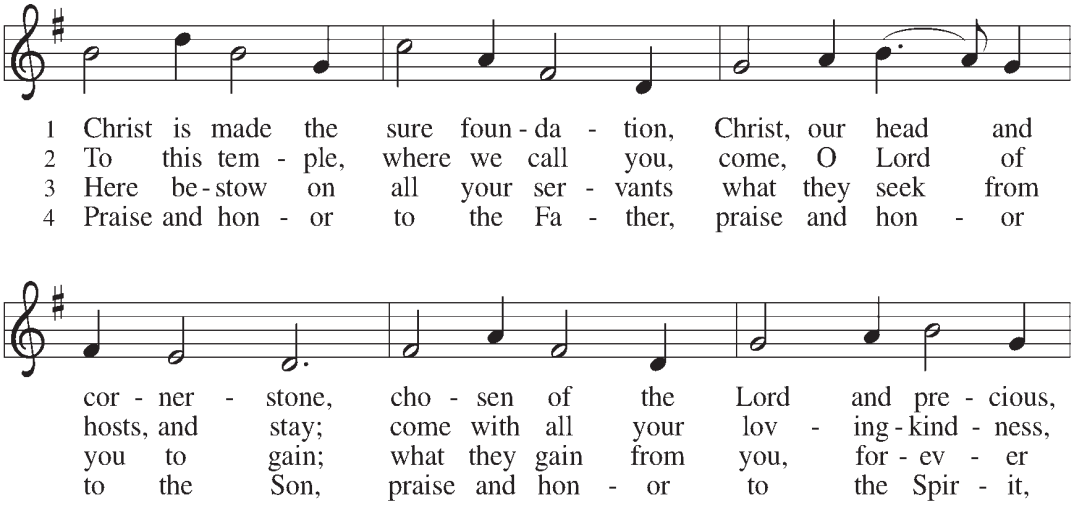
*In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **Wine** is lighter-colored and **grape juice** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays or wine in the Common Cup. Used glasses are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **Gluten-Free Bread** is available, please indicate to the server that you require this.*

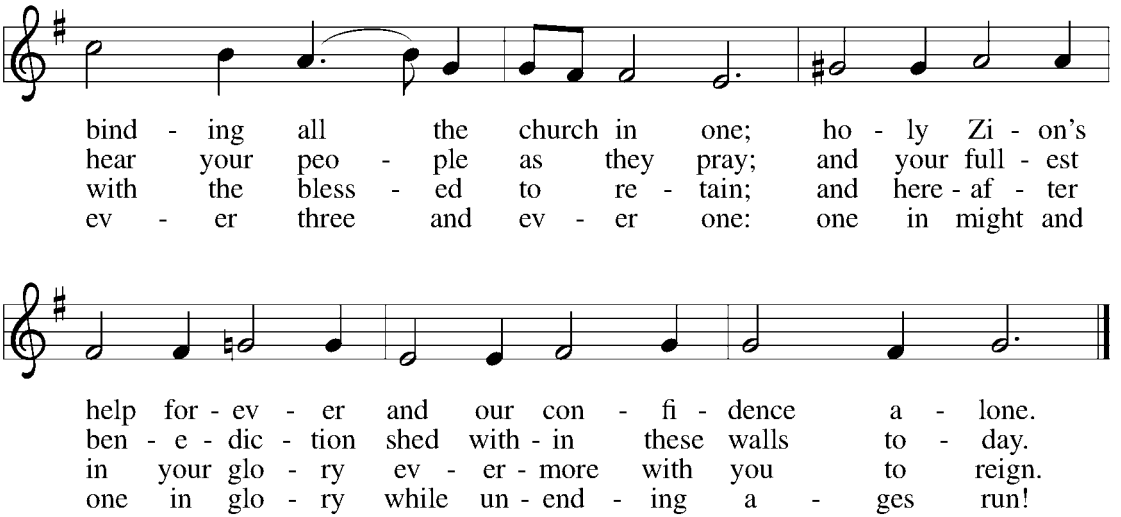
LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #645 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*





ELW #729 ***The Church of Christ in Every Age***



After all have returned to their place, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS
The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #1048 ***Founded on Faith***



Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elert

Worship Leaders	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Acolyte	Luke Ridley	Caleb Burnside
Lector	Kelly/Melanie Kratz	Sheila Burnside
Prayer Assistant	Kelly/Melanie Kratz	Heather Abbring
Communion Assistants	Barbara Clements Kathy Sutherland	Lillian DeJesus
Ushers	Vickie Copeland Gregg Copeland	
Sound/Light		Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	Adrianne Murray
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Karl Stefans, cantor	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **The Caribbean: Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinque, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saba, St Barts, St Eustatia, Saint Martin/ Sint Maarten, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, US Virgin Islands.**

We are thankful for:

- the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive cultural practices of these islands
- how churches have responded to disasters and served all in need
- how liberation from colonialism and oppression has been pursued through music, words and actions
- the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have come from this region.

We pray for:

- those devastated by disasters, that their lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt
- the strengthening of all who faithfully witness through word and deed to the gospel
- all those affected by crime and addictions
- good governance and smooth transitions between political leaders.

COMMEMORATIONS
Week of October 25, 2026

October 26

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote *"O Morning Star, how fair and bright"* and *"Wake, awake, for night is flying."* Heermann's hymns, including *"Ah, holy Jesus,"* often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

October 28 ~ Simon and Jude, Apostles

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

October 31 ~ Reformation Day

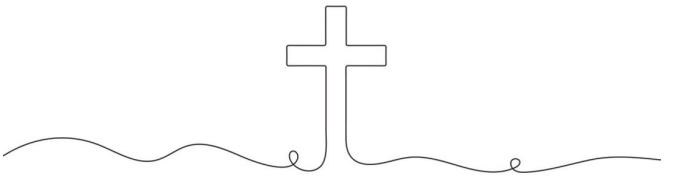
By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

Always Reforming

A core teaching for Martin Luther and other church reformers in the sixteenth century was that God grants us salvation not because of our good works but by God's grace through faith. Our good works flow out as our response to God's great gift.
The work begun by Luther and others has continued through the years. The church in North America may appear to be in decline today, but do not lose heart. The church is always in the process of reformation, and the Holy Spirit is always at work in the church.

The church's mission to bring good news to all also continues. Out of gratitude for God's gifts to us, we go out to proclaim the gospel, work for justice and peace, and love our neighbors in all parts of the world. For some, good news comes in the form of word and sacrament. For others, good news is food, clothing, housing, advocacy, disaster relief, caring conversations, and much more. Wherever we go, we meet people where they're at.

On this Reformation Day, take time to pray for the church, for its ongoing reformation, for the healing of divisions, for the renewal of faith and mission, and for the strength to persevere in these efforts. How might you or your congregation support or participate in this important work?



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