



REFORMATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31, 2021

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!
*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit.*
You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “How Firm a Foundation”

Setting by Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Handbell Choir; Rebecca Carpenter, flute

***Call to Worship**

We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit
whose light brought new understanding
of both the Living Word and the written Scripture.

**We give thanks
for the reminder of consistent grace and mercy
from God through Jesus Christ.**

We are grateful for the inspiration
that lead to the printing press,
enabling the spread of information
and the sharing of the gospel in many languages.

**We thank God for the technologies
that can be used for good
for the support of communities and individuals.**

We remember the lives that were lost
in the struggle to reform the church on earth –
those who were martyred,
those who died fighting,
those who perished in hiding,
and who were killed on all sides.

**We remember also the lives that have been lost
throughout history in the name of religion
and for those who die today for daring to believe.**

We thank you for the instruction that comes
through our church heritage –
the catechisms,
the understanding of the saints,
the gift of community,
and a deeper appreciation of God's gift of Holy
Communion and Holy Baptism.

**We thank you for the presence of Jesus
Christ –
in us, with us, and for us –
and for the support of the Holy Spirit,
ever-reforming us.**

God of stability and change,
we thank you that true reformation is always
your work and always being done in us
out of your love for your whole creation.
We are ever reformed by the work of your love.
**We are ever reformed by the work of God's
love.**

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 504

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Doug Schuldt, trumpet; Setting by John Ferguson

***Welcome**

***Greeting, Kyrie, Canticle** — *Setting Four, front of hymnal, page 147 & 149*

***Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Reforming God,
we give you thanks
for your forgiveness and your blessing.
We pray for ourselves and your church
throughout the world.
Fill us with a spirit of openness to your Spirit,
to hear and receive your promises
and to keep our covenant with you.

Where we are corrupt, purify us.
Where we are in error, direct us.
Where we are in need, provide for us.
Where we are divided, reunite us.
And where we are close-minded,
reform us and make us new.
We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It 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. 33But 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. 34No 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46 — *interpretive reading; congregation reads the **bold** parts*

God is our refuge and our strength,
an ever-present help in distress.

Though the earth trembles,
and mountains slide into the sea,
we will not fear.

**Waters may rise and roar,
and mountains shake at their surging;
but the God of hosts is with us--
our stronghold, the God of Israel.**

Even if nations are in chaos, and kingdoms fall,
God's voice resounds; the earth melts away.

**Yahweh is with us;
the God of Israel is our stronghold.**

Come! See the deeds of the Most High,
the marvellous things God has done on earth;
all over the world, God has stopped wars--
breaking bows, splintering spears,
burning the shields with fire.
"Be still! and know that I am God,
exalted among the nations, exalted upon the earth."

**The Most High is with us;
our stronghold is the God of Israel.**

A Reading from the Epistles — Romans 3:19-28

19Now 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. 20For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — *Setting Four, front of hymnal, page 151*

***Gospel** — John 8:31-36

The Gospel of John, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

31Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33They 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’?”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Faith, Grace, Truth, Freedom--and Love”

Martin and Katie Luther

*Hymn — no. 975, from *All Creation Sings*

“O God, Whose Word Well-Planted”



1 O God, whose word well-plant-ed yields fruit a hun-dred-fold,
2 O God of seed and har-vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi-nal har-vest of his-t'ry's an-cient field



we praise your grac-es grant-ed to those who sowed of old,
at-tend the word we sow, lest its plant-ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud-est that hu-man work can yield.



who by their wit-ness scat-tered good seed up-on the soil
Send show-ers of your Spir-it, bright sun-shine of your grace,
Op-pression's blight will van-ish, fair free-dom's fruits in-crease;



where oth-ers, reap-ing, gath-ered the har-vest of their toil.
that mul-ti-tudes who hear it your gos-pel may em-brace.
and love and joy will flour-ish to clothe the earth with peace.

This is one of two texts today written by Hermen G. Stuempfle, Jr. In this hymn, we explore the importance of planting seeds of faith by learning and studying the lessons provided to us through the scriptures. On Reformation Sunday, we remember this heritage and find ways - old and new - to pass that heritage onto generations to come.

*Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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**

*Prayers of Intercession

Called to be always reforming, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Guide all who govern and vote to seek wisdom and understanding so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reform. Hear us, O God. **Guide our reformation.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the ever-reforming Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Sharing the Meal

*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.**

***Sanctus** — from *Setting Four, front of hymnal, page 153*

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

As we prepare to eat together as your disciples did,

We remember and we speak that truth out loud, praying together,

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.

Distribution of Communion & Blessing

“Lamb of God” — from *Setting Four, front of hymnal, page 154*

Departing to Serve God’s World

Temple Talk and Announcements

*Sending Hymn —

“Risen Christ, You Call and Send Us”



1. Ris - en Christ, you call and send us
 2. “Make dis - ci - ples of all na - tions!
 3. Christ, through all the pass - ing cen - turies
 4. Make your church a liv - ing wit - ness



where your Gos - pel is un - heard. Help us
 Serve the poor and seek the lost! Take my
 march the saints where you have led, strength - ened
 in this pres - ent, ur - gent hour, bear - er



hear your great com - mis - sion, “Go, and preach my
 cross up - on your shoul - der! Bear with me love’s
 by the Spir - it’s pres - ence, by your Word up -
 of your Gos - pel’s prom - ise, a - gent of its



sav - ing Word! I have prom - ised to be
 weight and cost! I have prom - ised to be
 lift - ed, fed: “I have prom - ised to be
 truth and pow’r, trust - ing you are ev - er



with you, e - ven to the end of time.”
 with you, e - ven to the end of time.”
 with you, e - ven to the end of time.”
 with us, e - ven to the end of time!

*Blessing

For all that God can do within us, For all in whom Christ lived before us, For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for all that God can do without us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,
Thanks be to God! **Thanks be to God!** **Thanks be to God!**

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and on your way together, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Dismissal

Go in faith, grace, truth, freedom, and love. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude — “Ein Feste Burg”

Setting by Johann Pachelbel

Acknowledgements

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“Reformation Day Litany” written by lutherjulia, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. Adapted. <http://revgalblogpals.org/>

“Pastoral Prayer for Reformation” from “Seasons of the Spirit – Reformation Day (Years A,B,C). Posted on Seasons Online. https://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/reformation-day_cong-life

“Psalm 46” posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/litany-psalm-46.html>

“Blessing” from Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion. Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017. Written by the Liturgical Task Force of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity.

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Common_Prayer_for_Catholic-Lutheran_Commemoration_of_Reformation_2017.pdf

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Worship Assistants

Interim Pastor: Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers
Musicians: Handbell Choir, Doug Schuldt, Rebecca Carpenter

Greeter/Reader: Aileen Bipes
Ushers: Cory Stadick, Ezekiel Ribar

Announcements

- Kathryn Christenson is requesting prayers for her daughter, Abigail, as she changes from oral chemo to IV chemotherapy.
- We pray for Renee, the sister of Becky Otterness; Renee’s house in Seattle recently burned down.
- We renew our prayers for Erika Schuldt who is recovering from a hospital stay.
- Altar Flowers are given today by David Pehrson in memory of his wife Doreen Pehrson

Prayers

We pray for Mary Pieklo, mother of Bob & Rhoda Stenson’s daughter-in law.

We pray for Betty Thompson’s sister Nancy Maag who is recovering from surgery.

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Gwen Weldon, Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glen Stryker, and Urusla McRostie; and we pray for for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones, including the families of Tom Stenson, Mary Lee Denley, Marion Peterson, and Bob Isenberg.