

***ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*- CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION -
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO*



***FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION
OCTOBER 31, 2021***

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

www.clclutheran.org

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)

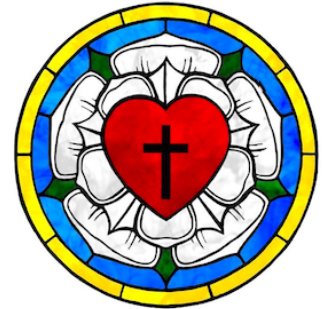
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Suzannah Miller

Usher: Mark Hartmeister

A Special Welcome to our worship guests. It is the prayer of St. Paul Congregation that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. We invite you to sign our guest book and come worship with us again. If you would like more information about our church please speak to the pastor or members at your convenience.



For Pre-Service Meditation: Psalm 46 (pew bible, page 504)

Liturgical Notes: The colors up from have been changed to red for the Festival of Reformation. Red symbolizes the working of the Holy Spirit in hearts through the preaching of the Word, as on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit showed His presence then in tongues of fire which came to rest on the apostles (Acts 2:3). The color red also can remind us of the dedication of such servants of God as Martin Luther who were willing to suffer and even shed their blood, if need be, for the sake of the Gospel message of salvation by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

*Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by
the tract rack or by request from an usher.*

Order of Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Come, Let Us Join in Praise
Melody: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1. Come, let us join in praise God's people one and all,
Who through the years have been both blest In body and in soul.
Lift up your hearts to sing And raise your voices strong.
Let all the world behold our God And join to sing our song.

2. Come, let us hear His Word Inspired by our God.
It lights our every step as we Through this world's darkness plod.
As we thus walk with God Our hand in His each day,
We'll find a peace in heart and soul In Him, the Truth, the Way.

3. Come, let us talk with God, We never are alone,
He hears us each and every one And all our needs are known.
In sorrow and in pain Our God will comfort us
And bring us through the trying hours To peace and happiness.

4. Come, let us offer gifts With hearts of thankfulness,
That we may tell the whole wide world What God has done for us,
And give to people lost And caught in Satan's lies
The gift of God's redemptive grace To dry repentant eyes.

5. Come let us dedicate Ourselves to God each day,
May He inspire our heart and mind And everything we say.
The future of our life Rests firmly in His love,
Throughout our life we'll live for Him On earth and then above.

Welcome

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (says) **Amen.**

Call to Worship

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!:

C **Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.**

P Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving:

C **Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down:

C **Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

P For He is our God:

C **And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.**

**Responsive Reading of Scriptures,
with Martin Luther's Hymn,
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"**

- P You have been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. 1 Peter 1:23
- C **O Lord, I rejoice at Your Word as one who finds great treasure.** Psalm 119:162

**Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit and sword
Would seek to overthrow Your Son
And to destroy what He has done.**

- P Jesus said: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32
- C **O Lord, Your Word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it.** Psalm 119:140

**Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your Christendom that we
May sing Your praise eternally.**

- P Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17
- C **O Lord, You are my hiding place and my shield; I have put my hope in Your Word.** [NKJV] Psalm 119:114

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your Word, protect and comfort them against all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church Your saving peace. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C (says) **Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Song by the Sunday School Children
Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (LSB #865)

Second Lesson

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Third Lesson

Luke 8:4-15

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Confession of Faith

From the Epitome of the Formula of Concord

We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone. For it is written in Psalm 119:105, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” St. Paul has written, “even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

However, other writings by ancient or modern teachers—no matter whose name they bear—must not be regarded as equal to the Holy Scriptures. All of them are subject to the Scriptures. Other writings should not be received in any other way or as anything more than witnesses that testify about how this pure doctrine of the prophets and apostles was preserved after the time of the apostles . . .

In this way the distinction between the Holy Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament and all other writings is preserved. The Holy Scriptures alone remain the judge, rule, and norm. According to them—as the only touchstone—all teachings shall and must be discerned and judged to see whether they are good or evil, right or wrong.

At All Times and in All Places

(The Nicene Creed, sung)

Melody: “*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*”

At all times and in all places God’s people of all lands and races

Declare the faith we call our own:

We believe, one hope confessing, In God, the source of ev’ry blessing,

Almighty Father, Lord alone.

By His great majesty Creation came to be, earth and heaven.

God formed them all; things great and small

Came forth at His creating call.

We believe in Christ, our Savior, Who brought to earth God’s holy favor.

By God the Holy Ghost conceived,

Born of Mary, virgin mother, The Word-made-flesh, our human brother,

The name of Jesus He received.

By Pontius Pilate slain, He rose to life again and ascended

To God’s right hand. At His command

In judgment all the world will stand.

We believe in God the Spirit Through whom, as Christians, we inherit
Forgiveness wrought by God's own Son.
Now one body, saints in union, We share a mystic, sweet communion,
With prophets and apostles one.
One Church, one Lord we claim, One Baptism in His name,
one sure promise: Triumphant, we the grave shall flee
To live with God eternally!

The Sermon

Text: Revelation 14:6-7 – Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Theme: *“The Invincible Gospel”*

- 1. It cuts through earth's darkness with heavenly Good News.
- 2. It spreads out to every nation and language.
- 3. It encourages true Christian faith in all who hear it.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer / Lord's Prayer

Hymn 656 (1-3)

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

The Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **The One who calls us is faithful, and He will do this. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 656, stanza 4

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (10/31)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Reformation Festival Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
Sun (11/7)	3:00 pm	Front Range Reformation Festival Service (<i>see announcement below</i>)
	8:30 am	Elders' Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Class

The Annual Front Range Reformation Festival Service will be conducted today at 3:00 pm, hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland. The service will be followed by a fellowship meal. All are invited. Note: Pastor Wheaton informed us that Larimer County (where Prince of Peace is located) recently began a “mask mandate” for public gatherings. For this reason, if you plan to attend the Loveland service you’re encouraged to bring a mask.

Thanksgiving Festival Service: Wednesday, November 24, at 7:00 pm.

A Welcome Reception Is Planned for Sunday, November 14, after the worship service for those who became a part of our St. Paul church family during the past year: *Karen Thompson; Jesse and Shelly Cornish and children Jesse Jr, Joseph, and Jacob; Dennis Roberson; and DeLisa Poholek.* Karen was received as a member in February. The Cornish’s were received as new members by transfer (from Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN) in June. Dennis and DeLisa were received as members at the October Voters’ Meeting. Members are requested to bring soup and/or sandwiches for sharing at the potluck. *“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1.*

Our St. Paul Mary & Martha Ladies’ Group continues to financially sponsor our seminary student, Komla Agbayi, at the Mt. Horeb Lutheran Bible Institute in Lomé, Togo. The annual cost is \$350, which is due each January. Members of St. Paul to help defray this cost through donations you may want to give toward this. To give a donation place your gift in a separate envelope marked “Mary Martha Kinship” & place it in the offering plate or you can give it to the Mary/Martha treasurer, Crystal Ruegge. If you would like to donate with a check, please make it out to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” and on the memo space write “Mary Martha Kinship.” Thank you!

Our Hearty Thanks To All who gave of their time, talents, and energy during our recent Fall clean-up day. A large number of projects and chores were completed to maintain and beautify our church property and grounds. The fruits of your labor help to present St. Paul in a good image in our community, part of letting our Christian light shine for the Lord in the world. Thank you again!

November Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

Emily Ruegge, Nov 8	Shelly Cornish, Nov 15	(Adam & Shawna Fritzler, Nov 24)
Joshua Ruegge, Nov 9	Jerry Wamboldt, Nov 23	
Darrick Peters, Nov 12	Linda Wamboldt, Nov 24	

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One of the most familiar symbols of the Church is a ship sailing through troubled waters. It symbolizes the Ship of the Church threatened by the storms of persecution, heresy, dissension, unionism, and indifference to sound doctrine. Its only hope for survival is not the seamanship of the crew, but the divine power and mercy of its Unseen Pilot, Christ our Lord, the Head of the Church, who stilled the tempest on the Sea of Galilee. <> The symbolism of the ship has carried over into the vocabulary of church architecture: the main auditorium of a church between the chancel and narthex is called the *nave*, a term derived from the Latin word for ship — *navis*.

Acknowledgements

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THY STRONG WORD

ALL	1 Thy strong word did cleave the	dark - ness; At Thy
Choir	2 Lo, on those who dwelt in	dark - ness, Dark as
Choir	3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us	righ - teous; Bright with
Choir	4 From the cross Thy wis - dom	shin - ing Break-eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - giv - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Choir

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

ALL

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions – November 1-6

Mon Jeremiah 18:1-11 Ancient Palestinians suffered much from foreigners, and God was using them to bring Israel to repentance. Israel's problem was common to humans: moral degeneration which begins with individuals (11) and soon infects the entire nation. Unrepented sin brings disastrous consequences; on the other hand, God relents and rebuilds a future for repentant individuals and repentant nations. [It sounds current, doesn't it?]

Tues Mark 13:1-11 Jesus upgraded Jeremiah's warning for the Jews (1-2), which fits our world, too (5-8). *So watch out for yourselves*, Christians, for you will be persecuted and face court trials (9). When that happens to you, God's Holy Spirit will give you the right responses for a testimony to/against them. [Martin Luther was blessed via that experience; praise the Lord!]

Wed Revelation 14:6-7 *Angel* = messenger, and this one was air-borne so he could broadcast his message *to all those who dwell on the Earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, “Revere God and give glory to Him, for your time of grace has evaporated! Get down on your knees and worship Him who created a viable Earth until He finishes it off in flames [2 Peter 3:10].* Martin Luther was God's messenger, and today many others are using the air-waves to broadcast God's Word.

Thurs Psalm 46 Since *God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble*, we can face catastrophes (1-3) from a safe place (4-5). Even if Europe, Asia, Africa, Indonesia, and the Americas go berserk, we will *take refuge in the God of Jacob* (cf. Genesis 28:13-15). When life gets scary, let's remind ourselves that God is still behind the steering wheel (8-9). That knowledge helps us o quit complaining (10). Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

Fri Matthew 24:1-14 We are less interested in the Temple than the disciples were; they were impressed, Jesus was not. We are more interested in the next question: *“What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”* They wanted advance notice on the arrival of Judgment Day. Here are the clues: False saviors will deceive many, wars and natural disasters will multiply; you will be targeted, too. There's only one redeeming factor that will prepare humanity for meeting Jesus (14). God grant it!

Sat 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Let's sit down and count our blessings. We have been *given the grace of God via Christ Jesus; we have been enriched in every-which way via Jesus; God has not begrudged us any blessing, and He has pledged to carry us through to the end, so that we may be blameless in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.* God is dependable! Count on it (9)! Amen and Amen!

“The judgment of the Lord rests upon the churches of this land, and we are not exempt. Yes, the Lord has given us a blessing . . . but we are in grave danger of throwing it away . . .”

REFORMATION . . . PAST AND PRESENT

The man whom God raised up in the history of the Church to lead His people back to the saving Gospel wrote these words as part of his little handbook for teaching children (the Small Catechism): “. . . and that again a new man should daily come forth and arise who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

It is one thing for Lutherans to gather together sometime close to the end of October and attempt to keep their children’s minds on the history of the Reformation rather than on “tricks or treats.” But it is quite another matter for parents and children alike to focus on what the Reformation is all about today.

Need For Reformation

It may help us all to recall that the need for reformation is not nearly so much the outward celebration of an annual event as it is the need to begin each day (with an inward reformation celebration).

The Reformation past was a vast movement involving whole nations over many years of history. The reformation present, on the other hand, is a personal and daily celebration. Each of us is to face each new day under the renewed grace of God alone. Forgiveness for the past has been earned by Christ on the cross, and the new man needs to come forth each day and take over against the sins of yesterday.

The person who depends on history and singing “A Mighty Fortress” once or twice does not know that real reformation is. And that also includes all in this fellowship who can take pride in our own confessional past but largely ignore the on-going nature of this festival.

A *Lutheran Spokesman* editorial out of the past regularly comes to memory, the gist of which is well worth repeating. Concerning a then four-year-old CLC, the lead article began: “We are not a strong church body. We are weak, and we are sick. We are an offshoot of the Synodical Conference, a dying church, a tree cut down under the judgment of God. We are not the cream, the saving of the best.

“We have been conditioned to think that if a church has the correct presentation of the doctrine that it must be a good church. But this is not so. We are judging by external appearance. What we see does not tell us how deep are the ulcers of the stomach, how far advanced the cancer in the lungs, how far developed the cirrhosis of the liver.

“The judgment of the Lord rests upon the churches of this land, and we are not exempt. Yes, the Lord has given us a blessing, a great one, and an undeserved one. He has also given us another opportunity, but we are in grave danger of throwing it away if we look to ourselves, if we think we have purified ourselves of all the weaknesses of the present age . . . It is always fatal to boast (as some did in John 8:33) ‘we are Abraham’s children’” (May, 1965, Vol. 7, #12).

Beginning With Me

But now let us resolve as we celebrate Reformation past also to encourage one another: “Lord, let the Reformation, glorious in history, begin anew in me each day”—and the blessings of God on our fellowship will continue.

Reformation is a present, on-going, daily battle with that unholy trinity of Satan, world, and self. We will feel a part of Martin Luther and the Reformation past never so much as when we, together with him, by Word and Sacrament, make it the rule that the new man daily comes forth and arises who shall live before God in righteousness and purity (His—and ours by faith alone!) forever.

Reformation past? Celebrate it with gusto. Reformation present? Begin it anew right now.

-B. J. Naumann

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A REFORMATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows, And waits for Your salvation.

Built on this rock secure, Your Church shall endure
E'en though the world decay And all things pass away.

O, hear, O, hear us, Jesus!



Help us to serve You evermore
With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine,
Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow;
The power of sin destroy And evils that annoy.
O make us faithful Christians. Amen.

[LSB #647:1,3]