

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Church of the Lutheran Confession

www.clclutheran.org



Reformation Sunday – October 29, 2023

Order of Worship – Service of the Word

Find today's order of worship printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack). Large print copies of the order of worship and worship bulletin are on the shelf under the tract rack (or speak to an usher who will be happy to share them with you).

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Jeanna Kettner – Usher: Mark Hartmeister

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 46 (pew bible, p.504)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 656, 655, 658, 582
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36
- ◆ Confession of Faith for Reformation Sunday: Excerpts from *The Formula of Concord* (printed on page 5)

Sermon Text – Psalm 119:160-162

Theme – "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

1. In its entirety, God's Word is eternal truth.
2. We respond to God's Word with joy and holy awe.

(a CLC Ministry by Mail sermon)

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (582)

A Warm Welcome to visitors here with us this morning. We hope that you have benefited from the service, as much as we have enjoyed your company. We worship our Savior because of His grace and mercy for sinners. Come worship with us regularly, as we hear and receive and take the Gospel — the forgiveness of sin — getting it as from the mouth of God Himself, for it is His Word.

Liturgical Note

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.

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Romans 3:19-26

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 119

- P Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD:
C **Your salvation according to your promise.**
P Then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me:
C **For I trust in your word.**
P I will keep your law continually:
C **Forever and ever.**
P I will also speak of your testimonies before kings:
C **And shall not be put to shame.**
P For I find my delight in your commandments:
C **Which I love.**
P I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love:
C **And I will meditate on your statutes.**

Second Lesson – John 8:31-36

The Truth Will Set You Free

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Sermon Text – Psalm 119:160-162

God’s Word Is Our Priceless Treasure

160 The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. 161 Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word. 162 I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure. [NKJV]

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Confession of Faith for Reformation Sunday

(from excerpts drawn from *The Formula of Concord*, Article 3,
"The Righteousness of Faith Before God")

- P It is unanimously confessed in our churches, in accordance with God's Word and the meaning of the Augsburg Confession, that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved alone through faith in Christ.
- C Christ alone is our Righteousness. God forgives our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of ours.**
- P He presents and credits to us the righteousness of Christ's obedience.
- C Because of this righteousness, we are received into grace by God and regarded as righteous.**
- P Though many weaknesses and defects cling to the true believers until they die, still we must not on that account doubt either our righteousness, which has been credited to us through faith, or the salvation of our souls.
- C We may regard it as certain that for Christ's sake, according to the promise and immovable Word of the Holy Gospel, we have a gracious God.**
- P Faith alone is the means and instrument through which we lay hold of Christ and that righteousness that benefits us before God.
- C This faith is God's gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel.**
- P We believe that the repentance that comes before justification and the good works that follow it, do not belong the article of justification before God.
- C After man has been justified through faith, then a true living faith works by love.**
- P/C Good works always follow justifying faith and are surely found with it—if it is true and living faith. Faith is never alone, but always has love and hope with it.**

Announcements

Today (10/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Front Range Reformation Festival Service, hosted by Redeemer Lutheran, Cheyenne
Sun (11/5)	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 Worship Service is being held today, hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cheyenne. Pastor Schuetze is attending this service. Our thanks to Wayne Ruegge for conducting the service this morning at St. Paul in the pastor's absence.

Sem Student Sponsorship: The St. Paul Mary & Martha ladies group is providing financial support to a student attending the NCLC's Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria. The student's name is *Asukwo Asukwo Usuyak*. The annual amount for his support, \$360, is coming due soon. All St. Paul members are welcome to give a donation for Asukwo's seminary education. To make a contribution for this purpose ...

- Place your gift in your offering envelope with "Mary/Martha Kinship" on the "OTHER" blank,
- Place your gift in a regular envelope with "Mary/Martha Kinship" and place it in the collection, or
- Give your donation to the ladies' treasurer, Crystal Ruegge.

If you make a donation with a check make it out to "St. Paul Lutheran Church" with "Mary/Martha Kinship" written on the memo line. Thank you!

November Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

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

A Hearty Thank You to All who donated items for replenishing the church kitchen pantry. It is now well stocked for the foreseeable future. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

Time Change Coming: A reminder to turn your clocks back one hour next week as Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

October 30 – November 4

Mon Psalm 46 No matter what can happen in our life, even if the earth dissolves (v2), God is the fortress that keeps us safe. Nations may be in turmoil, but He who stands with us is mightier than all. Be still, my soul! Luther was content to stand with such a God rather than the greatest earthly ruler.

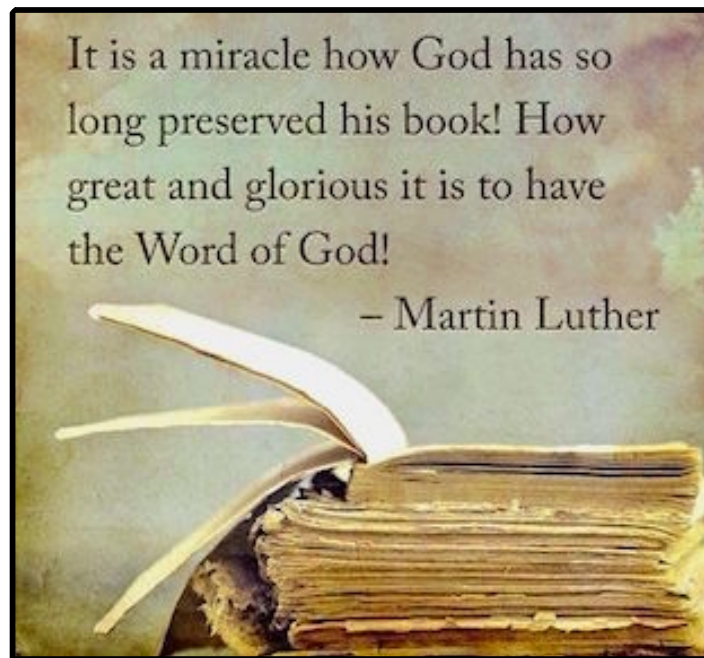
Tues John 2:13-17 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was not given to us in order to make a quick buck, nor is God worshiped by merchandising His mercy. The wealth of this world is paltry to Him. May it never becloud our adoration of Him.

Wed 1 Corinthians 3:11-23 Through the 16th century reformation God proclaimed again that Christ is the sure and only foundation for peace with Him, forgiveness of sins, true wisdom, and eternal life.

Thur Mark 10:13-16 The way to the kingdom of God is childlike faith, not the wisdom that comes with age, or the responsibility of an adult. Looking to Jesus brings blessing unimaginable.

Fri Ephesians 6:1-9 The apostle speaks to children and slaves as members of the household, and urges them to serve and honor those placed above them, for in this way they are serving the Lord (v7).

Sat 2 Samuel 7:17-19 The Lord has made known to David that his offspring will build the temple, and that his Offspring (Jesus, Lk1:33) will reign forever. David's thankful response: Who am I, that I should be so blessed?



A Poem by Pastor W. M. Czamanske
October 31, 1916

Martin Luther

A modest, quiet man he was, Yet firm and brave and strong,
Who would not brook a compromise, Nor plead the cause of wrong.
For him there was no middle course, Opinion, fancy, whim;
The narrow path that leads to life Was broad enough for him.

He did not waver to and fro, But knew just where he stood:
Against the things that God condemned, And for the right and good.
To him one word of God was more Than all the words of men.
'Twas this that gave such power to him, And to his mighty pen.

He did not fear the wrath of kings, The pomp of power and pride;
To him there was one Lord above, No other god beside.
He boldly spoke the Word of grace, Though men might bless or blame;
He tuned his harp and sang with joy The Savior's precious name.