

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Sunday, October 29, 2023 10:00 AM "Oktoberfest"

Reformation Sunday

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Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Elena Holub

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Love God, Love Neighbor (Luke 10:27)

**VISION STATEMENT:** We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshipping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- *Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.*

\* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

**INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS**

*(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)*

P We begin this celebration service in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

\* **WELCOMING SONG: "WE WELCOME YOU ALL TODAY"**  
(Tune: "In Heaven There is No Beer")

**We wel-come you all to-day – as we in song do pray.  
God's peo-ple all are we – Our hearts are full of love for you to see.**

**CHORUS: *Al-le Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le Al-le-lu-ia! Re-joice and sing praises to our God!***

**We wel-come you all to-day – And Lord, we'd like to say,  
We pray that this will be – A special Liturgy for you and me. CHORUS**

P This is the day that the Lord has made;  
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

\* **GATHERING SONG: "HERE WE GATHER"** (Tune: "Pretty Dancing Girl")  
Here we gather, Lord, in this special place.  
Hear us sing songs of joy, fill us with Your grace.  
Hear us sing songs of joy, fill us with Your grace.

**Jesus on the cross, He redeemed our loss.  
Through His love we are saved let our hearts rejoice.  
Through His love we are saved let our hearts rejoice.**

**Hear us as we pray, take our sins away.  
We give thanks for Your gifts, bless us on this day.  
We give thanks for Your gifts, bless us on this day.**

**In this humble church, hands in prayer we raise.  
We find peace in Your love as we sing in praise.  
We find peace in Your love as we sing in praise.**

\* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, first privately then together publicly.

*Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.*

P Most merciful God,

**C 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.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

\* **“GOD IS ONE” (Tune: “A já sám”)**

**God is one, three in one. Great compassionate and just.  
Jesus Christ, on the earth, shared humanity with us.  
Perfect union, sweet communion, of the Father and the Spirit,  
Gives us all, endless love, when the spirit dwells in us.**

**God is love, endless love. Unconditional and true.  
With this love, through the world, shared divinity with you.  
Freed the nations, Revelation, human caring, always sharing,  
Out of love, steadfast love, God in unity with all.**

**All on earth, knows Christ's birth, saves us all from Adam's sin.  
Washed with blood, saving blood. . . makes us clean and new again.  
Saving water, washing o'er us, sent from Heaven, God restores us  
Jesus Christ, Lord and life, makes us one with God again.**

\* **GREETING**

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

A Our first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 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.*

The reading begins:

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 46

A The Psalm today is Psalm 46. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

**<sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**SECOND READING:** Romans 3:19-28

A Our second reading is from Romans, chapter 3, verses 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.*

The reading begins:

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

\* **GOSPEL VERSE:** (Text: Ardene Wuthrich – 2003 Tune: “Julida Polka”)

- 1. We come to You, O Lord, because You call us.  
We come to You, O Lord, because You want us.  
We come to You, O Lord, because You love us.  
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our ears.**
- 2. We come to You, O Lord, because we need You.  
We come to You, O Lord, help us to see You.  
We come to You, O Lord, because we love You.  
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our eyes.**

- 3. Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and feed us.  
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and free us.  
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and lead us.  
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our hearts.**

\* **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.*

P The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 8, verses 31-36.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>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’?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

The Rev. Alan D. Kethan

\* **HYMN ELW - #504 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**
- 2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord. God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**
- 3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.**

4. **God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!**

*Text:* Martin Luther; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* *Music:* Martin Luther  
*Text* © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

\* **NICENE CREED**

- A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

**BLESSING OF THE QUILTS TO GOD**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

- A Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

- A God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict, especially in Ukraine, Sudan, Niger and Israel. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:  
Siegfried Keierleber; Randy Wendt; Terrel Maertz; Joyce Dehmer; Jacey; Marian Schonenberg; Tracy Rogers Kennedy; Maecon Caviness; Jessica Siewert; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A We pray for those battling cancer, all expectant mothers, those who reside in care facilities and the homebound, all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.** *{See all those we pray for on pages 14 & 15.}*
- A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and their Pastor Armando Capcha and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad and their leaders Pastors Gumer and Naomi Anton in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**
- A God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

\* **PEACE**

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.** *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

***(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)***

**OFFERING and POWER OF ONE**

*"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.*

\* **OFFERTORY: "DO YOU NOW WE LOVE JESUS"**

**(Tune: "Du, Du, Liegst Mir im Herzen")**

**Do you know we love Jesus? Do you know how we care?  
Do you know how we need Him, Praying together we share –**

**CHORUS:**

***Thank God, Thank God! Count all your blessings today.  
Thank God, Thank God! Count all your blessings today.***

**Do you know when we pray and follow Your Holy way!  
Do you know when we're singing, Your blessing with us will stay. CHORUS**

**Do you know how we thank you, for this beautiful day?  
Do you know when we leave you, we will remember and say: CHORUS**

\* **OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**C Amen.**

\* **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Vater unser im Himmel,**

**geheiligt werde Dein Name,**

**Dein Reich komme,**

**Dein Wille geschehe wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.**

**Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute,**

**Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unseren Schuldigern.**

**Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,**

**sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.**

**Denn Dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.**



**English Translation:**

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**

P Freed by Jesus, come and receive Him.  
C **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION** (Continuous with Individual Cups)

*{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}*

**SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION: "WE OFFER THANKS"**

(Tune: "At the Spring" (*U Studánky*) Waltz)

1. As we wor-ship here today Thanks we of-fer as we pray.  
Through this great sa-cra-ment divine. We will partake – of – bread and wine.  
Through this great sa-cra-ment divine. We will partake – of – bread and wine.
2. Bread becomes – Your body, Lord Wine, Your blood – our sacred food.  
As we receive You – here today Please cleanse our souls, we humbly pray.  
As we receive You – here today Please cleanse our souls, we humbly pray.
3. We give thanks – for all You give. Teach us Lord – the way to live.  
Shower us with Your grace and love, and lead us all – to heav'n above.  
Shower us with Your grace and love, and lead us all – to heav'n above.

**\* BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C **Amen.**

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.  
C **Amen.**

**\* BENEDICTION HYMN: (To the tune of "Edelweiss")**

*{St. Paul Trio – Tracy Baker, Sharon Johnson & Diane Rau – sings original song one time a cappella; congregation joins in the second time with words below}*

May the Lord, mighty God,  
bless and keep us forever.  
Grant you peace, perfect peace,  
Courage in ev'ry endeavor.

Lift up your eyes and see His face,  
and His grace forever.  
May the Lord, mighty God,  
bless and keep us forever.

"Edelweiss" - Music: Richard Rodgers Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II CCLI Song #7121528  
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**\* CLOSING & RECESSIONAL HYMN: "GO NOW AND SERVE HIM"**

(Text: Ardene Wuthrich – 2003 Tune: "Beer Barrel Polka")

1. Go now and serve Him. Serve Jesus, Savior and King.  
Go tell the story of the salvation He brings.  
Let us be faithful. Let us go forth with God's Word.  
For no one should be forgotten. Let God's message be heard.
2. With varied talents, all useful to our great Lord.  
Go now and serve Him. Let every gift be employed.  
We have one purpose. Touch every life that we can.  
Let us plan and work together, so God's love fills the land.
3. Go tell the story of Jesus, Savior and King.  
Go with the Good News. Tell how forgiveness he brings.  
Tell how He loves us, suffered and died in our place.  
Go and tell the joyful story of His kindness and grace.

**\* DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. You have been freed by Jesus. C **Thanks be to God, and we will.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Polka Musicians**

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**USHERS:** Bethany Guthmann; Sandy Cherniss; Fay & Thomas Ulbricht  
**LAY READER:** Walter Guthmann, Jr. **ACOLTYE:** Ericka Pesak  
**STREAMING:** Kay Wesson **POWER POINT:** Dinah Jacobs  
**SOUND:** Sydney Eaton and Todd Jacobs  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Edna Bergfeld and Ashlyn Pugh

**WELCOME:** Welcome to worship. God has been, and is, our dwelling place “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:1-2). Let us praise God, our eternal home, together.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Ken & Kay Wesson in memory of Kay's mother Peggy Chollett and Kay's grandmother Martha Thomas for the anniversary of their October birthdays – Peggy on October 26 and Martha on October 29.

**Vielen Dank** to Mike Gest, Gene Hackmack and John Holub for adding to our service today! Your instruments and talent added so much to the Polka tunes. We appreciate you joining us today! Thank you, also, to Clayton Holub for playing trumpet this morning to add something special to our sermon hymn.

**Dankeschon** to Gene Hackmack for reading The Lord's Prayer in German. We appreciate it very much. ☺

**COLLECTION OF OFFERING:** Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes “Power of One” dollars.

**Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses:** \$8,405.00

**Attendance:** October 21 & 22, 2023 – 193 **Contributions:** Oct. 21 & 22 – \$7,469.81  
**Power of One:** October 21 & 22, 2023 – \$44.00 **Building Fund:** Oct. 21 & 22 – \$718.23

*Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.*

**Wednesday Night Attendance:** – Wed., Oct. 25 – **94 Total**  
**BLAST/Confirmation:** 79 **Support Staff:** 15

\* **FAVORITE HYMN:** “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” by Martin Luther  
“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” [Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott] is a cornerstone of modern Christian hymnody. It's written by one of the most famous and beloved Christians in history and used as a battle cry during times of persecution.

The hymn is based on Psalm 46:7 “The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” The exact date it was written is questionable. Martin Luther may have written it in 1527 in response to persecutions that occurred at that time, during which Luther's friend, Leonhard Kaiser, was burned at the stake.

The hymn was written during the darkest time of the Reformation, giving the persecuted words of strength. The impact of the hymn was so powerful that it has been called “The Battle Hymn of the Reformation”.

Concerning music, Luther proclaimed, “If any man despises music, as all fanatics do, for him I have no liking; for music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful.” “So important did Luther deem music, he even stated he ' . . . would allow no man to preach or teach God's people without a proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song.' Many of history's greatest hymns come from reverends soon after Luther's time, showing the impact he had on congregational worship.”

Luther sang this hymn daily. Philipp Melancthon and other reformers were comforted hearing a young girl sing it in Weimar. It was a traveling hymn for emigrants, and sung by Gustavus Adolphus' army in 1631.

As of 1981, there are over 80 translations in 53 languages (including 63 version of English). The TUNE composed between 1527 and 1529, has been attributed to Martin Luther and is named EIN FESTE BURG. This tune has been used by J. S. Bach as the basis for his *Cantata 80* and also by Felix Mendelssohn in his *Fifth Symphony*.

**ATTENTION:** *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

**KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS: Those Battling Cancer:** Traci Edman; Robert Hudec; Cindi Tanner; Michael Yancey; Amanda Aramijo; Zachary Schulke; Herbie Kollatschny; Darrell Pagel; Sylvia McLelland Teykl; Tom Russell, Jr.; Melda Coleman; Al Gene Canik; Larry Bookout; Mike Wostarek; Elizabeth Frisby; Virginia Fritsch; Kristina Acevedo; George Krenek; Anne Dimas; Carl Geisler; Laura Walla; Randy Wendt; Heather Deviney; Paul Casinger; Dr. Tom Hancher; Leonard Kahlden; Bob Loy.


**Expectant Mothers:** Nancy Gorman; Camille Stancik; Kyndall Beettner; Jamee Albert; Kristen O'Leary Bridges.

**Those in Care Facilities and Homebound:** Joey Denby; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Coy Dell Schindler; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Walter Glaeser, Jr.. **Homebound:** Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; Cherie Moore; Lauren Lamb; Lydia Rojas.

**Those Law Enforcement Officers:** Charles Jobb; Joseph Smith; Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Zane Weido; Josh Jones. **Fire Fighters, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and 9-1-1 Dispatchers:** Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid

Brasher; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Travis Neuendorff; Nathan Bookout; Brenda Henkes; Jan Willette; and Terri Neuendorff. **Active Duty Military:** Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Dalton Kapel; Kevin Gonzalez; Evelyn Rojas; Nelson Beettner.


► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

 **This weekend, we have our annual *Blessing of the Quilts.*** Quilts that our very talented and dedicated St. Paul Quilters have lovingly made are on display and will be blessed before being packed and sent to Lutheran World Relief the following week. What a great opportunity to see the wonderful work our ladies and other volunteers do throughout the year!

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT!!** Following the service, kids will be invited to stay in the sanctuary to get ready for Trunk-or-Treating while our trunks get ready. St. Paul members will have their cars lined up in the church parking lot for kids to come by and collect goodies. *(Decorated trunks and dressed up members are encouraged but not necessary to participate.)*

◆ **Neighboring News:** Neighbor-to-Neighbor will have a **workshop** to prepare *Christmas bags* on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 1:30 PM** in the church library. Come check us out! If you are interested in this program and would like more information, please contact Peggy Geisler at (979)-732-0350.

\*\* **NOTICE -- Congregational Meeting!!** There will be a *special called congregational meeting* on **Sunday, November 5, 2023** between the two worship services at **10:00 AM** in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss future staffing needs and to give an update on space challenges we now have at the Lighthouse for BLAST. This is a very important meeting, so, be sure to mark your calendars! \*\*

 **Communion Instruction Class:** Youth in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend the next milestone in their Christian education. Communion instruction is a formal teaching on the Sacraments of the Altar and will begin the process of getting students ready for confirmation ministry. Students will meet on **Sunday, November 5, 2023 from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Lighthouse.** Lunch will be served. Whether you are already taking communion or have waited for this class, all 5<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend. Parents are invited to attend with their child as well so they may continue the conversations at home.

Please let Stephanie Polasek know if you plan to attend by Thursday, November 2, 2023 (979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com).

► **Peru Team:** Our next **Peru Team meeting** will be **Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM** in the church library. Join us to hear what is going on with our sister congregations in Peru and get in on the planning stages of our 2024 trip. Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

**MEALS TO HEAL:** Meals to Heal will have a **cook session** on **Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 1:00 PM** in the Lighthouse kitchen. We will be making two main dish casseroles, bagging vegetables, and assembling meals to go in the freezer. Join us if you can! If you have any questions, please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.



**High School Ski Trip Fundraiser:** The youth will be hosting a **drive-thru Pulled Pork Baked Potato fundraiser** on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 4:30-6:30 PM** at the Lighthouse. **Tickets are \$10 each** and can be purchased from a youth before or after worship or from the church office. Deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, November 12, 2023. The youth will be going skiing December 27-31, 2023. Thank you for your support!

◆ **Senior Explorers to Alpaca Farm!** Senior Explorers are going to an Aplaca Ranch in advance of next summer's trip to Peru. On **Thursday, November 16, 2023** we will **depart** St. Paul Lutheran Church at **9:30 AM**. We will arrive at the Peek a Alpaca Ranch near Burton, Texas for a full tour, petting and shopping. We will stop for lunch on our way home and should make it **back by 2:00 PM**. Please sign up by Sunday, November 12, 2023 in the narthex. Call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

• **Women of JOY Bible Study:** The Women of JOY Bible Study group meets on Mondays to cook and have interesting Bible study and discussions. The **first Monday** of the month we **meet in the Lighthouse to cook** for BLAST. The **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays** of the month we meet in the **high school room (old choir room) for Bible Study.** We are currently reading The Story. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Gerri Hackfeld at 979-732-4711.

♥ **Grief Support Group:** The Grief Support Group is for anyone who has lost a loved one, either recently or a few years ago. We share and support each other. Come join us and get support from others walking this journey. We meet at **5:30 PM** in the youth room (formerly the choir room) the **third Thursday of the month.** **NOTE:** You do not have to share or talk until you are ready! If you have questions, please contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.



## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Today (Oct. 29) –** 11:30 AM – Trunk-or-Treat (church parking lot)  
12:00 PM – German Meal (Lighthouse)  
6:00-8:00 PM – Marriage Course (Lighthouse)

**Mon. Oct. 30 –** 9:00 AM-1:30 PM – Pastor Alan in Continuing Education  
6:30 PM – Pastor Alan's Mutual Ministry Team

**Tues., Oct. 31 –** 9:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)

**Wed., Nov. 1 –** 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM – Senior Connections (Lighthouse)  
12:00 PM – Ministerial Alliance  
1:30-3:00 PM – Continuing Education  
1:30 PM – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Christmas Bags (library)  
5:00 PM – Meal  
5:30 PM – BLAST, Confirmation and HS Youth

**Thurs., Nov. 2 –** Stephanie to Youth Ministry Network  
10:30 AM – Pastor Alan to The Oaks  
5:30 PM – Youth & Education Team  
6:00 PM – Property Team

**Fri., Nov. 3 –** 11:00 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

**Sat., Nov. 4 –** 8:00 AM – Men In Mission (Lighthouse)

**Next Sun., Nov. 5 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 AM – Confirmation  
**10:00 AM – Called Congregational Meeting (sanctuary)**  
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship  
12:30-2:30 PM – Communion Instruction (Lighthouse)

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Tuesday, October 31, 2023 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.

### **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 All Saints Day**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

### **Friday, November 3, 2023 Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639**

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

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## **SERVICE OVERVIEW: KNOW GOD, KNOW OURSELVES**

Today's worship is packed with beautiful images and rich history. For life-long Lutherans, these things can provoke a sense of pride in our denomination, but the celebration of the Reformation is not "Lutheran Pride Day" or a time for self-congratulation. Instead it is a day focused on knowing God truthfully and in the process understanding who we are as people of faith and children of God in light of God's unbelievable grace. Today, acknowledge the continuing need for perpetual reformation – in our church and our individual lives.

Today is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. The law is like a mirror in a room with intense fluorescent lights; a harsh image of ourselves showing every flaw and wrinkle. God doesn't look at us in that mirror, though. The truth about God brings us new knowledge about ourselves. God shines a new light on us, where iniquities are forgiven and sins are forgotten.

The message of the Reformation is God's love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us as people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are beautiful.

It is not the church, or any one church, that is truth. Only Jesus Christ is truth. No church can claim ownership of the word. Jesus Christ is the Word. As Jesus tells us today, the son is free, that is, free to remain in the house. We gather around that word to receive the truth and experience life in the Father's house.

## **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. Welcome to worship! Celebrate the Reformation in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church.

Luther spent a great deal of time trying to know who God was and to find ways of expressing what he came to know and believe so that others would know God too. He used coarse language, drank beer, and wrote hymns using tunes people knew and recognized. When he wrote his catechism he used language his small son could understand. He even translated the Bible into the language people spoke. Truth about God and our faith, as complex as it is, should be something we can grasp and wrestle with.

The message of the Reformation is God's love for us. It is a love that frees. It is a love that redefines us as people of God *and* as members of the whole body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are beautiful.

It is not the church, or any one church, that is truth. Only Jesus Christ is truth. No church can claim ownership of the word. Jesus Christ is the Word. As Jesus tells us today, the son is free,

that is, free to remain in the house. We gather around that word to receive the truth and experience life in the Father's house.

**KID STUDY:**

Jesus tells us, *"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts."* Have you ever learned something "by heart"? That means you memorize it. You get to know it. From poetry to song lyrics to the words of your favorite movie, learning something by heart captures our imaginations and breaks down a message into smaller bites that we can better understand. Go through the lessons and gospel reading in today's service or read through the song lyrics printed in this bulletin. Find something in the text that speaks to your heart. Memorize it. As those words work their way into your mind and heart, realize that you are taking in the message of God's grace. When that message lives inside of you, you will never forget how much you are loved. Never stop learning about God's love. What does God tell you about how to know yourself and how to know God? We grow and change and "re-form" every time we learn.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*Every renewal of the church essentially consists in an increase of fidelity to her own calling. Undoubtedly this explains the dynamism of the movement toward unity. Christ summons the church, as she goes her pilgrim way, to that continual reformation of which she always has need, insofar as she is a human institution here on earth. Consequently, if, in various times and circumstances, there have been deficiencies in moral conduct or in church discipline, or even in the way that church teaching has been formulated, to be carefully distinguished from the deposit of faith itself, these should be set right at the opportune moment and in the proper way. -Decree on Ecumenism, Second Vatican Council [Vatican Council II, The Basic Sixteen Documents, Revised Translation in Inclusive Language, ed. Austin Flannery, OP (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1996), 507-508.]*

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**Next Week's Theme (Nov. 4 & 5):** Do what I say not what I do

**Next Week's Scriptures (Nov. 4 & 5):**

**First Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17

*"The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb."*

**Psalm:** Psalm 34:1-10, 22

"Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing." (Ps. 34:9)

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:1-3

*"We are God's children."*

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit."*