

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

Rev. Paul Pfeffer

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Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide you with the updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

SONG: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, ELW 504 (vs 1, 2, 4)

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

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.

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.

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!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 us steadfast in your word. Protect and comfort us in times of trial. Defend us against all enemies of the gospel. Bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING – Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 46 (*We will not fear*)

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

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

READING – Romans 3:19-28

(Paul writes to the people of Rome:) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

(continued)

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

– *Please stand as you are able* –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL – John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to You, O Lord.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – Rev. Paul Pfeffer

SONG – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less, ELW 597

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

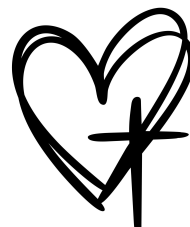
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

Merciful God... Receive our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

– Please share a socially distanced sign of peace or greeting –

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG – All People That on Earth Do Dwell, ELW 883 & Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, ELW 884

(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)

All people that on earth do dwell; Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell; Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed; And for his sheep he doth us take.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Holiday Gift Show** – Nov. 10 & 11 – Proceeds support Christ Lutheran PreSchool – Friday, November 10 from 6 to 8:30p and Saturday, November 11 from 9a to 3:30p
- **Saturday with St. Nick** – Sat, Dec. 2 from 10a to noon – songs, craft, snacks and a chance to visit with Santa. Bring your whole family. Our gift to the community.
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our first delivery to Chicago. We continue to collect: Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – Our first batch of sleeping mats, small suitcases and OTC medicines were delivered to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. This collection continues as more refugees continue to arrive.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo. We will also collect special items for Holiday Gift Bags, with a new plan being formulated by Sue right now. (Please also lift up Sue's husband Hasu in your prayers as he is recovering from a heart attack.)
- **Love INC** – Always looking for housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more about this amazing organization? Talk with Natalie.
- **COOL Ministries** – We continue to support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you to all who supported our partner Troop's free cookout on Saturday. Our Scouts continue to sell popcorn and Christmas wreaths.
- **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa Calabrese (tc calabrese98@gmail.com).

CALENDAR:

- Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m., only, this year.
- Holiday Gift Show – Friday, Nov 10 from 6 to 8:30p and Sat, Nov 11 from 9a to 3:30p
- Caring Hands – Saturday, Nov 18 and Saturday, Dec 16 from 9a to noon
- Tentatively planning to put up the Christmas Tree after worship on November 26
- Saturday with St Nick - Dec 2
- Advent begins Dec 3
- Special projects for Christmas - Gift Bags and/or Gift Cards for Sue's Pantry families (TBD)? Township family? Other? Would love your suggestions!