



Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

Growing Together in Faith

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www.ShepherdOfTheBay.com

Pastor Nathan Wong

Welcome!

October 26, 2025 – Reformation Day

Thank you for joining us today for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word. We pray your time with us is edifying and enjoyable. May God bless our worship together this day!

For your assistance:

- **Restrooms** are located down the hallway opposite the entrance to classroom 1, on the right.
- **Ushers** are here to help. Please don't hesitate to ask them if you have any questions.
- We ask guests to sign the **worship register** on the pedestal by the front door so that we might have record of who joined us and invite you to upcoming events. Thank you!
- If you have a young one who gets restless during worship, a **Family Room** is available for parents in the church office. A live feed of the service is available in the room.
- Pastor Wong is available and willing to meet with you anytime. Please give him a call at church, 410-231-2075 or on his cell phone, 507-995-5978. He can also be reached via email, lusbypastor@gmail.com. He would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

REFORMATION

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses—statements for debate—on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, beginning a spiritual and historical movement known as the Reformation. The Reformation did not just change the face of Europe; it restored the gospel to the church. It gave God’s Word to the people. As we celebrate the Reformation, we are not honoring the man for whom our church body is named. We are thanking God for his grace which he has demonstrated through the generations—preserving the church and setting us free.

Notable Locations

- Eisleben – Where Martin Luther was born in 1483 and died in 1546.
- Erfurt – Luther studied and taught at the university here, becoming a priest in 1507.
- Wittenburg – Where Luther taught and preached, and where his Ninety-Five Theses sparked the Reformation in 1517.
- Worms – In 1521 Luther stood before the emperor here, refusing to recant his writings.
- The Wartburg – Luther lived in hiding here in 1521 because his life was in danger.
- Augsburg – Where German princes stated their case to the emperor in 1530. The Augsburg Confession essentially became the Lutheran declaration of independence from the Roman Catholic Church.

Notable Dates

1483 – Luther born, November 10
1501 – Educated at University of Erfurt
1505 – Receives Masters degree, decides to become a monk
1507 – Ordained into RCC priesthood
1512 – Receives doctorate of sacred scripture
1517 – Posts 95 theses, October 31
1520 – Pope declares Luther heretic; Luther burns papal bull
1521 – Diet of Worms begins; Luther refuses to recant, declared an outlaw
1525 – Luther marries Katherine von Bora, former nun
1527 – Luther composes “A Mighty Fortress”
1530 – Augsburg Confession read, June 25 (Lutheran Declaration of Independence)
1534 – Luther publishes complete Bible in German
1546 – God calls Luther to heaven, February 18

Opening Hymn: 862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Sins and Absolution

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,” he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance” (The 1st of Luther’s 95 Thesis). Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me.

Against you - you only - have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51)

“Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins.

The other is that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven”

(Luther’s Small Catechism: The 1st part of Keys and Confession).

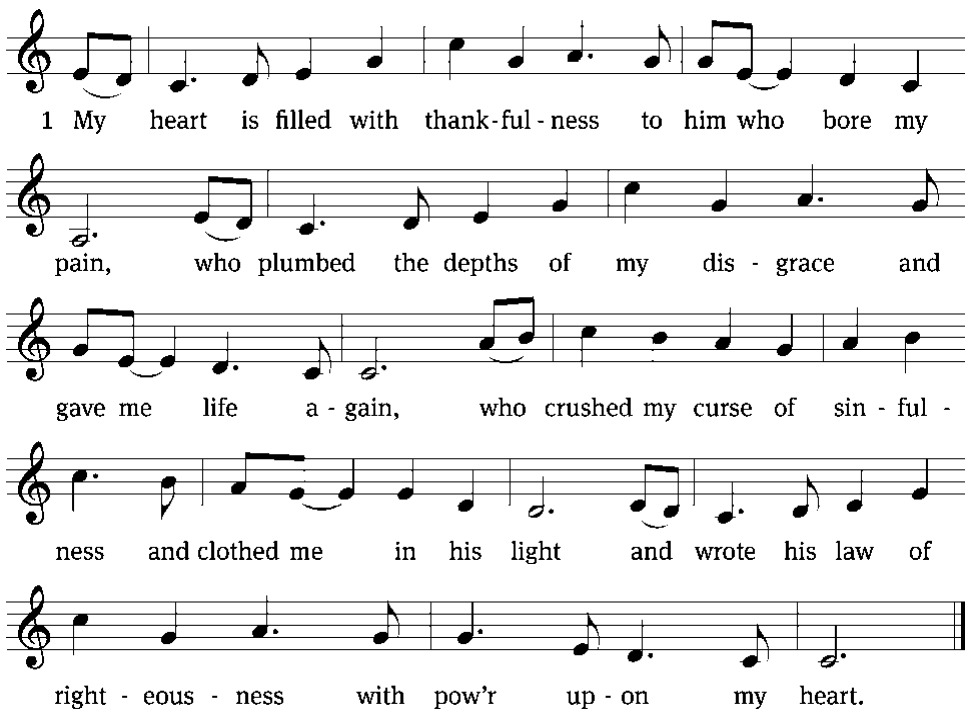
Hear, then, the word of the Lord: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isaiah 1:18). God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son X, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy,” (Psalm 126:3). Let us worship him.

New Hymn: 626 My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

CW 626 st. 1



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis-grace and
gave me life a-gain, who crushed my curse of sin-ful-
ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
right-eous-ness with pow'r up-on my heart.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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 in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Through Jeremiah, the Lord describes the new covenant established by the promised Messiah. He will forgive sins and write the promise of grace on the hearts of his people, setting them free.

³¹“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.

³²It 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.

³³“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.

³⁴No 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.

May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us (1 Kings 8:57).

Psalm of the Day

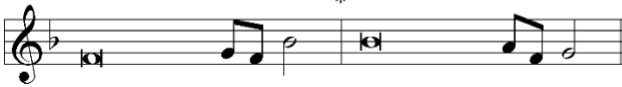
Psalm 46

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



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.

Refrain

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1–6

St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ.

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

May the Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

Choir Anthem: 877 Reformation Song

CW 877 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–5

Your Word alone is solid ground,
the mighty rock on which we build.
In ev'ry line the truth is found,
and ev'ry page with glory filled. (v. 2)

Thro' faith alone we come to you;
we have no merit we can claim.
Sure that your promises are true,
we place our hope in Jesus' name. *(Refrain)*

*(Refrain) Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.*

In Christ alone we're justified;
his righteousness is all our plea.
Your law's demands are satisfied;
his perfect work has set us free. *(Refrain)*

By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow'r have been made new. *(Refrain)*

And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. *(Refrain)*

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

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Gospel

John 8:31–36

*Within true discipleship comes the understanding and knowledge of the true mystery of Christ.
With this knowledge comes freedom.*

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

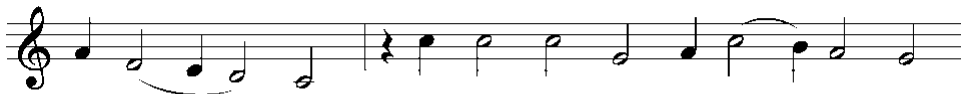
Hymn of the Day: 863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863

We invite the children to come forward during the second stanza for a children’s message.



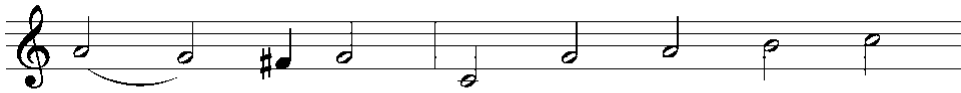
1	A	might - y	for - tress	is	our	God,	a	trust - y	shield			
2	With	might	of	ours	can	naught	be	done,	soon	were	our	loss
3	Though	dev - ils	all	the	world	should	fill,	all	ea - ger	to		
4	The	Word	they	still	shall	let	re - main	nor	an - y	thanks		



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - your us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text and tune: Public domain

The Truth Will Set You Free!

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Thank Offering

The members of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. If you prefer to give electronically, open your camera app and use the QR code.



Prayer for Reformation

Lord, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

Lord, to you alone be glory.

God of grace, in unfathomable love you pitied us sinners and sent your Son as our substitute to deliver us from sin, guilt, death, darkness, and despair.

For your grace, Lord, to you alone be glory.

By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful gospel rescued us from rebellion and fills us with faith in you, the true and living God.

For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.

By your grace we are heirs of your eternal Word and trustees of the inspired Scriptures, through which you proclaim your saving truth to every generation. By the Scriptures you overthrew the darkness of those who perverted your teachings and restored to your church the message of salvation by grace alone.

For the Holy Scriptures, Lord, to you alone be glory.

In these last days, Lord Jesus Christ, protect your little flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist your Word to satisfy the latest longing.

For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Never in the history of the world has your Holy Word been so accessible. We lack only the zeal to treasure your restored truth with lives of faithful Bible study.

For the noble character to search the Scriptures daily, hear our prayer, O Lord.

As we celebrate the Reformation that restored your pure gospel to your Church, we also celebrate our common confession of the pure gospel in Word and sacrament.

For this unity of faith, we give you thanks, O Lord.

We remember the faithful confessors of this and former generations, who have passed down to us your Word of Truth.

For these faithful servants, we give you thanks, O Lord.

In thanksgiving for the many and amazing blessings restored to your Church through the Reformation, we now commit ourselves to your care.

Be our mighty fortress, our trusty shield and weapon, O Lord. Amen.

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.**

The Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: 582 Not unto Us

CW 582



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry, Lord;
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were made;
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less years;
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry, Lord,



not un - to us but to your name be praise;
a - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;
for - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be giv'n
a - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous - ness
un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from you
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and done,



for match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.
and taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.
but sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.
and pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993, alt.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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Sunday Hosts

	Today	Next Week
Councilman:	Grant Williams	Travis Grah
Greeter:	Sean Case	The Julians
Usher:	Bob Blevins	Sean Case
Acolyte:	Haley Grah	-
Altar:	Mattie Scicchitano	Jolene Wagner
A/V:	Sam Holcomb	-
Flowers:	-	-
Counters:	Alex/Chuck	Maria/Karen
Snack:	Edie Hintz	-
Mowing:	-	-

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice *Today at 11:45am*

Catechism Class *Tuesday, October 28 at 4:15pm*

Bible Information Class *Monday, October 27 at 5:30pm*

Men's Breakfast *Saturday, Nov. 1 at 8:30am*

Ladies Arts & Fellowship *Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1:00pm*

Bible Study & Sunday School *Sunday, Nov. 2 at 9:30am*

Worship with Communion *Sunday, Nov. 2 at 10:30am*

November National Online Teen Bible Study *Sunday, November 9 at 6:00pm*

News for You

THANK YOU

A big thanks to Mattie Scicchitano and many others who hosted our Fall Festival this year! What a fun event to spend time with food, fellowship, and a fire!

A warm thanks to Ed Haack, who makes sure that our lawn mowers and shed equipment are in working order. We appreciate your help in maintaining our property.

SPECIAL GUEST

Next Sunday, we will welcome Rev. Jared Natsis to our congregation. He will share God's Word with us and inform us about MLS (Michigan Lutheran Seminary), a prep school for those considering the public ministry.

QUARTERLY INFO MEETING

Please stick around after church for a brief congregational meeting. This is your opportunity to hear about upcoming future events, learn how you can serve, and stay up to date with all happenings in and outside of our church. We are shooting for 30 minutes.

NOVEMBER NATIONAL ONLINE TEEN BIBLE STUDY

Teens! Register today to join this WELS-led Bible study. Go to wels.net to sign up. Here is the theme:

"A Smashing Salvation" (Deborah – Judges 3:6-4)

This section of God's Word provides an exciting judge like Ehud and a surprising judge in Deborah. God does not sit in heaven, letting the world turn, uninterested. His deliverances are not a thing of the past. Yes, sometimes it's only when we see how hopeless we are that we can appreciate how powerful the LORD is.