

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

Called into faith, as baptized and beloved children of God, **TOGETHER** we:

- + worship one God: Father, Lord, Spirit
 - + joyfully celebrate our unity
 - + willingly submit to our Creator
 - + lovingly care for one another
 - + seek to serve our community
 - + walk in hope toward heaven
- And all God's people said: AMEN!

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me;
and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!



“Luther’s Seal” or “Luther’s Rose” is arguably the single image that best explains the theology of Martin Luther and the Reformation. In a July 8, 1530, letter, Luther explained the symbolism:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color [red]. This reminds me it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which causes pain, but it leaves the heart red. It does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart is in the middle of a white rose. This shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). White is the color of the spirits and angels (Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). The rose is in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring symbolizing blessedness in heaven lasts forever. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

CONNECT CARDS Guests and members, please:

- + fill out a Connect card, or
- + scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are on clipboards at the end of a row. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!



Reformation, observed | October 25, 2026 | 10:45 AM

Festival of the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther posted 95 theses (statements) for debate on the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This was not intended to start a rebellion but rather was a call to refocus—to re-form—the Church on the Gospel of Christ. When we have the **Word of God** in its fullness, we can be certain we are a Church where salvation and life are ours through forgiveness won for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is why justification by **grace** through **faith** is the truth on which the Church stands or falls. Celebrating the Reformation is not just studying the past; it is acknowledging that in every generation the Church is called upon to answer the question of Christ: “Who do YOU say that I AM?”

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

SONG SET *Michael Amidei, Infinite Grace Team*

Please refer to the screens for the song lyrics.

O Come to the Altar
The Lion and The Lamb

P = Pastor C = Congregation L = Lector

INVOCATION *Pastor Brad Stoltenow* *Matthew 28:19b, Psalm 46:7, 11*

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

When the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: “I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!” ~Martin Luther

SONG We Trust in You

FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7

David Renner, Lector

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING Romans 3:19-28

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. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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. 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. 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. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 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'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. The cards may be put in the offering plate. Thank you!*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Susan Shoaf

Children's Bulletins are available on the table as you enter the Gym.

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER *for giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*
¹Mites Sunday (4th Sundays): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom! For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!

SONG Living Waters

MESSAGE "The Truth that Sets You Free" text: John 8:31-36

The Law says: Do this; and never is it done. Grace says: Believe in this One; and everything is already done. ~Martin Luther

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

HOLY COMMUNION: PREPARATION

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:28-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

- If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- You may request wine without alcohol and/or a gluten-free wafer.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rest; Abide With Me

Please stand for the Blessing.

GOD'S WORD OF BLESSING

In this Divine Service, by faith, the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We leave this house of worship to share HISstory!

Please be seated for the Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS