



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

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

Cards are in the racks in front of you.

These methods also include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with you!

A **CRY ROOM** is located off the Welcome Center

ACTIVITY BAGS for children to borrow are in the Welcome Center.

DEVOTIONS: *Portals of Prayer* booklets are on the credenza in the Welcome Center for you, and for sharing!

SERVING TODAY...

Message:

Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:

8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Lector:

10:45 Don Matern

Musicians:

Gail Black, organ
Brad Gillund, piano
Shepherd's Chorale



Reformation, observed | October 25, 2026 | 8 & 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 ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP *Please quiet voices and prepare to worship.*

PRELUDE

✠ Please stand and face the cross as it processes toward the front.
The cross symbolizes Christ's presence dwelling with us. ✠

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: PSALM 46 IN SONG # 656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, whom God Himself elected.**

Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, of Sabaoth Lord, *Sabaoth Lord: Lord of the heavenly hosts*
**And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpow'r us.**

This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none. *world's prince: satan*
He's judged; the deed is done; one little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it; *The Word: Jesus*
**He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth!**

P = Pastor C = Congregation L = Liturgist/Lector

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b

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!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8, 32:5; 46:7, 11

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

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



¹Offering—Mites Sunday
 (4th Sundays of the month): 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!

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Psalm 46:7, 11

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress!

Please be seated.

ANTHEM Forth in the Peace of Christ *Shepherd's Chorale*

*Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring;
 Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; kingship with Him His servants gain;
 With Christ the Servant-Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
 This world of time to consecrate, this world of sin by grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to recreate.
 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak,
 Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim Christ's truth in love
 That we may be Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
 We are the Church; Christ bids us show that in His Church all nations find
 Their hearth and home where Christ restores true peace, true love to all mankind.*

SALUTATION (GREETING) AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Psalm 46:7, 11

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen!

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may add prayer requests to your information. Cards may be given to an usher or placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

8 AM ONLY ~ CHILDREN'S CHAT *Susan Shoaf*

Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER

For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please turn to p. 322, 2nd column.

We recite the 1st Article and meaning together.

FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7

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.”

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your power make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church, that we may sing Your praise triumphantly!*

EPISTLE READING Romans 3:19-28

L: 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,

C: since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

L: 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:

ALL: 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.

L: God put Jesus 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?

C: It is excluded.

L: By what kind of law? By a law of works?

C: No, but by the law of faith.

ALL: For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your power make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church, that we may sing Your praise triumphantly!*

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

ACCLAMATION

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:12-19

[Jesus spoke to the crowds:]

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at Him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your power make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church, that we may sing Your praise triumphantly!*

Please be seated.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please turn to p. 322, 2nd column.

We recite the 2nd Article and meaning together.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 46

L: God is our refuge and strength,

C: a very present help in trouble.

antiphon: vv. 7, 11

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

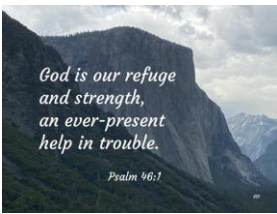
Propitiation: an action meant to regain someone's favor or make up for something done wrong. Because we cannot on our own regain God's favor and make up for our sins, Jesus became the propitiation for our sin by dying on the cross for us. This is sacrificial love to its highest degree!

Justification: God's act of declaring sinners to be righteous through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ.
Justified: Just-as-if-I'd never sinned



The Law discovers the disease. The Gospel gives the remedy.
~Martin Luther

The doctrine of justification by faith through the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ is very much to my ministry what bread and salt are to the table. As often as the table is set, there are those necessary things. This is the very salt of the gospel. It is impossible to bring it forward too often. It is the foundation doctrine of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
~Charles Spurgeon



Satan says:
Look at your sin.
God says:
Look at My Son!

✠ ✠ ✠
Prayer is not
overcoming God's
reluctance but laying
hold of His willingness.
~Martin Luther

Preface: These
responses, which have
been used at the
beginning of the
Communion liturgy for at
least 1,800 years, invite
us to prepare to receive
our Lord, who comes to
us in His body and
blood.

L: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
C: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God the holy habitation of the Most High.
L: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
C: God will help her when morning dawns.
L: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.
ALL: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
L: Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.
C: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
ALL: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress!
MESSAGE "Reformation Comfort" text: Psalm 46

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

✠ ✠ ✠ PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 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 desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

Please stand.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136; John 3:16

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive

our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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!**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

SANCTUS ~ HOLY

LSB # 961; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

C: heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

P: Blessed, blessed, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen!

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; give us Your peace. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

648 "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

Hymn for meditation: # 537 "Beautiful Savior"

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh,

ALL: we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please turn to p. 323, 1st column.

We recite the 3rd Article and meaning together.

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

STATEMENT OF TRUST

Psalms 46:7, 11

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our fortress!

The Lord's Prayer: God takes the initiative and puts into our mouths the very words we are to use. Thus we see how sincerely He is concerned over our needs, and we shall never doubt that our prayer pleases Him and will assuredly be heard....Thus there is no nobler prayer to be found on earth than the daily Lord's Prayer.
~Martin Luther, Large Catechism: Lord's Prayer

The **Sanctus** is a hymn of praise to the Trinity; very often we see words repeated three times to emphasize this. In the Sanctus, we are joining our voices not only with our own church family but with all Christians all over the world, with the saints in heaven, and with all the angel hosts.

Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

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

“One in Christ and One in Spirit” contains rich examples of how we live TOGETHER as a family of Christ, both in His Church and in the world.

*“One in Christ and One in Spirit”
text: Lisa M. Clark. Text ©2015
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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!



HYMN “One in Christ and One in Spirit” *tune: Hymn to Joy*

*Created by Lutheran Service Builder
©2006 CPH.*

**One in Christ and One in Spirit, One in Christian unity.
From our Father, we inherit life with Him eternally.
Made anew in Word and water, freed from death and cleansed from sin.
Perfect son and holy daughter—hearts made pure and whole within.**

**Christian sisters, Christian brothers, reaching out to those in need,
We proclaim Good News to others as we boldly share our creed.
In our learning and our growing, we are strengthened in the Word.
In our coming and our going, we live out what we have heard.**

**One in Christ, now and forever, with one voice, we gladly sing.
Neither life nor death can sever Christians from their loving King.
As we learn of His salvation, may we tell of Jesus’ grace
To each future generation at all times, in ev’ry place.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

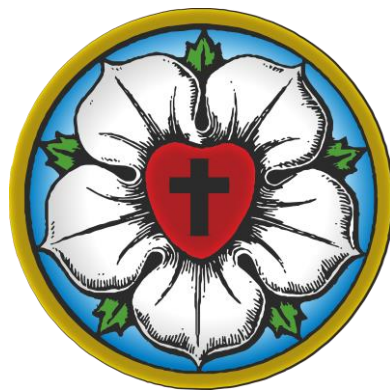
✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

TOGETHER, we are Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
and Early Learning Center.

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!**



“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 to Lazarus Spengler, who helped design the seal, Luther writes:

“First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color [red]. This is to remind 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 mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature—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 should stand in the middle of a white rose. This shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (*John 14:27*); this is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (*Matthew 28:3; John 20:12*). This rose should stand 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 to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.”

~translated by P.T. McCain