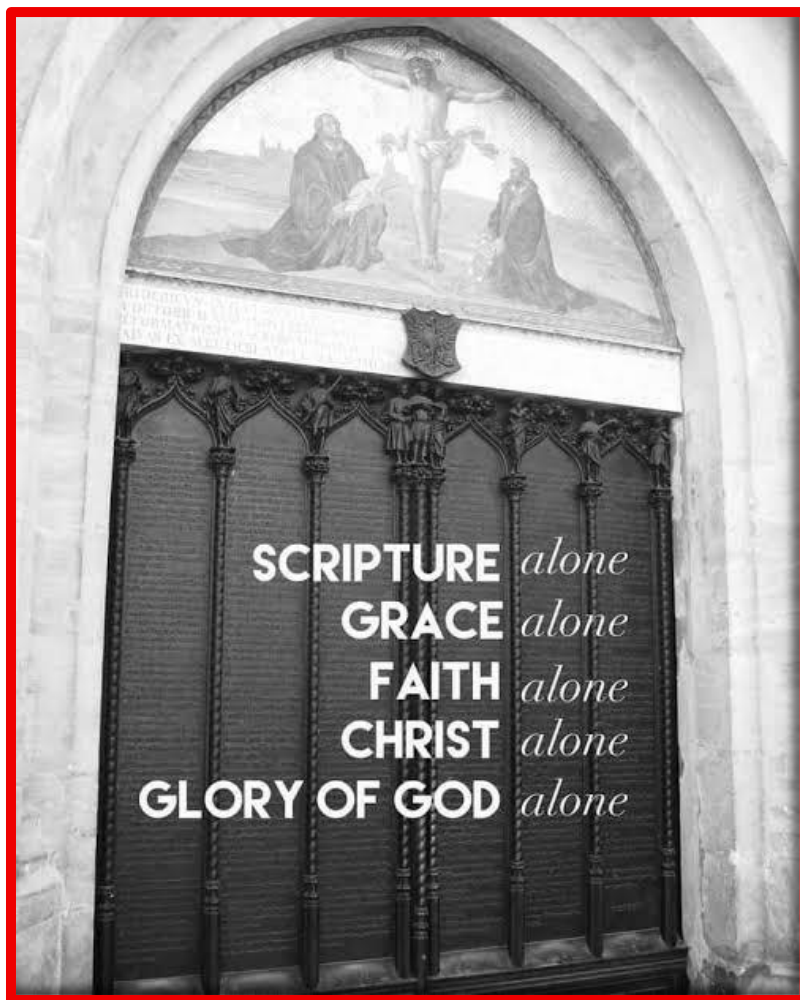


REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2026



ST. PAUL'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME

Welcome! We are glad you are joining our community of faith for worship today. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, or you come from another Christian tradition, or you're wandering or wondering about faith and the church, you are welcome to participate in worship in whatever ways are comfortable for you. If you are new to St. Paul's you can request more information on our web site contact page here:

www.stpaulsbrenham.org/contact

Our worship liturgy is rooted in the ancient church's practice of gathering on Sundays to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through hearing God's Word and sharing the communion meal in the presence of Christ. We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you.

This bulletin is a helpful guide to our worship liturgy, as are ushers and friendly people gathered here with you to worship God together.

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Michael Coffey	Lead Pastor
Donna Krueger	Pastor of Care Ministry
Diane Garrett	Organist
Larry Smith	Choir Director
Dr. Sarah Burke	Director of Contemporary Music
Lisa Eben	Financial Director
Thomas Johnson	Communications Coordinator
Anne Briggs	Membership Coordinator
Sarah Zwahr	Director of Youth and Family
Julie Guiberteau	Media Technician
Dr. Kay Domel	Director of Christian Day School

CONTACT US

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*St. Paul's is a congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Learn more at www.elca.org*

REFORMATION SUNDAY

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.

HEALING PRAYER

Once a month we offer healing prayer, a ministry that has been a part of the church's practice since ancient times. The early church described Jesus as the Great Physician, who is both the doctor and the medicine, giving the remedy of himself to those with whom he is in relationship. In the completeness of Christ's nature, including both humanity and divinity, Jesus enacts for us both physical and spiritual healing. Those who wish to receive healing prayer with laying on of hands and anointing with oil may come to the altar rail at any time during the communion distribution.

OFFERING

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex. Feel free to leave your offering there. The offering will be presented during the worship liturgy. You can also make an offering online at www.stpaulsbrenham.org/give

FIRST AID

A First Aid Kit and AED (defibrillator) are located in the closet of the usher room in the Narthex.

OUR MISSION

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Toccata on 'Amazing Grace' C. Pardini

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

PROCESSIONAL SONG

ELW 401 *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*

GREETING

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

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

We praise you, O God, for water—

the Brazos River and Lake Somerville, rain that nourishes animals and plants,
water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our sacred water stories—

a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—

baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font,

for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth. O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen.

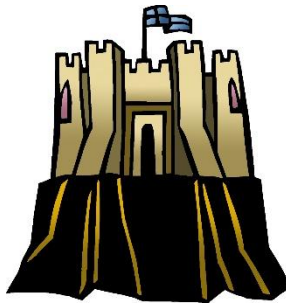
Amen, and amen.

HYMN

- 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.

ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 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!



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 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.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

(10:30) DISMISSAL FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the

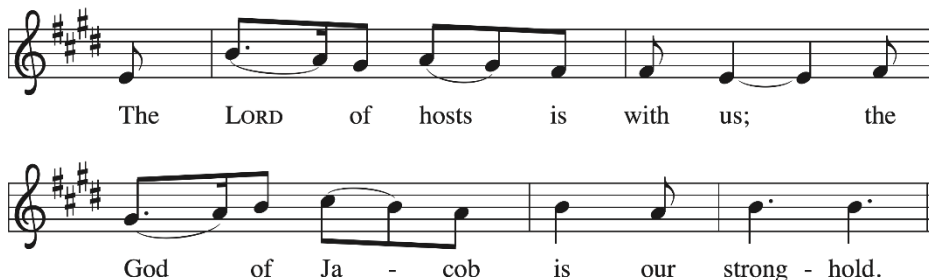
house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 46

*The cantor sings the refrain and the congregation repeats it.
The psalm is sung responsively.*



¹ God is our ref-^luge and strength,* a very present^l help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;**

³ though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall^l not be shaken;
God shall help it at the^l break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the^l kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth^l melts away. Refrain**

⁷ The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**
¹¹ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

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.

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a

gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 168

The cantor sings the Alleluia, then the congregation repeats it.



The cantor sings the Gospel verse:

If you continue in my word, you are truly | my disciples,*
 and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free. (John 8:31-32)

The congregation sings the Alleluia again.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ 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?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Michael Coffey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 779 *Amazing Grace*

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Greet one another with the peace of Christ. After the Peace, please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

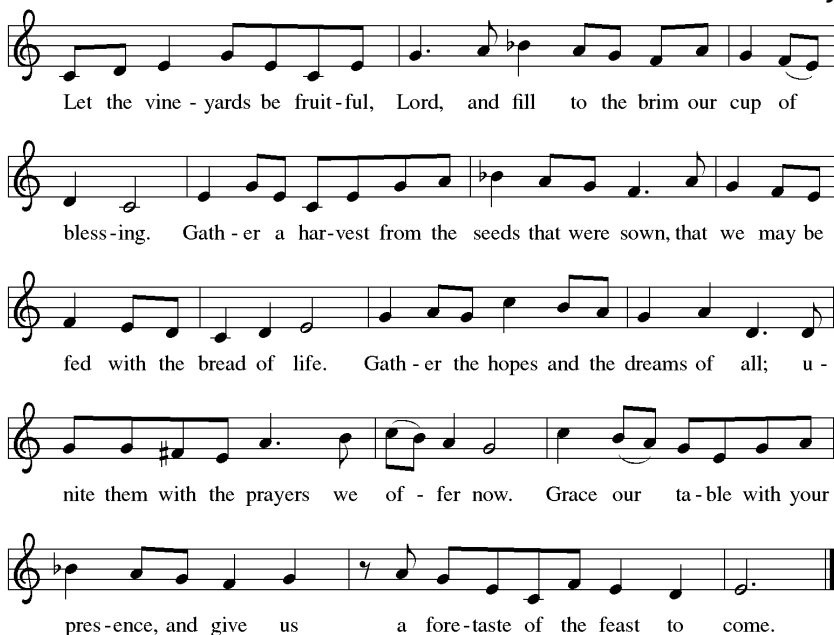
Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex before and after the service.

MUSICAL OFFERING

A Mighty Fortress: Prelude John Behnke

OFFERING SONG

ELW 182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

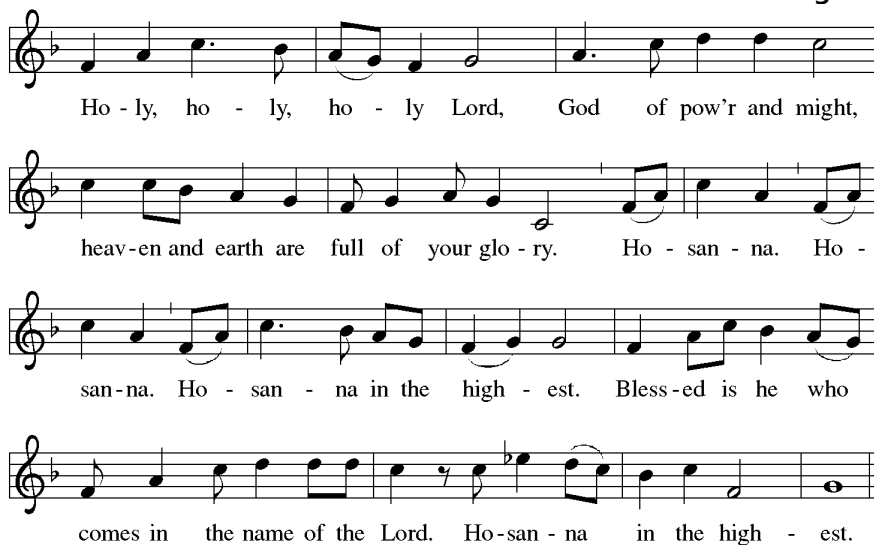
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, all-holy God,
 our maker, our healer, our keeper,
 for the universe beyond our knowing,
 for seas and forests and fields,
 for creatures seen and unseen,
 for our ancestors and godparents
 from around the globe.

We praise you for your covenant people,
 for Moses and Miriam and Aaron,
 for Jeremiah and the psalmists,
 for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
 for Francis and Claire, Hildegard and Ignatius,
 for Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon,
 and Katie Luther, for Bach and Nicolai,
 Calvin and Wesley, for Martin Luther King
 and Oscar Romero,
 and all who continue to reform
 and renew.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ,
 who saves us from sin and evil,

embodying forgiveness,
 granting us grace, setting us free,
 who on the night before he died...

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit,
 your breath, your fire, your freedom.
 Bless this meal and all those who share it;
 inspire your people for service;
 continue the reformation of your church;
 and renew the world with your mercy,
 your healing, your justice, and your peace.
 We praise you, all-holy God,
 mighty fortress
 and faithful companion,
 today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

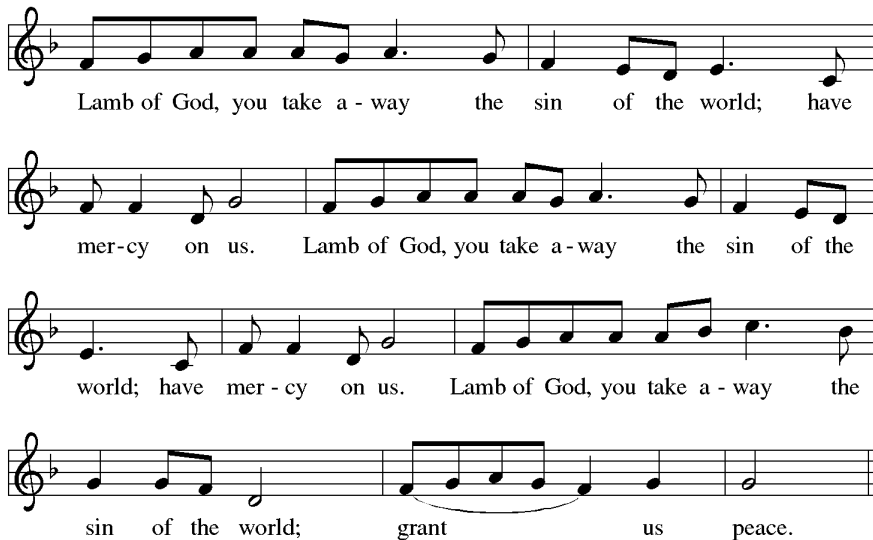
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

*We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you. Please follow the guidance from the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available on request.
Wine is red; grape juice is white. Those unable to come forward, remain seated and communion will be brought to you.*

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting Three, page 146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HEALING PRAYER

*Anyone seeking healing on body, mind, or soul may come to the altar rail during the communion distribution for healing prayer with laying on of hands and anointing with oil.
Let an usher know if you would like to receive healing prayer seated in the pew.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MUSIC

SONG

*A Mighty Fortress: Ayre Michael Costello
ELW 469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

Response: **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW 885 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 813 *Faith of Our Fathers*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress: Fugue John Behnke

COMMEMORATIONS

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647;

Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Monday, October 26, 2026

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

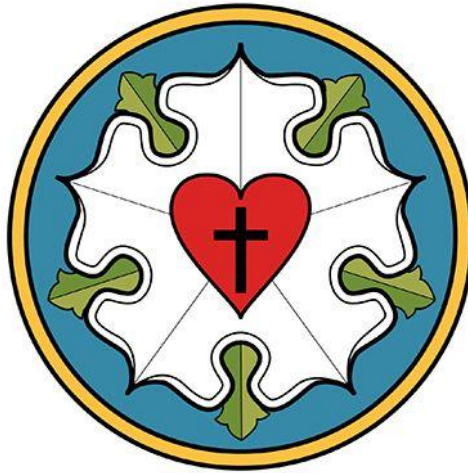
Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2026

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.

LUTHER SEAL

What does this mean?



Excerpts from Luther's interpretation...

THE BLACK CROSS IN A HEART

retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who “believes from the heart will be justified” (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. “The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified.

A WHITE ROSE

shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give

peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (Matt. 28:3; John 20:12).

THE SKY-BLUE FIELD

symbolizes that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

A GOLDEN RING

around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology].

Corissa
Nelson
and