As We Gather Reformation Sunday October 25, 2026

Have you ever wondered what Lutherans are all about? Today is a great day to remind ourselves that the heart of our faith is simply the heart of Christianity itself—that our salvation from sin, death, and Satan is the work of Christ alone. He frees us from evil to love the Lord who loved us first and loves us still. The hallmarks of our faith came back into focus in the era of the reformers, when faithful leaders like Martin Luther put the truth of Holy Scripture back into the hands, minds, and mouths of God's church. Christ comes to free the sinner from slavery to darkness. Join Him in the freedom of His light—free to sing, free to confess, and free to share the eternal Gospel of Christ crucified and risen again!

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.

A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- ***Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- ***Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- ***Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- ***Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

Please Note

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.
We offer a traditional communion wafer, off-white color wafers are gluten free.
While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

PRELUDE
WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #657 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *Sts. 1–4*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**
P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
C **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.
C **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.**
P And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.
C **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**
P For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
C **I am Yours; save me.**
P Jesus speaks, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples." The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

INTROIT *Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

P I will speak of your testimonies before kings, O Lord,
C **and shall not be put to shame.**

P I will bless the LORD at all times;
C **his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
P My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
C **let the humble hear and be glad.**
P Come, O children, listen to me;
C **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**
P The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.
C **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.
P I will speak of your testimonies before kings, O Lord,
C **and shall not be put to shame.**

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

HYMN #948 "All Glory Be To God Alone" S*ts. 1–2*

1 All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.
Of Your great glory do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

(Text: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us 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.**

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.'"

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 as 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.**

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

P Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

C **Alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"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."'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN #582 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

SERMON "God's Hold On You" John 8:31-36

APOSTLES' CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

P And so we pray: … [*Petitions*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P We give all thanks and praise to You, as is good, right, and salutary, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for by Your eternal Gospel You have proclaimed freedom to sinful souls and righteousness through Christ, Your Son. Shower Your people with grace and faith to believe Your Holy Word and to confess Your timeless truth before the world, that more might find refuge in the salvation of Jesus Christ and so rejoice with angels and archangels, with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, and praise Your glorious name in one unending hymn:

SANCTUS LSB 178

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P We boast, O Lord our God, in nothing other than the redeeming work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for the gift of justification that comes purely through His blood. As You gather us around His Table, prepare our hearts to receive that gift, that in partaking of His true body and true blood we might taste freedom from sin, guilt, and shame. In Gospel confidence, make us bold to stand as those who shall not be moved from the foundation of faith we have received through the redemption of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD **"Remember Me"** by Martin Nystrom, Gerrit Gustafson

P (*sung*) "On the night … This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me."

C (*sung*) **"So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;**
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed Your blood
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed your blood."

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PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*

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

DISTRIBUTION

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 211*

C **1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,**
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Most glorious Father, we thank You for feeding our faith through this Holy Supper, strengthening us to live as those who know and believe Your truth. Keep us in the true faith, that bound to Your truth we might joyfully declare the One who sets us free—namely, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *John 8:36; Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:13*

P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

P For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

℗ Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

ℂ **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

BENEDICTION

℗ 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.**

CLOSING HYMN #794 "The Lord, My God, Be Praised"

ANNOUNCEMENTS
POSTLUDE

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Altar flowers today are given by Kristina and Jim Bean in celebration of their marriage begun on Oct. 17th.

Reader Today: Gail Snow **Attendance Last Week: 75**

PRAYER LIST: Kristina Bean, surg. recov.; **Jean** Anderson, back pain; **Mary Webster**, cancer treatments; **Claudia Havens**, cancer treatments; **Nichole Koves**, cancer treatments; **DeAnn West**, home from hospital; **Judy Ferdina and family**, at death of husband Marvin on Tues.; **DeAnn & Philip West and family** at death of DeAnn's mother JoAnn Rock on Mon.; **Nancy & David Martin and family** at death of Nancy's mother.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tues. October 27	10:30 am Preschool Chapel
Wed. October 28	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Wed. October 28	2:30 pm Men's Bible Study
Thur. October 29	10:30 am Jesus Time (Childcare Ctr)
Thur. October 29	10:30 am Support Group
Sun. November 1	8:30 am Bible Study; 10:00 am Worship Service; 11:00am Fellowship

BIRTHDAYS

10-25 Karen Gray 10-30 Linda Grimsrud 10-30 Bonnie Koopman
10-30 David Martin

WE'RE RETIRING THE MORTGAGE! Spread the word! Gather your gifts! We're making an all out effort to raise that **final $250,000 to pay off the church mortgage by Dec. 31st** and then have a mortgage burning party in 2027! We invite all to pray and consider what they can give above and beyond regular Sunday offerings to make this final push. As soon as you are able, **please put your gift in an envelope and mark it with an "M" or "Mortgage Retirement" and place in the offering or mail to the church office**. Make sure your name and/or contribution envelope number is on the check or envelope. Regular mailing envelopes are available on the Church Information bulletin board table. Make checks payable to Mesquite Lutheran Church.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX: Mesquite Lutheran Church's **"Goal Page"** has a direct link--QR Code and website address--to our very own Goal Page where you can pack a shoebox online. The total cost is $30 which includes your choice of gifts for your box ***and*** payment for shipping ($10). It's simply the fastest and easiest way to participate in this amazing Program. **The deadline for the boxes is Sunday, November 22nd.**

The Women's Auxiliary is going to host a "Packing Party" on **Saturday, November 14th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall**!! This Party is NOT intended to replace your personal donations but to augment MLC's total number of boxes. It will be a fun opportunity for fellowship, refreshments and filling shoeboxes! The Women's Auxiliary will purchase gifts to fill the boxes but helping hands are needed to pack them. Please join us!! If you want to help by donating items for these Auxiliary boxes, we will be collecting as follows:

Sunday, October 18th – Sunday, October 25th – **Toothbrushes**
Sunday, October 25th – Sunday, November 1st – **Combs**
Sunday, November 1st – Sunday, November 8th – **Washcloths**
Sunday, November 8th – Saturday, November 14th -- **School Supplies**

A huge THANK YOU to ALL for your enthusiasm, your donations and prayers for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT TEA Ladies, there's still time to reserve your spot for the Advent By Candlelight Tea which is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5th, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m**. The **sign-up sheet** is in the Narthex. Reservations will close on November 28th or when we reach 70 attendees. There is no charge for you or your guest(s). Join us for this special afternoon as we pause from the busy holiday season to pray, reflect and focus on the Birthday of Christ. **If you signed up already and found you can no longer attend, please contact Carol Van Lente (208-252-1558)** so she can remove your name from the list allowing room for others to attend. Thank you.

CHILDCARE CENTER WILL NOT BE DOING TRUNK OR TREAT

Instead we are having a pizza party. If you would like to contribute to our pizza party, we would love for you **to bring goodies enough for 20 children by the school before October 29th**. We will be filling their buckets/bags for them. We're open 7:00 am to 5:15 pm Monday through Friday. You can just ring the green doorbell out front and hand them off to whomever answers letting them know they are for our Halloween party; or you're welcome to drop them off at the church for me to pick up. Thank you! There are no allergies and no homemade items are allowed. Brandy – Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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