

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF REAFFIRMATION AND WELCOME
REFORMATION SUNDAY - THE SPIRIT BECKONS
CELEBRATION OF OWNERSHIP

Reverend John R. Hanson
October 31, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

*This IS Reformation Day, when we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ Jesus which is the Good News that sets us **free** from our sins and free to live as children of God! We celebrate the reforming events that would unite all churches in the proclamation and witness of the Word. In the waters of baptism we are made one in Christ Jesus, and we pray for the day that all people will be able to celebrate at the Lord's table.*

THEME & VERSE

We come together in the name we have been given.

We worship in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Because of what Jesus has done for us, we have life in his name.

Our hope is in Christ, in him we are forgiven, set free, and made new.

Our God has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.

We are called to be Jesus' messengers and proclaimers of God's gift of grace. We are the people of Peace Lutheran, a people called for a reason, for a purpose, to a constant Reformation. The Holy Spirit is present to reform us, our congregation, and the world.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGERS

"Good God Almighty"

3rd - 9th grade

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

Put on the spot by an expert in the Law, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments.

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to

him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than

all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, pleading to him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord God, and God will forgive the wickedness of my sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows upon them his Holy Spirit. You that believe and are baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all!

Amen.

SERVICE OF AFFIRMATION / RE-COMMITMENT

CO-MISSION FOR THE PEOPLE

We rejoice in the freedom of God, a freedom which sweeps us into an ever-changing reformation of the self and of the world around us. A freedom that invites us into a relationship with God. A freedom that demands action. A freedom that makes us Christ-like rather than world-like. A freedom that enables us to step into the extraordinary.

I encourage each one of us to firmly grasp this freedom that will empower one to be a *prophet* who speaks wisdom, an *advocate* who defends the weak, a *teacher* who shares the wonder of God, a *witness* with a story of power and insight, a *public servant* who creates harmony, and a *visionary* who brings hope.

We rejoice in the freedom of God that makes us true to our self, everyday becoming *the people* God made us to be.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

“This Little Light of Mine” 3 yr old - 2nd grade Sunday School

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“We’re All in This TOGETHER”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Giver of every good and undeserved blessing, with expectation we unwrap the gift of this place, this house formed by human hands but filled with God, a center of healing, love, and shared life. We thank you, generous God, for the gift of this place.

We embrace with hope the gift of this time, these sacred seconds called from our brief lives and filled with eternity, a momentary joining of journeys. We thank you, generous God, for the gift of worship and praise.

Once again, we join ourselves with you and with each other through our worship; through prayers and praises and through our lives and your love, we make a gift of ourselves to you. May this offering fill your heart with joy as we rejoice in you. Amen.

READING: Hebrews 9:11-14

Christ, the high priest, entered God's holy place with his own blood as a sacrifice for our deliverance, which is much more effective than the blood of bulls and goats.

¹¹But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), ¹²he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³For if the

blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

ANTHEM

"Take My Life, Lord"

Celebration Singers

SERMON - *"Christ, ALONE!" This is the foundation of our faith. Simply put, a message even a small child can remember and one that is easy to share! Will you?*

HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

Choir and Congregation

No guilt in life, no fear in death this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til he returns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

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RECEPTION OF THE MORTGAGE

Mark Falteisek, WCU

PRAYER

God of all mercies, we, your grateful people, give you humble thanks and praise for all your goodness and loving-kindness shown us and all people. We thank you for this occasion which we celebrate today. Give us a true sense of your goodness so that our hearts may be truly thankful, and we will share our praise not only with our lips but also with our lives by giving ourselves to the work and service of this, your church, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN

"The Lord's Prayer"

Burgundy # 33

BLESSING & PRAYER AT COMMUNION

As we return from this table amid the noise of everyday life, we listen! We remain persistent, for the one we follow is not dead, nor are his teachings and promises. We aren't discouraged. We ask - seek - knock - for a time to receive, find, and open will come. We believe Christ Jesus is alive and we are alive in him! His word is written upon our hearts, always there. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon 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 your 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.

God sends us out with encouragement and a challenge: Lead lives worthy of God's glory! Live in faithfulness to one another and to God who calls you into his service. Blessed are all who seek their strength in God alone; happy are they who live the gospel.

God be praised! May we be gentle yet courageous disciples.

CLOSING HYMN

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

Come set your rule and reign in our hearts again;
Increase in us we pray; unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.
We are your church; we need your pow'r in us.

We seek your kingdom first, we hunger and we thirst,
Refuse to waste our lives, for you're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released, the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace,
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are your church; we pray revive this earth.

***Build your kingdom here, let the darkness fear;
Show your mighty hand, heal our streets and land.
Set your church on fire, win this nation back,
Change the atmosphere, build your kingdom here we pray.***

Unleash your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far;
No force of hell can stop your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this, awake the kingdom seed in us,
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are your church; we are the hope on earth.

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BURNING CELEBRATION

Please join us in the parking lot.

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Reformation Sunday - This story begins in 1517. What follows is a very simplified explanation of complex theological, political, and economic events that all coincided. Across Europe, the Roman Catholic Church was engaged in one of the greatest fund raisers in all of history.

If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife. In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church (called "Indulgences") promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died. There were some nuances explaining of this practice at the time. And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.

November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church's calendar. The day before, October 31, a German Monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral.

Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. ***Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is!*** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy. His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn't go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants. Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.

October 31st, 1517, was a long time ago. Why does it continue to matter and be remembered in our churches today?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

We all have a family story – how we got to this point in history. Stories about parents and grandparents, about the things that have shaped our families over the years. Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives. On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: ***God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.***

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better

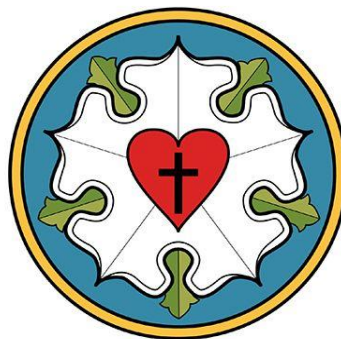
Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better. We are called to be more loving and grace-filled because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right-hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call “church.”

Happy Reformation Sunday!

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
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