

October 29, 2023

The background of the entire page is a red-toned, woodcut-style portrait of Martin Luther, looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The text is overlaid on this image.

REFORMATION
SUNDAY

GRACE THROUGH FAITH ALONE



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



Reformation Sunday

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, forgive us our sins, and grant us always true repentance. Keep us always in the truth of Your pure Word. Teach us by Your Holy Spirit to love Your saving Word, so that by Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone, we may be preserved by You unto eternal life. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 733 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

1 *O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:*

2 *Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.*

3 *Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.*

4 *A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.*

5 *Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.*

6 *O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last And our eternal home!*

The Invocation and Luther's Morning Prayer

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

C I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would protect me today from sin and every evil, that my life and all my behavior may please You. For into Your hands I entrust my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me.
Amen.

Reformation Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

- P** God our Father, has preserved His Word for us. It is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.
- C** Our Lord Jesus has made His power known. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father and will come to judge the world.
- P** God the Spirit has extended God's grace to us in Word and Sacrament
- C** But we have not kept the Word of our Lord.
- P** I now ask you, therefore, before God who searches the heart: Do you confess the sins you have committed in thought, word, and deed; do you repent of them, believe on the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to lead a godly life from now on? If so, then answer "yes."
- C** Yes.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto you. In the stead of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen!

Glory to God in the Highest *(Sung to the tune of Hymn 648)*

Gloria in Excelsis – Latin for "Glory in the Highest (to God)." A hymn glorifying and praising our God.

1 God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You
2 True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who set their
sov - 'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
world a - blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un - heed - ed, Join one
by Your Church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows Your glo - ry;
grow - ing song of praise, While Your Church on earth con - fess - es
Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne, Sing - ing, "Ho - ly,
One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther, Son, and
ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord of hosts and God a - lone!"
Ho - ly Spir - it, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.

The Prayer for the Day

The main thoughts for the day are collected together in this prayer.

- P** Let us pray. . . through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Epistle Reading: *Galatians 5:1-6*

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

The Responsive Reading: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

- P** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
- C** **When I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,**
- P** Not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt,
- C** **My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.**
- P** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD:
- C** **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.**
- P** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.
- C** **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."**



The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 10:16-23*

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

A Reformation Confession of Faith

We boldly confess what we believe using the words from the Formula Concord – on Justification by Faith.

☐ “We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God:

A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own.

This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel.

Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God’s gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved.”

Hymn 656 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

1 *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.*

2 *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,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.*

3 *Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not overpower us.*

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

4 *The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.*

*And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife, Let these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.*

The Sermon: Psalm 46

To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A Song. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰ "Be still, 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 fortress. Selah

Theme: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

- I. His mighty help (1-3)
- II. His mighty love (4-7)
- III. His mighty Word (8-11)

The Offertory

Having heard God's Word, we ask Him to spiritually heal us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O
God. Re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres-ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re - store to me the joy of Your sal-
va - tion. Up - hold me with Your free Spir - it.

Hymn 728 *How Firm a Foundation*

- 1 *How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*
- 2 *"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*
- 3 *"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!*
- 4 *"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.*
- 5 *"Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."*

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's Scashtag is "ScIcmztzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

*(788:1): **Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.***

Prayer of the Church – The 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.

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
C Amen!

Closing Hymn 582 *God's Word is Our Great Heritage* (to the tune of A Mighty Fortress)

**1. God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure.
Throughout all generations!**

LIVESTREAM on  YouTube @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  Spotify @TheWordFromMountZion

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

If the LORD wills, we will do this or that. James 4:15

WELCOME EVERYONE! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain our beliefs and teachings. Where & when? Your convenience.

EVANGELISM SEMINAR THIS SATURDAY: At 10:30am this Saturday (11/4), we will be hosting a special seminar presented by Pastor Mark Tiefel of the CLC Committee on Domestic Fields. Entitled "Acts of Evangelism: Lessons from the Book of Acts," the seminar will encourage both personal and congregational mission work. The seminar will be from 10:30am-12:00pm. Afterwards a soup and sandwich lunch will be served from 12:00-1:00pm. Please mark your calendars! A signup sheet for the lunch is on the hymnal rack.

THE ANNUAL VOTERS ELECTION MEETING is next Sunday, November 5. Church officers for 2024 will be elected. All members are invited to recommend nominations to Randy Wittorp, the chairman of the nominating committee.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – LOCAL PARKS CLEANUP: The outreach committee is organizing a community cleanup event on Sunday, November 12, following the Sunday service. Sandwiches will be served in the church basement, after which we'll be going to several local Madison Heights parks to spend a few hours cleaning up garbage. Mark your calendars! The more the merrier! For more information, speak with outreach chairman Jesse Wilke.

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Thu. 10/26 | 3pm | UM Ann Arbor Bible Study (Shapiro Library) |
| | 8pm | Nominating Committee Meeting |
| Sat. 11/4 | 10:30am- 1:00pm | Evangelism Seminar presented by the CDF Seminar Presentation from 10:30am-12:00pm Soup and Sandwich Lunch from 12-1:00pm |
| Sun. 11/5 | 9am | Bible Class / Sunday School |
| | 10am | Divine Worship Service (w/ Communion) |
| Fri. 11/10 | 5:30-8pm | Friday Night Bible School |
| Tue. 11/14 | 7-9pm | Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings |
| Sun. 11/26 | 4pm | Cleveland Area Worship Service |
| Wed. 12/6 | 7pm | 1 st Midweek Advent Service |

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Jeremiah Rosen Church Cleaning: Muellers

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Service Attendance: 21 Bible Class/Sunday School: 12

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: | \$86,423.08 | Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: | \$4115.38 |
| General Fund Offerings Received YTD: | \$93,574.82 | Bi-Weekly General Fund Offerings Received: | \$3409.00 |
| Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): | | | \$9357.48 |
| Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: | | | \$84,201.99 |

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

Jackie McGruder remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Kuwait. The **Naumanns** are expecting a baby in April. **CLC Pastor John Hein**, 56, Grace, Fridley MN, is being treated for thymic carcinoma cancer. **Kate Sauers**, wife of CLC pastor Rob Sauers, is being treated for lymphoma cancer.

THE MEANING OF THE REFORMATION

People who write history call the events of Luther's life and the lives of other like-minded men of that time the REFORMATION. Many important Bible teachings were once again being taught by pastors and teachers in the church. Among them were these:



Justification by faith. The church had been incorrectly teaching that God would regard people "Not guilty" if they did good works first. Luther discovered from the Bible that God justified all the people of the world (declared them "Not guilty") because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. God leads people through His Spirit to BELIEVE that He has indeed declared them "Not guilty" of their sins.

The Bible. Before Luther's time there were very few Bibles. Most of those which did exist were in places where the common people couldn't get at them. They were also written in Latin, a language the people didn't understand. In 1521 Luther started translating the Bible from its original languages (Hebrew and Greek) into German – the language of his country. This way Luther's countrymen could find out for themselves what God had to say rather than rely on the corrupt Roman Catholic Church.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen's Lutheran of Mt. View, CA **is still considering** the call to Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN. <> Pastor David Reim of St. Paul Lutheran of Vernon, British Columbia, **is still considering** the call to Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.

2024 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP: Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: lutheranmissions.org.