

Sunday, October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Even as we return to worship at 8: 9:15 and 10:45 a.m., you are welcome to join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for Reformation Sunday from Centennial Hall on Sunday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m. If you are unable to join us at that time, be welcome to access the service at your convenience via Trinity's YouTube channel. Instructions for access to the live stream and the recorded video are below.

Trinity is live streaming worship – how do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.

OR

- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
- Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
- When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
- Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
- We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. It takes a couple of hours for the video to download on YouTube after worship ends.

If you have a YouTube account please subscribe to the channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Eternal Light for October 25

The eternal light is sponsored this Sunday by Jane and Don Barsema in loving memory of Melvin Barsema.

Prayer of the Day for Reformation Sunday

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.

Prayer for our Nation

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of division and decision, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members Fran Anderson, Dan Babin, George Bauer, Krysta Billock, Sherry Blair and family, Loretta Blied, Bonnie Brandstadt and family, Pat Bruin, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Angela Davis, Riley Day, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Carol Eriksen, Ryleigh Fischer, Joe Fisher, Renee Fisk and family, Mari Franz and family, Mary Frick, Richard and Phyllis Gehl, Jack Greiner, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, David, Sue and Daniel Gutierrez, Alexander Hahn, Mark Hahn, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Ruth Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Bev Heyne and family, Carrie Hoeksema, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Gayl Kessel, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Roy Lamprich, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legualt, Bob and Cathy Luders, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Joyce McKenzie, Marcia McClimans and family, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Richard Mencarelli, Johnny Mielock, Moglia family, Michael Mulligan, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Roger Perham, Dan Pollert, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Tiago Saline, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, David Smoes, Courtney Steketee and family, Linda Taffs, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Ted Turnage, Dale Volkerding, John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

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.

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.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

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.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

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

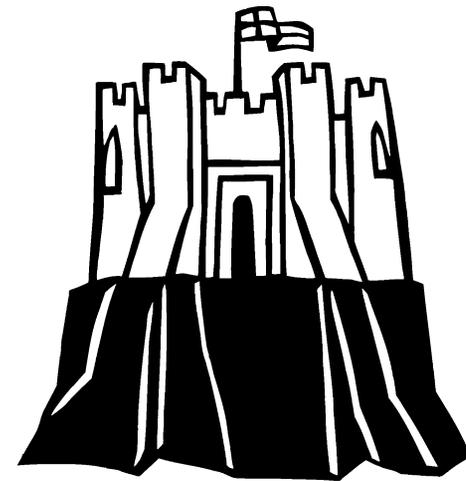
²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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

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



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord God, bless those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Paul Busekist and the people of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide us to a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to cherish our commonalities with people of other faiths. Bless our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Temple Emanuel and Masjid At-Tawheed. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind, including the residents of the Gulf Coast recovering from hurricanes and those who have endured the western wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this family of faith, we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for this time of pandemic and social upheaval

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OCTOBER 25, 2020
REFORMATION
SUNDAY



Disciples have a trusted relationship with Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Moses is buried in Moab
Thursday	Psalms 90:1-17	God is eternal
Friday	Galatians 2:15-21	Justified through faith
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The beatitudes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “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 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, keep your faithful people steadfast in your word so that we may receive your freedom and truth through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God of glory and might, with this gift of food we remember the gift of faith that strengthens us and renews us daily through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with a relationship to God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)



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OCTOBER 25, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*A Mighty Fortress Is
Our God*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about what it takes to have a strong, ongoing relationship with a friend.
- What gets in the way of a friendship?
- Talk or think about what it takes to have a strong, ongoing relationship with Jesus.

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 8:31-36.

It is the power of the word that Jesus brings that gives us freedom from sin. That word is first and foremost Jesus, the Word that became flesh (John 1:14). Christian disciples “continue” or remain in the freeing and saving word of God. The Gospel of John emphasizes that the follower of Jesus has an ongoing relationship to him by continuing “in my word” (8:31). To know the truth that sets one free is more than to know information; it is to live in a relationship to Jesus through faith. The challenge at the time of the Reformation—and today as well—is for the church to promote a living relationship with God, a relationship that depends on faith in Jesus, the Son of God. We experience this relationship through worship, prayer, reading the Bible, and serving and loving one’s neighbor for the sake of Christ. How do you continue to live each day as a disciple of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, help me to trust in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and have life in his name. Amen.**

SERVICE



Martin Luther wrote, “God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” An important theme of the Reformation is that all Christians are called to serve others through their baptisms. Think about friends and neighbors in your community who may need help or support in some way. What good works can you do to serve them in Jesus’ name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. After reading this psalm once, make a list of words from it that help you understand God as a mighty fortress. Read Psalm 46 again and pause for a moment when you read a word from your list. After finishing, say, “Amen.”



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org