

# THE FEAST OF THE REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH (OCTOBER 31) THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



A Joint Service of  
Bethany & Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Churches  
[gorgelutherans.com](http://gorgelutherans.com)

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Mrs. Kristen Lawson, Organist

**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR BLESSED LORD!** We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

OCTOBER 26, 2025 † 10:00 A. M.

**CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT:** Bethany & Concordia Lutheran Churches confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

**PASTORAL CARE AND GUESTS AT THE LORD’S SUPPER:** Scripture and our Confessions teach that the Lord’s Supper “is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine” (Small Catechism). We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord’s Table. Our altar is ordinarily open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are active members of sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation. *Other guests who desire to commune, please speak to the pastor about Holy Communion after the service.* In Christ, Pastor Lawson

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank You that by Your Word You have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of Your grace: We beseech You, mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false doctrine, and grant that we may not become ungrateful and despise and persecute Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it, and put all our trust in Your grace, through the merit of Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## The Divine Service: Rite Four (The Lutheran Choral Service) Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 107

### The Office of Preparation (Confession & Holy Absolution)

**Please Note:** *When the Prelude Music begins it is a laudable custom to keep talking to a minimum and prepare for God’s Service with prayer.*

*It is a laudable custom to bow the head when the holy Name of Jesus is mentioned and at other places marked with a diamond (◆)*

*It is a laudable custom to cross oneself in remembrance of baptism at those places marked by a †.*

Processional Hymn: 250, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**C: A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us free from every 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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, They yet have nothing won; The Kingdom our remaineth.**

Invocation & Confession of Sin (spoken)

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**P:** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

**C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

**P:** Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:**

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Kyrie Eleison: 34, Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above*

**C: Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love,  
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.  
O Lord ♦ Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,  
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost,  
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most; Do Thou our last hour bless;  
Let us leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, eleison!**

*Gloria in Excelsis (ELH p. 44-45)*

**P: Glory be to God in the highest**

**C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**C: All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;  
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;  
O thank Him for His goodness!**

**We praise, we ♦ worship Thee, we trust, And give Thee ♦ thanks forever,  
O Father, that Thy rule is just And wise and changes never.  
Thy boundless pow'r o'er all things reigns, Done is whate'er Thy will ordains:  
Well for us that Thou rulest.**

**O ♦ Jesus Christ, Thou only Son Of God, Thy heav'nly Father,  
Who didst for all our sins atone And Thy lost sheep dost gather.  
Thou Lamb of God, to Thee on high From out our depths we sinners cry,  
Have mercy on us, ♦ Jesus!**

**O Holy Ghost, Thou precious Gift, Thou Comforter unfailing,  
O'er Satan's snares our souls up lift And let Thy pow'r availing  
Avert our woes and calm our dread. For us the Savior's blood was shed;  
† We trust in Thee to save us.**

Salutation: p. 66

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And with your spirit.

Collect for the Day (Reformation)

**P:** O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people: keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Thy Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity

**P:** O almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech You, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things You would have us do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Lesson: *Revelation 14:6-7*

**P:** Then I [John] saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people –

saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Hymn: *589, Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*

Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word; Curb those who fain by craft and sword  
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son And set at naught all He hath done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Thy pow’r make known, For Thou art Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Thy Christendom that we May evermore sing praise to Thee.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth.  
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

Epistle: *Romans 3:19-28*

**P: Brethren:** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Now the righteousness apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is Christ Jesus, Whom God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what Law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Chief Hymn: *TLH 266, O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word*

**C: O God, our Lord, Thy holy Word Was long a hidden treasurer  
Till to its place It was by grace Restored in fullest measure.  
For this today Our thanks we say And gladly glorify Thee.  
Thy mercy show And grace bestow On all who still deny Thee.**

**Salvation free By faith in Thee, That is Thy Gospel's preaching,  
The heart and core Of Bible lore In all its sacred teaching.  
In Christ we must Put all our trust, Not in our deeds or labor;  
With conscience pure And heart secure Love Thee, Lord, and our neighbor.**

**Thou, Lord, alone This work hast done By Thy free grace and favor.  
All who believe Will grace receive Thro' Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
And tho' the Foe Would overthrow Thy Word with grim endeavor,  
All he hath wrought Must come to naught, – Thy Word will stand forever.**

**My Lord art Thou, And for me now Death holds no dreadful terrors;  
Thy precious blood, My highest good, Hath blotted out my errors.  
My thanks to Thee! Thou wilt to me Fulfill Thy promise ever  
And mercy give While here I live And heav'nly bliss forever.**

Holy Gospel: *St. John 8:31-36*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to † St. John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter:

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

**P:** *At that time* Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him: “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, You will be made free?” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

**P:** This is the † Holy Gospel.

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

Creedal Hymn: *38, We All Believe in One True God*

**C: We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,  
The Father, who to us in love Hath the right of children given.  
He both soul and body feedeth, All we need He doth provide us;  
He through snares and perils leadeth, Watching that no harm betide us.  
He careth for us day and night, All things are governed by His might.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing  
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of every grace and blessing.  
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,  
Made true man, our elder Brother, That the lost might life inherit;  
Was crucified for sinful men And raised by God to life again.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who sweet grace and comfort giveth  
And with the Father and the Son In eternal glory liveth;  
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.  
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.  
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally. Amen.**

Sermon: Christ is in our midst. **He is and ever shall be.**

Pulpit Hymn: *583, God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

**C: 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.**

The Intercessions

Hymn of Preparation: *227, Salvation Unto Us Is Come, sts. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13*

**C: Salvation unto us is come By God's free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.**

**What God doth in His law demand No man to Him could render.  
Before this Judge all guilty stand; His law speaks curse in thunder.  
The law demands a perfect heart; We were defiled in every part,  
And lost was our condition.**

**Still all the law fulfilled must be, Else we were lost forever,  
Then God His Son sent down that He Might us from doom deliver;  
He all the law for us fulfilled And thus His Father's anger stilled  
Which over us impended.**

**As Christ hath full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
So may each Christian now be glad And build on this foundation:  
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.**

**Not doubting this, I trust in Thee, Thy Word cannot be broken,  
Thou all dost call, “Come unto Me!” No falsehood hast Thou spoken:  
“He who believes and is baptized, He shall be saved,” say’st Thou, O Christ,  
And he shall never perish.**

**The just is he – and he alone – Who by this faith is living,  
The faith that by good works is shown, To God the glory giving;  
Faith gives thee peace with God above, But thou thy neighbor, too, must love,  
If thou art new created.**

**The law reveals the guilt of sin, And makes men conscience-stricken;  
The gospel then doth enter in, The sin-sick soul to quicken.  
Come to the cross, look up and live! The law no peace to thee doth give  
Nor can its deeds bring comfort.**

**All blessing, honor, thanks and praise, To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by His grace, All glory to His merit.  
O Father in the heav’ns above, The work begun performs Thy love,  
Thy worthy name be hallowed.**

## The Liturgy of Holy Communion

Exhortation of Holy Communion: ELH p. 77

**P:** Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: “This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins” you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ’s words “for the remission of sins” you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says “Take, eat; drink of it, all of you,” and “this do in remembrance of Me.”

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unit in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

*Sanctus: 40, Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old*

**C:     Isaiah, mighty seer, in days of old The Lord of all in Spirit did behold  
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,  
With flowing train that filled the Temple quite.  
Above the throne were stately seraphim,  
Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.  
With twain they veiled their faces, as was meet,  
With twain in reverent awe they hid their feet,  
And with the other twain aloft they soared,  
One to the other called and praised the Lord:  
♦ "Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!  
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!  
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!  
Behold, His glory filleth all the earth!"  
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,  
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.**

**Now let us to the Lord lift up our hearts  
By faith which God the Holy Ghost imparts,  
Now let us with the angel host unite,  
And with the company of saints in light,  
To bring our thanks and praise to God our Lord  
Almighty, Everlasting, Gracious God.  
For all creation's splendor, earth and light;  
For our redemption and eternal life,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ our King  
Whose gracious Name we magnify and sing:  
♦ "Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!**

**Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!  
Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!  
His love and glory filleth heav'n and earth!  
†Blest is the One who comes in God's own Name,  
Hosanna! Save us, Lord! Your grace we claim!"**

Lord's Prayer (sung together)

**P:** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His saving promises, we are bold to pray:

**C: Our Father...**

Words of Institution: pp. 77-79

*At the words "This is My Body ... This cup is the New Testament in My Blood" the congregation **may** make the sign of the cross.*

*As each sacred species is elevated, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ.*

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow.*

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei: 41, *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*

**P:** The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**C: Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.  
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus!**

Distribution of the Body & Blood of Christ to the Faithful

Prayers for “**Before Holy Communion**” and  
for “**After Holy Communion**” are found on page 40 in ELH.

*The Pastor distributes the sacred host with the words “This is the true Body of Christ, given for you.” It is a laudable custom for communicants to respond “Amen” before receiving the host on the tongue. The Pastor distributes the sacred blood of Christ with the words “This is the true Blood of Christ, shed for you.” It is a laudable custom for communicants to respond “Amen” before receiving the Blood of Christ.*

*After all have communed, whatever remains of Christ’s Body & Blood is consumed  
and the Pastor reverently cleanses the sacred vessels.*

Hymn of Thanksgiving: 327, *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

**C: O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need:  
O Lord, have mercy!**

**Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made:  
O Lord, have mercy.**

**May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
To please Him with our behavior  
And live as brethren here in love and union  
Nor repent this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heavenly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity:  
O Lord, have mercy!**

Collect of Thanksgiving: p. 83

**P:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Benediction

**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. Amen. Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: *212, Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head*

**C: Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head, Thou art her one Foundation.  
In Thee she trusts, before Thee bows, And waits for Thy salvation.  
Built on this Rock secure, Thy Church shall endure E'en though the world decay  
And all things pass away. O hear, O hear us, Jesus!**

**O Lord, let this, Thy little flock, Thy name alone confessing,  
Continue in Thy loving care, True unity possessing.  
Thy Sacraments, O Lord, And Thy saving Word To us e'er pure retain.  
Grant that they may remain Our only strength and comfort.**

**Help us to serve Thee evermore With hearts both pure and lowly.  
And may Thy Word, that light divine, Shine on in splendor holy  
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow. The pow'r of sin destroy  
And all that doth annoy. O make us faithful Christians!**

**And for Thy gospel let us dare To sacrifice all treasure;  
Teach us to bear Thy blessed cross, To find in Thee all pleasure.  
O grant us steadfastness In joy and distress, That we Thee ne'er forsake.  
Let us Thy grace partake Of endless joy and glory.**

Prayer After Worship: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we humbly beseech You to set Your Passion, Cross and Death between Your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of death. Give us mercy and grace, and grant Your Church concord and peace, that at length we shall enjoy everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

# Our Life Together

**THE PASTOR IS AVAILABLE** for private Confession & Absolution, and for confidential pastoral counselling, or just to chat. Please feel free to stop in. (The Augsburg Confession teaches that “[private] Confession is not abolished among us. ... Our people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s voice and pronounced by God’s command. ... They are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences. ... They are taught that faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins.” Article 25)



**Thank you** to the Sunday School children for singing this morning. Thank you also to the members of Concordia in Hood River for joining us at Bethany to celebrate the Reformation. Our celebration continues in the social hall after the Service for an Oktoberfest-themed potluck and Christian fellowship.

**The Bulls will host their Annual *Fall Party*** next Sunday at 1:00pm. Everyone from the Parish is invited out to the farm after church for food, fun & fellowship (no Bible Study or Sunday School). Chilli, hotdogs & buns, and all condiments will be provided. Everything else is potluck style.



**Mary/Martha Guild** meets a week from Wednesday (Nov. 4) at 5:30pm.

**Bethany Elders**, we will have our November meeting in the Pastors’ study at the same time.

**Prayer List:** Please let Pastor know (by email or text) any updates to the list of friends & family of the Parish who are included on weekly prayer sheet.

**Cleaning at Bethany**  
October 20 – November 1  
Larsons/Steve Klaviter

*The artwork on the cover of this morning’s bulletin is a woodcarving by the Lutheran artist, Lucas Cranach the Younger (circa 1550) entitled, “The True Church and the False Church”. In the center, Luther preaches and points to the crucified Christ while below him and to his right, the holy communion is given to the people in both kinds. The true church is founded on the preaching of “Christ and Him crucified.” To Luther’s left, the false church is being swallowed up by the “jaws of hell.” The Pope and his priests are depicted as members of the false church because their preaching is founded on the false theology of salvation by works.*

**Reformation Sunday:** The Reformation truths Lutherans have celebrated for 500 years apply beautifully and powerfully to life issues. A human being's identity and sanctity come from God's grace in creating, redeeming, and calling each one. Abilities or accomplishments, efforts or emotions cannot establish anyone's value or invalidate anyone's worth.

**Prayer:** *Gracious Savior, let us honor with You the preciousness of every human person because of Your grace, forgiveness, and free salvation. Amen.*

***Life Thoughts in the Church Year/One Year Lectionary – Lutherans For Life***

## **Feasts, Commemorations, and Events this Week**

**Monday:** Pastor at Bethany

**Tuesday:** FEAST OF STS. SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES; Pastor at Bethany

**Wednesday:** Pastor at Concordia

**Thursday:** Bible Study at Bethany, 10am; Adult Catechesis at Concordia, 4:30pm

**Friday:** FEAST OF THE REFORMATION/EVE OF ALL SAINTS; Pastor at Bethany

**Saturday:** FEAST OF ALL SAINTS; Pastor's Day Off

**Next Sunday:** ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Fall Party at the Bull's Farm, 1:00pm



### **All Saints' Sunday**

**All Saints Sunday:** Next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, transferred from its proper day: November 1. *All Saints* is the church's Memorial Day. On *All Saints* we commemorate all those who have fought the good fight of faith, who have finished their journey through this life, died in the faith and now rest from their labor. This is the great cloud of faithful baptized Christians who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb and passed ahead of us into heavenly glory of the Church Triumphant. These are the ones who, together with the angels and archangels, make up "the whole company of heaven" who worship eternally before the throne of God and the Lamb. We who are still on the earth in the Church Militant are admitted into their worship for a foretaste every time we are gathered for the Divine Service. You won't want to miss next Sunday's Divine Service of Word & Sacraments!



*A mighty*  
**fortress**  
*is our*  
**God**

Today all Lutheran churches sing ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** in celebration of the Lutheran Reformation. This hymn has been, and continues to be, such a standard hymn, and it so well summarizes Luther's own theology and personal experience, that it has been labeled the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation." We don't know exactly when he wrote it. The earliest hymnal we have copies of in which it appeared, is the 1531 hymnal of the

city of Erfurt, Germany. It probably appeared in two Wittenberg hymnals of 1528 & 1529, but since there are no surviving copies of those hymnals we can't be sure. Since Luther wrote hymns not as a means for self-expression, but to serve his fellow believers, it hardly seems possible that he would have written this hymn early on and simply let it lie on his desk. We can therefore safely assume that it was written sometime during the years 1527 or 1528, not long before it was published. Luther wrote this hymn to interpret and apply Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge* (vv. 1-2, 7, 11). The tune is a Luther original and a masterpiece of musical expression. Its military-like rhythm reflects the triumphant mood of the text and gives strong emphasis to the important words. Christians are soldiers in the war against *the old evil foe who now means deadly woe* and who has *no equal on earth* (v. 1). They have a dire need of the Lord who is their *fortress*. Faith in Christ and God's Word are their *trusty shield and weapon* (Ephesians 6:10-17). No man can stand against the foe, but the God/Man Jesus Christ Who has defeated him upon the cross (v. 2). Satan is the accuser and father of lies (John 8:44; Revelation 12:10), but the *little Word* of Christ and his victory over Satan drives out the devil and all his works (v. 3). Though the devil would snatch away the Word of God, yet that Word stands firm. Through the Word the Holy Spirit protects God's people. The gifts and promises of Christ are so great they surpass any loss that Christians have, even of *goods, fame, child, and wife*. The kingdom of God – his church – belongs to those who believe in Christ, now and into eternity (v. 4).