

# REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 30, 2016  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Marshall, MN

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Marshall, MN 56258 – 532-2162  
Pastor Keith Schreiner  
October 30, 2016

## **The Festival of the Reformation** **Sola Gratia - Sola Fide - Sola Scriptura**

Pre-Service Music

The Bells Ring out our Lutheran Heritage

Anthem by Sr. Choir: *“Only Through Faith”*

The Invocation

Dialogue of Remembrance

P: It was in Eden that Satan destroyed the relationship that existed between God and the crown of his creation. It was in Eden that first began the tragic cry from the human heart:

**C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan’s power.**

P: When the time was right, God acted. He sent his one and only Son into the world to do for his creatures what his creatures could not do for themselves. Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again to restore the unity and to renew the image that was lost in Eden. The Church was born to carry the message of restoration and renewal into all the world.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth! We shall not die but live and declare the praises of God.**

P: Satan was not finished. He challenged the Church’s faith and mission with his nefarious influence. God preserved his Church, often quietly, sometimes with only a whisper. But even in the

depths of darkness the light of grace flickered...In the fourth century as Satan attacked the deity of Christ the Church confessed:

**C: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.**

P: In the fifth century, as the doctrine of the Trinity was attacked, the Church confessed:

**C: Now this is the true Christian faith:**

**We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.**

**For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.**

P: Through the centuries the battle continued. Often Satan seemed to be the Victor. The cry of God's people continued:

**C: Lord, have mercy on us. Show us your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan's power.**

P: When his time was right, God acted in history. He raised up a man, yes only a man, a man with weaknesses and failures, but God used that man to be a messenger of the everlasting gospel. That man was Martin Luther. We do not praise him, but we praise God for him, that as his instrument God restored to his Church the good news about Jesus Christ.

**C: Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, and I am your sin. You became what you were not and made me to be what I was not.**

P: This is a service of thanksgiving on the Festival of the Reformation of the Church. Come, let us worship the Lord!

*(Please be seated)*

The Opening Hymn: #200 *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

Verse 1 & 2 All

*Verse 3 Choir*

Verse 4 All – Please stand

## Prayer of the Day – Luther’s Morning Prayer (in unison)

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend 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. *(Please be seated)*

Anthem – “*O Lord, Look Down from Heaven*” Selected Voices

## Confession and Absolution

**All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm – Psalm 46 Cantors and Choir

## **The Foundation on Which We Build Grace - Faith - Scripture**

**First Lesson: "Sola Gratia"  
By Grace Alone!**

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-9

Response: #377 “*Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice*”  
*Sung as printed*

**Cong:** Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How his right arm the vict'ry won.  
How dearly it has cost him!

Selected voices: *Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;  
Life had become a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.*

**Cong:** My own good works availed me naught,  
No merit they attaining;  
My will against God's judgment fought,  
No hope for me remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
Left naught but death to be my share  
And hell to be my sentence.

## **Second Lesson: "Sola Fide" By Faith Alone!**

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:16-17

Response:

Selected voices: *But God beheld my wretched state  
Before the world's foundation,  
And, mindful of his mercies great,  
He planned my soul's salvation.  
A Father's heart he turned to me,  
Sought my redemption fervently;  
He gave his dearest treasure.*

**Cong:** He spoke to his beloved Son:  
"Tis time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown,  
And bring mankind salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with you forever."

**Cong:** The Son obeyed his Father's will,  
Was born of virgin mother,  
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
He came to be my brother.  
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;  
A servant's form like mine he bore  
To lead the devil captive.

### **Third Lesson: "Sola Scriptura" By Scripture Alone!**

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Response:

**Cong:** To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be;  
For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, your friend divine,  
And evermore you shall be mine;  
The foe shall not divide us.

*Selected voices: "The foe shall shed my precious blood,  
Me of my life bereaving.  
All this I suffer for your good;  
Be steadfast and believing.  
Life shall from death the vict'ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.*

Selected voices: "Now to my Father I depart,  
The Holy Spirit sending  
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,  
My help to you extending,  
He will a source of comfort be,  
Teach you to know and follow me,  
And in all truth will guide you.

**Cong:** " What I on earth have lived and taught  
Be all your life and teaching;  
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
Take care that no one's man-made laws  
Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.  
This final word I leave you."

## The Sermon – Galatians 5:1-6

Response – (Sung) 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 Offering of Thanks

### The Prayer of the Church for Reformation

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins. You accepted his sacrifice on the cross. You raised him from death in glorious splendor. For his sake, you richly and daily forgive the sins of all who put their trust in you.

**C: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

P: When the time had fully come, you bestowed your Spirit upon your people as a testimony that you had called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation into all the world.

**C: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.**

P: When the time had fully come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures. You renewed your people with the light of your love, you granted power and success to the proclamation of the gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.

**C: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.**

P: When the time had fully come, you made our fathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your word. Guided by your Spirit, they joined hands and hearts under a common confession and with a determined resolve to work together in the ministry. You have blessed their sons and daughters during the century past and enabled us to persevere and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son.

**C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.**

P: Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our church's past.

**C: May the Lord, our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us or forsake us.**

P: Let this be the time, O Lord, when we recommit and reconsecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. We ask you to give us faith, O Lord, so that we can sound the trumpet none can silence or mistake and grant us courage to proclaim once more for all to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast!

**C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.**



(intercessory prayers if requested)

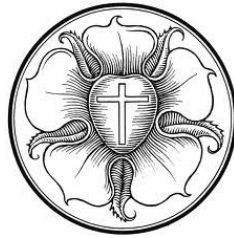
P: We ask all this in the name of our loving and forgiving Savior who has also taught us to pray his prayer...

**C: Our Father who art in heaven....**

The Benediction

The Closing Hymn: #203 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*"

## The Luther Seal



Luther designed this seal while teaching at Wittenberg. He wanted it to summarize his faith. It did just that, as his explanation shows:

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the red heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. "For with the heart man believes unto righteousness." Now, although the cross is black, shameful, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not destroy nature. In other words, it does not kill but keeps alive. "For the just shall live by faith" - by faith in the Savior. But this heart is fixed on the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, comfort, and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits. This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored background, to show that such joy of faith in the spirit is but a promise and beginning of heavenly joy to come. This joy, though not yet revealed, is looked forward to and held by the hope which we have. Around this background is a ring, to show that such bliss in heaven is endless. And since the ring is made of gold, the best and most precious metal, it also shows that the bliss of heaven is more precious than all other joys and treasures.

## **This Week:**

<i>Today:</i>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 AM	Worship
	4:30 PM	Reformation Rally/Fall Festival
<i>Monday:</i>	8:00 AM	Women's Prayer Group
<i>Tuesday:</i>	9:00 AM	Pastor's Conference in Renville
	6:30 PM	Christ Lutheran on Cable TV
	7:00 PM	Board of Education Meeting
<i>Wednesday:</i>	12:30 PM	Christ Lutheran on Cable TV
	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class
	7:30 PM	Choir
	8:00 PM	SMSU Campus Ministry
<i>Thursday:</i>	1:30 PM	Ladies Aid
	6:30 PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
<i>Sunday:</i>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 AM	Worship

**SINGING TODAY:** A special thank you to the choir and its director and accompanist Mr. and Mrs. Festerling, vocalists Donna Wendorff and Melanie Werner, and trumpeter Nicole Kotecki who helped beautify our Reformation worship.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Please join us for coffee and treats between services. We thank the families from serving committee four for hosting.

**THIS AFTERNOON:** We hope you will join us this afternoon for some lunch, Luther learning and lecture. It all starts at 4:30 with a brat and hot dog lunch, complete with chips, beans, ice cream and 1919 root beer. About 5:15 there will be a lecture on Luther for the adults given by an MLC professor. The kids will go to the gym for games, a talk about Luther, and to practice the hymn *A Mighty Fortress* that they will sing to close this festive day. We ask that children age three and under be accompanied by an adult. All the area WELS churches are invited to attend so don't miss out.!

**FALL BACK:** Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour next weekend as Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th

**PIONEERS:** Our next meeting is planned for November 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 PM at Samuel. Planned for this meeting is a holiday craft and some hot apple cider. If you are in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, please consider joining us on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**THRIVENT:** Are you a Thrivent member? If so they offer a program called Thrivent Action Dollars which offers \$250 of seed money for you to sponsor an event. Each member can do two of these in a calendar year. So far we have used this for our Summer Music Program, painting the gym, technology upgrade at school, Christmas for Kids, and the Reformation Rally. There are a number of other events we would like to apply for. It only requires about 10 minutes of your time and we will help you do it. If you want to help or learn more, contact Pastor.

