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Our mission is for members to grow in faith, love and commitment to Jesus Christ, to love one another as he has loved us and to proclaim him as the Savior needed by all people.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 28, 2018

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS: We welcome you to our worship service this morning and invite you to visit us again next week. Join us for snacks and fellowship immediately following worship. Our congregation is a member of the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod). We are called the Wisconsin Synod because our church body was organized in the state of Wisconsin over 150 years ago. We have over 1,200 congregations in North America and we have a partnership with churches in 50 different nations on 5 continents.

We invite you to sing and respond and participate in the service to the extent you feel comfortable. Also, you should not feel obligated to give an offering when the offering is received this morning. Please take any magazines, pamphlets, prayer pockets or literature found in the entranceway.

This morning you will notice that the Lord's Supper is being received. Our congregation extends Christian love to all people. Our love is rooted in our love for Jesus and our love for his Word, the Bible. This love leads us to teach and practice everything that God has revealed to us in his Word. In so doing, we seek to love God above all things. God clearly teaches in St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (chapters 10 and 11) that Christians who receive the Lord's Supper together are to fully understand what they are receiving, be in agreement as to what the Lord Supper is, and be unified in their Christian faith. Therefore, before receiving the Lord's Supper with us, we request that you study the Bible with us so that you may compare what we believe and practice with what the Bible teaches. Our intention is not to judge people as to whether or not they believe in Jesus as their Savior. Rather, we simply strive to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way Jesus

intended. We pray that you desire nothing less as well. Let us study God's Word together! Please speak with Pastor Waldek for additional information.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Silent Prayer Upon Entering: Gracious LORD, thank you for revealing the truth that salvation has everything to do with Jesus my Savior and nothing to do with my own efforts. May my heart rejoice in that you saved me only because of your undeserved love, your grace, for me, that is mine solely through faith in Jesus. Remove all doubts from my heart as to the truthfulness, accuracy and relevance of Scripture and may what I believe about you always be based on what is found in Scripture. Should others belittle what I believe or challenge my child-like faith, give me the courage to say, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Here I stand. I can not do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

Today we remember the Reformation which is generally considered to have begun on October 31, 1517 when a monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 theses (statements) on the door of a church in Germany. The Reformation was a call for the Church to base all of its teachings solely on the Bible and to teach that eternal salvation comes solely as an undeserved gift (grace) from God which is received by individuals solely through believing (trusting, relying upon) that Jesus is the only Savior from sin, death and Satan with the result that we seek live our lives solely to God's glory as Jesus' disciples.

Today's Worship Focus: The heart of the Reformation is about having hearts of faith in Jesus.

ORDER OF SERVICE – As printed below

WE COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

P(astor): Come, holy Light, guide divine, and cause the Word of life to shine. Teach us to know our God aright and call him Father with delight. From every error keep us free. Let none but Christ our Master be, that we in living faith abide, in him, our Lord, with all our might confide.

(words of Martin Luther from hymn 176, *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*)

C(ongregation, spoken): Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY: selected verses from Psalm 46 (spoken responsively)

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

C: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

P: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: The holy place where the Most High dwells.

P: God is within her, she will not fall;

C: God will help her at break of day.

P: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;

C: He lifts his voice, the earth melts.

P: The LORD Almighty is with us;

C: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

(congregation rises to sing the hymn)

OPENING HYMN: Number 201 - A Mighty Fortress is Our God

(the hymn was written by Martin Luther and is based on Psalm 46)

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'er taken.
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.
You ask "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, The almighty Lord.
And there's no 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 do what they will -- Hate, steal, hurt or kill, Though all may be gone,
Our victory is won; The kingdom's ours forever!**

WE CONFESS OUR SIN AND HEAR GOD'S ABSOLUTION

P: The First Commandment is: You shall have no other gods. What does this mean?

C: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (Luther's Small Catechism)

P: We all know in our hearts that we fall short of fearing, loving and trusting God above all things. That is why in the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray and confess our sins and to ask God to "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." What does this mean?

C: We pray that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.
(Luther's Small Catechism)

P: Let us confess our sins before God: (speaking the words authored by Martin Luther in hymns 305, *From Depths of Woe I Cry to You* and 534, *In the Midst of Earthly Life*)

**C: From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord hear me, I implore you.
Bend down your gracious ear to me; My prayer let come before you.
If you kept a record of my sin, And held against me what I've been,
How could I stand before you?**

**In the midst of earthly life Snares of death surround me.
Who shall help me in the strife Before Satan confounds me?
You only, Lord, you only!
I mourn that I have greatly erred, My sins deserve your holy wrath.
Holy and merciful Savior Save me or I perish eternally.**

**Therefore my hope is in the Lord, And not in my own merit;
It rests upon his faithful Word, To them of contrite spirit.
That he is merciful and just - This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.**

In faith in Christ, may I cling to the promise of forgiveness as I call upon God's mercy.

P (based on words of Martin Luther): On the command of Jesus to the believers, believe this promise which comes from him: Your sins are forgiven. Keep yourselves from doubting that your sins have been forgiven by God. Be quiet at heart. Your faith in Christ has received the full blessing from God. Now live your life to God's glory. To probe and ponder how bad you have been is now far less important than looking to and thinking of what your life will now be in Christ.

C (based on words of Martin Luther): **Amen. May the forgiveness we have received quiet our hearts and relieve a guilty conscience. Let us live according to our faith in Jesus and cling to his words and promises.**

(congregation may be seated)

GOD'S WORD IS READ (NIV 1984/2011) and PROCLAIMED

HYMN: Number 293 - *God's Word is Our Great Heritage*

**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.**

FIRST LESSONS: We are saved by God's grace alone.

Ephesians 2:8,9 - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Romans 3:22b-24 - *There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 1:9-10 - *⁹ [God] has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

HYMN: Number 384 (stanzas 1,2,5) - *By Grace I'm Saved*

- 1. By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain: By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**
- 2. By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**

- 5. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad; all grief has flown, Since I am saved by grace alone.**

SECOND LESSONS: We are saved by through faith alone in Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin.

Romans 1:16,17 - *¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Galatians 3:7-12 - *⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."*

Acts 13:38-39 - *³⁸ "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.*

John 3:16-18 - *¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

HYMN: Number 404 - *Faith Is A Living Power from Heaven*

- 1. Faith is a living pow'r from heav'n That grasps the promise God has giv'n,
A trust that cannot be o'erthrown, Fixed heartily on Christ alone.**
- 2. Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need To save or strengthen us indeed,
Receiving grace from heav'ns throne And humbly sharing cross and crown.**
- 3. Faith in the Savior brings us peace, And bids the mourner's weeping cease;
By faith the children's place we claim And give all honor to one Name.**

4. **We thank you, then, O God of heav'n, That you to us this faith have giv'n
Through mighty Word and sacrament To trust the one whom you have sent.**
5. **As you have promised, grant each soul Its holy faith's true end and goal:
The blessedness no foes destroy, Eternal love and light and joy.**

THIRD LESSONS: BEING SAVED, WE LIVE FOR CHRIST ALONE

Matthew 7:17a-20 - *Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

Romans 12:1-2 - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

HYMN: Number 471 - Renew Me, O Eternal Light

1. **Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from your holy face.**
2. **Destroy in me the lust of sin; From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me pow'r and strength, my God, To strive against my flesh and blood.**
3. **Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire And with new life my soul inspire.**
4. **Grant that I only you may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.**

SERMON: "ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH FAITH ALONE"
Text: **Romans 1:17**

WE OFFER OUR THANKS TO GOD

OFFERING

(There is no offering hymn this morning. The congregation rises for prayer.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - said responsively

P: Lord God, you rule over heaven and earth. You are the refuge of every sinner and the strength of all who put their trust in you, we praise you for having made us beneficiaries of the blessings of the Reformation.

C: **Without any merit or worthiness on our part, you have sent your Holy Spirit into our hearts and brought us to faith in your dear Son, Jesus Christ.**

P: You have made known to us the worthlessness of our own good deeds and the perfect merit of Christ.

C: **You have directed our faith away from the commandments and traditions of men and caused us to rest our hope only and solely on the exceedingly great and precious promises of the gospel.**

P: You have revealed the wonders of your grace which have rescued us from a just eternal condemnation;

C: **And assured us of a certain salvation in Christ.**

P: Grant us your grace that we may receive your forgiveness with thanksgiving and reflect your mercy in thanks-living.

C: **Use us as your witness in bringing the message of pardon in Christ to all people.**

P: Grant purity of doctrine and practice in this congregation and among the congregations of our synod and those church bodies united with us around the world in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

C: **May together we be united as a beacon for the truth of your Word.**

P: Special prayers

P Keep us faithful to your Word and to our Savior until his glorious return or your call to be with you through our earthly death. To you Father, Son and Holy Spirit belong all glory and honor, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Based on Luther's Order of Divine Service in 1526)

P: Dear friends in Christ, as we are here gathered together, in the name of the Lord, to receive his holy Testament, I exhort you, first, to lift your hearts to God and to say with me 'Our Father' in accordance with what Christ our Lord has taught us, faithfully promising that we shall be heard:

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.

P: Next, I exhort you in Christ that with right faith you take heed to the Testament of Christ: and especially that you hold fast in your hearts the Word whereby Christ gives us his body and blood for the remission of sins; that you meditate upon them and thank him for the infinite love which he has shown us in that through his blood he has redeemed us from God's wrath, from sin, death, and hell: and then take to yourselves outwardly the bread and wine, which is his body and blood, for the assurance and pledge thereof. In such wise will we, in his name and as he commanded in his own Word, handle and use his Testament.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and give it to his disciples, saying , "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Congregation sings (the *Sanctus* as did Luther's congregation):

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Congregation sings (the *Angus Dei* as did Luther's congregation):

(congregation may be seated)

WE RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: Number 204 - *O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word*
Number 538 - *The Church's One Foundation*

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS RECEIVED

P: PRAYER

C: LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

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

P: BLESSING - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C(spoken): The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

(congregation may be seated)

CLOSING HYMN: Number 752 (*Christian Worship Supplement*) - *In Christ Alone*

- 1. In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depth of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.**
- 2. In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on the cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For' ev'ry sin on him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.**
- 3. There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**
- 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r 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;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

SILENT PRAYER

The Lord's Supper accomplishes something.

We believe Jesus is present because He promises to be. And when God is present, things happen. Either life or death, either blessing or curse, but be assured of this: something occurs when God is present. Jesus comes to us in His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins to all who trust in His Word. All who receive the Sacrament receive Christ's body and blood. Those who receive it in faith receive the benefits given in Christ's promise. Those who do not believe receive judgment.

Crux sola est nostra theologia.

The cross alone is our theology. God's love is manifest in Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. God's love is fulfilled through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. With the New Testament, we proclaim Christ and Him crucified.

Forgiveness is free — but not cheap.

Your sins have earned the penalty of death. Christ paid that price for you through His death. Salvation is not cheap — the Son of God gave up all things for you. Forgiveness is free. God gives you this salvation, which Christ earned, for free. Solus Christus. Through Christ alone.

Augsburg Confession.

The Lutherans stood before the entire world and confessed. Given the opportunity to say what they believe, they freely and joyfully confessed the truth that God justifies sinners by grace, through faith, for Christ's sake. The Augsburg Confession was read out loud on June 25, 1530, during the Diet of Augsburg. Written by Philipp Melancthon, this document explained the faith of the Christian Church as taught by Luther in accordance with the Scriptures. Article IV contains the central confession of how God saves people. Read it. Especially Article IV.

Diet of Worms.

Yuck ... Not really. A Diet was an imperial meeting of the Holy Roman Empire. Official business was conducted that changed things throughout the empire. Luther was called to the Diet that took place in Worms, Germany. There, he was told to say he recanted of what he wrote and taught. Luther responded that he could not in good conscience deny his writings because they proclaim the truth of the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here I stand.

The entire Christian life is one of repentance.

Luther's 95 Theses begins: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Christians are to daily die to the old Adam, their sinful nature. The focus is not on our dying or on our old Adam (sin). The focus is on the promise of resurrection in Jesus Christ. He is our life. He is our hope. He is our joy. Repentance is a turning away from self to Jesus. In Him are life and light. In Him are salvation and forgiveness. In Him is eternal life. Repent. You are His. Through Baptism. And this is true every day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (October 28, 2018)

Serving Today: Accompanist: Hank Soch; Transportation: TBA;

Hosting: Linda Parnoff/Todd Parnoff; Ushers: Kratts; Altar Guild: Wilhelmina Krahn

Cleaning this Past Week: Krahns; Taping Sermon/Skype: Larry Henning

Pastor: Paul Waldek

Keep In Your Prayers: **Louise Pawlow**, who is recovering at the Lutheran Home in Southbury, after suffering a mild heart attack (no additional heart damage) and has several infections, **Katie Ferris**, who has respiratory illness, **Molly Bomann** who unfortunately recently had another concussion and is again having to deal with physical complications, **Noel Burra** who has a broken bone in his shoulder, **Bob Rentz** whose knee rehabilitation at home is going well, **Bonnie Rentz**, who continues to look for solutions to various chronic health issues including migraines once again, **Barbara Gabriele** who continues the long recovery after a recently suffered minor stroke and **Carol Jarvis** who is in Minnesota continuing to recover after brain surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and will be flying home on Tuesday.

Messiah Lutheran Church in South Windsor will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next Sunday, November 4, during their Reformation worship service at 9 am. Bible study will follow at 10:30 am. There will be a dinner and program at Maneeley's Banquet & Catering in South Windsor beginning at 12:30 pm. All are invited to the worship service and Bible study. **If you would like to attend the dinner and have not previously signed up, please speak with pastor this morning as the number of seats may already be filled.**

The Evangelism/Digital Media Team invites the members of the congregation to get involved with our 2018 Christmas Outreach program which has a theme "A Light in the Darkness." We will be utilizing some of our synod's C-18 material for worship and outreach. **We will need assistance in preparing postcards for mailing.** We will have business size cards available for members to invite friends. We intend to purchase an outside theme-based banner from our synod. We also hope to construct large nativity figures out of plywood or fiberglass, painting them white. We intend to display them along Nichols Ave. adding different figures as the days get closer to Christmas. **Please set aside Saturday November 10 and 17 to help with the construction of the nativity figures.** Details will follow in the coming days.

We also hope to mount a lighted star on one of the large pine trees near the church or attach it to the steeple. We are attempting to have some kind of light display that will attract interest in our community. The nativity figures will also be lit up to be seen at night. We are considering modifying one of our signs on Nichols Ave. so that we can post announcements and/or a spiritual thought to ponder. Live nativity? Not this year but it is on the board for next year.

Let us get excited about the opportunities we have to invite folks to hear about the birth of the Savior! **Contact Mike DeNamur, Evangelism Elder, or pastor if you would like to help with the postcard mailing, constructing the nativity figures, or with our light display.** We are spiritual lights. Let us shine this Christmas (Advent) season!

Ann Dwyer (who lives about 5 minutes from church) needs assistance in installing a new storm door. If you are able to assist her please contact her at 203-367-8050 (home) or 203-556-3651 and let pastor know as well. Thanks.

Wednesday evening Bible study continues this week, October 31, at 7 pm. We will be studying 2 Corinthians 10. Join us in person or by Skype. Beginning on Wednesday, November 7 and on two other Wednesdays (not Thanksgiving week), we will be participating with our synod's next live online Bible study. You may participate with our group at church or at home. Here are the specifics:

“To the ends of the earth beginning in your backyard. As a Christian, you know the joy, peace, and hope of being sure your sins are forgiven and eternal life is yours. You want others to know this as well. But, perhaps—like many Christians—telling others about Jesus is daunting. What do I say? How do I say it? What if I don't have answers to people's questions? Join us for our next online Interactive Faith Bible study as we discuss these very questions and concerns. Pastor Eric Roecker, director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism, will use video vignettes from the new movie *To the Ends of the Earth* to guide our discussion. Our prayer is that these lessons will make you more confident in your conversations with those who do not yet know their Savior. **Join us on November 7, 14, and 28 at 7 pm.** (There will also be a live study at 9 pm which can be viewed at home.) Lord willing, through the Word and our time together, the Spirit will embolden you to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, beginning in your backyard.”

Are you interested in taking the lead or possibly working in tandem with someone else in planning for our summer VBS? Is so, please speak with pastor.

Don't forget the Bridgeport Rescue Mission's request for disposable diapers in addition to nonperishable food items (no glass jars please).

Our Thanksgiving worship will be on Wednesday, November 21, at 7 pm.

Don't forget to turn back clocks next Saturday!

Christ Redeemer Calendar

Today: * Snacks and Refreshments at 10:40 am

* Sunday School, Teen and Adult Bible study at 11 am* Catechism class at 12:30 pm

This Tuesday, October 30: Sunday School teachers meeting at 6:30 pm

This Wednesday, October 31: Bible study at 7 pm on 2nd Corinthians 10 (Skype at christredeemerlutheran)

This Thursday, November 1: Council of Elders meeting at 6:30 pm

This Saturday, November 3: Catechism class at Ridgefield Library from 2-3:30 pm

Next Sunday, November 4: * Worship at 9:30 am * Snacks and Refreshments at 10:30 am

* Sunday School, Teen and Adult Bible study at 11 am

* Worship at the Lucas' home in Hopewell Junction, NY at 7 pm

Serving next Sunday: Accompanist: Susan Kirby; Transportation: TBA;

Hosting: Ann Henning/Heni Komariah ; Ushers: Burras;

Cleaning this Week: Larry and Terrie Henning; Taping Sermon/Skype: Larry Henning

REFORMATION REFLECTIONS *(from lutheranreformation.org)*

You ARE saved by works.

You are saved by works. But not yours. Jesus did more than die for you. He lived for you. Salvation is not merely the forgiveness of sins. It is the gift of righteousness, received by faith. This Good News is the focus of the Scriptures. You do nothing. God works. And His works are very good. Your good works are done in response to salvation. Justification by grace through faith does not mean good works are bad, but puts them in their proper role. We live according to God's will out of thankfulness to His love.

You can read the Bible on your phone because of Luther.

We love and treasure the Word of God. The Scriptures are our sole source for doctrine and practice. The Scriptures deliver Christ to us, and for this we rejoice.

Luther desired that every person have access to the Word of God. He translated the Bible into German so that every person could read it. A result of Luther's translation was the proliferation of Bible translations, and today, the multiplicity of media through which God's Word is freely available.

Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide. Solus Christus.

Latin. Ironic, isn't it? A movement that resulted in the liturgy and the Bible in our language (not Latin) is remembered by Latin phrases. By Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone. Through Christ alone. Alone. Without your help. Without human tradition. Without anyone's assistance. God acts alone through Jesus. Scripture. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Grace. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Faith. Given by God. Through which we receive Christ. Through Christ alone. God gives us all these gifts because of Jesus' death and resurrection. All good gifts come from God and benefit all those who believe. Through Christ alone.

You still aren't good enough for God's love.

“The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it” (Luther's Works 31:57). God loves you. For no good reason ... except His goodness. Though you may be tempted to work to improve to be more liked or loved, God doesn't wait for your improvement. He doesn't even require it. He loves you. His love is what changes you from sinner to saint. His love sent Jesus to die and rise for you. His love gives you salvation in Christ freely. His love caused Holy Scripture to be written so that you might hear and believe in His love. His love washed you in Baptism. His love feeds you in the Lord's Supper. His love makes you lovable. He loves you freely and fully. No strings attached.

Baptism saves.

God works through means. The Holy Spirit creates faith through the Word and the Sacraments. When ordinary water is combined with God's Word and connected with His command, it does exactly what God promises it will do. It saves (Titus 3:4-7; 1 Pet. 3:21). Through Baptism God forgives sins and gives the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Baptism joins you to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5). Baptism gives eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus (Col. 2:11-12). Baptism makes disciples (Matt. 28:19).

These promises are for all people, young and old (Acts 2:39). These promises are fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. For you.