

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 10:00 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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 everchanging 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Fantaisie on "Ein Feste Burg"

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,

Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God.

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Amen.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

There is one body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Creator of all.

Blessed be God who sustains and protects God's holy Church.

And blessed be God who guides and confirms us in our faith. Amen. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Anderson Grussing

Kit Sargent

When your parents brought you to the font for baptism, they promised to live with you among God's faithful people, to bring you to the word of God and the holy supper, to teach you the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in your hands the holy scriptures, and to nurture you in faith and prayer, so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. On that same day, this or another congregation promised to help your parents fulfill that promise. Today, we join together in taking an important step toward fulfilling these promises.

The Bibles that your parents are about to present to you are gifts from your congregational family. These are study Bibles, which are meant to be read and used for making notes.

Parents present the Bibles to their children, saying The Word of the Lord. They respond, Thanks be to God!

Parents place their hands on the heads of their children for the prayer.

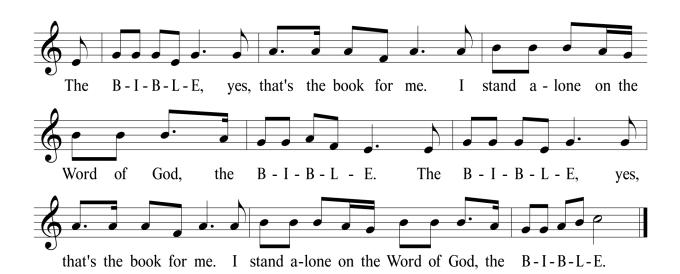
Let us pray.

Gracious God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles, the parents who give them, and the young people who receive them. Speak your word to them, so that they may know the promise of your love, trust the goodness of your grace, follow the way that leads from darkness into light, and live as your children, now and forever, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

RESPONSORIAL SONG

THE B-I-B-L-E



Please be seated.

Word

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.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 heings 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.

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

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

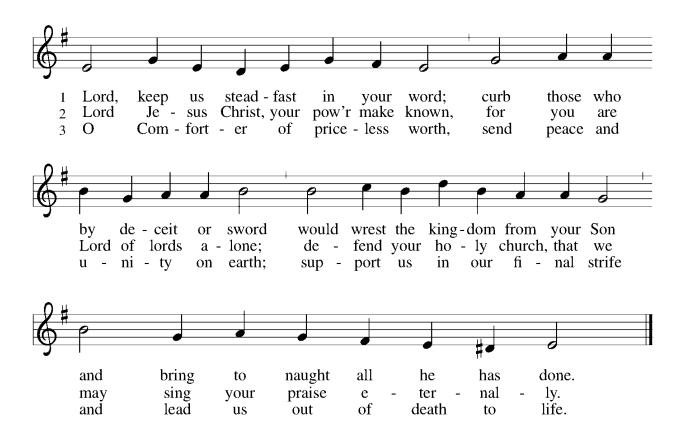
Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—ELW 517

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word Please sing verses 1& 2 before the Gospel reading.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

GOSPEL John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

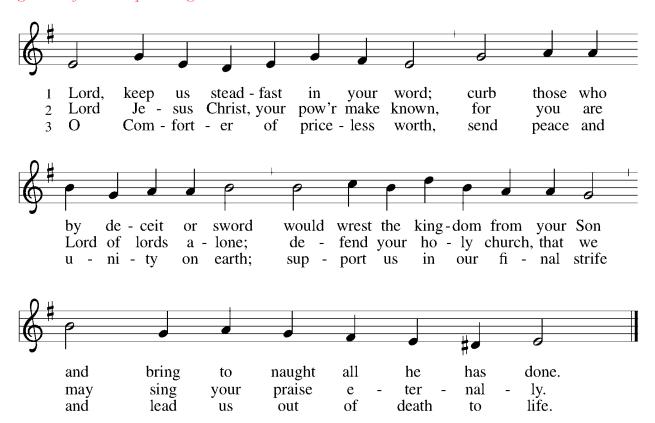
Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sing verse 3 after the Gospel reading.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

SERMON Dr. Wee

Please stand as you are able.

All the Ways of God Are Justice

Commissioned in thanksgiving for Dr. Paul Wee: prophet, advocate for justice, peace, and grace for all



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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM / RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends, we give thanks to God for the gift of baptism, and for these persons, one with us in the body of Christ, who affirm their baptism, and also join this community of faith. In baptism God frees us from sin and death by uniting us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and we are commissioned for Christ's ministry of justice and peace.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Friends who stand before us, affirming your baptism, and joining this community of faith, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

We rejoice with all of you today and welcome you also into this faith community. Do you intend to share your gifts, and be active participants in this life of this congregation? Response: We do.

Each member receives an Affirmation of Baptism candle, hearing the words they heard declared at their baptism, "[Name] let your light so shine before others."

WELCOME

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ.

We rejoice with you affirming your baptism. We also gladly receive you as disciples of this congregation. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PEACE

The Peace is shared

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you**.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

CHORAL ANTHEM

Built on a Rock

For text, see hymn 652

Text: Nikolai Grundtvig (1783-1872)

Music: Kirken den Er Et Gammelt Hus, arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Please stand as you are able.

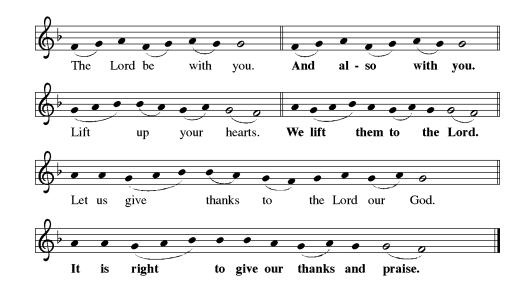
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

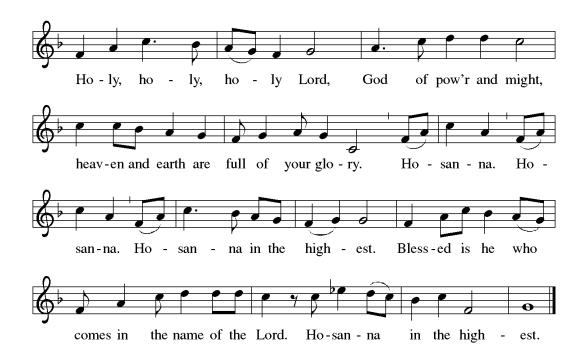
God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites us to this table. Come, eat and live. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

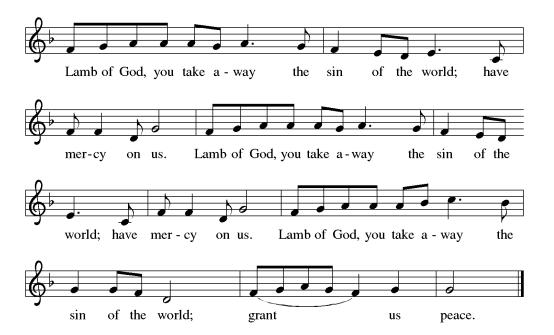
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD





Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
Musisc: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
Text and music: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442,3358.

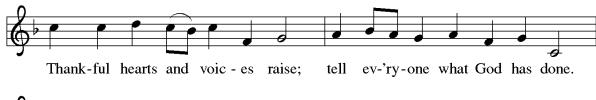
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ★ give you peace.

Amen.



Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Saved by grace.

God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Word They Still Shall Let Remain from Grand Partita on 'Ein Feste' Burg

Karl Osterland (b. 1956)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, Confirmation Pastor

The Rev. Gary Nuss, Support Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER

Dr. Paul Wee

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries

READERS

Shane Swartzendruber Sayra Lopez

CRUCIFER

Carlos Esquivel

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist* Schola Cantorum and Choristers



THE FLOWERS ABOUT THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by **Paul and Ruth Manchester,** in thanksgiving and celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary this past week, October 25; and by **Pastor Gary and Ann Nuss** in celebration of their 50th anniversary of being members of Saint Luke. They joined Saint Luke 50 years ago on Reformation Sunday in 1973. Congratulations Ruth and Paul and Ann and Pastor Nuss!

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TODAY AT SAINT LUKE REFORMATION SUNDAY

WE CELEBRATE THE GREAT MESSAGE THAT WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH—such a wonderful gift. It was October 31, 1517, the eve before All Saints Day, when people would be coming to church. Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door (a bulletin board) to invite discussion about the selling of indulgences for forgiveness. This started the reformation of the church. We are saved not based on our own works, but because of the sheer grace of God in Jesus Christ. What a message. What a gospel! This reformation, however, was not just a one time event. We are always reforming, always making sure we stay true to the gospel message. Where is our hope? Jesus. Where is our trust? Jesus. Where is our faith? Jesus. We celebrate that the one who saves is Jesus, thanks to the unconditional love of our God. A blessed day of grace.

WE WELCOME AS OUR PREACHER THIS MORNING, DR. PAUL WEE. It would not be Reformation at Saint Luke without Dr. Wee, a friend of this congregation. Dr. Wee has come to us literally as Martin Luther throughout the years and has shared God's word with us on several occasions. Dr. Wee has worked in eastern and central Europe, primarily with faith-based communities, and served as assistant general secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights with the Geneva-based Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and initiated talks between four armed opposition groups and the Government of Guatemala that resulted in the Oslo Accords of 1990. A resident now of Washington State, until this move, Dr. Wee was professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, and earlier served as senior pastor at Reformation Lutheran Church, Capitol Hill. The past few years Dr. Wee has been a significant leader behind the Forgotten Luther Series, several symposia featuring the socio-economic facets of Martin Luther's witness. Saint Luke hosted the symposium Forgotten Luther III in 2019. Dr. Wee is the author of numerous articles and several books, including *American Destiny* and co editor of *The Forgotten Luther*. Watch for a new series in the future, *The Folly of the Cross: Untold Stories of Global Transformation*. This new faith formation opportunity features stories from many continents and countries, real faith-life journeys from Dr Wee's travels. Welcome back, Dr. Wee!

AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE: COME TO THE GREAT HALL
11:00 a.m.

IT'S A CELEBRATION OF GRACE
LIVE GERMAN BAND, DELICIOUS FOOD
ROOT BIERGARTEN! (ENJOY ROOT BEER FLOATS!)
BOUNCE HOUSE
FELLOWSHIP
FUN FOR ALL AGES

TODAY AT SAINT LUKE

REFORMATION SUNDAY

CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE who receive their Study Bibles today: Anderson Grussing and Kit Sargent. We pray God's blessings on them as they learn and grow in the Word of God.

WE WELCOME NEW DISCIPLES as members of Saint Luke:

Calandra Hersrud and Mary Sargent, and Kit Sargent

Amanda Hinojosa, and Benjamin, Thomas, and Michelle Hinojosa

Kristina Schendt

John Martin

Check out the November newsletter, *Sharing*, for introductory information about these new members of the Saint Luke faith community.

REMINDER: NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

ON ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, Saint Luke will remember those Saint Luke members who have died since last All Saints' Day. Their names will be read and a handbell tolled. This will happen just before the people of God approach the table for Holy Communion. We give thanks for these saints who dine at the feast table that knows no end.

Jeanne ("Jackie") Holl

Eleanore Lundeberg

Pastor Dean Anderson

Pastor Ivar Holmquist

Martha Barth

Darrell Neily

John ("Jack") Niermann

All will be invited to light a candle on their way back from the table, remembering a loved one who now rests with God.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE TIME

Do you have a student in College? The SLSHY youth group would like to send them a care package just in time for finals. Please email the student's name and address to Deacon Warfield at kwarfield@saintluke.us

This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Oct. 29—Reformation Sunday		2:45 PM	Caring Project: Children's Tutor Pro-
10:00 AM	Festival Worship/Bible Presentation/	7.20 D) (gram
11.00 AM	New Members Reception	7:30 PM	Centering Prayer (Zoom)
11:00 AM 12:30 PM	Reformation Celebration Genesis Bells Rehearsal	EDIDAY No	wamban 2
5:00 PM		FRIDAY, November 3 8:00 AM CDS Classes	
6:00 PM	Misa Español Reception	4:00 PM	Quilters
0.00 FW	Reception	4.00 FW	Quinters
MONDAY, October 30		SATURDAY	, November 4
8:00 AM	CDS Classes	8:00 AM	Food Distribution: Langley Park
4:00 PM	After School Art Program - Langley	9:30 AM	AA
	Park	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM	Yoga	11:00 AM	Al-Anon
7:00 PM	ESL Class		
		SUNDAY, Nov. 5—All Saints Sunday	
TUESDAY, October 31-Reformation Day		8:45 AM	Worship
8:00 AM	CDS Classes	10:00 AM	First Communion Workshop
4:30 PM	Piano Lessons	10:00 AM	Affirmation of Baptism Class
7:00 PM	Reformation Bells	10:00 AM	Sunday School
7:00 PM	Girl Scouts	10:00 AM	SLSHY
7:00 PM	ESL Class	10:00 AM	Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
		11:15 AM	Worship
WEDNESDAY, November 1—All Saints Day		12:30 PM	Genesis Bells Rehearsal
7:00 AM	Faith Connections (Zoom)	5:00 PM	Choral Evensong for the Feast of All
8:00 AM	CDS Classes		Saints
10:00 AM	Women in Community	6:00 PM	Reception
10:00 AM	CDS Chapel		
3:00 PM	En Camino: Children's Tutor Program	NB: Worship	Services are in person and livestreamed
7:00 PM	ESL Class		
7:30 PM	AA		
7:30 PM	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal		
THURSDAY, November 2			

Upcoming Commemorations

CDS Classes

Reformation Day

6:30 AM

8:00 AM

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

Parking Lot Ministry - Langley Park

All Saints Day

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day

celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639 *Friday, November 3, 2023*

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

Today's Music

Organ Music

A Canadian organist and composer, **Denis Bédard (b. 1950)** has written many works for organ but also for choirs. *The Fantaisie on 'Ein Feste Burg'* was commissioned in 2001 by the American organist Mark Willey. Each section of the piece is based on a phrase from the German chorale, separated by rapid and fanciful passages, giving the work a varied and whimsical structure.—Denis Bédard

As a farm boy, **Karl Osterland (b. 1956)** began playing the organ at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in Fair Haven, Michigan when he was ten years old. He has his BA and MM in Organ Performance from the University of Michigan, studying with Robert Clark and Marilyn Mason. He also studied composition with William Bolcom there. The last movement from his *Grand Partita on 'Ein Feste Burg*,' is dance-like, features a ritornello and the tune is played on a prominent reed in the left hand.

Choral Anthem

Dale Wood (1934-2003) has been called one of the most prominent composers of church music in the twentieth century. His name is also widely associated with his distinguished work as editor, author, organist and conductor. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) has honored him annually since 1967 for his "very important contribution towards the creation and development of contemporary American music." Over eight million copies of his published works have been used in this country and abroad, with performances noted in fifty-nine foreign countries in recent years.

Dale Wood's career as a composer was launched at the age of thirteen when he became the winner of a national hymn-writing competition for the American Lutheran Church. His first choral anthem was accepted for publication one year later.

His hymn-anthem on "Built on a rock" features the classic hymn and arranged for organ and SATB voices.

Hymns

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation" is based on portions of Psalm 46, scripture being the inspiration for a number of Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymns. The final stanza is Luther's vow, and ours, to cling to God's Word and Truth in spite of the stresses of this life.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Written by Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021), All the Ways of God Are Justice was commissioned in thanksgiving for Dr. Paul Wee for the Forgotten Luther Symposium that took place at Saint Luke on October 25-26, 2019. The music was written by Dr. Jeffrey Pannebaker (b. 1950).

Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927) wrote both the hymn and tune to *I Am the Bread of Life* in 1966 when she was a high school teacher. It was written during one of her free periods. Originally she had thought it rather sentimental and would revise it, but a student who had accidently heard it asked her what the music was, and so she kept it. It is a close paraphrase of John 6:35, 44, 51, and 53. With the exception of stanza 5, it is the words of Jesus.—ELW Hymnal Companion

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation, the ancient Latin hymn from the 7th century about blessed Jerusalem is based on St. Paul's description of the church in Ephesians 2:20, 21: "build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner-stone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord." As "living stones" we are joined together to rom a "spiritual house" with Christ as the foundation of all.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins