



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Reformation Day
October 25, 2026
10:45 a.m. Worship**



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone

On Reformation Day, we rejoice in the timeless truth that our salvation is God's gift, received through faith in Jesus Christ and grounded in His Word. The Reformation reminds us that the Church is always called back to the sure foundation of Scripture and the saving work of Christ—not to human achievement or tradition. As we worship today, may God renew our love for His Word, strengthen our faith in Christ alone, and give us courage to confess the Gospel faithfully for generations to come.

♪ “Mighty Fortress”

Words and Music by Aaron Shust and Paul Baloche

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He won't abandon, He won't deceive,
He won't desert us, He won't ever leave.
He'll never forsake us, He won't ever run,
He'll never reject us, the Faithful One.
Your love will remain. Your love will remain.

Chorus: A Mighty Fortress is our God!
A Tow'r of Strength never failing.
The name of Jesus, true and strong;
No other pow'r could ever save us.
You are good, You are good, Mighty Fortress.
Mighty Fortress.

You won't abandon, You won't deceive,
You won't desert us, You won't ever leave.
You'll never forsake us, You won't ever run,
You'll never reject us, the Faithful One.
Your love will remain. Your love will remain. *(Chorus)*

Yesterday and today and forever, Your love will remain.
Nothing has the pow'r to sever Your love.
You are good, You are good, and Your mercy endures.
You are good, You are good.

A Mighty Fortress is our God!
A Tow'r of Strength never failing.
The name of Jesus, true and strong;
No other pow'r could ever save us. *(Repeat section)*

You are good, You are good, and Your mercy endures!
You are good, You are good, Mighty Fortress. *(Repeat section)*

You won't abandon, You won't deceive,
You won't desert us, You won't ever leave.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **Merciful God, our gracious Father, we confess that we have often trusted in ourselves rather than in Your promises. We have looked to our own works, accomplishments, and goodness for security instead of resting in the righteousness of Christ. We have neglected Your Word, allowed the cares of the world to distract us, and failed to boldly confess the truth of the Gospel. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who lived, died, and rose again for our salvation. Renew our hearts through Your Word and Spirit, strengthen our faith, and keep us steadfast in the truth that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to fulfill the Law, bear our sin, and make full atonement for us through His death and resurrection. By His grace, your sins are forgiven—not because of your works or merit, but solely for the sake of Christ. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

Ps. 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Ps. 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

The LORD redeems the life of his servants;

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares 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. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is

justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Brad Massey

“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

Words and Music by Stuart Townend
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How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.
- C** Amen.

"I Will Not Be Shaken"

Words and Music by Jacob Park and Tommy Walker
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1. & 4. He is my rock, my shield, my fortress.
He's my salvation and my strength.
The cords of death, they were surrounding me,
But He heard my cry for help.
2. He is my refuge, my high tower.
He's my deliverer so strong.
The snares of death,
They were confronting me,
But He heard my cry for help.
3. & 5. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.
So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.
6. Our God will not be moved.
Our God will never change.
Our God will reign forevermore. (repeat 3 times)
7. & 9. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.
So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.

(Continued on Page 8)

8. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.
Early in the morning
My song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

- P** May God preserve you steadfast in His Word, strengthen you in faith,
and give you courage to confess Christ faithfully, rejoicing in the
freedom of the Gospel.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to
connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that
we are all in this together!

Announcements

Fall Fest Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, and plan to join us for Fall Fest happening 2:00-4:00pm TODAY! The event will feature music, trunk-or-treating, games, face painting, concessions, and more. Candy donations are appreciated and can be dropped off to the Church Office anytime. Interested in volunteering? Sign up in the Lounge!

Call For Orphan Grain Train Donations Please drop off gently used articles of clothing (infant-adult), quilts, blankets, bath towels, etc in Room 2 between Oct. 26th and Nov. 4th. They will be delivered on the morning of Nov. 5th. A complete list of accepted items can be found on the bulletin board across from the church office. For easiest handling and delivery, please have items CLEAN and packed in standard kitchen garbage bags. The church is open M-F 9am to 2pm. For exciting info on OGT see Ellen Ware or go to OGT.ORG Thank you!

The **October Meeting of Lydia Guild** will be held on Monday, October 26th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. Our October presentation is a topic many of us need to hear: “How to protect yourself from Identity Theft”, and will be presented by a member of the Midland Police Department. Refreshments, Christian fellowship, and a brief business meeting will follow the presentation. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Young Adult Meet Ups Monthly meet ups for mid-20s to mid-30s young adults continue this fall! Join us at Nord Social on Sunday, November 8th for a Detroit Lions watch party. Fliers are available in the Lounge with full details. Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these events and share an invite with them!

Upcoming Time Change Daylight Savings Time officially ENDS next weekend! Remember to turn your clocks BACK ONE HOUR at 2 am on Sunday, November 1st!

Altar flowers are given by Deb and Mike Plaver.

*Pulpit flowers are given in celebration of
Elmer and Grace Thurston's 67th Anniversary!*

Acknowledgments

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Stephanie Davis (ext. 1204)

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Kris Zastrow

Facilities Manager:

Ian McDonald

Dir. of Worship Music:

Karen Kempin (ext. 1205)

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."