

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026
REFORMATION SUNDAY

a little about the Scripture readings today
and the saints of the Church we remember
this week...

SCRIPTURE

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.

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 beings 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.

GOSPEL **John 8:31-36**
Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.



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COMMEMORATIONS
FOR THE WEEK

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters October 26

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles
October 28

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the Last Supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day
October 31

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. 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.



Festive Worship Liturgy
for
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Flourish and Chorale

Michael McCabe

The Sanctus Bells proclaim the advent of worship and Christ’s presence with us.

Bible Presentation to Children

Confession and Forgiveness [the faithful kneel or sit]

Hymn

Greeting

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Insert

ELW 505

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.**

Canticle

ELW Page 140

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Word

God speaks to us in Bible reading, preaching, and song.

Children’s Message

First Reading

Psalm: 46 [sung responsively by whole verse]

Second Reading

Holy Gospel

Spoken response at the announcement of the Gospel: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading of the Gospel: Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of the Faithful [Response to each petition: Your mercy is great.]

Exchange of Peace

Jeremiah 31:31-34

found in the Hymnal

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Pastor Heagy

ELW 652

ELW page 105

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Anthem

Our Church One Joyful Choir

Jonathan Crutchfield

Offering Response [the faithful stand]

ELW 465 [refrain, stanza 1, refrain]

Offertory Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Verba [the faithful kneel]

Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Table

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*Gluten free wafers available

Insert

ELW page 144

Agnus Dei [the faithful stand]

Communion Anthem

Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

In the Beginning was the Word

ELW page 146

Carson Cooman

ELW 492 is sung during distribution of the Eucharist.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Hymn

Dismissal

Postlude

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Suite on Luther Chorales: VII. Ein feste Finale

Barbara Harbach

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