



Reformation Sunday

November 5, 2023

Why do we celebrate the Festival of the Reformation?

The Lutheran Reformation continues to be ranked by historians as one of the most important and significant events in world history. It is why we call ourselves “Lutherans.”

During the dark days of the Middle Ages, the truth of God’s Word was hidden away in monasteries. The church of the day was teaching - that people could earn their way into heaven, they could buy their forgiveness before God, and salvation only came to those who were subject to the church.

Martin Luther changed all this when on October 31, 1517, when he nailed 95 Statements for Debate on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. It began a period of reform which proclaimed salvation by God’s grace alone (*Sola Gratia*), through faith in Christ alone (*Sola Fide, Solus Christus*), and all of it revealed through Scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*).

The Reformation restored the preaching of Christ, put Bibles into the hands of people, and quite literally changed the world.

We are called “Lutherans” simply bearing the name and heritage of the Savior whom Martin Luther proclaimed. In every age, the church should preach Christ, should always preach Christ, should only preach Christ.

By Grace Alone. By Faith In Christ Alone. By Scripture Alone.



Opening Hymn: #585

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Erfurt, 1524

Invocation

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you

Confession of Sins

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I have done those things that I should not have done, and I have not done those things that I should have done.

I deserve your punishment both now and forevermore.

Have mercy on us, Lord. Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Confession Hymn: #655

“Before You, God, the Judge of All”

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–1880

Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the whole world. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have been made at peace with God. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day: Luther's Morning Prayer

So that Christian's might have a prayer when they arise in the morning, Luther wrote this morning prayer. Is a prayer for the daily blessings and protections of our God.

C: 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Ephesians 2:1–10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hymn: #871

“Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Wittenberg, 1524

The Second Lesson: Acts 16:22–34

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Hymn: #557

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Wittenberg, 1524

Sermon Text: Romans 3:21–28

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — ²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Amazing Grace

I. Human Effort Fails

II. God's Work Prevails

Hymn: #863

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Confession of Faith “Solus Christus” (By Christ Alone)

Today we confess the meaning of 2nd Article concerning the person and work of Christ, our Savior. This explanation is taken from Martin Luther’s Catechism which he wrote to help parents teach Christ to their children.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Offering

In thanksgiving for God’s many earthly and even greater eternal blessings to his people, we now worship the Lord with our offerings.

Prayers of the Church

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Closing Hymn: #640

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

Text: Nikolai Grundtvig, 1783-1872 Tune: Friedrich Reuter, 1863,1924

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All of our services are live streamed & can be viewed through the live streaming link located on our church website www.NorthdaleLutheran.org. We also email out daily devotions. If you would like to receive these daily devotions, please email the office at office@northdalelutheran.org and let us know. You can also become a friend on Facebook.

Announcements:

Bible Brunch

Join us for our Bible Brunch on November 8th @ 11:00am. Bring a small dish to pass as we continue in fellowship and God’s Word.

Choir Night

Join us for Choir Night on November 6th @ 6:00pm. A light dinner will be provided, as we prepare our songs for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Veteran’s Day Program

Join us on Friday November 10th from 8:15-9:30am for military presentations and displays to honor those who have given service to our country. Coffee and treats begin at 8:00am. If you have served or are serving and would like to bring in things to display please contact Kallie in the church office office@northdalelutheran.org, #813-961-9195.

Family Rollerskating

Bring your skates or rent some! Join us on Sunday, November 12th @ 1:30-4:00pm, at United Skates of America. All the information is on the posters in the entryway of church.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social

Bring your favorite pie to share, as we will be having a pie social after our Thanksgiving Eve Worship on November 22nd. Service begins at 6:30pm.

"Prayers For".....

"I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1) As a body of Christ, we can show our love by praying for one another. Please submit all your prayer requests to the church office - office@northdalelutheran.org

Congregational Prayers For....

(Michelle Hanks) for her friend Heather that has started chemotherapy for breast cancer and will be undergoing surgery. *(Bob Jarvis)* for wife Joyce Jarvis who was hospitalized and recovering from leg surgery. *(Smayling Family)* for Amanda Smayling and family as they are expecting their fourth child. *(The War in Israel)* asking the Lord to protect the innocent and to bring this time of hostility to a peaceful end.

Contact Information

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Serving Today

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Dane Mattes
Ushers: 8:30 - Koren
10:30 - Mosakowski

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Dane Mattes
Ushers: 8:30 - Roemhildt/Schofer
10:30 - Allan/Faucette

2022-2023 Year to Date Offerings Through September 2023

General Offering Received: \$57,326.94
General Offering Budgeted:\$68,750.01
Ahead or (Short) Year to Date: \$-11,423.07
Average Weekly Offerings Received (13 weeks): \$4,410
Average Weekly Offerings Budgeted (52 weeks): \$ 5,288