

Click here to open service web page for: 2010/10/31/

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Janelle Hein**                      Elder: **Ed Lentz**  
Ushers: **Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl**  
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales**  
Hospitality Team 4: **Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandever**  
Church Cleaners: **B. Rust**                      School: **Maki**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl**  
Counting Team 3: **Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude**  
Hospitality Team 5: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel**  
Church Cleaners: **???**                      School: **Sandhoefner**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
 4:00 pm – Joint Reformation @ Mankato, MN w/Potluck  
**Wed., Nov. 3:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class  
**Fri., Nov. 5:** Visitors' Day @ Immanuel Lutheran College  
**Nov. 5 & 6:** 7:30 pm – ILC Play "The Taming of the Shrew"  
**Sun., Nov. 7:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
**Wed., Nov. 24:** 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

**Last Week's Stats:** Oct. 24, 2010 Sun.: 127 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 40 Wed. 17

|                         |               |              |          |             |            |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Week's Offering:        | Grace:        | \$2,896.50   | CLC:     | \$809.00    |            |
| Weekly Need:            | Grace:        | 3,015.00     | CLC:     | 960.00      |            |
| -Under / +Over:         | Grace:        | -118.50      | CLC:     | -151.00     |            |
| Year-to-Date Offering:: | Grace:        | \$125,921.49 | CLC:     | \$38,096.00 |            |
| Year-to-Date Need:      | Grace:        | 129,645.00   | CLC:     | 41,280.00   |            |
| Year-to-Date (+/-)      | Grace:        | -3,723.51    | CLC:     | -3,184.00   |            |
| Other Offerings:        | Living Faith: | 21.00        | Tuition: | 48.00       |            |
| GLC Other:              | 72.00         | MDF:         | 43.00    | Kinship:    | 73.00      |
| ILC Student Aid:        | 53.00         | ILC Bldg.    | 21.00    | IIF: 20.00  | CEF: 20.00 |

---

*Grace Lutheran  
Church & School*

---

**GOD**  
*is our*  
**REFUGE**  
 &  
**STRENGTH,**  
*an ever-present*  
**HELP**  
*in trouble.*

---

**P S A L M 4 6 : 1**

**Reformation 2010**

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2010

**Pastor:** John P. Hein

**Web:** www.CLC Grace Lutheran Church.org

**Email:** jphein@clclutheran.com

**Phone:** 763-784-8784



### † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

**Worship Preparation:**..... *Psalm 46, TLH p. 134*

**Opening Prayer:**..... *Luther's Morning Prayer*

**C:** In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept all harm and danger away from me last night; and I pray that You would also protect me today from sin and every evil, that my life and all my behavior may please You. Into Your hand I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me. Amen.

**Hymn:**..... *WS 774: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

**Confession & Absolution:**..... *Luther's Explanation, 5th Petition*

*With Tune of TLH 295: The Law of God Is Good and Wise*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C(♩):** Amen.

**P:** The Lord be with you.

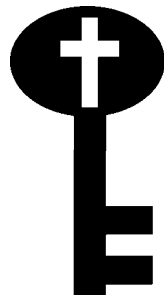
**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us prepare our hearts for our confession of sins:

**SING(♩):** The Law is good; but since the Fall  
Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die  
And has no power to justify. (TLH 295:5)

**P:** Let us confess our sins before the Lord God. With what words does Jesus teach us to pray in the Lord's Prayer?

**C:** Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.



In 1541 Luther wrote the hymn, "Lord, keep us Steadfast in Thy Word" (TLH 261). This hymn has undergone different translations. This is the first stanza of the hymn:

"Lord, keep us in Thy Word and work,  
Restrain the murderous Pope and Turk,  
Who fain would tear from off Thy throne  
Christ Jesus, Thy beloved Son"  
(*What Luther Says*, Note, Vol.III p. 1201).

Today we are confronted by forces no less intent on robbing us of the Word of God and the sweet comfort of the Gospel. Islam is on the ascendency again. Extremists within it are bent on applying the teachings of the *Koran* that speak of death to unbelievers—any who do not adopt Islam. They demand rights for their philosophies that they will not grant to Christians and the Bible! The papacy still promotes the idea of no salvation outside the Catholic Church, and still condemns the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. Its intent is still to gather the so-called "separated brethren" under its umbrella. Secularism and humanism—consider the emphasis on evolution with all its evil effects-- is rampant in our society. It is the religion of the masses. Lutherans who stand fast in doctrines of Scripture and in the Reformation confession are becoming fewer and fewer in our day as many who dare to call themselves Lutheran have by reason of indifference, ignorance or plain rejection cast aside the eternal truth and doctrines of Scripture which no longer satisfy their reason or suit their agenda.

Luther wrote, "The pen, not the fire, is to put down heretics. The hangmen are not doctors of theology. This is not the place for force. Not the sword, but the Word fits for this battle. If the word does not put down error, error would stand, though the world were drenched with blood" (Quote in Krauth, page 174).

The *question we must face* and to which *we must react* in the last age of this world and the dying days of confessional Lutheranism in this country is "Do we respect the fullness of God's Word recorded for us in the Bible, and are we ready to hear it, defend it, and hold fast to it?"

We have the promise of the Father. He will uphold His children. In the long and difficult struggle, what time we are afraid we may flee to Him (Psalm 56:3). Unless we ourselves have become guilty of doubting His Word we can look to the hills to find help in time of need (Psalm 121). From the heights He Who is with us always will be our Refuge and Strength (Psalm 46). For the days and the struggles that lie ahead, the poet (St. Columba: 521-597) puts everything in perspective:

Christ hath our host surrounded With clouds of martyrs bright,  
Who wave their palms in triumph, And fire us for the fight.  
For Christ the cross ascended To save the world undone,  
And suffering for the sinful Our full redemption won.

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/2010

## REFORMATION: October 31, 1517

It is a date cherished by faithful Lutherans. Nothing more can be written that has not already been written. Nevertheless, it is important that through writing and speaking we remind ourselves of the great blessings that grew out of Martin Luther's bold action when he posted the 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg. It has long been acknowledged that the Reformation which grew out of one bold act of one man—under the hand of the Lord God to be sure—changed the political, social, cultural, and educational scene of the day. One Catholic writer wrote years ago, "It is not incorrect to say, that Luther has been the restorer of liberty in modern times" (Quote in *The Conservative Reformation and its Theology*, CP Krauth, page 3).

Those cultural and social results born of the Reformation however were not on the mind of the insignificant monk who posted the theses. His purpose was to rid the church of the stifling tradition of papal authority which impeded the free flow of the Gospel. In 1530 Luther said, "We are asking for nothing more, nor have we ever asked for anything more, than the free Gospel" (*What Luther Says*, Vol. 3, 3778, p.1184). Luther tortured by an accusing conscience and fearful of God as he knew Him had no peace and found no release under the papacy. As he read the Scriptures, he recognized that there is no saving doctrine except the Gospel—the message of eternal salvation in Christ Jesus! It was not long after Luther's bold action in Wittenberg that it came clear that papal authority and the free flow of the Gospel could not coexist.

While we remember Martin Luther with appreciation for his boldness and his steadfastness, we praise the Lord who called the troubled monk to service. We respect the Reformation when we look behind Luther and recognize that he was not the author of it but God's servant to it. Krauth wrote, "The Word of God was the creator of the Reformation and its mightiest instrument ... The Word of God kindled the fire of the Reformation. That Word lay smoldering under the ashes of centuries ... Through the centuries which followed the corruption of Christianity, the Word of God was still in being" (Page 6). The fact that the Word of God was still extant was a divine blessing as well as an expression of divine faithfulness, for the Lord Himself said that His Word would not pass away.

Through history however efforts have been made by evil men to suppress the Word. Prior to the Reformation the church under papal authority as well as the Turk (Muslim) each for their own purpose opposed the Lord and His Word. History bears out that the doctrines and religious philosophies advanced by those opposed to the Word of God cannot stand on their own merit. Consequently both pope and Turk resorted to threat, and intimidation, and even force.

*P: How did Luther explain this in his answer to the question, "What does this mean?"*

**C: We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins nor deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However, we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We too will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.**

*P: Be it unto you as you believe. And now according to the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, and in His place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**SING(♩): The Gospel shows the Father's grace,  
Who sent His Son to save our race,  
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died  
That man might thus be justified. (TLH 297:1)**

### **Collect:**

*P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow on the 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. Amen.*

**S.S. Children:** ..... *TLH 266: O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word*

**Scripture Reading:**..... *Galatians 1:3-9*

We are to be sensitive to God's Gospel, that it be preached in truth.

**Scripture Reading:**..... *Romans 8:12-21*

While groaning on this side of eternity, we look forward to the life to come.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Explanation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article (Catechism)*

**I believe that I cannot by my own reasoning or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, nor come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.**

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 260: O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold*

**Sermon:**..... *Luke 18:1-8*

(1) Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, (2) saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. (3) "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' (4) "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, (5) 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" (6) Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. (7) "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? (8) "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (NKJV™)

**"To Me Ascend My People's Cries"**

- 1. For My justice to prevail
- 2. Lest they lose heart

**Response:**..... *TLH 267: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*

**SING(♩):** Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;  
Curb those who fain by craft and sword  
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son  
And set at naught all He hath done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,  
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Thy Christendom that we  
May evermore sing praise to Thee.

**Hymn:**..... *TLH 446: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

**Offering of Thanks:**..... *Meditative Music*

**Prayers:**

**Benediction:**

C(♩): Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Hymn:**..... *TLH 467, st. 1, 7: Built on the Rock*

**Silent Prayer:**



† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ◆ **Time Change:** Remember to "fall back" one hour next Saturday!
- ◆ **Thanks:** To all those who participated in yesterday's work day! The fruits of your labor help present Grace in a good image, part of letting our lights shine before the world.
- ◆ **MN Joint Reformation Service:** Today at 4:00 pm will be this year's Joint Reformation Service held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato. A potluck meal will follow. If attendees are able and interested in providing something for the meal, they are welcome to bring something that doesn't need preparation/heating, etc. -- *sandwiches, salad, or cake*, etc. If they do bring a food item, we encourage them to mark their names on the dishes.

Theme: Treasuring Our Heritage of Truth

- I. Testimony of Christian Forefathers (Speaker - David Lau)
- II. Testimony of Christian Education (Speaker - Chad Seybt)
- III. Testimony of Christian Confidence (Speaker - David Schierenbeck)

- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** is November 5. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Speak with pastor about questions and attendance.
- ◆ **Outreach Workshop:** Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire is planning an outreach workshop on Nov. 28. They are seeking lay members who may be interested in coming or being involved. Please speak to Pastor Hein if you are interested.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #8 – 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

Note: Islamic aggression is nothing new. Muslim armies were encroaching Europe in the sixteenth century, to the point that Germans feared an imminent and perhaps successful Muslim invasion. In 1529, Martin Luther wrote "On the War Against the Turk (Muslim)", weighing in on Catholics, the Crusades, Islam, and the proper response to Islamic aggression. Here is just a brief quote:

The great need of our time should have moved us to this prayer against the Turk, for the Turk, as has been said, is the servant of the devil, who not only devastates land and people with the sword, as we shall hear later, but also lays waste the Christian faith and our dear Lord Jesus Christ. For although some praise the Turk's government because he allows everyone to believe what he will so long as he remains the temporal lord, yet this reputation is not true, for he does not allow Christians to come together in public, and no one can openly confess Christ or preach or teach against Mohammed. What kind of freedom of belief is it when no one is allowed to preach or confess Christ, and yet our salvation depends on that confession, as Paul says in Romans 10, "To confess with the lips saves," and Christ has strictly commanded us to confess and teach his gospel.