

REFORMATION DAY (Observed)

October 25, 2026



AS WE GATHER

Have you ever wondered what Lutherans are all about? Today is a great day to remind ourselves that the heart of our faith is simply the heart of Christianity itself—that our salvation from sin, death, and Satan is the work of Christ alone. He frees us from evil to love the Lord who loved us first and loves us still. The hallmarks of our faith came back into focus in the era of the reformers, when faithful leaders like Martin Luther put the truth of Holy Scripture back into the hands, minds, and mouths of God's church. Christ comes to free the sinner from slavery to darkness. Join Him in the freedom of His light—free to sing, free to confess, and free to share the eternal Gospel of Christ crucified and risen again!

✂ PREPARATION ✂

HYMN # 656/657 ~ "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



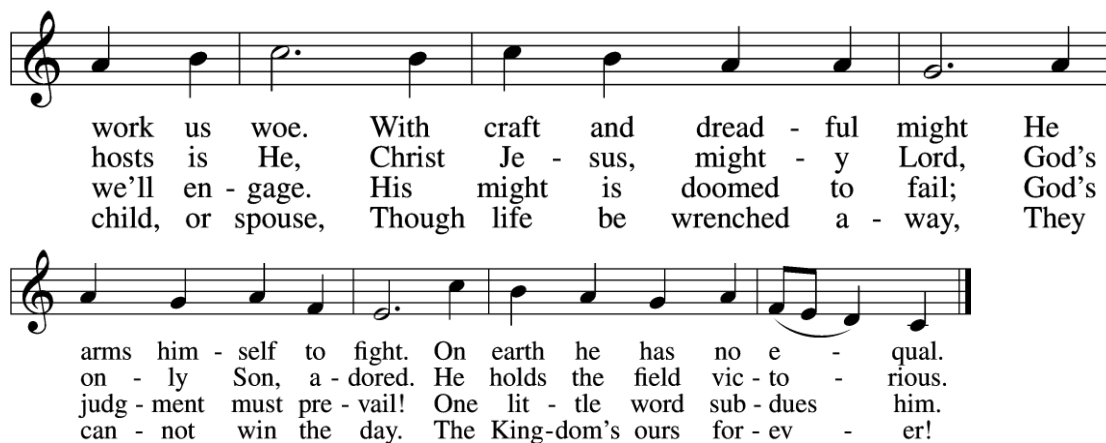
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him-self fights by our side With weap-ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver-pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
 hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
 we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
 child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They

arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002312

Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

People: **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Pastor: If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

People: **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

People: **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your oly purposes.**

Pastor: And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.

People: **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**

Pastor: For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: **I am Yours; save me.**

Pause for silent reflection

Pastor: Jesus speaks, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples." The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

HYMN #794 ~ "The Lord My God Be Praised"



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;
 2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,
 3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,
 △ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;
 The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,
 The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.
 To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day
 Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood
 His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,
 The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.
 And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.
 Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.
 God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Eternal Son of the Father, You deliver slaves to sin into the kingdom of Your righteousness. Defeat our spiritual enemies and declare Your victory that we might walk in faith and freedom as those justified by grace; in Your name, O Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

(John shares his vision of an everlasting, all-encompassing Gospel.)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ~ “O, Lord, My God, You are My Refuge”

J. S. Bach

arranged by Hal H. Hopson

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28

(Paul declares the sinner is justified by grace through faith.)

¹⁹Now 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.

²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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.

²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Liturgist: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

People: Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

(Christ announces Himself as the Son who gives Freedom to sin's slaves.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY #555 ~ “Salvation unto Us Has Come”



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Your death is now my life indeed,
 For You have paid my ransom.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,
 The God who saved us by His grace;
 All glory to His merit.
 O triune God in heav'n above,
 You have revealed Your saving love;
 Your blessed name we hallow.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

CREED HYMN #953 ~ “We All Believe in One True God”



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;
Who de-scend-ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
Who sus-tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liturgist: Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

People: **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Liturgist: And so we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, our refuge and strength, teach Your church not to fear but to trust Your unshakable promises, that faithful to Your Word, she might remain a present help for troubled hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Liturgist: Ever-living Lord, You have sent an eternal Gospel to be proclaimed to every nation and tribe and language and people. Raise up from among us faithful pastors, teachers, and missionaries who will proclaim the crucified and risen Christ as the only hope of sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Liturgist: Holy Spirit, our Comforter, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, protect all citizens of the world from danger and disaster and make Your holy people agents of peace who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Liturgist: Lord Jesus Christ, truth incarnate, You ask Your people to abide in Your Word. Make us crave the nourishment of Scripture and build in us healthy habits and disciplines that put Your Holy Word central in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Liturgist: Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. We lift up the sick and suffering among us, [including . . .]. Grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Liturgist: Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

(We join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the giving of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your generous giving. Our offering is a significant act of worship.)

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: We give all thanks and praise to You, as is good, right, and salutary, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for by Your eternal Gospel You have proclaimed freedom to sinful souls and righteousness through Christ, Your Son. Shower Your people with grace and faith to believe Your Holy Word and to confess Your timeless truth before the world, that more might find refuge in the salvation of Jesus Christ and so rejoice with angels and archangels, with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, and praise Your glorious name in one unending hymn:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We boast, O Lord our God, in nothing other than the redeeming work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for the gift of justification that comes purely through His blood. As You gather us around His Table, prepare our hearts to receive that gift, that in partaking of His true body and true blood we might taste freedom from sin, guilt, and shame. In Gospel confidence, make us bold to stand as those who shall not be moved from the foundation of faith we have received through the redemption of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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**

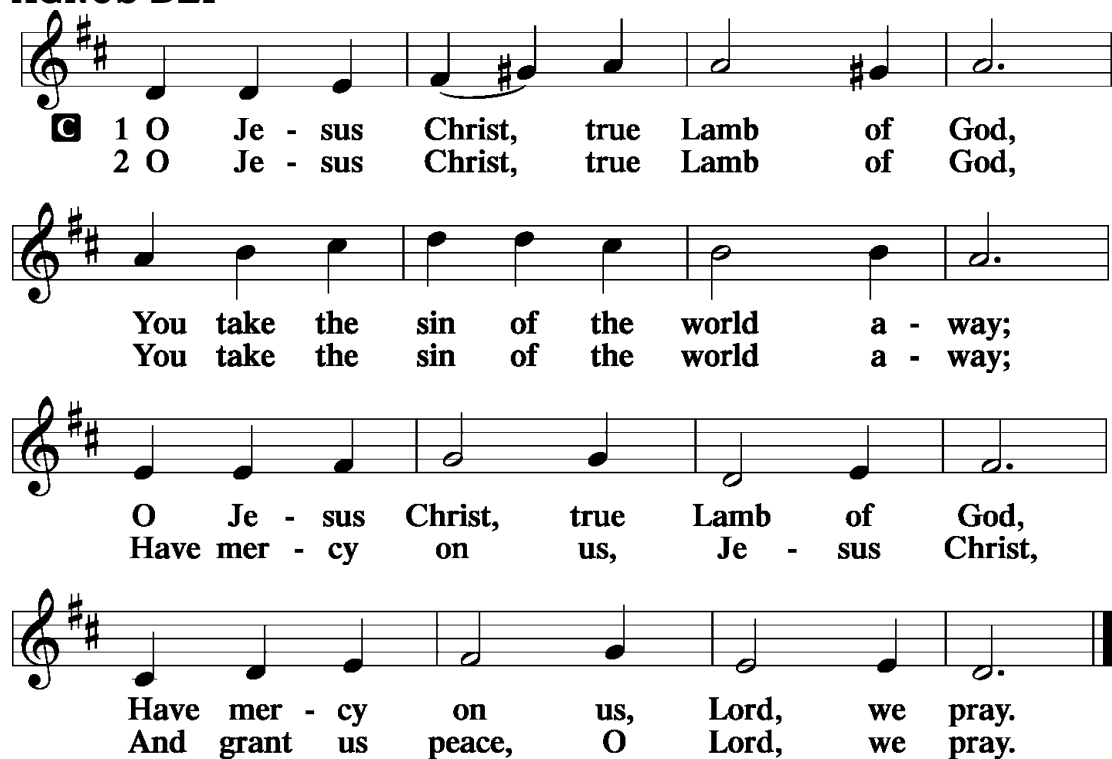
as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Liturgist: Let us pray.
Most glorious Father, we thank You for feeding our faith through this Holy Supper, strengthening us to live as those who know and believe Your truth. Keep us in the true faith, that bound to Your truth we might joyfully declare the One who sets us free—namely, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Announcements

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

People: For freedom Christ has set us free.

Pastor: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: For freedom Christ has set us free.

Pastor: Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

People: For freedom Christ has set us free.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN #566 ~ "By Grace I'm Saved"



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - lone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697–1775

Text and tune: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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Those Serving Today:

Pastor

Rev. Charles Minetree

Liturgist

Mark Smith

Lay Reader

Mary Ruble

Director of Music

Muriel Hopkins

Pianist

Eugene Anderson

Altar Guild

Sheila Gordon/Laura Pickering

Birthdays this Week:

29 Robert Hylton

Max Paye

30 Grace Palmer

Julia Pfitzinger

Anniversaries:

This Week at Immanuel:

Sunday	October 25	10:00 a.m.	Worship & Holy Communion
<i>Reformation Day (Observed)</i>		11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible study
Wednesday	October 28	Noon	Bible study and lunch
Saturday	October 31	6:00 pm	TRUNK OR TREAT
Sunday	November 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship & Holy Communion
<i>All Saints' Day</i>			

Ministry Notes

Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Our Menu

Served on Sunday Mornings after the Divine Service:

Children of God Living in a Post Christian Culture. This meal begins on September 13th. There seems to be three especially systemic sins confronting God's people today. Systemic idolatry, systemic sexual perversion, and systemic greed. These sins, while not the only sins condemned in Scripture, seem to be the most prevalent today. We will look at how disciples respond to these issues in our culture and in our own lives. We meet in the Jean Heemann Conference Room.

Served Every Second and Fourth Wednesdays at Noon:

We will take a fresh look at God's gift of prayer. It's easy to forget what a privilege it is be able to come into the presence of God and speak to Him as a dear and loving Father. We will examine samples of prayer in scripture and revitalize our prayer life. This is a lunchtime feast so bring lunch (and sometimes something to share) and meet in the Ronald F. and Jean S. Heemann Memorial Conference Room. This mealtime begins Wednesday, September 9th.

Served Every Second and Fourth Thursdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM:

This online class looks at the "golden thread" that runs through the Old Testament. Jesus is that "gold thread." The Old Testament not only foretells the coming of the messiah but is main topic from Genesis on. The Old Testament witness to Jesus too! This feast begins Thursday, September 17th.

Matthew 4:4 But Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Come and join these meals for the heart, mind, and soul. God works through His Word by His Holy Spirit. The Word of God gives, sustains, and makes spiritual life grow!

Please indicate your desire to dine at these feasts by sending an email to ilcadmin@immanuel Lutheran.org or calling the church office 410-435-6861.

Calling all creative and crafty people! This year for our **Christmas Tree decorations**, we are doing something different. Our two sanctuary trees will be decorated differently.

One tree will be decorated with red lights, apple ornaments, and a golden snake. This is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had forbidden Adam and Eve to eat from this tree or death would result. They were tempted by the serpent to eat from it and be gods themselves. This resulted in sin and death coming to all mankind.

The second tree will be decorated with white lights and Chrismons. This is the tree that celebrates the incarnation of our Savior. Chrismons are Christian symbols related to Jesus, His incarnation, and His work as our redeemer. From the tree of the cross, the curse of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is undone, and the serpent is defeated.

The apples, serpent, and Chrismon are something we will make. Pastor will provide the patterns for the Chrismons. These are simple creations of Styrofoam, glitter, wire, etc. Pastor is seeking volunteers to make these ornaments. Pastor will meet with those interested after the Divine Service in November to set a craft date or to accept volunteers to work from home. Please let pastor know if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATES for Events at Immanuel:

Saturday, October 31st, 6 pm, Trunk or Treat

Saturday, November 7th, 1 to 5 pm, Bull and Shrimp Roast, Rosedale Gardens

Saturday, November 14th, 2 pm-5 pm, LRIA Bingo

Saturday, December 12th, 3 pm, Baltimore Choral Arts Society concert

Prayer Requests

-Claire Ruble who is back at home and at school after her surgery on Friday, August 28th for the injuries to her leg she sustained in a fall.

-Ray Ward, who had a fall and is recovering at home

-Joe Simsky who is suffering from cancer

-John Stratemeyer who is recovering from a broken back

-Anthony Summers grandmother, Irma, who had a stroke, and Anthony's mother, Millie, who is caring for her.

-Lee Gordon, nephew-in-law of Carolyn Henn, for healing as he recovers from cancer surgery

-Evelyn Dequoy

-Naomi Kruelle, sister-in-law of Rick, who is having chronic health problems

-Sarah Lietzau, who is facing surgery

-Pamela Hasskamp, who has been diagnosed with cancer

-Muriel Hopkins, who fractured her arm

- Rosemarie Wilson, the daughter of Filleseta James, who has had a diagnosis of MS.

-Joseph Woah-tee missing, and whereabouts unknown