

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25 & 26, 2025

Sola Gratia

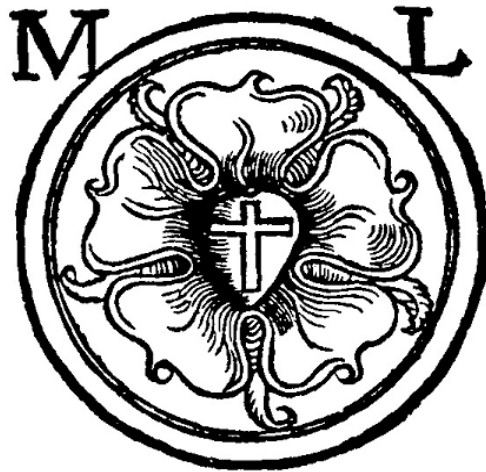
Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone



Music of Preparation,

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: ***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”***

Welcome: Welcome to worship on Reformation Sunday. We rejoice in God’s unchanging Word and saving grace.

Devotions & Publications are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES**

The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, the four (4) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

To Our Visitors...Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available at the back of the church and on the information wall in the main (west) entryway at the school.

AS WE GATHER - *Reformation Sunday is not just a special day to celebrate our history by remembering the story of Martin Luther; it is a perfect opportunity to rejoice in the freedom we have been given from sin and death through Jesus Christ alone. By gathering to receive His Word and to share in His Supper, we come to know yet again the eternal Gospel that is being proclaimed to all who dwell on earth. This good news not only sets us free from our captivity to sin and death, but it also enables us to live a life of freedom in Christ and boldly share with others how they, too, may be set free. The same Savior who speaks His Word to us says to all who will listen: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).*

Before worship prayer

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, You gave Your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification. By Your Holy Spirit grant us newness of life that through the power of Christ's resurrection we may dwell with Him forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

**+ PREPARATION +
Sola Gratia - Grace Alone**

Opening Hymn: "Salvation unto Us Has Come" *LSB, hymn #555 st 1-3*

Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
P: The Word of God announces both His punishment and His pardon, His judgment and His grace. The Law of God, summarized in the Ten Commandments, reminds us of our continual need for the Lord's forgiveness. As we gather for worship, let us first pray to the Lord, confessing our sins to Him and calling upon Him to have mercy upon us.
C: **Almighty God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors. Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness. By the power of His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave, reunite our lives to Your life. Equip us by Your Holy Spirit to love and to serve others as You have first loved and served us. Amen.**
P: Rejoice in His Good News today! God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. In the name of Jesus and by His authority I proclaim to you the forgiveness of all your sins. Live in the freedom of your Holy Baptism in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **AMEN!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast (Divine Service 1, page 155)(Sung) *Rev. 5:12-13, 19:5-9*

- C: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty and gracious Lord, to know You is to know true freedom from sin and to live in the transforming power of Your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, who hold fast to the Word of Your Son, may never return to our captivity but walk daily in the new life we have received; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.
(Please be Seated)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +
Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone**

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 *(A New Covenant Is Coming)*

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each man 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, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Epistle Reading: Romans 3:19-28 *(Righteous Through Faith)*

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.

Stand (As you are able)

Alleluia and Verse - Common - (Divine Service 1, page 156-157) *John 6:68*

C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 18:9-17

(Forgiven and Justified)

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn: “Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB, hymn #555 st 4-6

From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e’er increasing.
None can remove sin’s poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.

Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God’s anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father’s vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

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.

Sermon: “Who is Justified?”

Luke 18:9-17

Stand (As you are able)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Based on Dr. Martin Luther’s explanation of the Apostles’ Creed.)

P: Let us confess our faith and seek God’s blessings in prayer. What does the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

5:00pm - “Salvation Unto Us Has Come”

LSB, Hymn 555, st7

Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, “Come unto Me!” No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name, My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.

8:30am - Special Music: “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” LSB555, st 7

Sanctuary Singers

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

LSB, Hymn # 955

C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O God, comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +
Sola Fide - Faith Alone**

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS

P: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ; I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents his body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that he showed us when he saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by his blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, his body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in his name, according to his command, and with his own words administer and receive the Testament. We pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: 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 is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God - (Divine Service 1, page 163) *John 1:29*

C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB, hymn #555 st 8-10

The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.

Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

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.

LSB655 - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
 Curb those who by deceit or sword
 Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
 And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
 For You are Lord of lords alone;
 Defend Your holy Church that we
 May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
 Send peace and unity on earth;
 Support us in our final strife
 And lead us out of death to life.

LSB565 - Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad - ness to this heart;
 2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;
 3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crush - ing load
 4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ran - som due;
 5 Thy righ - teous - ness, O Christ, A - lone can cov - er me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear de - part.
 Thy stripes, not mine, con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 Of sins that none could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 Ten thou - sand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
 No righ - teous - ness a - vails Save that which is of Thee.



To whom save Thee, Who canst a-lone For sin a-tone, Lord, shall I flee?

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . Lord of hosts, we thank and praise You for blessing us with bread and wine and Your body and blood. Still our souls and gladden our hearts so that we exalt You among the nations and throughout the whole earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *LSB, hymn #656*

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there’s none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow’r us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict’ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Let Your fatherly hand ever guide us and Your Holy Spirit ever be with us, to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that we may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There will be Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that will be wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you are wanting prayer for yourself, someone else or prayer for a concern or situation you may have.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after the service.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my husband, Allen Gehm, who passed away on Oct. 19, 2016, by Joan Gehm & family; also in loving memory of our wife and mother, Jennifer Wilken, and in loving memory of Jeff’s parents, Wilbur & Mildred Wilken, and Jennifer’s father, Ken Nietfeldt, by Jeff and Jacob Wilken.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen Senior Pastor Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor Mr. Brian Porter Principal	Rev. David Baker Missionary to Mongolia Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain Church & School Office: 932-0312
Church Campus 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee School Campus and Church & School Office 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais Church & School Website www.stpaulslutheran.net	

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SERVICE OF HOPE & COMFORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas . . . It's the most wonderful time of the year!

For many it is. For some, Christmas may be a very difficult time of the year - difficult because of the loss of a loved one through death, the loss of health due to illness or injury, the loss of employment or the loss of a marriage.

It is difficult enough trying to go on with life, let alone trying to celebrate the Christmas holiday, especially when your heart aches because of the empty chair at the table, because a long-familiar voice is now still, because your body seems to revolt against you because of disease, because the depression is too much to bear, or because loneliness surrounds you even in a crowd.

It is at such times that we not only need to take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern, but we also need healing, comfort, and hope as only God can give. He wants us to know that we are not alone nor are we without hope.

For these reasons, you are invited on Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. to come and hear God's Word, to meditate, and to join in singing hymns and carols of comfort and in praying for healing and hope. This service will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Kankakee (348 East Merchant Street). If you have questions or need directions, please call the church office at 932-0312.

Please accept this invitation to be with us - a time to move from feeling low and alone to knowing the wonder and hope of Christmas.

There is no need to RSVP - our doors are open to all who come. Please feel free to invite others to come with you as your support or, if you know of others who are having a difficult time at Christmas, please let them know that they are most welcome.

*In the service of Christ and His people,
Pastor Karl Koeppen and Pastor Roger Drinnon*

"Martin Luther's Seal" or "The Luther Rose"

While he was a professor at Wittenberg University, Martin Luther designed this seal which he declared was meant to be "expressive of his theology."

The following letter was written to his friend, Herr Spangler, town clerk in Nuremberg, Germany.

July 8, 1530

Grace and peace in Christ!

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend!

Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black, and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color (red), to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the heart, he will be justified. Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature ... that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith, by faith in the Savior.

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives. Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels.

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest.

And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen.

(From Luther's Works, American Edition, Volume 49, pp. 356 - 359)

Luther's seal is not used as an official symbol of The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. It is, however, incorporated into the Synod's official seal to show our acceptance of Luther's doctrines. The seal is used by Lutherans worldwide.

