

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 24 & 25, 2026

Sola Gratia

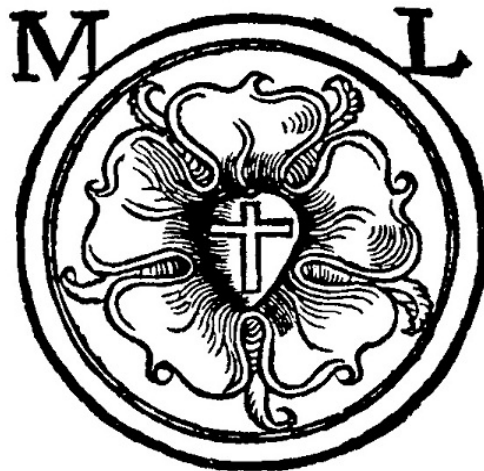
Grace Alone

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: Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God’s Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him..

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.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of parents, Evan & Eileen Gradberg, Tom & Eloise Lindsay, brother, Tom Gradberg and granddaughter, Alexandra Faith Gradberg and my husband, Mark, on our wedding anniversary, October 20th; by Kathy Gradberg; Also 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.

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.*

5:00pm - Pre-service: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” *Liz Deck, Flute*

8:30am - Pre-service: “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” *Brass*

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

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

Opening Hymn: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” *LSB, hymn #575*

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!
*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

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, . . . Almighty God,
C: **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: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” *LSB, hymn #655*

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your 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.

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)

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. John, the eighth chapter.

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

Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-36 *(The Son Makes You Free!)*

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus

answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn: “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

LSB, hymn #560

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

Sermon: “A Picture Of Faith - Luther’s Rose”

Romans 3:28

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . 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,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: 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,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: 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,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. 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, grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: 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. 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.

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

5:00pm - Special Music: "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" *Liz Deck, Flute*

8:30am - Special Music: "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" *Brass*

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

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.

+ 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)

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

LSB537 - Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

LSB629 - What Is This Bread

What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod? My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

LSB680 - Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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.

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 overpower 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.

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

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
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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 18th 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.

