

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 31, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

*(Your offerings can be left in the offering plate found at the back of the church either before or after worship. Noisy offering will be taken at Children's Message time.)*

PRELUDE: "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High", "Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 46)

P: God is our shelter and strength...

**C: A very present help in trouble.**

P: Therefore we will not fear...

**C: Though the earth should change...**

P: Though the mountains shake.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us...**

P: The God of Jacob is our refuge.

**C: Be still, and know that I am God!**

P: I am exalted among the nations...

**C: I am exalted in the earth.**

P: The Lord of hosts is with us...

**C: The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

#### GATHERING HYMN: "On Eagle's Wings" WOV 779

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: On this Festival of Reformation we ask God to hear our confession.

**C: We so often see the need for change and reform in others...but seldom do we see that need in ourselves.**

P: Forgive us.

**C: In the Church we tend to hang on to old ways and old forms much like the Church of the 1500's...Jesus taught that forms and traditions do not save.**

P: Forgive us.

**C: We confess that we can love structures and traditions more than we love the Lord.**

P: Forgive us.

**C: We can be self-centered in our lives. We often see no need to change, even when we are out of step with the life and words of Jesus.**

P: Forgive us.

**C: We seek forgiveness for our lack of passion to know the truth in Jesus. We seek forgiveness for not wanting this truth to set us free...**

P: In the lesson for today we are told that we are "justified by God's grace as a gift."

**C: We are also told that... "God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus."**

P: We are indeed saved by grace through faith. As a called and ordained pastor of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: Gracious Lord, we are grateful for the reformers who cherished your gift of grace through faith. Help us to understand and cherish this greatest of all gifts and live in joy and obedience to your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that 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 on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “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 remember their sin no more.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)*

*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Thy Word”

Refrain: **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me. And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Refrain.**

**2. I will not forget your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end. Refrain.**

**3. Nothing will I fear, as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. You're the light unto my path.**

“Thy Word,” words by Amy Grant, music by Michael W. Smith. ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.  
*A brief silence.*

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit, especially Dustin and Janice. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by

his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: **"Lamb of God" p. 72, LBW 456, LBW 229**

#### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

#### SENDING HYMN: "Shout to the Lord"

**My Jesus, my Savior. Lord, there is none like You. All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love. My comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength. Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You. Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing...Power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your hand. Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in You. (Repeat)**

"Shout to the Lord," words and music by Darlene Zschech. ©1993 Hillsong Publishing. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

#### SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Dustin Fritch, Janice Uecker, our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Larry Weyers (Nov. 1), Gayle Robinson, Renee Vogel (Nov. 2), David Kagy (Nov. 5).

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH** will meet November 3rd at 9:30 at the church. Danelle Lenner is the hostess. The lesson is Lot's Wife.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK** everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards while we were recovering these last months. Your kindness is very much appreciated. God's blessings, Hank & Ann

**SECOND ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE:** The council is asking all members to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge again this year. Please check your October Newsletter for the calendar of food items that we will be gathering. You can bring all your items to church on November 21 or before - we will display all the items donated and then deliver them to the Community Food Pantry for distribution to those in need. If you need a calendar page, there are extras in the back of church. Thank you for participating in this ministry!

**FOR THE 2ND YEAR** we have qualified for a \$500 grant from Thrivent, if we can gather 500 cans of food during October 24th through November 21st. Our church has selected Beatrice Community Food Pantry as the recipient. Please pick up your calendar and boxes and let's do it again. Let's give with a gracious heart and help others.

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about **\$65,000.00**. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out - first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com) with your email address.

**COMING UP:**

Every Wednesday - BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no classes on Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Dec. 29)

Sunday, Oct. 31 - Reformation Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 7 - All Saints' Sunday - recognition of those who have passed away

Sunday, Nov. 21 - Thankoffering Sunday

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

**Transitional Minister** - Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

**Council** - Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

**Reader:** Kierstin Rehrs

**Acolyte:** Payton Heideman

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** - Brenda Hippen/Susan Frerichs

**Audio/Video** - Norm Flesner

**Musicians:** Sandy Mahler, Pat Jobman, Tom Karlin, Virgil Jobman, Lodene Kaufman, Dave Norton, Linda Searcey, DeeAnn Schmidt, Dave Wolken, Tom Young

**Fellowship:** Jane Young