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Luther's Rose

Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology...

The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who believes from the heart will be justified (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is it does not kill but keeps alive. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal.

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

Martin Luther, July, 1530

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

October 31, 2021

Reformation Day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (verses 1&4)

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
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



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

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

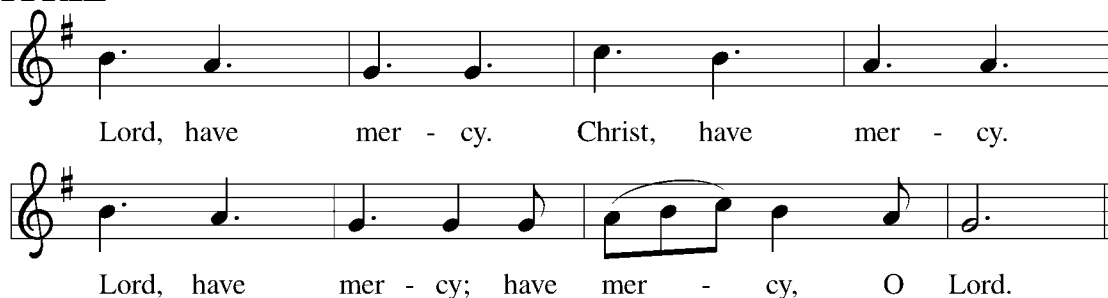
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

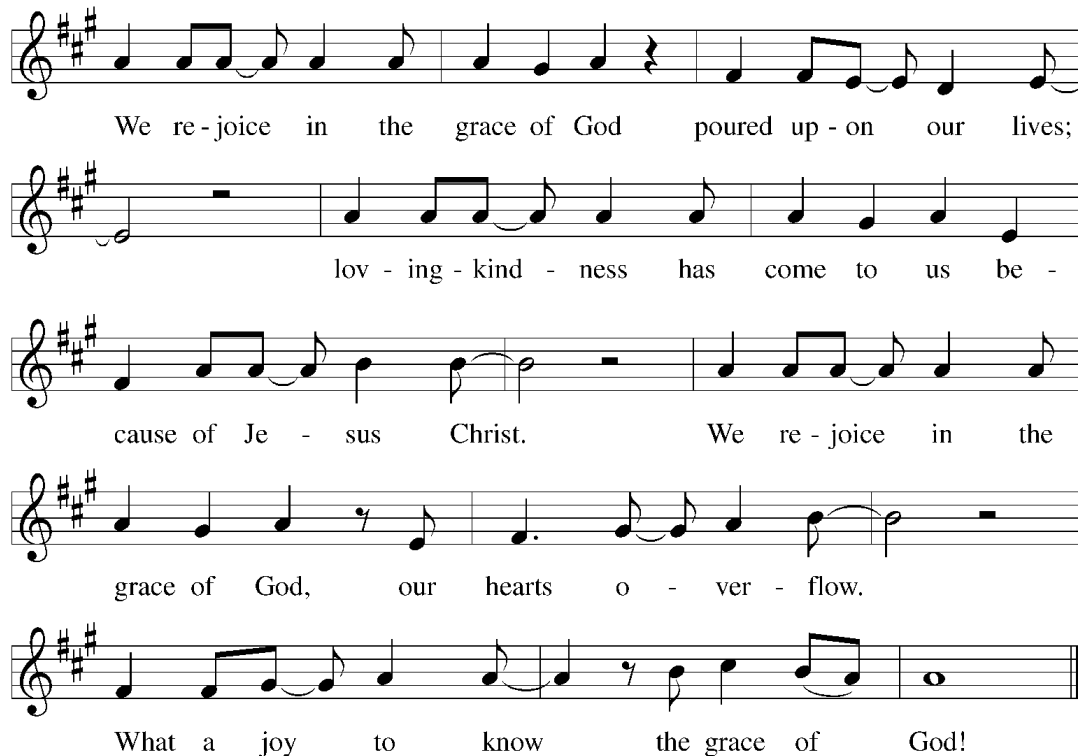
Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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CANTICLE OF PRAISE

We Rejoice in the Grace of God



We re - joice in the grace of God poured up - on our lives;

lov - ing - kind - ness has come to us be -

cause of Je - sus Christ. We re - joice in the

grace of God, our hearts o - ver - flow.

What a joy to know the grace of God!

Text: Steve Cook and Vicki Cook
Music: WE REJOICE IN THE GRACE, Steve Cook and Vicki Cook

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹God is our ref-^luge and strength,
a very present^l help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;**

³though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall ¹ not be shaken;

God shall help it at the ¹ break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the ¹ kingdoms shake;**

God speaks, and the earth ¹ melts away.

⁷The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works ¹ of the LORD,**

what desolations God has brought up- ¹ on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in ¹ all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the ¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that ¹ I am God;**

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted ¹ in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now 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.

²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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’?”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1&3)

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 CHURCH (*Please respond.*)

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERATORY *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

The musical score is written on six staves of music in treble clef, 7/8 time. It features various rhythmic patterns including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come.
The table is ready.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ Strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (verses 1&5)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Head Usher Kathy Bowen
Acolyte Katy Nienstedt
Lector..... Katy Nienstedt
Securing Offering..... Ilona Laney & Sam Mull
Communion Set-Up..... Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Clean-Up Bill & Lilly Chiado
Bread Cubes Bill & Lilly Chiado
Communion Assist Margie Dale
Attendance last Sunday 56

Stewardship Thought - Oct. 31, 2021 (23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year B) **Mark 12:33**

–To love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. Church stewardship is often preoccupied with money, but what does God really want? Today's Gospel explains it succinctly: Truly loving God and neighbor is worth more than offerings and sacrifices. When we achieve this kind of love, giving generously comes much more easily.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Marvin & Steve McKenzie given by LaRue McKenzie.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will **not** be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

Prayer requests for the following: *Connie Bikle, Mark and Georgia Moats, Harold Brake, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Earl Garvin, Jr., Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Patricia Yetter, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Denise Bowen, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Saturday, November 20 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, filling, gravy, corn, peas & carrots, cranberry relish, applesauce, roll & butter, plus apple and pumpkin pie. Water, coffee, and hot tea will be served. Cost: Adults - \$14; Children 5-11 yrs. \$7.00; Under 5-free.

Congregational Meeting Sunday November 14: The annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship on November 14. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve a 2022 operating budget and to elect members to the congregation council. A proposed budget will be sent to all member households and will be available in the office. Please review the budget before the meeting. You may contact council president Margie Dale with any questions. *Since a quorum is needed all Solomon's voting members are encouraged to attend the meeting on November 14.*

Ministry Safety and Security briefing - The Ministry Safety and Security Team will be presenting a special Church Security Briefing presented by Chambersburg Police Department Sgt Anthony Rosenberry immediately after worship Sunday November 21st in the Sanctuary. Everyone is urged to stay after worship for this important information. Any Questions can be directed to Wayne Dale.

Christian Education Committee will have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

The Fund-Raising Committee would like to thank everyone for your Apple Butter-Candy Order Sales and help. It is greatly appreciated!

During the month of November, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. You may place items in the gray totes in the Sunday School room or under the coat rack at the back door.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Bring joy to the less fortunate by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in front of the Butcher Shoppe on Saturday, November 27. We are asking for one hour of your time between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sunday school room. Any question, see Edna Harris.

Trinity Lutheran will begin a 13-week grief support group on Thursday, November 11. You may register by calling the office at Trinity Lutheran (717 263-8156).

Lutheran Disaster Response Hurricane Ida: The hurricane caused devastation on the Gulf Coast and then caused extreme flooding in the Northeast, where over fifty people died, and thousands suffered severe property damage. LDR is on the ground, helping to rebuild communities. You may help in the effort by donating to "LDR-Hurricane Ida." Place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the office. 100% of your donation goes to the disaster response. Thank you.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Aids Afghan Refugees: The evacuation of Afghanistan has meant over 20,000 refugees have arrived in the United States. You are encouraged to go to the LIRS.org website to learn how you can help by acting, donating, advocating, and praying for Afghan allies and their families. You may donate directly or place your offering in the collection plate or send it to the office. Mark your donation "LIRS: Afghan Allies." Thank you.

Bible Study - Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. We will be studying the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be featured in the lectionary readings for Year B, beginning in Advent. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

Adult Sunday School - Pastor Bill will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts at 9:00 a.m., in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome. You can prepare by reading the Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel texts appointed for the day.

Youth Sunday School Classes starting at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

2021 Poinsettia Order Form

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Christmas Poinsettias is asked to fill out the following form and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Poinsettia Order." Deadline for **red or marble (pink & white)** poinsettias is November 28. Cost is \$7.50 each. This is a 6 ½ inch pot.

*The Christmas Poinsettias in Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by:*

(name)

Red _____ Marble _____

Total amount enclosed _____ Total Poinsettias ordered _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Poinsettias will be in the church on December 24. If you will not be attending church on December 24, you can make arrangements to pick up your flowers by calling the church office.

****This is updated from last week. Please
use this updated order form.**

OCTOBER 31, 2021
REFORMATION SUNDAY

The grace of God through faith sets us free.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Monday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Tuesday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Wednesday	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
Thursday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of victory
Friday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our protection
Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." **John 8:36 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, may faith in you give us peace and joy, and move us to love and serve others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of the gift of faith that we may be strengthened to love you and our neighbor each and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who frees you from the power of sin bless you with everlasting joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Sin is about broken relationships with others and with God. What does sin mean to you?
- God in Christ only saves and frees sinners. Is this a surprising message for you? Explain.
- How does confessing one's sinfulness bring joy?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rise, Shine, You People



DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Luther was not the only reformer shaped by Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans became a signature book of the New Testament to reform the church's practice away from a message that suggested that our eternal life with Christ was dependent upon our actions. Through Christ's work—not ours—we are redeemed. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was "strangely moved" by hearing Luther's commentary on Romans. Wesley saw in this letter that being justified by Christ through faith meant that followers of Jesus were more than people set free from sin. Salvation was the restoration of the human ability to bear God's image in the world. Luther called this being a "little Christ" to one's neighbor. We have all fallen short; redemption is a gift of God received through faith. By the grace of God through faith, we are God's people participating in the work of Christ in the world. We are now the ones reconciling all that is God's back to God. We are made right with God through faith in Christ that we may be the hands, feet, and voice of God's healing work in the world. Where have you witnessed God's healing work in the world?

Pray: **Awesome God, help us to believe and give thanks every day that our relationship to you is a gift of your undeserved kindness through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

We have been born anew to a living faith that sends us out into the world on behalf of God's love through Christ. How can you be part of Christ's ongoing work of healing lives today? What might you do this week to extend Christ's love to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Before the Reformation, the Bible was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. It was not accessible to the common person. An important part of the Reformation was to translate the word of God in the Bible to a language people understood. Luther translated the Bible into German. Other reformers translated the Bible into other languages. In appreciation for the fact that the Bible can now be read around the world in many different languages, including your own, take time this week to read and highlight some of your favorite Bible passages.