

REFORMATION PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN 263: . . . *“O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”*

ALL ARE INVITED:

to stay for a fellowship meal following the service.

THANK YOU: to the following---

Pastor Michael Eichstadt-

Messiah Lutheran Church- Hales Corners, WI

Pastor Terrel Kesterson-

Ascension Lutheran Church- Batavia, IL

Pastor Rob Sauers-

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church- Fond du Lac, WI

Pastor David Ude-

Living Hope Lutheran Church- Appleton, WI

Pastor Matt Ude-

Faith Lutheran Church- Markesan, WI

Pastor Mark Bernthal-

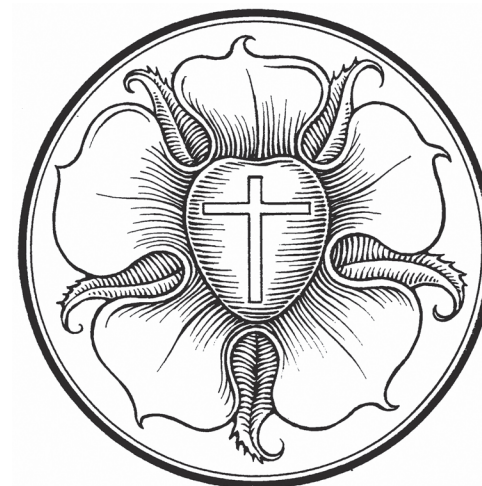
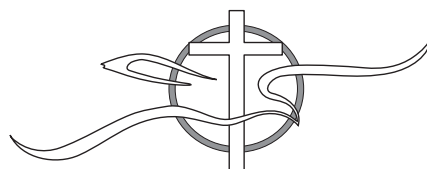
Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church- Middleton, WI

Organist Ms. Pam Schulz, Choir & Children

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School is a confessional Lutheran Church. We proclaim to a world dead in sin that salvation is a gift of God's grace;

that Jesus Christ paid the full sacrificial price—His very life—so that gift of

salvation could be ours. If you are interested in learning more, please call Pastor Bernthal at **608-233-2244** or e-mail him at mbern@juno.com
More Information and Audio Sermons at peacethruchrist.org



Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church and School

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN/NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONGREGATIONS

OCTOBER 28, 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to this Reformation Festival worship service. This afternoon we celebrate the heritage of God's Truth which has been preserved by God and passed down to us through the preceding generations. This afternoon we celebrate with music, with Word, and with remembrance. We celebrate the glorious gift of Christian fellowship---"Behold! How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Psalm 133:1) This afternoon we celebrate the Triune God and His many blessings to us for our soul's salvation. May the Lord our God bless us in our worship.

REFORMATION INTRODUCTION

Last year we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. This act is well known in Lutheranism and even throughout Christendom. It was indeed a pivotal role in the Reformation of the visible Christian church. But less than a year later on April 26, 1518, Martin Luther presented 28 theological statements at the Heidelberg Disputation that are even more significant for their content. In the 95 theses Luther attacked indulgences. In the Heidelberg Disputation Luther dismantled the entire theological base which the church had built up for hundreds of years i.e. the teaching that good works saves and gives one glory both here and in heaven. Throughout this afternoon's service we will have quotes from Luther's statements with passages from God's Word.

HYMN 775 (1, 4-5): . . . *"Thy Strong Word"*

Luther's Statements: 1) The Law of God, the most salutary doctrine of life, cannot advance man on his way to righteousness, but rather hinders him. 2) Much less can human works, which are done over and over again with the aid of natural precepts, so to speak, lead to that end. 3) Although the works of man always seem attractive and good, they are nevertheless likely to be mortal sins. 22) That wisdom which sees the invisible things of God in works as perceived by man is completely puffed up, blinded, and hardened. 23) The "law brings the wrath" of God (Romans 4:15), kills, reviles, accuses, judges, and condemns everything that is not in Christ. 24) Yet that wisdom is not of itself evil, nor is the law to be evaded; but without the theology of the cross man misuses the best in the worst manner.

animals and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil. God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.
This is most certainly true.



I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.
This is most certainly true.

Men: Isaiah 64:6---“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.”

Women: Leviticus 19:2---“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”

C: James 2:10---“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”

ALL: Romans 3:20---“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

P: All of our works, yes even our good works, are tainted by sin because we are sinful by nature. Since God’s holy law requires perfection, our works can contribute nothing to our salvation as we heard from Romans 3. Jesus’ perfect life has satisfied God’s Law for us. His atoning death has paid the price for our sins. And His bodily resurrection is the guarantee that God the Father has accepted what Jesus accomplished on our behalf. Because of Jesus, God removes our sins and replaces them with Christ’s righteousness. It is only the work of Jesus that contributes to our salvation. And we receive that salvation through faith alone.

ALL: Romans 3:28---“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

P: And even that saving faith is a gift of God, and not something that we contribute. **ALL: Ephesians 2:8,9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Luther’s Explanation of the Apostles’ Creed.

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me. God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land,

Romans 3:19-21: As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.

THE THREE REFORMATION PRINCIPLES:

We are saved by **GRACE ALONE**, through **FAITH ALONE**, which is found in **SCRIPTURE ALONE!**

Part I: Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

P: A question that often plagued the hearts and minds of those in pre-Reformation times was “How can I be sure that I love God enough, especially when I sin so often everyday?” God answered this question by having a chief doctrine be rediscovered during the Reformation—the Doctrine of Justification.

C: It is not our love for God that makes our salvation possible, but rather His love for us. God’s love is unconditional and overflowing. It is a love that is deep and profound. God’s love is totally undeserved. This is what God means when He speaks of grace.

P: Today, there are many who are plagued by the very same question. You can see it in today's many different religions which teach that the most important thing in life is loving your neighbor and your god as sincerely as possible. Since the fall into sin, it is in man's nature to focus inwardly rather than outwardly. But God would have us focus on "What Has Jesus Done?" rather than on "What Should We Do?" God wants us to focus on His grace rather than our own works.

C: We truly have done nothing to earn God's favor. God tells us this in His own Word.

P: "The soul who sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:20)

All: We deserve death because of our sins: physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death in hell. Hell is described in Scripture as "a fire that shall never be quenched" where there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Thankfully, God's grace has removed this punishment from us because of what Jesus did.

C: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

P: We read other passages from our God that describe His amazing grace for us.

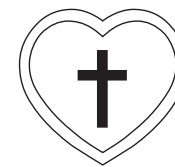
Left Side: "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Romans 5:6)

Right side: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:7-8)

P: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)," (Ephesians 2:4-5)

C: "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25)

apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.



Part III: Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

P: The false teaching of work-righteousness was very popular during pre-Reformation days. This is the idea that if we do enough good in our lives, it will counteract the bad we have done and lead God to accept us into heaven. It was taught that certain individuals have stored up so many good works that they have some to share with others. And it was even taught that these extra good works could be bought with money. This was called indulgences.

C: Unfortunately, the false idea that we can work our way into heaven proves to be very popular today as well. But we have already established that Scripture alone ought to determine Bible teaching and certainly not popular opinion. So what does God's Word say on the matter?

Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

Choir “Be Still and Know”

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REFORMATION 774

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

All vs. 1; Men/boys vs. 2; Women/girls vs. 3; All vs. 4

Luther’s Statements: 16) The person who believes that he can obtain grace by doing what is in him adds sin to sin so that he becomes doubly guilty. 18) It is certain that man must utterly despair of his own ability before he is prepared to receive the grace of Christ. 20) He deserves to be called a theologian who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross. 21) A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is. 25) He is not righteous who does much, but he who, without work, believes much in Christ. 26) The law says, “do this”, and it is never done. Grace says, “believe in this”, and everything is already done. Romans 3:21-28 But now the righteousness of God

ALL: “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

Congregation Hymn 777 . . . “Amazing Grace”

ALL: “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

Confession of sins—ALL: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer; we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful and gracious to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Children: “Seek Where You May to Find a Way”

Part II: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

C: The years leading up to the Reformation were dark times for the visible Christian church on earth. The word of man became more important and held more authority than the Word of God. Discussions on church teachings were based

more on man's interpretations of Scripture rather than on Scripture itself. And sadly the lay people of the church were completely at the mercy of the church leaders for they were not even allowed to read the Bible for themselves.

P: If this description of the 15th and 16th centuries sounds familiar to you, it should, for we face very similar situations today. The word of man is elevated above the Word of God as evolution is taught as fact in schools while the true story of creation is mocked. Man's interpretations on things like homosexuality and gay marriage establish church doctrine rather than the true teachings of Scripture. And although the Bible is more readily available today than possibly at any other time in history, many lay people today read books written about the Bible rather than simply reading the Word of God itself. One of the great truths rediscovered by the Reformation was "sola Scriptura," the truth that Scripture alone is the final authority on matters of faith and life, both this life and the life to come. Let us read some of those soul saving truths from God that speak about "sola Scriptura," or Scripture alone.

Left: "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him." (Proverbs 30:5)

Right: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

P: The Bible is God's Word. It is inspired, undefiled, and error free. God's Word is pure.

C: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17)

P: God's Word is completely accurate in everything it says, and it presents the historical facts of man's creation, corruption, and redemption. God's Word is true and clear.

Men: "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19)

Women: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (II Peter 1:20-21)

P: God the Holy Spirit carefully and deliberately gave each human writer the very words to write down, so although the Bible was penned by man, it was written by God. The Bible is God's very own words to man for his salvation. As such, the Bible is not to be read like any other book which may be open to various criticisms and interpretations of men. God says what He means and means what He says.

C: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

P: God's Word was, is, and always will be the ultimate authority on things pertaining to this life and the life that is to come.

Congregation Hymn 523 (1-4, 7)

"Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve me"

The Sermon: audio sermons at www.middletonlutheran.org

Sermon Text: **Matthew 16:21-27**

Sermon Theme:

Behold the Beauty of the Cross

I. The Necessity of Christ's • II. The Privilege of Our Own

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then