

This Week at Grace
Sunday, October 29, 2006
Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

INTRODUCTION

This day invites the daughters and sons of the Reformation to celebrate the perennial source of reform in the church: the word of God and the sacraments of forgiveness and new life. Indeed, when the church welcomes a new member in baptism or gathers around the table of communion, the Holy Spirit's reforming labor continues among us. On this day, we acknowledge that our souls are captive to the word of God, that we share the life of Christ with other Christians through baptism, and that we are urged by the Holy Spirit to pray for the ongoing renewal of the church in our day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:31–34*

In contrast to Judah's sin, which Jeremiah describes as "engraved on the tablet of their hearts" (17:1), the prophet envisions a future day when the law will be written "on their hearts" (31:33). To know God in this way is to have a direct and profound connection to God. Forgiveness of sins, which is so complete as to be forgotten, is the motivating force for keeping the law.

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

PSALM *Psalm 46*

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:4)

God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present | help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;**
³though its waters | rage and foam,*
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R
⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;*
God shall help her at the | break of day.
⁷The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;*

God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.
⁸The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R
⁹Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*
what awesome things he has | done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;*
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
¹¹"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*" I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

¹²The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

SECOND READING *Romans 3:19–28*

Martin Luther and other leaders of the Reformation believed the heart of the gospel was found in these words of Paul written to the Romans. All people have sinned, but God offers forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus. We are justified, or put right with God, through faith in Jesus.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

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

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

GOSPEL *John 8:31–36*

True freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class. Only Jesus can free us from slavery to sin, and he does this through the truth of the gospel.

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

³³ 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'?"

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

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:		<i>Reformation / Confirmation Sunday</i>
	8:30a	Worship Service
	9:30a	Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour
	11:00a	Worship Service with Confirmation
MONDAY:	7:30p	Cantori Rehearsal
TUESDAY:	9:30a	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00a	Pastor's Text Study
	2:30p	3D Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	9:00a	Sewing Day
	3:15p	Service at Oak Park Place
	5:00p	Chew-n-Chat
	5:30p	Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals
	6:30p	7 th -8 th gr. Confirmation Class
	6:30p	9 th gr. Confirmation Class
	6:30p	Sr. High Bible Study
	6:30p	Bells of Praise

	7:30p	Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a	Early Morning Bible Study
	9:00a	BERC Pastor's Meeting
	6:30p	GLCW Board Meeting
	7:00p	Evening Bible Study
FRIDAY:	1:30p	ThorneCrest Bible Study
	NO	4 th -6 th gr. Youth Center
	5:30p	Wedding Rehearsal
SATURDAY:	3:30p	Wedding of Chelsea Cole and Brandon Loverink
NEXT SUNDAY:		<i>All Saints' Sunday</i>
	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:30a	Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Oct. 28: In honor of Deloris King's 85th birthday given by Ron & Virginia Sorenson.] [Oct. 29: Sunday School.] [Oct. 29: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Nov. 1: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Margaret Bergland.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Ella Anderson (granddaughter of Dan & Bonnie Anderson), Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark Fisher (father of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Lucille Kittelson, Anna Kycek, Conrad & Rose Masyga (parents of Kris Heine), Clarice Moen (sister of Gerry Vogt), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Marliss Sward (sister of Marlene Sorenson), Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, also remember the families of Bradley Quade (son of Ila Quade), and Tammy Welp (niece of Glenn Sherburne), who recently passed away.

GREETERS today are Gordy & Marlene Sorenson, and Tom & Julie Sorenson at 8:30; and Todd & Kris Heavner, and Roger & LaJean Bjorklund at 11:00.

FLOWERS FOR OUR SERVICES this morning are from the funeral of Bradley Quade (son of Ila Quade) held this past week.

PROCESSIONAL BANNER AND CROSS bearers are Jenna Bowman and Lars

Gjersvik at 8:30; and McKinzey Christian and Andrea Crom at 11:00.

ACOLYTES for our worship services are Jeff Thorstad and Fallon Rippentrop at 8:30; and Gracie Thomas and Mitchel Webb at 11:00.

LESSON READERS are Karen Ohlmann at 8:30; and Truman Thrond at 11:00.

BAPTIZED INTO THE KINGDOM of God today at our 8:30 worship service is ***Bryant Alexander Johnston***, son of Alex & Angie Johnston, with sponsors Jeremy & Nicole Solberg. We also welcome Pastor Chuck Hazlett, Angie's father and grandfather of Bryant, to officiate at the baptism.

ALL WORSHIPPERS who share our common confession that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, believing He is truly present in the bread and wine are welcome to receive the sacrament. Younger children who have not received instruction are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available for those who have a preference.

COMMUNION BREAD at the 11:00 worship service is given today by Craig, Becky, and Jordan Loehr in honor of Jillian Loehr on her Confirmation. **COMMUNION WINE** is given by Jillian Loehr in memory of Lindsey (Loehr) Diemer.

WE JOIN OUR sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for all congregations of the ELCA, in Minnesota, in the United States, and around the world.

ADULT FORUM SERIES: Continues Today, "Stories of Love and Faith from Mayberry"

Gary Schindler leads discussion and Bible Study using episodes of the Andy Griffith Show as a springboard to discuss issues of concern for all Lutherans. The subjects to be covered include:

Today "Opie – The Birdman" ...Accepting the Consequence for Your Actions

November 5 "Mr. McBeevee" ...Matters of Faith

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Chalice Frank and his mother, Lisa.

FUNDRAISING BEGINS! Youth attending next summer's servant trip to Appalachia are selling holiday cut-out cookie dough (cookies ready to back and decorate) and sensational frozen soup. You may choose from cheddar vegetable, New England clam chowder, cream of broccoli w/cheese, vegetable beef, chicken noodle, cream of potato, and chicken w/wild

rice. All of these items are perfect for your busy Christmas schedules. The youth are selling these items now through Nov. 13th, with delivery to the church set for Nov. 29th.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We believe there are many times when we are unaware that someone is in the hospital. This can happen for a number of reasons. You don't want to bother the pastors. You enter through emergency or urgent care. You think your name is being placed on the list we have access to and it does not get on the list for some reason. It is our desire to provide pastoral care to all who are hospitalized for whatever reason. Please help us by letting us know you are in the hospital or will be hospitalized. Thank you for your help! -- Pastors John and Todd

OUR THANKS to Betty Hanson and Marilee Citsay for serving as Altar Guild workers for the month of September.

NOVEMBER is Food Shelf Month. Many of our working poor get help from the local food shelves at the Salvation Army and Presbyterian Church. This is the time of year that the shelves are nearly empty. When you are out buying groceries, consider adding a couple of items for the Food Shelf. Donations will be received here at Grace Lutheran to be delivered to our local shelves. Thank you for caring.



HEARTS TOUCHING HEARTS

Pastor Milton Ost's Mission Journal
Available Soon

MANY BOWLS AND PANS have accumulated in our church kitchen from the recent Salad Luncheon and other events. Please stop down to see if any belong to you.

PARENTS OF CONFIRMANDS: Confirmation gowns need to be returned to the church no later than noon on Tuesday, Oct. 31st.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE AN OFFERING to World Hunger Appeal? Next Sunday is your day! Also anytime during November is just fine. Thank you for your faithful support to the World Hunger Appeal.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES and EQUAL EXCHANGE HANDCRAFT PROJECT are coming Nov. 12th and 19th. Check your Christmas shopping list so you can support these two vital ministries that support Third World business with fair prices.

GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Nov. 8th, 2:00p

Join us for a meeting that day in the Fireside Room to hear speaker, Mike Woitas, Freeborn County Fair Board Member, with details about "How to Organize the County Fair – Entertainment Department." This is an opportunity to hear the inside story you always wanted to know. Bring a friend with you – it will be interesting. (There will also be a sign-up sheet for our December Christmas Party.) *If you need a ride, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support.
Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, Oct. 22nd	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 9,639.00	\$ 394,494.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 411,726.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 66.75	\$ 2,167.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 7.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 391; Last Year - 490

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota

REFORMATION / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
October 29, 2006