

This Week at Grace
Sunday, October 28, 2007
Reformation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday at 11am service.

INTRODUCTION

This day the Lutheran church remembers with thanksgiving the events of the sixteenth-century Reformation. We rightly celebrate the Reformation not when we glory in the events of the past, but rather when we pray, "Come, Holy Spirit!" The church is always in need of reform, always in need of dying again in Christ and being raised from the dead, so that it might be truly free. We celebrate our apostolic faith as we also remember saints Simon and Jude.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

PSALM: Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

- ¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**
- ³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**
- ⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
he God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
- ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
- ¹⁰**"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."**
- ¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19–28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the 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.

GOSPEL: John 8:31–36

YEAR A Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin. *YEAR B* Here Jesus promises that true freedom—the freedom to serve our loving God—comes through the truth of the gospel. It is this truth that is revealed in the life of the Lord Jesus. *YEAR C* The Reformation sought to emphasize that true freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class. Only Jesus can free us from slavery to sin, which he does through the truth of the gospel.

³¹Then Jesus 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.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY: *Reformation / Confirmation Sunday*

8:30a Worship Service
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
11:00a Worship Service with Confirmation

MONDAY: 6:30p Girl Scout Meeting

7:00p Book Club
7:30p Cantori Rehearsal

TUESDAY: 9:00a Staff Meeting

9:30a Ladies Bible Study
11:00a Pastor's Text Study

WEDNESDAY: 9:30a Program Staff Meeting

5:00p Chew-n-Chat
5:30p Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals
6:30p 7th-8th gr. Confirmation Class
6:30p 9th 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
6:00p GLCW Board Meeting (Note Change of Time)

FRIDAY: NO ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p 4th-6th gr. Youth Center

NEXT SUNDAY: *All Saints' Sunday*
Daylight Saving Time Ends
8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
2:00p Serving St. John's Home Afternoon Coffee
2:00p Girl Scout Meeting

WELCOME TODAY to all visitors, with a special welcome to the families, relatives, sponsors, and friends of the Confirmands. God bless you richly, that this worship may ground you in the Word of God and equip you for faithful service in God's name. If you have no church home, we cordially invite you to become part of the Grace Family of believers.

CONFIRMATION: The white robe signifies the wearer being a forgiven sinner, made a saint through the death of Christ. The red stole symbolizes Jesus' blood shed for us. The white flower, worn over the heart, stands for faith and life within. The Laying on of Hands during Confirmation brings the presence of the Holy Spirit and His blessing anew into the life of each Confirmand.

THE CONFIRMATION BANNER today comes from Ephesians 5:2, 6:16-17

"And walk in love.... taking the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God."

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE at the 11:00 worship service is given this morning by Mark & Sharon Christian and family in honor of today's confirmands.

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION are David & Carol Larson.

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.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM / CONFIRMATION

These youth have been instructed in the Christian faith by participating in Confirmation instruction, and today make a public profession of their faith, to develop their spiritual gifts, and

to use their gifts by assuming greater responsibility in the life of the Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel into their adult faith journey.

<i>Jenna Lynn Bowman</i>	<i>Daughter of Jeff & Judy Bowman</i>
<i>McKinzey Rose Christian</i>	<i>Daughter of Mark & Sharon Christian</i>
<i>Andrea Lynn Crom</i>	<i>Daughter of Mark & Linda Crom</i>
<i>Stephanie LeAnne Ferguson</i>	<i>Daughter of Tague & Dawn Ferguson</i>
<i>Jasmine Victoria Gavle</i>	<i>Daughter of Denise Gavle and Craig Gavle</i>
<i>Lars Isaac Gjersvik</i>	<i>Son of Theron & Dara Gjersvik</i>
<i>Nicholas Cole Grace</i>	<i>Son of Robert & Gretchen Gade</i>
<i>Paige Echo Hanna</i>	<i>Daughter of Scott & Stacey Hanna</i>
<i>Makenzie Ann Johnson</i>	<i>Daughter of Steve & Kristine Lee and Michael Johnson</i>
<i>Autumn Leah Krcil</i>	<i>Daughter of Rhonda Moen and Craig Krcil</i>
<i>Alex Arthur Lau</i>	<i>Son of Ron & Lisa Lau and Deb Lau</i>
<i>Joseph Kenneth Leland</i>	<i>Son of Bill & Pam Leland</i>
<i>Samuel Joel Matheson</i>	<i>Son of Joel & Teresa Matheson</i>
<i>Brianna Nicole Meyer</i>	<i>Daughter of Dale & Danette Meyer</i>
<i>Jordan Jon Mondeel</i>	<i>Son of Jon & Jody Mondeel</i>
<i>Brooke Lynn Possehl</i>	<i>Daughter of Ron & Sherry Possehl</i>
<i>Fallon Lynn Rippentrop</i>	<i>Daughter of Lisa Rippentrop and Randy Rippentrop</i>
<i>Karl Morrison Sather</i>	<i>Son of Neil & Renae Sather</i>
<i>Alexander Patrick Schultz</i>	<i>Son of Shelly Schultz and Patrick Schultz</i>
<i>Troy Andrew Sebersen</i>	<i>Son of Charles & Sherry Sebersen</i>
<i>Nicole Annette Stewart</i>	<i>Daughter of Darla Stewart and Ted Stewart(deceased)</i>
<i>Grace Helen Thomas</i>	<i>Daughter of Greg & Sheila Thomas</i>
<i>Jeffrey Craig Thorstad</i>	<i>Son of Larry & Lanae Thorstad</i>
<i>Mason Luther Tuohy</i>	<i>Son of Lawrence & Mary Tuohy</i>
<i>Ciara Aissa Wangen</i>	<i>Daughter of Karen Wangen and Ryan Guerra</i>
<i>Mitchel William Webb</i>	<i>Son of Bill & Kelly Webb</i>
<i>Amber Kaye Zemek</i>	<i>Daughter of Scott & Jeannie Jackson</i>

CONFIRMATION OPEN HOUSES will be held today in honor of the following Grace youth:

Autumn Krcil, from 1:00-3:00p, at her home, 1783 Pride Ln.

Brianna Meyer, from 1:00-3:30p, at her home, 509 E. 5th St.

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Oct. 28: Sunday School.] [Oct. 28: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Oct. 29: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Oct. 30: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 31: GLCW] [Nov. 1: In memory of Maria Roppert, mother of Irmi Kleih, given by Mr/Mrs Merlin Steele.]

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Mark Stevens (Rochester Methodist).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Larry Bergo, Paula Burkart (niece of John & Beth Ruud), Kathy Diaz, Lyle Dickson, Miff Eglund, Ray & Janet Ewing, Theresa Gamble, Jeanie Godtland, Jan Guse, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Lisa Koenecke (daughter of Dave & Elaine Long), Helen Lykken, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, Dave & Kelli Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Mike Ranney, Morgan Rasmussen, Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Paige Thompson (great-niece of Judy Anderson), Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember the families of Berline Johnson and Kathryn Amann (mother of Beth Ruud) who passed away this week. Service times to be announced.

GREETERS today are Jim & Mary Hallum, and Stan & Sandy Fredrickson at 8:30; and Gary & Marlene Bergeson, and Carolyn Breuer at 11:00.

FLOWERS FOR OUR SERVICES are from the funerals of DeAnna Nelson and Michael Greiner held this past week. Please continue to remember their families in prayer.

OUR THANKS to members of the Lutheran Brass for enhancing our worship with their talents this morning.

PROCESSIONAL BANNER AND CROSS bearers are Brielle Schreiber and Chris Stahl at 8:30; and Marissa Loge and Tyler Stadheim at 11:00.

ACOLYTES for our worship services are Courtney Poplow and Carlton Stripe at 8:30; and Cody Wichmann and Shane Louks at 11:00.

LESSON READERS are Marlene Sorenson at 8:30; and Judy Hall at 11:00.

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.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Alix Goskeson and his parents, Trent & Abby.

SPECIAL THANKS to Bill Leland who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 11:00 worship service. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding the van, please call the church office to be added to the pick-up schedule.

PARENTS OF CONFIRMANDS: Confirmation gowns need to be returned to the church no later than noon on Tuesday, Oct. 30th.

CHERUB AND CHANCEL CHOIRS will plan to meet as usual on Wednesday, Oct. 31st. Time for Trick or Treating should still work after rehearsal, which ends at 6:15p. Your attendance at rehearsal is appreciated as we continue to prepare music for upcoming holidays.

COULD YOU HELP? Grace Lutheran will host the St. John's afternoon coffee next Sunday, Nov. 4th, at 2:00p. If you are able to help serve and/or bring a dessert, please sign up in the church narthex today.

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.

THE 31st SALAD LUNCHEON is now history and was a great success! Thank you to each of you who worked on Thursday and Friday, to everyone who brought a favorite salad for over 400 people to enjoy, and to everyone who came to eat. We had many nice compliments. Without all of your cooperation, this would not be possible. Thank you again. – Bev Field and Joyce Langerud, Co-Chairs

WANTED: The quilters are in need of used blankets to be used as filling to make the quilts nice and warm. Call Ardis Bang at 373-7503 if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE: Special Event, December 2nd

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. 21st	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 10,398.00	\$ 413,678.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 424,032.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 101.50	\$ 2,236.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	170.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 453; Last Year - 391