

Sunday October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320 583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH***

*we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS***

*we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.*

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Sylvia’s sister, Monica.

LOAVES & FISHES We will be participating in “Loaves and Fishes” again on Monday, November 13th at First Lutheran in Aitkin. We are in charge of desserts, we will need 33 dozen and we will be bagging them after worship on Nov. 12th. There is a signup sheet for cookie baking in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you all for baking and participating in this community service. If you’re interested in joining us in this mission on the 13th, at First Lutheran from 1:30-5:00, please give Julie Swaggert a call or email. Julie Swaggert. 763-229-9121 jswaggert@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Grief Support has been cancelled until next year.

ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS Budget Request Forms are in your “In Boxes”. These forms need to be filled out and returned to the Stewardship’s In-Box by **TODAY**.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS are due by November 5th for our annual meeting on Sunday, December 3rd following our regular worship service. Please email to: Judie Birk jimjudiebirk@gmail.com with your committee reports.

CAMP ONOMIA WOMEN’S REFRESH RETREAT November 3rd-5th. Theme: Forgiveness and Reconciliation. See the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

KEY CHANGE we will be changing the keys to the front door this week. Please turn in your old keys for a new one.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **October 30, 2023 – November 5, 2023**

Monday	10/30	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/31	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:00 am	Choir Practice (5:30pm Cantata)
Wednesday	11/1	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	11/2	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	11/5	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress”

#504 ELW

(Please Stand on the last Verse)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our

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.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge 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;**

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

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God 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.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought up on the earth;

⁹ behold 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.”

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Glory to you, O Lord

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" #517 ELW



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.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you give the law that your people live by it and flourish. Write your law on the hearts of all who bear your name, and teach us to love your commandments, that we live as you intend. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you plant the earth and water it and bring forth a fruitful harvest. Send favorable weather, just wages, and the bounty of your abundance to all who are engaged in the labor of harvest. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you watch over the ways of the righteous and judge your people with fairness. Guide judges, courts, elected officials, and all those tasked with upholding the law, inspiring them with your wisdom and zeal for justice. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you hold your people in love and surround them with your mercy. Draw near to all who are in need (*especially*). Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you call us to love one another as we love ourselves. Give us the will and patience to love those who are difficult to love. Bless all the ministries of this congregation through which we show love for our neighbors (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you have broken the chains of death and daily make all things new. We give you thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and all the saints. We pray that your transformative spirit is at work in us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you break the chains of hatred and fear:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love:

Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Born, Reborn”

#956 ACS

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!

1 Drown us. Drown us. Raise us. Raise us.
2 Name us. Name us. Heal us. Heal us.

Refrain

Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!
Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Lector: Vicki Vossen

Hospitality: Darlene Christensen & Mary Braun

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Sunday, October 22, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 47 Online: 9

*Thank you for
your service!*