

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

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+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Divine Setting Four pg. 203 in the hymnal

WELCOME

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#656

INVOCATION +CONFESSION

LSB 203

ABSOLUTION

LSB 167

KYRIE

“Lord, Have Mercy”

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

“Glory to God in the Highest”

LSB 204

COLLECT

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7 (ESV)

God gave John a vision of a Gospel messenger sent from heaven. Many people during the Reformation believed this to be a prophecy about Martin Luther.

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 9

L: For the needy shall not always be for- | gotten,* and the hope of the poor shall not perish for- | ever.

C: I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart;* I will recount all of your won- | derful deeds.

L: I will be glad and ex- | ult in you;* I will sing praise to your name, | O Most High.

C: The LORD is a stronghold for | the oppressed,* a stronghold in times of | trouble.

L: And those who know your name put their | trust in you,* for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who | seek you.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

L: For the needy shall not always be for- | gotten,* and the hope of the poor shall not perish for- | ever.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-28 (ESV)

God's Law can show us our sin, but it cannot make us righteous. We depend on the righteousness of Jesus to cover our sins and give us the assurance of our eternal salvation.

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

“These Things are Written”

GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36 (ESV)

All human beings are born into the world as slaves of sin and incapable of pleasing God. Only Jesus and the Truth of his words can set us free from our slavery to sin.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brittany Fulcer

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Thy Strong Word"

#578

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

5th and 6th Grade Video

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

#655

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† St. Paul Visitation Ministry †

Duane Barth Don Butzke Linda Ehlers Paul Heidorn *Bob Johansen Glen Neujahr Norma Ehlers Christine Erks Jim
Klepper Emil Lampe Rosemary Matlock Elsie Pirrie Aletta Klepper LaVerne Rohren *Bill West
*Marilyn Ziemke Delores Nordmeyer Ardith Stuhr *denotes nonmember

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Charles Ramsey & Peace Lutheran Church, Waco
Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

St Paul Visitation Ministry

For Our Congregation and Community:

Jeff Griffiths (Larry's Son), on hospice

Dealing with an illness: Judy Deremer, Darrel Gocke, Marjorie Watson, Paula Huebschman (Jamie Ramsey's mother),
Pastor Ben Francisco, Barb Nordmeyer (niece of Verna Neujahr), Kurt Dunbar,
Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Duane Barth, Jordan Ortmeier, Pauline Bulgrin, Bil Rodgers, Eugene Hladky,
Sheila Franks (Daughter in law of Mike and Jo Franks), Dick Greenwood, Linda Ehlers, Debbie Haleem,
Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law),
Mya Noreen (Great Grand Daughter of Darlene Link), Mitch Peeks, Hawley Family, Aaron DeWaard

Declining Health: Glen Neujahr, Emil Lampe, Rodney Haith, Mary Jo (Amy Frye's stepmom)

Recovering from surgery: Lynette Gibson (sister of Pastor Gudgel), Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer),
Dayna Hoops, Aaron Price (Rosie Matlock's grandson)

OJ and Jami Utter, Caleb, Noah, Ascha, and Elijah would like to

thank everyone for your prayers, kind words, phone calls, cards, love, and support at the sudden passing of Jami's mom, Linda Bennett. All of your prayers are felt by us and are helping us through this very tough time. Our hearts are broken, but we can smile at the thought of her making millions of new friends in heaven and laughing with Jesus.

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School:402-534-2121
Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar; Visitation Pastor: Rev. Richard Gudgel; Principal: Mr. Bob Brauer
 Cell:402-641-4813 Cell:402-319-0965 Cell:402-534-3406

Brittany Fulcer DCE: 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love October 18 : Total Attendance: 103 Sunday School: 6

VOLUNTEERS:

TODAY(10-25-20) Acolyte: Lexi Kraus Lay Reader: Jamie Kovac Organist: Carol Erks

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (10-25) 9:00 AM Worship online and in person
 10:30 AM Bible Study online and in person
 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group

MONDAY (10-26) 1:00 PM Bible Study

TUESDAY (10-27) 8:00 PM LLL

WEDNESDAY (10-28) 8:45 AM Orphan Grain Train
 3:45 PM Midweek Classes

THURSDAY (10-29) -----

FRIDAY (10-30) 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY (10-31) -----

SUNDAY (11-01) 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion online and in person
 10:30 AM Bible Study
 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
 7:00 PM Allah/Christ Bible Study
 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group

As of 10-20-20	Amount received 10-18-20	Needed each week	Received YTD 2020	YTD Amount needed to cover 2020 budget +2019 shortage	Difference
General Fund	\$4,696.00		\$443,052.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$7,143.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$31,190.00		
Total	\$4,696.00	\$28,771.00	\$481,385.00	\$621,191.00	-\$139,806.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$180.00	Bldg Fund**	\$46,917.00
Teacherage Fund	\$0.00		\$225.00	Teacherage Fund	\$75.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$4.00		\$8,914.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/20-8/21) 5k goal	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$673.00	-\$223.00

Current Operating Note: \$0.00 (debt limit is \$90,000)

On April 14, 2020 St. Paul received funds from the SBA Paycheck Protection Loan Program of \$114,627.00.

Thank you everyone who remembered us with cards and best wishes for our 60th Wedding Anniversary. It was a lot of fun getting the mail each day. God's Blessings to all. Arvin and Mary Faig

Thank you for your kind donation toward God's work in Taiwan! It was a pleasure to meet you last month. I hope to be able to return to Taiwan in November to begin the work that awaits me there. As you know, I will be editing translated documents to ensure that the gospel is clear and accessible to the more than 1.5 billion Chinese still needing to hear of Jesus. I am very grateful for your partnership in this ministry. I am grateful for your prayers, that God will steadily improve my ability to use Chinese, so that I might be especially effective in the work. May God restore a hundredfold to you the blessing you are to me. In Jesus, Barb

Thank you to Donneta Schmieding! She has donated a beautiful sewn quilt to our school. We are taking silent auction bids for this quilt. If you would like to see the quilt, it is on display in the Narthex of the church. Please call your bids in to Carrie at the church office 402-534-2200 or send a note to Carrie or Mr Brauer with your bid. Thank you and bid high! This is going towards the AED that will be purchased to go on the school side of the building!!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN DONATIONS ---

As we did not have a Fish/Brat Feed this fall to benefit OGT, we are giving everyone the opportunity to support this wonderful organization. Starting Nov. 1st there will be tubs in the narthex for the donation of SOCKS of all types and then on the 8th and 15th there will be a special box for monetary donations located in the narthex.

Thank you everyone for considering this charitable cause! ~ The OGT volunteers

LLL Fall Rally Zone 6 LLL Fall Rally has been postponed due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.

You are invited to attend an All Saints "Bible Walk" on Sunday, Nov 1, from 5-7 pm, at St. John Lutheran Church, Cordova, NE. What is a Bible walk? It will be dark, and there will be costumes. Children and their parents are invited to walk about and visit people in small (Covid safe) groups. Treats will be given out, stories will be shared, and the Bible will be illuminated.

New Bible Study on Islam. We will explore the Muslim culture, the most common Muslim objections to Christianity, and the core doctrine upon which Islam stands or falls. There was a time when we could say, "I'll never come into contact with a follower of Islam." In 2020 that is no longer the situation, travel anywhere in Lincoln and you will easily see evidence of Islamic followers. Meeting Time: 7:00 - 8:30 Utilizing video, Bible and Quran as resources. Open to Couples, Singles, Teens - Anyone is welcome.

Nov. 1: The Case for the Gospel

Nov 8: The Truth About Muhammad

Nov 22: The Holiness of the Quran

Dec. 6: Reaching Your Muslim Neighbor

Child Abuse Awareness Training at St. Paul's Consider this tragic statistic: 1 in 10 children in the U.S. will be sexually abused before the age of 18. As Christian adults God has given us the responsibility for the safety of our community's children. On Monday, November 9th from 6:00-8:30pm, the Child Advocacy Center will be at St. Paul's to host a training event for protecting children from abuse. "*Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children*" offers a proactive 5-step approach that includes how to identify grooming tactics and what simple actions we can take that can have a far-reaching positive effect. The training event will be in our church fellowship hall, and light refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there.

Informed Citizens - - For Life As the November 3rd elections approach, it is important that we educate ourselves on the issues for which we will be casting our votes. Regarding the sacred value of unborn life, Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of the Missouri Synod, has written: "We are bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and especially those laws that violate God's law. Abortion...violate[s] these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society. Therefore we stand against all laws that sanction abortion or taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of life." [2019 statement] For more information on life issues, visit www.lutheransforlife.org.

Expanded Gambling on November Ballot One of the responsibilities of every Christian is to be a good citizen by staying informed and making your voice heard at the ballot box for the good of your neighbors. This November, Nebraskans will be voting on a constitutional amendment to allow expanded gambling in our state. As you prepare to cast your vote, please consider this information that's been forwarded to us by the LCMS Nebraska District office: -government-sanctioned gambling incurs major social costs to families and communities that end up being footed by all taxpayers

-it targets the financially desperate and cultivates addiction, especially among young adults

-it leads to increased rates of bankruptcy and provides new avenues for crime and money laundering

In summary, this ballot initiative, if passed, would result in added social and economic problems for all Nebraskans, but especially the most vulnerable members of our communities. You can find much more information on these websites that oppose gambling expansion in our state.

Nebraska: Gambling with the Good Life, (GWTGL) <https://gwtgl.com>

National: Stop Predatory Gambling <https://www.stoppredatorygambling.org>