St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
October 28, 2018

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.
Ephesians 2:8

Reformation Sunday

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader
Dylan Busselman, Organist

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord’s table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p.504) A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

GREETING

God whose love is pouring over us, welcomes us here today.
Praise be to God!

God whose healing power is ready to bind up our wounds, welcomes us here today.
Praise be to God!

God whose transforming presence offers us hope and peace, welcomes us here today.
P: Praise be to God who loves, heals and restores us. AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Merciful Lord, you know that we are stubborn and willful. We believe that we know the right way to do everything and to heal all the troubles of the world. We resort to extraordinary means to provide healing only to find that we have not placed our trust in your redeeming love. Our efforts fall far short of the goal of reconciliation. Forgive us our stubbornness and arrogance. Heal our wounded souls and restore hope and compassion to our relationships with you and with each other. Lift us up and cause us to serve you by serving others in this world. AMEN.

God’s love and restoring mercy are poured out for us. Receive these blessings, for we are loved by God and granted forgiveness ☩ and mercy. AMEN.
KYRIE

1 Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
2 Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
3 Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
2 Glory be to Christ for ever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
Son of God and gracious Saviour, you have come from heav’n above;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!
Let us pray. 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.

Oremos. Dios Todopoderoso, señor misericordioso, te agradecemos que tu Espíritu Santo renueva la iglesia en todas las edades. Derrama tu Espíritu Santo en tu pueblo fiel. Mantenerlos firmes en su palabra, protegerlos y confortarlos en tiempos de prueba, defenderlos contra todos los enemigos del Evangelio, y otorgar a la iglesia su paz salvadora, a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con usted y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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. The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 46

R: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our hold.

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. R
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 upon 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. R

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

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

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, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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; 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

31 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 513) Listen, God Is Calling
NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
  the Father, the Almighty,
  maker of heaven and earth,
  of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
  the only Son of God,
  eternally begotten of the Father,
  God from God, Light from Light,
  true God from true God,
  begotten, not made,
  of one Being with the Father;
  through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
  he came down from heaven,
  was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
  and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
  he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
  in accordance with the scriptures;
  he ascended into heaven
  and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
  and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
  who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
  who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
  who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
  and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for God’s will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.
The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

Holy God, work in your church across denominational and cultural divisions to form us into a more complete expression of your holy community. Show the world your likeness through us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By rain, rivers, and oceans, remind us how your word flows through this world, surrounding us with grace. Keep us always in the covenant that is sealed in water and Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Free us from the lies we tell ourselves or others in order to justify our words and actions. Lead us to speak honestly and to listen humbly, and reveal your truth among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for people who are in danger this day, especially refugees throughout the world; those in areas that have been devastated by hurricanes, floods, mudslides, or fires; people living in countries that are being ravaged by war; as well as the poor, the neglected, the mentally handicapped and those that are in danger of being tortured or abused. In your righteous presence cause the evil that surrounds them to flee, and clothe them with your mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guard and protect the ones who call to you out of despair, illness, or injury especially David, Ellvera, Laura, Bobby & Betty, Laquita, Helen, Andy, Alva, Francis, Linda, Leroy, John, and all those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Deliver them from their struggles into havens where they can find healing and faithful companionship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Continue making all things new. Seal your covenant with humankind, and write your law on our hearts. Make repentance a regular habit for us so that forgiveness abounds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide all the saints in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Christ. Bring your people eternally into Christ’s presence on the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**

**Meals**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

**OFFERING HYMN** *(ELW p. 512) Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, unifying in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God before time, O God at the end,
we delight in the splendor of your universe.
Daily we laud your continuing creation,
and we give thanks
for all the homelands of your Reformation people.
We glorify you, now and forever.

We glorify you, now and forever.
O God of the covenant, O God of the church,
we hear you speaking to centuries of your people.
We come as your children to this table,
and we give thanks for your presence
among Lutheran congregations around the world.
We glorify you, now and forever.

We praise you, now and forever.
You gave us Mary and Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
Luther and Melanchthon, Henry Muhlenberg, and
Elizabeth Fedde
—let us call out more names—
Katharina Luther the homemaker, Cranach the artist,
Bach the musician, Nicolai the hymnwriter,
Nommensen the missionary, Kierkegaard the philosopher,
Bonhoeffer the martyr, countless other servants of the Reformation.
We bless you, now and forever.

We bless you, now and forever.
You came as Jesus, our wisdom, our guide,
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,
dying for sin, and alive for the life of the world.
We worship you, now and forever.

We worship you, now and forever.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.
Come, Holy Spirit, and make here the body of Christ.
Breathe onto this food, that it brings us your life.
Empower your Reformation people throughout the world
to preach and teach, baptize and feed,
pray and sing, comfort and heal.
By your Spirit, preserve what is faithful;
reform what we treasure;
create in us what is vital and new.
We honor you, now and forever.

**We honor you, now and forever.**

O God before time, O God at the end,
Father, Son, and Spirit, we laud you,
Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of truth.
Glory and praise, blessing and worship,
honor and power and might be to you, our God,
forever and ever.

**Amen.**

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**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 654) The Church’s One Foundation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Laura Burney, Bobby & Betty Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Pauline Davidson, Mitch Dorn, Roxanne Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy James, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Alva Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Linda Lathrop, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Kenneth Matthews, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, Shanna Swierc, Mathew Sourhada, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Anyemarie, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthdays
Russel Jonas (Oct. 31), Pam Kerlick (Nov. 3), Shelley Gibbens (Nov. 5)
Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events

Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE!

**The Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held at First Presbyterian on November 13 at 7:00 pm.

**November 18 will be our Global Church ThanksLiving Service at 10:30 am** followed by a catered meal from Polak’s. Please sign up if you plan to attend the luncheon. (See next page for more details.)

**Youth Confirmation** will be December 2.

**The Music Academy Winter Recital** will be December 9 at 3 PM at St. Paul’s. The recital is open to the public. Invite your friends!
St. Paul’s Lutheran, Karnes City
Invites You & Your Friends to Our
Global Church ThanksLiving Worship Service & Lunch
November 18 beginning at 10:30 am

Our guests will be Andrew Steele and Rahel Mwitula Williams from ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. There is no charge for the Turkey and Dressing Lunch. Reservations are required. Please let a council member know or leave a voice mail at (830) 780-2251(by November 8) specifying the number of lunch attendees.

Andrew Steele has served as the Director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship since April of 2015. In this capacity, Andrew oversees the advancement efforts for ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative. These ministries make up $33 million of the $198 million goal as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

He joined the ELCA in 2013 as the Manager of Donor Relations for Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA after serving as a Senior Major Gifts Officer for United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Prior to joining United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Andrew spent a year volunteering in Bloemfontein, South Africa, as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer. He is also founder of BLOOM Africa, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to strengthen communities and empower orphans in Lesotho, Africa. He leads annual cultural immersion trips to Lesotho and South Africa. Andrew graduated from Wittenberg University, (one of the ELCA’s 26 affiliated colleges and universities,) with a degree in Sociology. He now serves on the University’s Alumni Association Board as well as the Board of Directors for Wheat Ridge Ministries, United Way North-Northwest, and Friends of Lesotho.

Rahel Mwitula Williams is ELCA Manager of Donor Relations with ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. In this role, she seeks to develop and deepen relationships with ELCA Lutherans, to participate the church’s call to service and create lasting impact through ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative.

Born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa, Rahel migrated to the United States with her family when she was 12 years old. She obtained her a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Loyola University and her a Master of Science degree in International Public Service from DePaul University. She is a founder of ILAVA: It Can Be Done- An African Inspired Lifestyle Boutique which serves as a way to help women entrepreneurs in Kenya and Tanzania gain economic security, and ILAVA Gives Back 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that empower and provide academic, economic and social resources to women and children in targeted African’s countries. She serves as an Executive Board Officer for the BIGG Hearted Foundation, an organization that provides scholarships and education programs to Chicago land area students. She is a member of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Chicago.