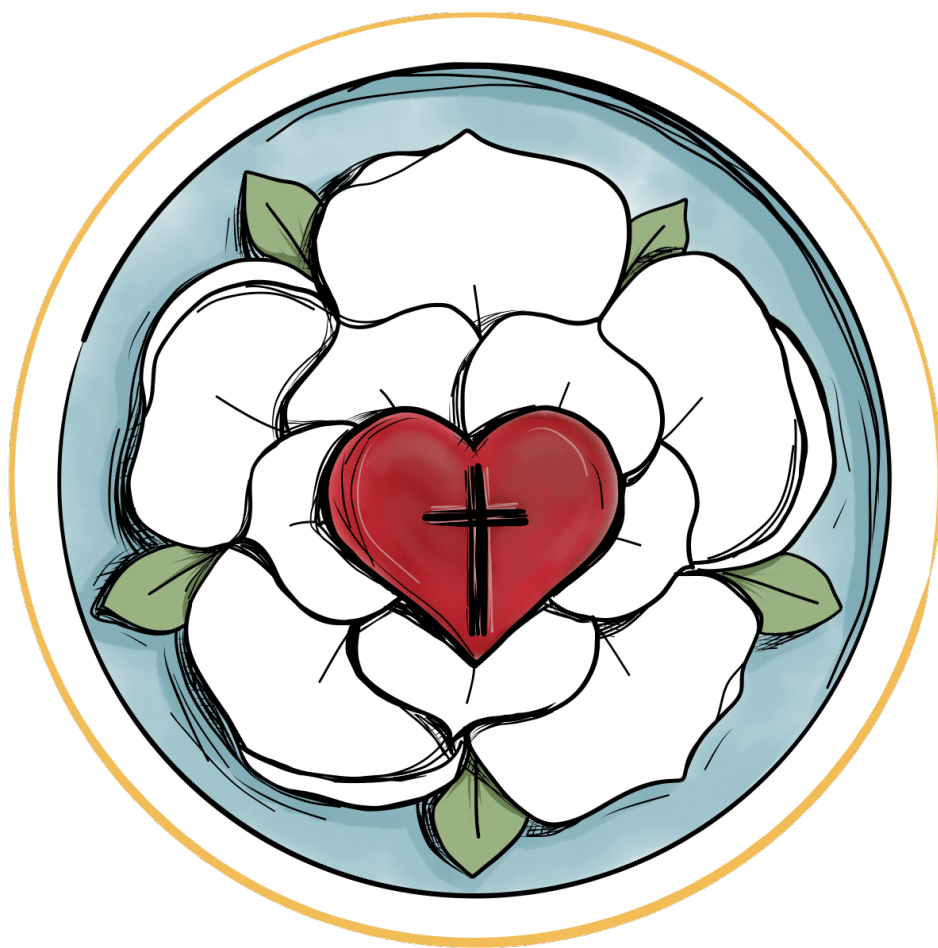


*Live Like You'll Live
Forever⁺*



LIVE A LIFE OF COURAGEOUS WITNESS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

VISITOR CARDS are located in the card rack on the pew in front of you. If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a card and hand it to either an usher or pastor or place it in the offering plate or the box in the gathering area.

PARENTS' ROOM If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS as well as a collection of Arch books and doodle pads are available to keep little hands busy during worship. You'll find them on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

RESTROOMS are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be found in your church bulletin box, in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary, or in the visitor card slots on the back of each pew.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

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THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

October 27/28, 2024

WORSHIP SERIES: LIVE LIKE YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER

“Live each day like it’s your last.” You have probably heard that advice. It sounds wise—an encouragement to take advantage of the time you have. However, that advice is completely backwards. Because the reality is, thanks to Jesus, we have an unending amount of time. Let that sink in. Really think about it. Jesus has given you the gift of eternal life. You are going to live forever. If you really thought it was your last day, that belief would shape how you lived *that day*, but in this series, we consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live every day. Live like you’ll live forever!

October 27Reformation: Live a Life of Courageous Witness

November 3All Saints’: Live Knowing Life Only Gets Better

November 10Live a Life of Startling Generosity

November 17.....Live Free from the Fear of Judgment

November 24Live with Your Eyes on the Skies



TODAY'S FOCUS: LIVE A LIFE OF COURAGEOUS WITNESS

Jesus repeatedly told his followers that living as his disciples would bring hardship. Living life according to God’s Law is going to make one appear odd in the eyes of the world, perhaps even evil. Sharing a message of mankind’s sin and God’s gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven, we don’t worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death.

Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of courageous witness.

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | **863**

INVOCATION

Minister In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Reformation service our gracious God once again pours out on us his love and forgiveness, gives us power to live as his people, and strengthens our resolve to share his precious gospel of forgiveness with all people. Along with the Apostle Paul, we confidently proclaim,

We are not ashamed of the gospel. Romans 1:16

And yet, at times we act as if we are ashamed of our Savior and his gospel. Let us repent of our sins, rejoice in the comfort of God's abundant pardon, and recommit ourselves to the tasks he gives us.

**For apathy in living our Christian lives to your glory;
For all the evil we have done and the good we have failed to do;
For every sinful thought, word, and action;
For the sinfulness that is a part of our very nature,
Forgive us, gracious Lord.**

The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Romans 1:16
Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life" 2 Timothy 1:7-9

We are not ashamed of the gospel. We will testify about our Lord and his mighty deeds!

SONG OF PRAISE

If God Himself Be for Me | 819:1,7



1 If God him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
7 My heart for joy is spring - ing and can no more be sad;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con-found - ed, fly.
my soul is filled with sing - ing, sees on - ly sun - shine glad.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,
The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my King;



what foe or what dis - as - ter can drive me from his love?
the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of hosts and God of Jacob, you are our refuge and fortress. On this day we give thanks to you that through the work of your servant, Martin Luther, you brought the saving message of the Gospel to light. By the power of your Spirit, help us to treasure that good news and carry the story of Jesus' death and resurrection to a world lost in darkness. Lead us to walk in love as our Savior did, so that others will be drawn to him and learn of the freedom, forgiveness and life found only in his name. Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

In response to an evil command offered by a pagan king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived lives of fearless witness.

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

I Set My Hope
Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

The soloist leads and the congregation is invited to join in at anytime.

Verse 1

When this life of trials tests my faith
I set my hope on Jesus
When the questions come and doubts remain
I set my hope on Jesus
For the deepest wounds that time won't heal
There's a joy that runs still deeper
There's a truth that's more than all I feel
I set my hope on Jesus

Chorus

I set my hope on Jesus
My rock my only trust
Who set His heart upon me first
I set my hope on Jesus

Verse 2

Though I falter in this war with sin
I set my hope on Jesus
When I fail the fight and sink within
I set my hope on Jesus

Though the shame would drown me in its sea
And I dread the waves of justice
I will cast my life on Calvary
I set my hope on Jesus

Chorus

Verse 3

Though the world calls me to leave my Lord
I set my hope on Jesus
Though it offers all its vain rewards
I set my hope on Jesus
Though this heart of mine is prone to stray
Give me grace enough to finish
Till I worship on that final day
I set my hope on Jesus

Chorus x 2

I set my hope on Jesus

SECOND READING

Revelation 14:6,7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

St. John sees God's messenger proclaiming the true gospel to all people. In 1546, this reading served as the text for the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:5-11

⁵ Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.

¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.

¹¹ Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Jesus encourages and empowers us that we might be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH¹

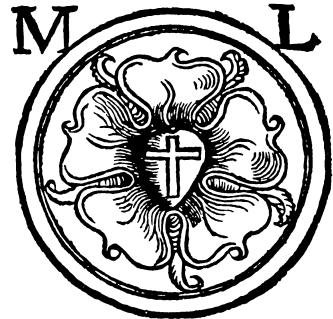
Excerpt from the Smalcald Articles

We believe that Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification; and he alone is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all;

Furthermore, all have sinned and they are now justified without merit by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus by his blood.

Now because this must be believed and may not be obtained or grasped otherwise with any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us, as St. Paul says in Romans 3:

For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law; and also that God alone is righteous and justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.



¹ Our confession of faith is taken from the Smalcald Articles, which Martin Luther prepared for presentation to a meeting of Lutheran theologians and lay leaders in Smalcald, Germany in 1537. He later had the articles published as his last will and testament. These articles are a very clear and strong confession of faith and are included among the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

The children are invited to come forward and sit on the steps leading up to the altar for a Bible lesson with the pastor.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Reformation Song | 877

The soloist will sing stanzas one and two and the first refrain. The congregation is invited to join the soloist for the remainder of the hymn.

SERMON

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Daniel 3:16-28

OFFERING



Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at redeemerfdl.org/give. You may also use the Vanco app: Search first for Fond du Lac, then scroll down to Redeemer. Online givers may place the cards located in the card rack on the back of the pews into the plate.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, we give You thanks and praise for all Your goodness and tender care, especially on this Reformation festival. Thank You for the gift of Your Son and for the revelation of Your will and grace. Implant Your Word in us, and give us fertile hearts to keep it and bring forth its good fruit in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of grace, keep us steadfast in Your Word, and prevent our wayward hearts from following false gospels that lead us away from You. Provide Your Church with faithful pastors who preach in purity and joy, that we are saved by Your grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Mighty God, You have great power and yet You act with mercy. Teach those who lead us to use power rightly for the preservation of order, the accomplishment of justice, the protection of life and the defense of the weak. Give us wise, godly and faithful leaders who will follow Your commands and serve with integrity. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, remember all who face adversity of any kind [*especially _____*]. Comfort them by Your Holy Spirit, that they would acknowledge their afflictions as the manifestation of Your fatherly will. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason, but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have longed for His appearing; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR/CONGREGATION ANTHEM

Preserve the Truth, O Savior

John Hemmelman

The choir sings stanzas 1-3. The congregation joins the choir for stanza 4.

Preserve the truth, O Savior, that in this world of sin,
your church may stand unshaken from without and from within.
Bless us, your faithful servants, with keen, discerning minds
to hold all teaching to your Word, the truth to seek and find.

Defend your church, O Savior, from wolves in sheep's disguise;
teach us with true and humble hearts their threat to recognize.
Lead ministers as shepherds, their faithful watch to keep,
to guard your flock from danger to rescue wand'ring sheep.

Give us the strength, O Savior, to stand firm all our days,
resisting social pressures to conform to worldly ways,
that no corrupted doctrine, no yeast of Satan's lies,
may enter in to prey on souls and captivate our eyes.

Reign in us, Holy Spirit, bestow on us your light,
that we may shine with truth and love as beacons in the night.
May all our words and actions be guided by your love,
that all the world may see our deeds and praise our God above.

BLESSING

May the grace of the ☩ Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil; may Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies; may Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love; and may peace abound in our hearts

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation | **800:1,2,4,5**



Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever) is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God's Word. The motto is based on 1 Peter 1:24-25. It first appeared in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522. This enduring Word of God is the truth that sets us free.

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LUTHER SEAL

What does this mean?



Excerpts from Luther's interpretation...

THE BLACK CROSS IN A HEART

retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who “believes from the heart will be justified” (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. “The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified.

A WHITE ROSE

shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give

peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (Matt. 28:3; John 20:12).

THE SKY-BLUE FIELD

symbolizes that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

A GOLDEN RING

around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology].