



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for October 30, 2022, celebrating Reformation Sunday (the Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost).

Pastor Jack Dressler (**519-250-7210**) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

Upcoming Services:

Date	Comment	Pastor / Lay Leader	Reader
November 6	All Saints - Communion	Pastor Jack	Matthew
November 13	Baptism - Communion	Pastor Jack	Matthew
November 20		Greg Peifer	Dagmar
November 27	First Day of Advent - Communion	Father Brian	Brenda
December 4		Greg Peifer	Matthew
December 11	Communion	Pastor Jack	Dagmar
December 18		Father Brian	
December 24	Christmas Eve - Communion	Pastor Jack	Kathy
December 25	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
January 1, 2023	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving Outreach

This year, our Thanksgiving outreach will be to help support WINDSOR RESIDENCE FOR YOUNG MEN.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!!!

We have started coffee hour after church. There is a sign-up sheet near the office if you would like to bring in a treat!!

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. *Alleluia.*

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.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God: A Litany for Reformation Sunday (the hymn and words of Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All Sing:

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.

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

People: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

All Sing:

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.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
God speaks, and the earth melts.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader: Come, behold the works of the Lord!

People: God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

All Sing:

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot over-pow'r us.

Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!

His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

Leader: Be still, and know that the Lord is God.

People: God is exalted among the nations; God is exalted in the earth.

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us.

People: The God of Jacob is our Refuge.

All Sing:

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;

For God himself fight by our side with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, goods, honour, child, or spouse,

Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.

The kingdom's our forever!

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and 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 Reading: John 8:31-36

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

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.

The Sermon: 100th Anniversary & Reformation (preached by Bishop Michael Pryse at Trinity on October 30, 2022)

The Lord be with you! It’s wonderful to be here today ... to visit ... to celebrate ... but it is especially wonderful to gather around Word and Sacrament on this very special Sunday in our liturgical calendar – the festival of Reformation Day – on this special anniversary day in the life of your congregation.

It’s always a daunting task to preach on this day. On Reformation Day, I always feel a particularly acute presence of the communion of saints and can almost imagine Martin

Luther sitting and listening very carefully with notepad in hand! And, truth be told - I've always had a kind of love/hate relationship with this festival. The "pull out all the stops/pomp and circumstance" part of me has always loved this annual celebration of "all things good and Lutheran", and yet, at the same time, it's sometimes felt a tad self-congratulatory. "Aren't we just too wonderful!"

The worst Reformation Day sermons are overdone memorials characterized by a blind idolizing of our past heroes, pivotal and inspired though they may have been. We march around to Ein Feste Burge, proudly slapping ourselves on the back all the while sidestepping the fact that Luther's challenge to re-claim, re-language and re-embody the Gospel is a call to the church of every generation – that it's a call directed to us - here, today - as much as to anyone!

We, too, - perhaps even more so that the church of the sixteenth century - fall victim to the same traps that people of faith have struggled with since the beginning of time – to seeing right relationship with God as an "accomplishment," as something that people can earn, attain, maintain and then hold onto – (whether by right sacrifice, right action or right belief) - rather than as a free and gracious gift that we are continually in the process of re-claiming, re-discovering and entering more deeply into.

That, of course, was the problem that afflicted the group that Jesus was talking to in our Gospel today. When Jesus tells them that His "new truth" will make them free, they in effect answer, "What do we need a new truth for ... we're good children of Abraham ... how is it that you say you will make us free?" (Perhaps they had already heard that before setting you free, the truth might well make you miserable!)

It's the same cry that has been heard in every age since the dawn of time. "But I'm a good Jew ... I'm a good Catholic ... I'm a good Lutheran ... I'm a good Rotarian ... I'm a good citizen. I'm for Cephas. I'm for Apollos. What do you mean you will make me free?"

And our Lord's answer is very clear. "None of those things stand for anything in the household of God. The slave doesn't have a permanent place in the household. But the Son does. And if the Son makes you free, you will be free, indeed! As such, St. Paul is able to say, "What then becomes of our boasting?" "It is excluded!" "By what law -by that of works?" "No - but by the law of faith! For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law!"

It's a truth that's so big and beyond us that I don't think we are ever fully capable of "getting it" in this life. It's like the clothes your mom would buy for you when you were a kid. She always got them a few sizes too big so you had room to grown into them.

That's what the doctrine of justification is like. We never completely get it. We're always growing into its fullness.

In one of his commentaries on the book of Romans, Luther writes, "This life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness; not health but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified. We are always in motion, and we who are righteous need always to be made more righteous. For there is no stopping place on God's way. Delay in itself is sin. Hence, he who in the present moment trusts that he is righteous has already lost righteousness."

Self-righteousness is never a becoming vestment. We're always "on the way" ... we never fully arrive. We're like the 401 ... always under construction, and the faith tradition that has formed and shaped us is itself still being formed and shaped into something new. Like it or not! It simply can't be avoided, because, to experience the grace of God means that we will - by definition - experience a new truth that will change us, again and again and again! For God's grace cannot - and does not - leave us where it finds us.

Some years ago I came upon a description of a concert given by Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, a few years ago at the Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever seen a Perlman concert either live or on television, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. Mr. Perlman was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage, one step at a time, is an unforgettable sight. He walks slowly, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, picks up the violin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play. His audiences are used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. And then they remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play.

But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. And here was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do. The people who were there that night figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage - either to find another violin or to find another string for this one. But he didn't do this. Instead,

he waited a moment, closed his eyes then signaled the conductor to begin the piece again.

And so, the orchestra began, and Perlman played from where he had left off; only he played with a passion and power and purity that the audience had never experienced before. Now of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that. The audience could see him modulating, changing, and recomposing the piece in his head. In fact, at one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings on the fly to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then, as one, the people rose and cheered with an extraordinary outburst of applause. They jumped to their feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything they could to show how much they appreciated the performance that had witnessed. The response? Apparently Perlman smiled, wiped the sweat from this brow, raised his bow to quiet the audience and then, in a quiet, reverent tone he said, "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

What a powerful line that is! Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings. So what does he do? He makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before.

Today's scripture readings tell us loud and clear us that when you have a solid foundation -a solid cornerstone – you can do an awful lot with very little. But you know that already, don't you? You know what strings broke for you during the years of this congregation's existence! I'm sure that you encountered them! Anniversary celebrations like this don't come to completion without encountering any number of broken strings. But the point is, you met and overcame those challenges. And the reason you were able to do that was because your foundation was strong – it was firmly based on the one whose name you bear; it was firmly based on your life in Christ.

Dear friends, today ... on this special day ... we need to remember that the same God whose Spirit called this congregation into being 100 years ago is still preserving and sustaining it. And because of that fact, you have been able to do wonderful things with the strings that have been given to you! Your foundation is strong and your music sweet!

But as you move into the future God holds before you today, I would ask you to consider the possibility that the Holy Spirit might be composing yet more beautiful, and cer-

tainly different, music for you to sing. Who knows, the very best of your history might well still lie ahead of you!

Dear people of Trinity, as you discern and move into the future that God holds before you, may your bass line continues to be a strong and abiding faith in God our creator. May your common melody be lives lived in praise of Jesus our Saviour and Redeemer. And may the harmony of your song remain grounded in the continued presence of the Holy Spirit working in; among and through you. In Jesus name! **AMEN**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation. God our fortress, we pray for the church. Write your law of love on the hearts of your people, that we remain steadfast in our witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our liberator, we pray for your earth. Bring new life to overused land and contaminated rivers. Reform and reorient our relationship with the environment, that we faithfully care for all of your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, our refuge and strength, we pray for the nations. Where they are in an uproar, bring wise leadership and comfort for those in distress. Make wars to cease and peace to enter every land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, our very present help in trouble, we pray for those in need. Show mercy to refugees and all fleeing from danger. Shelter any without homes. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our redeemer, we pray for our congregation. Bless all who are preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, teach them your word, and give them courage to proclaim their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

In Residence: Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle; Dorothy

Needing our prayers: Ed; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna; Sharon B; Jeffrey; Art; Joan

Friends of our Members Needing our prayers: Audrey; Greg; Paul; Hilda; Mary; Anna

...and all members who may have needs unknown to us

And all those we name in our hearts...
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our stronghold, we give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, especially Martin Luther and all reformers. Renew and reform us as we strive to continue in your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Blessing

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**