

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

*Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*

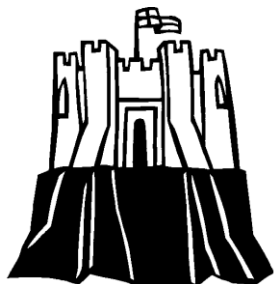


FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10 AM Service of

Holy Communion



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.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image.

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.

**If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.**

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

arr. Stephenson

David Otto, trumpet

"Built on the Rock"

arr. Compton

Handbell Ensemble

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together today to pray for God's 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,

who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504 (harmony)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your lovingkindness;
**in your great compassion
blot our offenses.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace,
**we confess to you the ways
we have chosen death rather than life:
by trusting in ourselves rather than you;
by failing to follow your call;
by ignoring the cries of the poor;
by misusing your creation;
by seeking security through possessions;
by neglecting to give thanks for all your gifts.
Renew your salvation within us,
and hold us in your generous spirit. Amen.**

In great mercy, God abolished death
and brought life through our Savior Jesus Christ.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I declare to you
that you are forgiven by the grace of God
and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a new life.
Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace given to us in Christ Jesus,
the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,
and the power of God
who calls us with a holy calling
be with you all.
And also with you.
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.

The assembly is seated.

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

✠ WORD ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will write my law in their hearts, says the LORD

A reading from Jeremiah:

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

Sharing in the life of Christ, our souls are captive to the word of God.

Urged by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the ongoing renewal of the church.

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 46

Antiphon: Ps. 46:7

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Justified by God's grace as a gift

A reading from Romans:

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 will be justified before him by deeds

prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Sharing in the life of Christ, our souls are captive to the word of God.

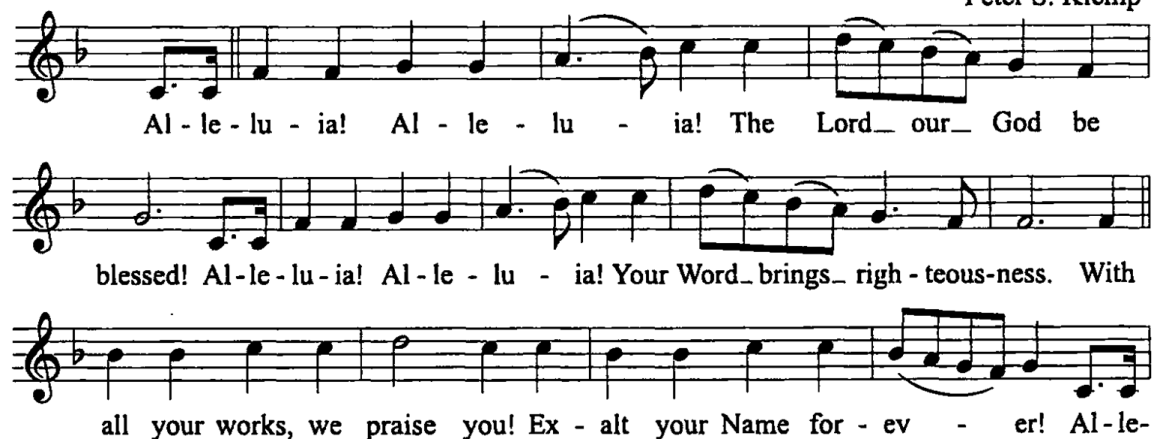
Urged by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the ongoing renewal of the church.

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous-ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -



GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36

Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Judeans 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.

Be seated.

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.

Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Founded on Faith

Text: ACS 1048

Tune: ENGELBERG



1 Found - ed on faith, the church - a - live by grace -
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us
Written by Nolan Palsma

Let us affirm our unity.

**We share one faith,
have one calling,
are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father,
are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism,
eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one Name,
are obedient to one Lord,
work for one cause,
and share one hope.**

**Together we come to know
the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ
that we need one another and up build one another,
admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness.
Together we pray; together we serve God in this world.
Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill, especially Hazel, and Troy, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our heart...*(brief silence)*. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Throughout the ages, God of faithful surprises, you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places. May we and our partners in ministry throughout the Delaware-Maryland Synod daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints, especially hymnwriters Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Christ our Lord calls all who love him to live in peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges signs
and words of God's peace, saying,
Peace be with you.*

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so records are maintained.*

ANTHEM

"God Is Our Refuge"

Allen Pote

Sanctuary Choir

David Otto & Rik Raphael, trumpets

Text: Psalm 46

paraphrased by Jay Johnson

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Your Vineyards, O Lord from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp

King Schoenfeld

1. Your vine - yards, O the Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bless - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f' rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

bread feast of to life. 1. 2. Now come. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A LUTHER VIGNETTE

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 the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so, with the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Holy) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klump

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho-san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

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

You gave us Mary and Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
Luther and Melancthon, Muhlenberg and Bonhoeffer,
and countless other servants of the Reformation.

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.

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.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout:

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead:

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, and make here the body of Christ.
Breathe onto this food, that it bring 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.

O God before time, O God at the end,
Father, Son, and Spirit, we thank 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in Community, Holy in One, we pour out our hearts to you,
as we pray as Jesus taught us,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

OR

**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.**

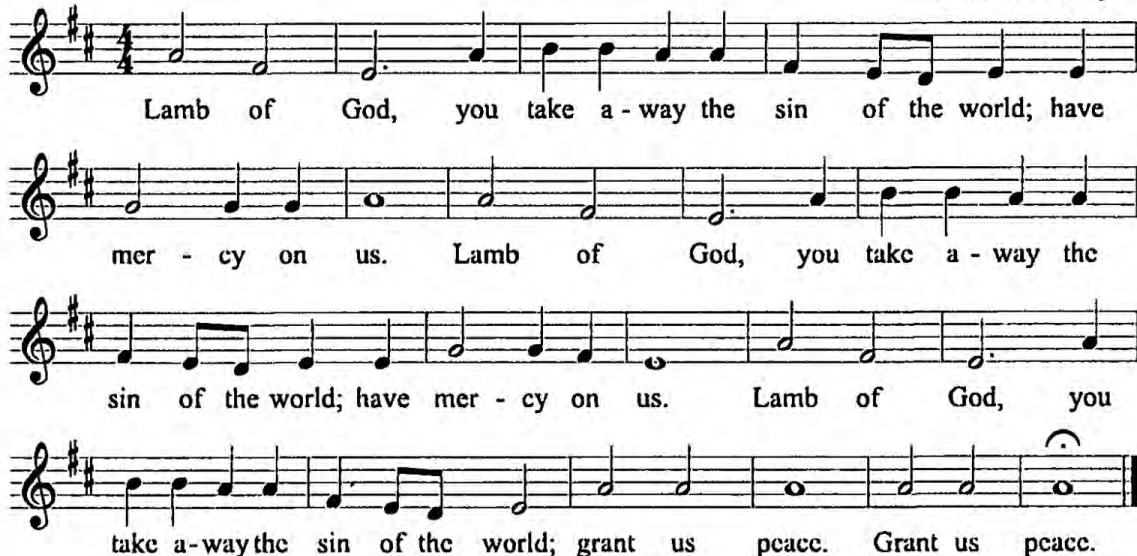
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Set your hope on God, who richly provides us with every good thing
Nourish us with these gifts that we may be signs of God's gracious presence.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from the *Liturgy for the Family of God*

Peter S. Klemp



Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

Found on p. 18

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

Found on p. 19

Now We Join in Celebration

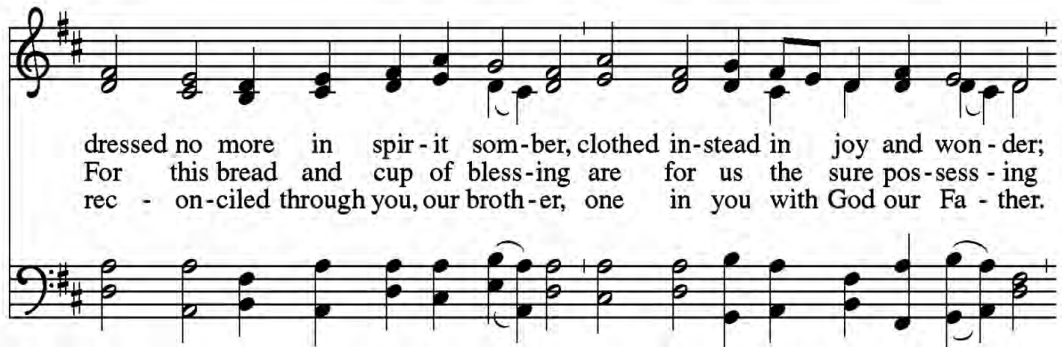
Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990

Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

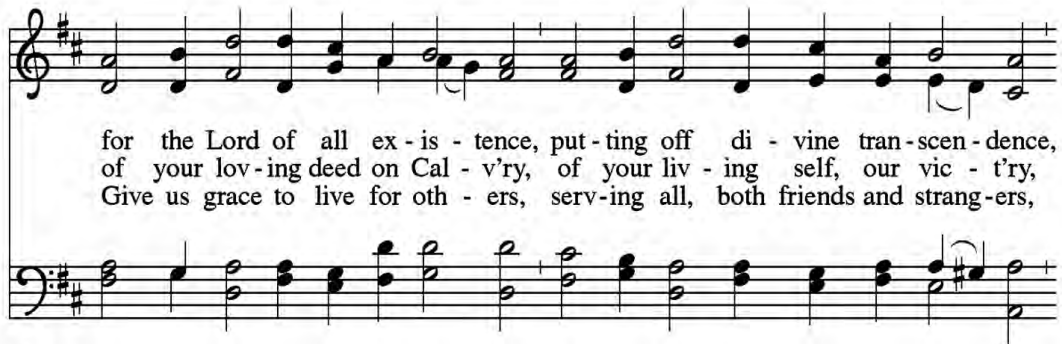
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



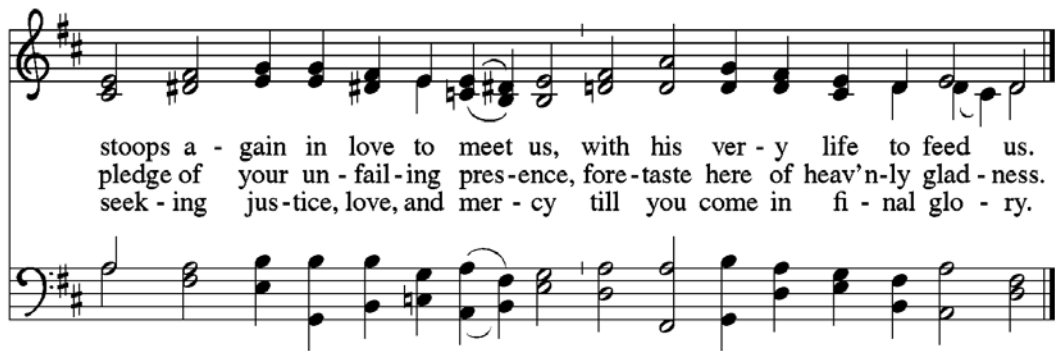
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



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.

*After all have communed and returned to their places, **remain seated.***

BLESSING AND PRAYER

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, we pray:

We give you thanks, faithful God, for feeding us with this one heavenly food. Transform us through this meal into the likeness of your Son, and unite us in love for one another, that we may be your body in the world; in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you
to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654 (harmony)

Found on p. 21

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, equipped by God for every good work.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“All Glory Be to God on High”

arr. Burkhardt

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God by Heidi Burch in honor of her sister, Heather Weaver’s forty-ninth birthday, and in loving remembrance of Joan Olson by Tom and Susie Olson.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Jeanine Heath
Lector: Heidi Burch
Bread Provider: Bob Weidman
Altar Guild: Cheri Simons
Flower Guild: Cheri Simons

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

John 8:31-32

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Liturgy for the Family of God written by Peter S. Klemp

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ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 26, 2025

REFORMATION SUNDAY

This day invites the siblings of the Reformation to celebrate the perennial source of reform in the church: the word of God and the gifts of forgiveness and new life. Indeed, when the church welcomes a new member in holy baptism or gathers around the table of holy communion, the Holy Spirit's reforming labor continues among us. This is a day to acknowledge that we share the life of Christ with other Christians and that we are to pray for ongoing renewal in our day.

GRATITUDE TO OUR MUSICIANS

We thank the *Sounding Brass* ensemble for the fanfares and flourishes adorning our hymns this morning: Rik Raphael (guest) and David Otto, trumpets; Rich Wallden, trombone; and Henry Chisholm, tuba. Of course, we also thank our Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Ensemble for their festal voluntaries this morning.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

God has made into saints all who have been baptized into Christ, and next Sunday, November 2, on the festival of All Saints' Day we honor especially those saints who have died in the faith. Their names may be unknown, and their lives generally forgotten, but we sing our thanks that they are now held in God. At the end of worship, you will be invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of beloved family members and friends as this past year's necrology is read.

ALL SAINTS' CONCERT

Please join us next Sunday afternoon, November 2, at 4:00 PM as our Sanctuary Choir and guest musicians present Faure's exceptional masterwork "Requiem," as edited by John Rutter to represent what was originally intended when it was composed in 1893. A Requiem (Latin: *rest*) or Mass for the Dead, a musical composition associated with death, dying, and mourning, is most appropriate this afternoon as the church remembers the deceased and the repose of their souls. Our handbell ensemble will also perform, as well as organ and harp. There will also be opportunity for the audience to sing with the full complement of musicians.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

As Major League Baseball reaches the final showdown of the season between the Dodgers and the Blue Jays, we're in the midst of our own "World Series" for our Pledging Campaign. So far, we've gotten 40 pledges for \$263,015 towards our Operating Fund goal of \$345,000 and another \$9,450 for Endowment's target of \$15,000. Thank you to everyone who has already made their commitment to our church!

If you haven't completed a "ticket" just yet, please prayerfully and carefully consider making a pledge in the next few weeks. Pledge cards are available in the popcorn box on the Big Board as well as on the Communications Table in the Narthex. When you've filled it out you can drop it in the Gold Box or mail it to the Church Office or put it in the Offering plate on Sunday. Be part of our winning team here at St. Paul's as we round third base and head for home!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregation Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church has called a special Congregational Meeting to be held on **Sunday, Nov 16**, immediately following the service. The sole purpose of the meeting is to decide whether to accept a proposal to install solar panels on the church. Hard copies of the proposal are available in the Welcome Center area. Please conserve paper by viewing the electronic document as you are able (<https://bit.ly/StPaulsNewarkSolarPanels>).

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG ONES

We're gathering families with young ones (birth – 5-years-old) on **Wednesday, October 29** at 6pm to talk about life together and supporting one another in our faith journeys. If you're connected to a family with kids in that age range, please invite them and/or connect them to Pastor Cris.

SIGN UP FOR THE GERECKES' MEAL TRAIN

Help us come together to support Phillip and Jordan as they welcome their baby into the world! We would love to set up a month of dinners so that the Gereckes can focus on taking care of themselves and their new baby. Please note the dates are based on baby's current due date and are subject to change. Sign up at this URL: <https://mealtrain.com/2we89e> or reach out to Ian Kenyon for help signing up (w.iankenyon@gmail.com).

ADULT FORUM

The challenge – The forum on Sunday, November 2, will choose an obscure (part that is almost never read) book or text of the Bible and see if the “Study Bible” can help to give it value in our understanding and our faith. Check it out next Sunday morning starting at 8:30 in the Blue Room.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD cordially invites you to attend our fall fundraiser, “For All the Saints,” set for Saturday afternoon, November 1, at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin (2033 Graves Road). Doors open at 1:30 PM.

We look forward to a joyful time of fellowship, tasty hors d’oeuvres and dessert, raffle prizes, a fun auction (led once more by our Delaware-Maryland Synod bishop, the Rev. Bill Gohl), inspiring student presenters, and the blessing of gathering with our wider LCM community.

You’re invited to bring donations for our FISH (Fellowship in Serving the Hungry) clients with you to the fundraiser: aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and/or paper towels.

COMMEMORATING HYMNWRITERS

Today we commemorate these great hymnwriters: Philipp Nicolai (died 1608); Johann Heermann (died 1647); and Paul Gerhardt (died 1676). All worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

WELCOMING WAYS – A TIP FOR WELCOMING PEOPLE TO ST. PAUL’S

The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is *you*. It is not the pastor but a regular attender. One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to visitors is for people with no official position to take the initiative and welcome them

Vital Signs

September 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendance		YTD Average Sunday Attendance		
83		84		
	Sept 2025 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over (+)/Under (-) YTD (\$)
TOTAL INCOME	35,501.32	282,601.36	292,032.00	(9,430.64)
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,698.19	300,864.24	291,467.00	9,397.24
DIFFERENCE	(4,196.87)	(18,262.88)		

For pledges that are fulfilled at the beginning of our Fiscal Year, the received income is evenly distributed into the operating budget over the course of the year. The above figures reflect the YTD portion of that income.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Missing something? Perhaps it's in our "Lost and Found Items" box in the narthex.

- LL Bean winter coat with hat, scarf & gloves
- LG flip phone
- Fila sweatshirt
- Infinity scarf
- Knit hat
- 3 sets of keys
- 3 pairs of reading glasses
- 2 pairs of sunglasses
- Life Fitness water bottle
- Jewelry: bracelet, pin , necklace, earring
- Button

Please pick up your items by Sunday, November 16 or they will be discarded.



If you are interested in having a parking spot for our Trunk or Treat, please email and share the following information: **Name, Contact Info, and Trunk Theme**

Things to note:

- **Spots are limited**. First come, first served.
- You will be able to set up for Trunk or Treat as early as **2:00 p.m. October 31st**. Event starts at 3:00 p.m.
- Only pre-packaged candy or treats are approved
- **NO CANDY WITH NUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER**
- Please keep themes/displays child friendly
- We will have a best dressed vehicle contest for all participating car trunks!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Pam.

(P) (302) 368-0064 (E) stpaulschool701@outlook.com



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to
live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



The Reverend Cris Frigm

Pastor

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Jerilynn Hinrichs

Office Administrator

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Church Council

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Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,

Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

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St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 201

stpaulschool701@outlook.com

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

