Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 25, 2026

Introduction to the day
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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
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.

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.

PSALM: Psalm 46
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. *(Ps. 46:7)*

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.

GOSPEL: 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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - REFORMATION SUNDAY - Always Reforming

A core teaching for Martin Luther and other church reformers in the sixteenth century was that God grants us salvation not because of our good works but by God's grace through faith. Our good works flow out as our response to God's great gift.

The work begun by Luther and others has continued through the years. The church in North America may appear to be in decline today, but do not lose heart. The church is always in the process of reformation, and the Holy Spirit is always at work in the church.

The church's mission to bring good news to all also continues. Out of gratitude for God's gifts to us, we go out to proclaim the gospel, work for justice and peace, and love our neighbors in all parts of the world. For some, good news comes in the form of word and sacrament. For others, good news is food, clothing, housing, advocacy, disaster relief, caring conversations, and much more. Wherever we go, we meet people where they're at.

On this Reformation Day, take time to pray for the church, for its ongoing reformation, for the healing of divisions, for the renewal of faith and mission, and for the strength to persevere in these efforts. How might you or your congregation support or participate in this important work?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, and those who were injured at CFB Wainwright, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Today remember Sgt Morgan Wong, Pte. Shaun Farrell. Pte. Aidan Goulding and Pte. Hayden Lykkemark from CFB Wainwright. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

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Announcements

Sunday, October 25 - Reformation Sunday

9:00 AM – Bonnechere - HC
10:30 AM - Grace – HC - Sunday School
Following worship – Worship and Music Budget Meeting

Monday October 26
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Grace Quilters
4:00 PM – Confirmation
7:00 PM – Church Council

Tuesday, October 27
10:00 AM – Bible Study
We will be discussing, John 11:32-44

Wednesday, October 28
9:00 AM to 12 Noon – Tie Quilting
7:00 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, October 28
9 to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus
10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Saturday, October 31
Fall Back !!

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Sunday
10:30 AM - Grace – HC – SS
November Helpers:
Greeter: Janice Nagora, Reader: Donna Freitag;
Communion Assistants: Donna Freitag and Stacey Lance;
Usher: Barry Nagora, Elevator: Ed Byers;
Bell Ringer: Sheldon Tiegs;
Altar Guild: Margaret Felhaber, Marc and Angie Mercier

140th Anniversary of Grace

Did you know that in **April 2028, Grace Lutheran Church** will be **140 yrs** as a congregation? I am looking for your help in the planning for this event in the life of our congregation. If you are interested in helping me plan, please let me know, (Pastor Ralph).

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

On Sunday November 1st, we remember those who rest in our Lord. We especially remember those who have passed away since last year with families lighting a candle in their memory. Anyone may also bring photos of loved ones who now rest in our Lord.