

# Reformation Sunday



October 25, 2020

Joint Service of the Central Cluster  
New Jersey Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October 25, 2020

**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**Our Guest Preacher Today** is the Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, president of United Lutheran Seminary and the fourth bishop of the Southwest California Synod. President Erwin was also the first gay bishop and first native American bishop of the ELCA.

**Set Your Clocks Back Next Weekend!** It's time to "fall back" next Saturday night!

**Online Pledge Form:** The primary mode of collecting 2021 Financial Stewardship Pledges will be online. Fill out the Online Pledge Form here: <https://forms.gle/9X3dVQkh6J8MCU5v9>. You may also submit a paper pledge card in person to the church office.

**Market Street Mission Coat Giveaway:** Donations are due **TODAY**.

**Reformation Intergenerational Zoom Event:** Join us **TODAY** at **4:00 PM** for a fun program for all ages. We will sing, share, and learn about our Lutheran heritage.

**"Portland, Policing & White Supremacy: What Can We Do?"** Led by Erik K. Ward, **October 27, 7:30 PM**. Sponsored by Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee, Congregation Beth Hatikvah and SOMA Action. For tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/erickward>.

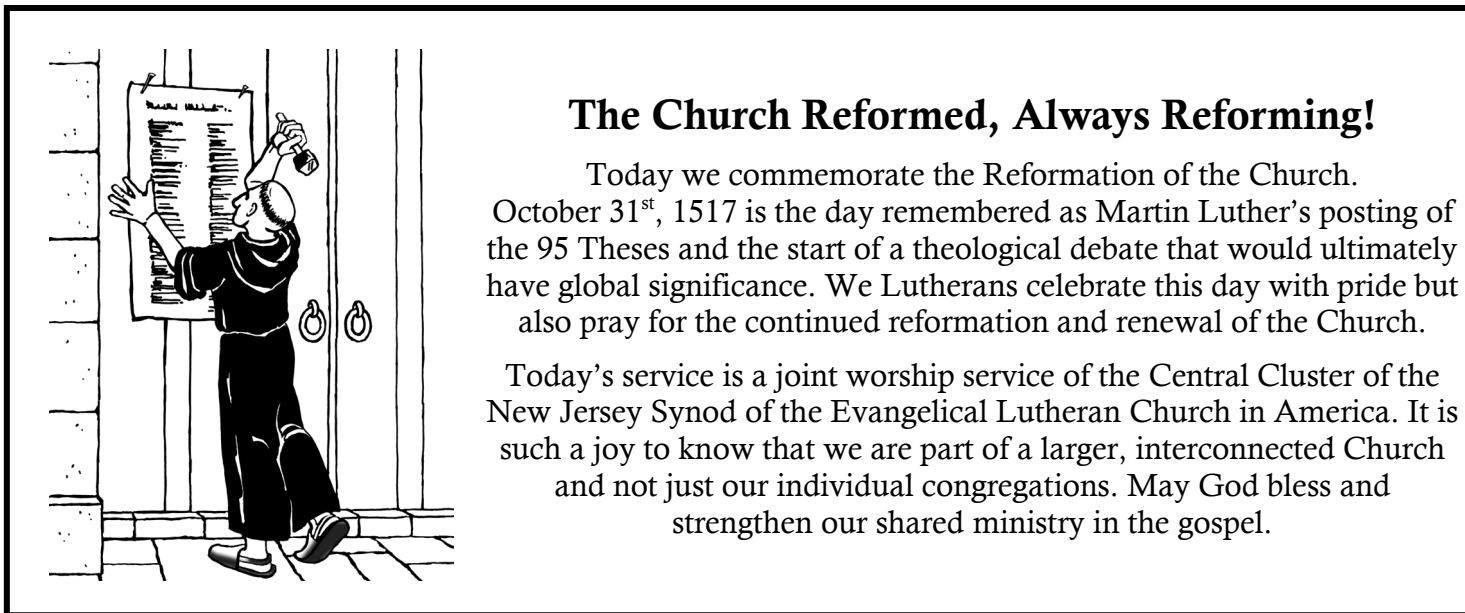
**In-Person Worship, November 1 at 3:00 PM:** Please bring your own chairs—spots will be marked on the front lawn. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Limited bathroom usage. Please use discretion. **Please RSVP [here](#)** so that we can plan for attendance.

**Synod Youth Retreat, November 20–21:** Youth 6–12th grade are welcome to join online! For more information and to register click [here](#).

**Christmas Trees:** We are looking to borrow well-kept, green artificial Christmas trees for use in producing Advent & Christmas videos. This would be a loan, NOT a donation—you can have your trees back. We would want them by early November and can return them to you by **December 16**. If you have a possible tree to loan us, please contact the church office.

**Hymnal Supplement:** The ELCA has produced a hymnal supplement to our current *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* entitled *All Creation Sings* to be released in November. If you would like to purchase a personal copy or donate toward the cost of the congregation purchase please contact the church office. \$12.50 per copy. For more information click [here](#).

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.



## The Church Reformed, Always Reforming!

Today we commemorate the Reformation of the Church. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517 is the day remembered as Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses and the start of a theological debate that would ultimately have global significance. We Lutherans celebrate this day with pride but also pray for the continued reformation and renewal of the Church.

Today's service is a joint worship service of the Central Cluster of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is such a joy to know that we are part of a larger, interconnected Church and not just our individual congregations. May God bless and strengthen our shared ministry in the gospel.

### Gathering

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

**PRELUDE** Fanfare on "A Mighty Fortress"  
Jeanne Elmuccio, organ

By Gordon Young (1919–1998)  
Matthew Spatz, brass

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

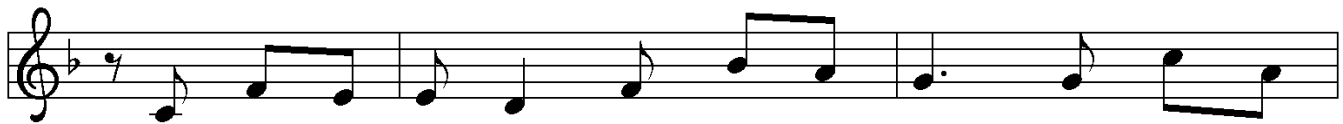
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN ELW 878 Soli Deo Gloria



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -  
2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and  
3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and  
4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and  
5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the  
wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it  
voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of  
wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate  
gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -  
choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y  
Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic  
love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and  
cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:  
fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:  
phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:  
space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:  
sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, love of God, and the communion 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.**

### **Word**

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

## **FIRST READING** Jeremiah 31:31–34

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Arrangement of “A Mighty Fortress” By Gary Lanier (b. 20<sup>th</sup> C.)  
Carol Beadle, piano Tim Beadle, trumpet

## **SECOND READING** Romans 3:19–28

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL John 8:31–36

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

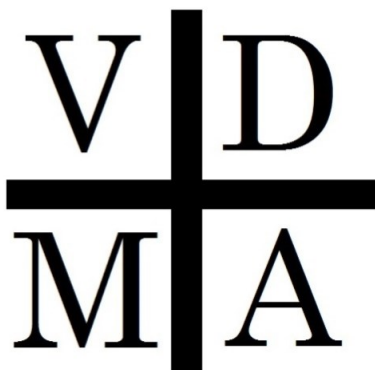
<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

*The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin  
*President of United Lutheran Seminary  
Ministerium of Pennsylvania Chair and Professor of Reformation Studies*



**Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum**

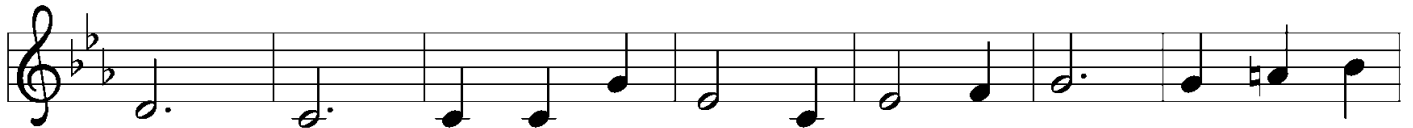
“The word of the Lord remains forever”

Isaiah 40:8

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 652 Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.

Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.**

*Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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.**





## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERING MUSIC “Raise a Hallelujah”

By Jake Stevens, Jonathan Helser,  
Melissa Helser, and Molly Skaggs (b. 20<sup>th</sup> C.)

Holy Cross-Newbridge Worship Team

Jon Torgimsen, rhythm guitar, vocals; Jim Dascoli, bass; Heather Vidal, vocals;  
Stan Gergen, lead guitar; Ken Sausville, keyboards; Alex Overzat, percussion

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies  
I raise a hallelujah, louder than my unbelief  
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody  
I raise a hallelujah, heaven comes to fight for me

I’m gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you’re gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

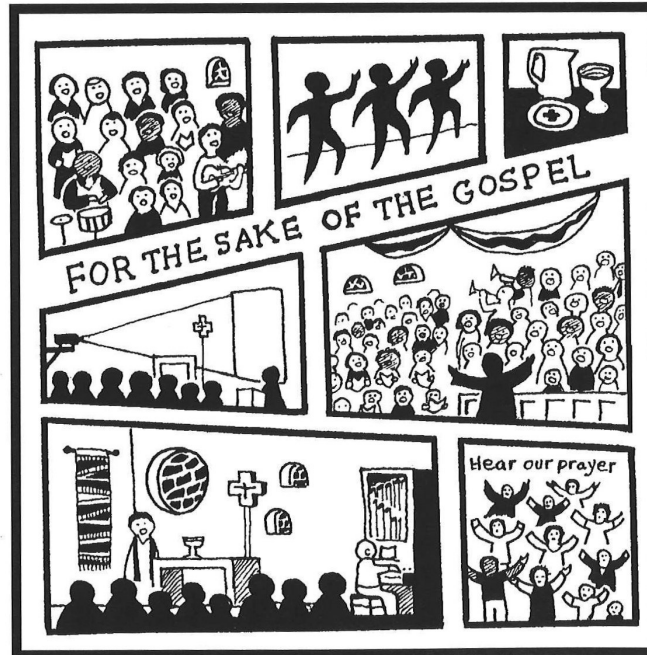
I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me  
I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee  
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery  
I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me!

I’m gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder, you’re gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive!

Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)  
Sing a little louder (Louder than my unbelief)  
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)  
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)  
Sing a little louder (In the presence of my enemies)  
Sing a little louder (Louder than my unbelief)  
Sing a little louder (My weapon is a melody)  
Sing a little louder (Heaven comes to fight for me)  
Sing a little louder!

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



### Sending

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

## BLESSING

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and on your way together, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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



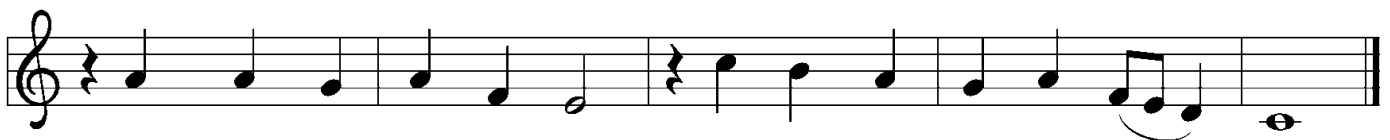
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



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!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE “Praise the Lord With Drums and Cymbals”

Shea Velloso, organ

Max Morden, trumpet

By S. Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

Nick Scheuble, percussion

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR:** URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

### Participants in Today's Service

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

United Lutheran Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chatham, NJ

The Rev. Dr. J. David Knecht

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Union County, NJ

The Rev. Frederick L. Lentz

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Parsippany, NJ

The Rev. Dr. Carol A. Lindsay

Calvary Lutheran Church, Cranford, NJ

The Rev. Jane McCready

Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence, NJ

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore

St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ

The Rev. Beau Nelson

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Florham Park, NJ

and St. Mark Lutheran Church, Morristown, NJ

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ

The Rev. Tristan Shin

Christ Church, Episcopal, Short Hills, NJ

Carol Beadle

Minister of Music, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chatham, NJ

Jeanne Elmuccio

Director of Music, Calvary Lutheran Church, Cranford, NJ

Donna Garzinsky

Director of Music, St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ

Shea Velloso

Minister of Music, Faith Lutheran Church, New Providence, NJ

Special thanks to Jeanne Elmuccio for video editing of today's service.

### Ministers: The People of St. John's

#### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

[pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org)

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

[pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org)

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

[dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org)

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

[crothman@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:crothman@stjohnssummit.org)

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto:wk154linda@gmail.com)

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery



# PRE-READER

Reformation Sunday

- Today is **Reformation Sunday**.
- Today we remember the beginning of the **Lutheran Church**.
- Let's celebrate our **history and our future!**

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**Martin Luther is the father of the Lutheran church. Give him some eyes, a nose, and a mouth.**





Reformation Sunday celebrates where we've been and where we're going. Here's what a church might have looked like in Martin Luther's day.

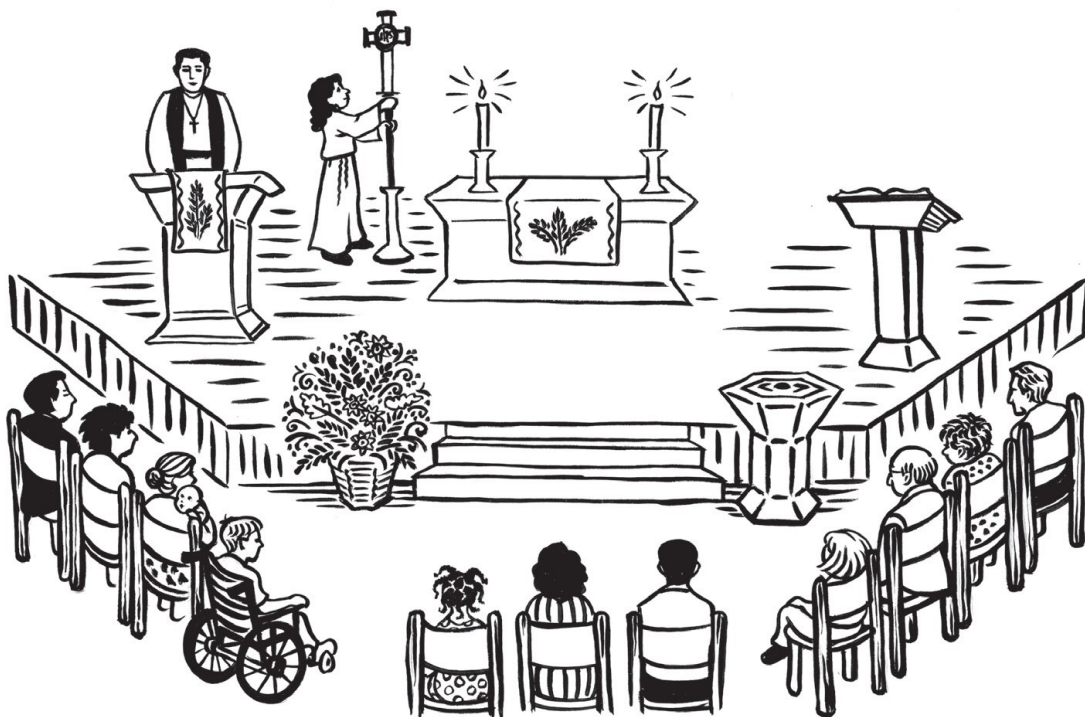


**What does your church look like today?  
Draw it here.**



Reformation Sunday celebrates the beginning of the Lutheran church—the Lutheran church's birthday. Let's have a party!

**Decorate this church below with balloons, streamers, and confetti.**







# READER

Reformation Sunday

- Today is **Reformation Sunday**.
- Reformation Sunday celebrates the beginning of the **Lutheran Church**.
- Today we **honor our past** and **celebrate our future**.

## The Face Behind Reformation Sunday

Today, we remember Martin Luther, the man who inspired the creation of the Lutheran Church. Look at the small image and try to draw Martin Luther's face on the picture below.



# A Vision for the Future

Martin Luther came up with some powerful ideas for how to make the church better, and the result was the Lutheran church! He wrote down his ideas and nailed them to the church door. Can you think of some ideas that would make your church even better? More singing? Donuts during coffee hour? Serving at the local food shelf every Saturday afternoon?

**My Theses**

By \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Church of Reformation Past, Present, and Future

Reformation Sunday celebrates where we've been and where we're going. Here's what a church might have looked like in Martin Luther's Day.



Draw what churches look like today.

Draw what churches might look like in the **FUTURE**.

# What's a Lutheran?

Martin Luther is the father of the Lutheran church. Before or after worship, or during the Sharing of the Peace, ask people around you what it means to be Lutheran. Write your answers inside the box.

