



Reformation Sunday  
October 31, 2021

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Making Christ Known to all Through Grace*

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + [www.egrace.org](http://www.egrace.org)

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

### WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

### WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

**Hearing enhancement devices** are available in the entry space. Ask an usher to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

**Masks** are required for everyone during worship.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed 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.

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## GATHERING

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

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### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** "All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name", arr. Bill Ingram

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*STAND*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. *Silence*

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### 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,

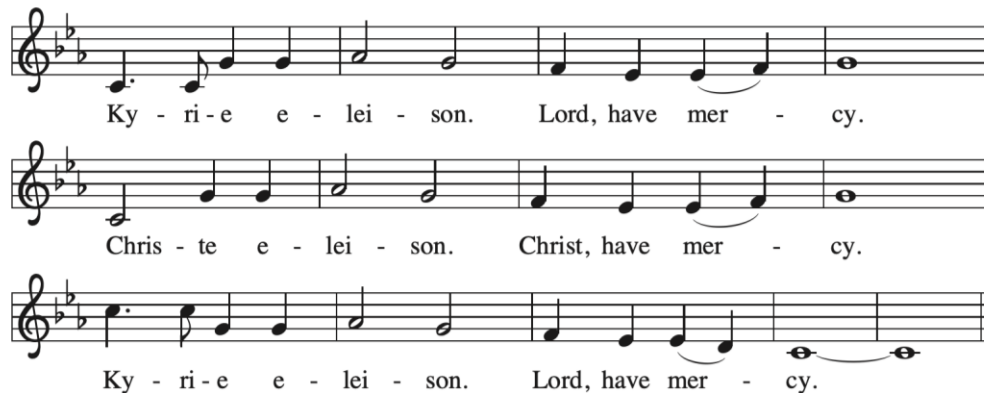


he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF 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. Amen.

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## WORD

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

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SIT

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

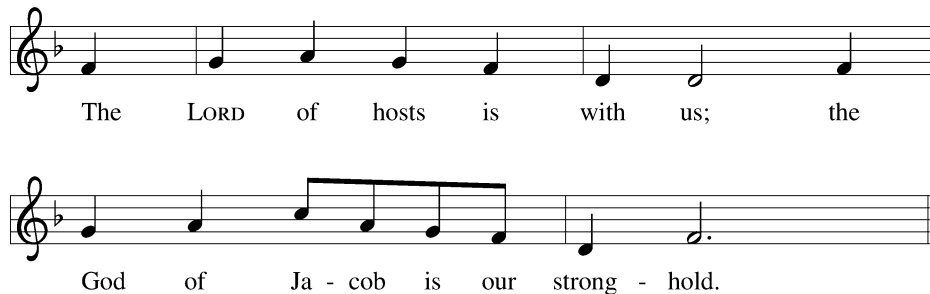
*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

A reading from Jeremiah

<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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 46



Psalm 46:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

- <sup>1</sup>God is our ref-<sup>1</sup>uge and strength,  
a very present<sup>1</sup> help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the<sup>1</sup> earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths<sup>1</sup> of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters<sup>1</sup> rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble<sup>1</sup> with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-<sup>1</sup>y of God,  
the holy habitation of<sup>1</sup> the Most High. R**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-22, 28

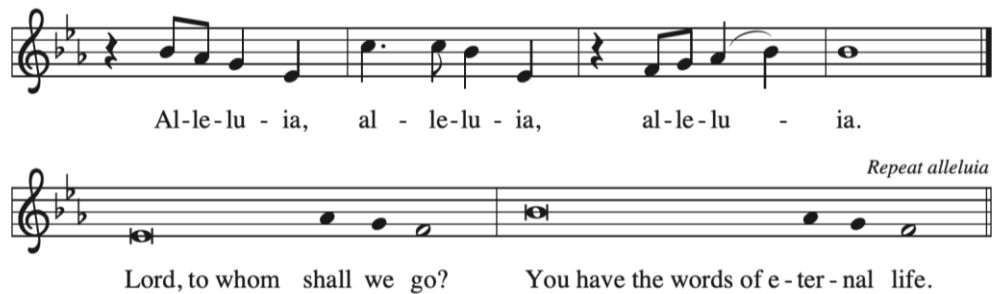
*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with*

*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.*

<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....<sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*



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.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

**SERMON**

# 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.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.  
*A brief silence.*

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*). Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the quilts and school kits collected in our congregation this year. May these school kits be a sign of hope for children everywhere, may these quilts wrap others in unending love. Whether or not we know the ones who receive these gifts, help us see them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**



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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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### SIT

**MUSIC OFFERING:** "God Alone Be Praised", *Ad Lucem*, Zebulon Highben, 2016

Oceans rise, the coastland trembles;  
mountains melt and dry earth crumbles.  
All the world with longing groans.  
Love abides; this gracious promise  
is our help, our hope and solace.  
God's strong word is solid ground.

Nations rage, the empire falters;  
seeking refuge exiles wander.  
Walls and weapons rise from fear.  
Through this wilderness a river flows  
to heal and bless us ever.  
God the crucified dwells here.

Come and see; God's mercy gathers  
all that sin and grief have shattered.  
Life from fields of death is raised.  
Peace, be still; let prideful thunder  
yield to songs of joy and wonder.  
God and God alone be praised.

### STAND

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love  
so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### DIALOG



## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Amen.

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

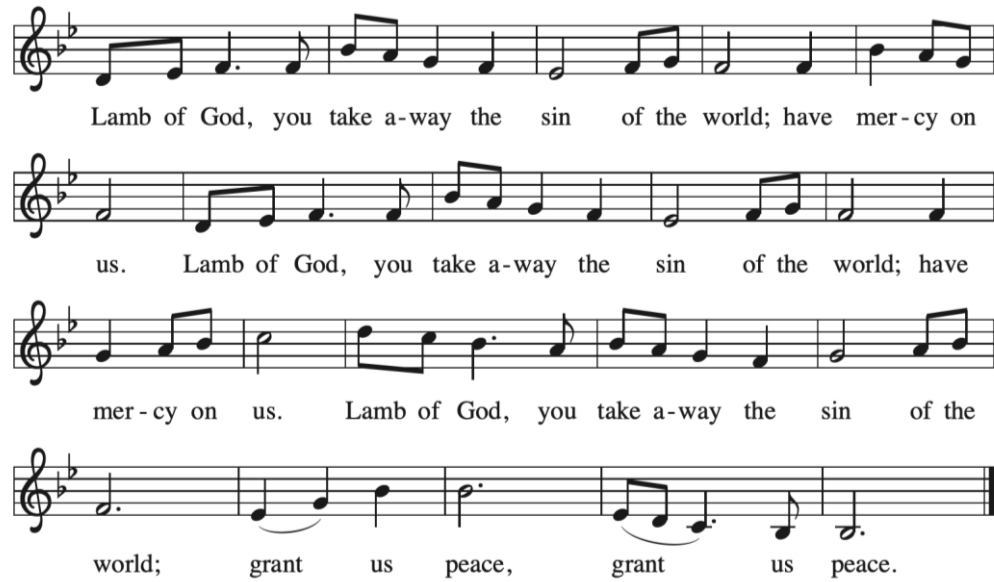
## LORD'S PRAYER

**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. 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Red grape juice is available. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

### 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

## STAND

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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### SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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## SENDING HYMN

### The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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## BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE: "A Mighty Fortress", *Ein Feste Burg*, setting by Johann Gottfried Walther

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## **WORSHIP Contributors:**

Worship leader:	Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Bell Choir:	Wendy & Chris Apple, Miles & Madeleine Melang-Thoren, Dave Ripa, Bev Madison.
Cantor/Music Offering:	Chancel Choir
Communion Assistants:	Denny and Charlyne Berans
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Doug and Sarah Krueger
Wine:	Pat Lickei, Ron and Carolyn Ossian, Jan and Terry Branting
Ushers:	Robert Stimbert, Neil Larson, Ron Holtgrewe

## **WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS**

The following temporary changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are ill or at risk, please stay at home and watch the service online.
- Masks are required for everyone during worship.
- We will enter the building through the North doors. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- There will hand sanitizers in the narthex. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- There will be no offering. There will be an offering basket located at the entrance door to the sanctuary.
- There will be no sharing of the peace.
- The presiding minister will greet you in the narthex after the postlude.
- There will be no reader, or acolyte
- There will be no nursery available.



On Reformation we are reminded that what drives Lutheran congregations is not the law but love. This is important to remember because this “all-in” kind of love for God and agape love for our neighbor is foundational to our stewardship efforts. It requires faithfulness, inclusion and commitment to something bigger than self.

We see examples of this kind of agape love demonstrated during the pandemic in mask wearing, social distancing, vaccinations and caring for the most vulnerable. All those efforts were examples of love for our neighbor in action. Pandemic life also illustrated the importance of faith and connection to and care for our neighbors. Additionally, the pandemic highlighted loneliness, inequities, and profound need in our world.

As we transition to post pandemic life, let us pray that our eyes are opened and we acknowledge where there is work to be done. Work that is core to both our Christian identity and philosophy of stewardship. Stewardship of time, talent and treasure is the balm that allows our communities of faith to tend to a host of needs including loneliness, inequity, and need in our world.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee and Halloween candy** in the gym following worship. Sign-up list to host a coffee hour is outside the office. Who's next?

**Green attendance cards** can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church or the Welcome Table basket in the back of the church.

**The Social Ministry Committee** will be having our annual food drive for the Thanksgiving boxes we assemble and deliver. Items to donate are canned vegetables/fruits, canned cranberries – jellied or whole, boxes of Jello, boxes of stuffing mixes, boxes of instant potatoes, envelopes/jars/cans of gravy, and cash donations to purchase the perishable items – turkeys, hams, pumpkin pies, rolls, and butter. **There will be a container available in the narthex and by the church office to collect your donations starting the first weekend of November.** We will also need some boxes - something sturdy and about 18" x 11" x 9 1/2".

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to pack the boxes and/or deliver them, please send an email to: [ldrake3@neb.rr.com](mailto:ldrake3@neb.rr.com) or phone/text Lori at 402-310-8386 (leave a voice message if I'm unable to answer).

**The Lutheran** magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the atrium during the week.

**Flower chart** is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

**The altar flowers** are given by Ken & Lisa Holmstrom, in memory of Ken's Mom, Phyllis A. Holmstrom.

**Prayers** of healing for Judy Holtgrew as she continues to rehab on her broken knee. Prayers of comfort for Betty Shaw's family as they mourn her recent death. Prayers of thanksgiving for the harvest that is upon us.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### November 1:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Scouts BSA	7:00 pm

### November 2:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
Committees	7:00 pm

### November 3:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Bell Choir A	6:00 pm
Bell Choir B	7:00 pm

### November 4:

Quilting	9:00 am
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### November 5:

Suzuki Recital	3:30 pm
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### November 6:

Worship	5:30 pm
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### November 7:

All Saints Sunday	9:00 am
Table Fellowship	10:00 am
Adult Choir	10:15 am
Thrivent Meeting	10:30 am
Adult Class	10:30 am

