

HOME DEVOTIONS – OCTOBER 26-31, 2026

Monday - John 4:46-54 Jesus' compassion extends far beyond healing. He is most interested that people should believe His Word (v48,50,53). The official returns home in faith, his son lives, his whole family believes!

Tuesday - Ephesians 6:10-17 How shall we be protected? By truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God. This is the full armor of God which enables us to stand on the evil day.

Wednesday - Hosea 13:14 After showing how His people have forsaken Him, God calls them to believing repentance with the promise of ransom and redemption. With Him they will overcome Death and Grave!

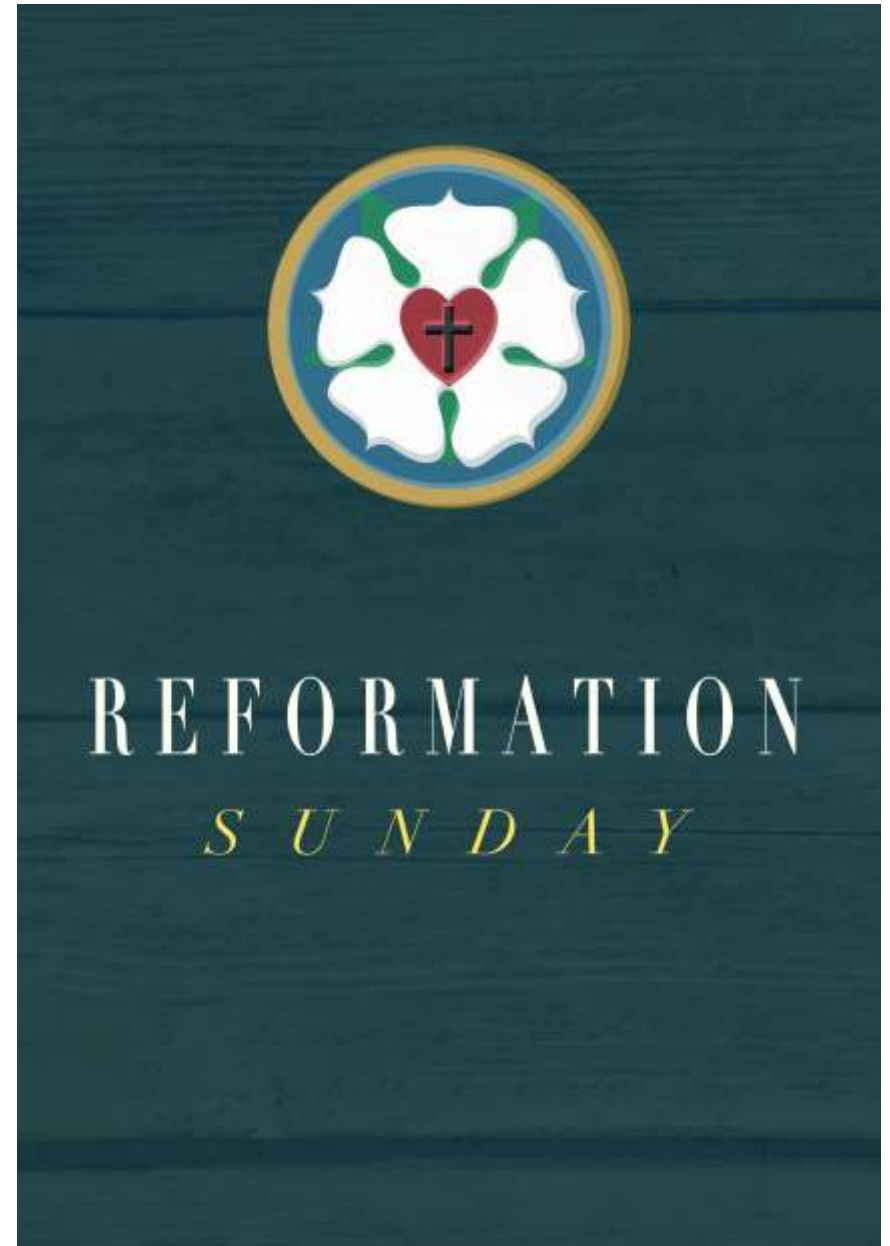
Thursday - Psalm 31:1-8 David took refuge in the Lord and found deliverance in His righteousness. David's Lord remembered these words (v5) as He hung on the cross (Luke 24:36) and repeated them as He saved us.

Friday - Psalm 119:161-168 Persecution may come from those in high places, but the believer holds God's Word in even higher esteem. He hates falsehood because he loves the truth, which brings salvation.

Saturday - John 8:31-32 Reformation Day – a time to thank God for keeping Martin Luther in God's Word. From that Word he learned the truth about God's forgiveness in Christ, and freedom from condemnation.



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis. Graphics in the bulletin are taken from Church Art Online via a regular legal subscription.



REFORMATION

Living Hope Lutheran October 25, 2026

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
3100 East Calumet Street • Appleton, Wisconsin • appletonlutheran.com



Divine Worship. . . 4pm

Liturgist: Pastor Terrell Kesterson

Preacher: Pastor Michael Gurath

Vacancy Pastor Cell: (605) 880-7886

REFORMATION

October 25, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 46 PRAYERS: Before
Worship (Inside Cover, LSB);

HYMNS: LSB 571 LSB 655 LSB 658 LSB 657

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN:

LSB 571 - "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement Pg. 22)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Congregation: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

CLC CALL NEWS

Pastor Frank Gantt has returned the call of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lemmon, SD. • Mount Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights (Detroit) MI has called Pastor Paul Krause who currently serves Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Watertown, SD and Zion Ev. Lutheran in Hidewood Township, SD. • Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ has called Pastor Neal Radichel, who currently serves Messiah Lutheran, EC, WI • Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call of the CLC Board of Missions to serve as Part-Time Missionary to India. • Gift of God in Mapleton (Fargo) ND and St. Paul's in Ponsford, MN, have called Pastor Michael Wilke, who currently serves Gethsemane in Saginaw, MI. • Missionary Todd Ohlmann has returned the call of Messiah Lutheran in EC, WI.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2026-27

The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Living Hope to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Amount Pledged 2026	Received as of 9/30/26	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (48)
\$5,500.00	\$786.00	\$4,714.00	\$98.21

Living Hope General Budget 2026

The Voters of Luther Memorial established the General Fund Budget at the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026. All Budgetary offerings are applied to this budget. This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

General Budget	Received as of 9/30/26	Amount Remaining	Remaining Amount (21 Sundays)
\$101,679.00	\$41,559.25	\$60,119.75	\$2,863.00

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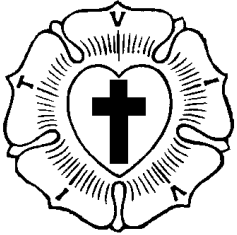
Dr. Martin Luther on his Coat of Arms:



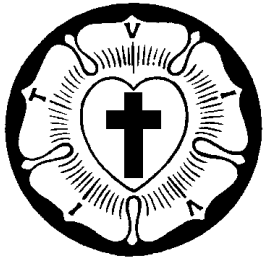
“The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black, within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ saves us. ‘For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.’



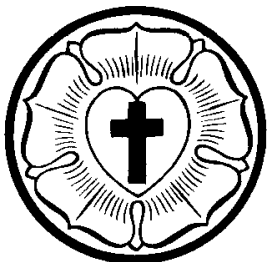
Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature -- i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. ‘For the just shall live by faith,’ -- by faith in the Savior.



But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.



This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky -- colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.



And around this ground base is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ our dear Lord, He will give us grace unto eternal life. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We stand forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON:

REVELATION 14:6-7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” *

EPISTLE:

ROMANS 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. *

REFORMATION CHOIR: LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

LSB 685

CHILDREN: (MELODY)

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

CHOIR: (PARTS)

Let us suffer here with Jesus, And with patience bear our cross,
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

CHOIR AND CHILDREN: (PARTS)

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

GOSPEL:

JOHN 8:31-36

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. *

Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sends it.

LIES OF SATAN

JESUS said of the Devil (John 8:44b):

"He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."



Therefore, if we are to be on guard against the enemy (cf. 1 Peter 5:8–11), then we must recognize the lies that he uses with great success, and cling instead to the Truth of Scripture.

DATE

THE LIE

11/1 "THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO HEAVEN."

11/8 "JUDGE NOT..."

11/15 "IF YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON, YOU'LL GET TO HEAVEN."

Zambia (Central Africa) – The Zambia-CLC has recently begun monthly pastor, evangelist, and church leader training seminars in three districts to further strengthen the ministry, outreach, and leadership of local ZCLC congregations and preaching stations. ... Thank the Lord for opportunities and renewed zeal to spread the Gospel and to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ in their ministries and to bless the Gospel message they preach.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen recently returned to Lomé, Togo following a visit to the U.S. to attend the CLC convention, relax, see friends and family, and attend necessary appointments. He will be spending the next several months preparing Togo church leaders to take the reins as he gets ready to move to the DR Congo in early 2027. ... Thank the Lord for providing this faithful missionary and for the language skills he has been given to help prepare faithful preachers for service in Togo. You can see his online pictures <https://bit.ly/petertogo>.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda-East Africa) – Ask our Lord to give patience and endurance to Missionary Naumann and his wife Paula as they continue to serve in, Tanzania and work through the detailed and sometimes frustrating immigration process necessary for them to continue to stay and work in Tanzania. ... Pray for God's blessings on their upcoming, 2-week visitation to Kenya to strengthen our sister churches there. <> You can see the latest news and photos of their work and daily lives at clc-tz.blogspot.com

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann will be visiting Bangladesh, Liberia, and Nepal over the last few months of 2026. He is schedule to depart for Bangladesh on October 13th. He will also be preaching and presenting a CLC World Missions Overview at one more Mission Festival and conducting a second CLC Preaching Station worship service at Versailles, KY for CLC members located in south-central Ohio and north-central Kentucky on November 22. He continues to instruct individuals through **Online Theological Studies** correspondence courses with men in Papua New Guinea, Namibia, Indonesia, Zambia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. ... Pray for his safe and uneventful travels, for an abundance of wisdom, love, compassion, and patience while he works with pastors and church leaders around the world. <> You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He will come to judge the living and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: LSB 655 - “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

THE SERMON:

JOHN 8:31-36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. (32) You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (33) “We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free?’” (34) Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. (35) But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

TRUE FREEDOM IS FOUND IN CHRIST

Our speaker this afternoon is Pastor Michael Gurath who serves Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton (Madison Area) Wisconsin.

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(TLH 244:1-3)

♪ Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One! Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

♪ Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain; Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign! Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!

♪ Glory to the King of angels, Glory to the Church's King, Glory to the King of nations; Heaven and earth, your praises bring! Glory, glory, To the King of Glory sing!

HYMN: LSB 658 - "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

PRAYER(S)/THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION: (Pastor) **CONGREGATION:** "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 657 - "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 25, 2026

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: LM Confirmation Class 3-4pm

Wednesday: LH Confirmation 4pm

Sunday: LM BC/SS 9am; LM Worship 10am;
LH Worship 12:30pm; LH BC/SS 1:45pm

SAVE THE DATE – ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

*The ladies of Luther Memorial Church warmly invite you to Advent by Candlelight on **Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** Join us as we reflect on the Good News proclaimed through the birth of our Savior, the Great Joy we receive through the Gospel message, and the beautiful reminder that this Good News is for All People! We look forward to sharing this special afternoon of faith, fellowship, and the light of Christ with you!*

CLC WORLD MISSION PRAYER LIST – OCTOBER 2026

Tanzania (East Africa) — Pray for the theological education of the twelve students attending Wittenberg Seminary. ... Ask our Savior to prepare them for service in His kingdom, so that they will be ready to preach and teach Christ crucified in their ministries. ... Ask for God's blessings on efforts complete the process of government certification of both the church body and the seminary, so that the students from Kenya will not be hindered from attending because of visa complications.

Kenya (East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and his wife, Paula, recently completed a visit to Kenya in September. He met with the leaders of both Kinship supported schools and KCLC leadership. He also met with several independent pastors who are interested in fellowship with the CLC ... Pray for the expansion of the KCLC through efforts to reach doctrinal agreement and fellowship with a number of new pastors and congregations in the Kitale area. ... Pray that the students of St. David's Academy in Etago and Emmaus School in Moi's Bridge will be blessed through instruction in the Word of God.

Uganda (East Africa) – Pray for the Lord's blessings and provision for the pastors of the CCRU, as they face challenges in their ministry due to tighter restrictions on religious institutions by the Ugandan government. ... Ask God to bless their studies through the Online Theological Studies (OTS) with Missionary Naumann, so that they can be better equipped to serve their congregations and fulfill government requirements to qualify as "genuine" pastors.

The Philippines (Asian Pacific) – Heavy monsoon rains, lasting longer than in typical, have hampered travel and outreach in the Cordillera mountains where the Lutheran Autonomous Mission (LAMP) of the Philippines has two congregations and one preaching station. Property has been destroyed and travel has become dangerous. ... Pray for the Lord's protection and blessings for the members of the LAMP as they endure severe monsoon conditions.