

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 County Road B

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones

Organist: Linda Kunz

Acolyte Coordinator: Mary Onsager **Class Photographer:** Tom Lehr

Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday

October 26. 2025

1:00 p.m.



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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Beautiful Savior" Duet: Melissa Peterson & Linda Kunz

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: 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.

P: 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

C: Amen.

Stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ELW #504

**Vs. 1: A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.**

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!

With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

Vs. 2: No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

**Vs. 4: God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.**

**Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.**

The kingdom's ours forever!

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord.

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "We Praise You, O God" ELW #870

Vs. 1: We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Vs. 3: With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.

To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: 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.

Sit

ANTHEM “The Lord is the Strength of My Life” by English Quartet: Linda Kunz, Kyla Betts, Marshall Olsen, Bill Skiera

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

³¹⁻³² “That’s right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won’t be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master.” God’s Decree. ³³⁻³⁴ “This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They’ll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!” God’s Decree.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “God’s Word is our Great Heritage” ELW #509

**God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 8:31-36

³¹⁻³² Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you." ³ Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?" ³⁴⁻³⁸ Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "I Love To Tell the Story" ELW #661

**Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain:* I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**Vs. 2: I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!**

**I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.**

**And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain...***

Sit

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMANDS

As your name is read, please stand.

P: The following young men and women desire to make public affirmation of their baptism: **Adelaide Borchert, Charles Brabender, Elaine Conant, Elizabeth Gross, Beckett Horswill, Jackson Kojo, Lucas Peterson, Brady Sickles, Addalyn Swain and Lila Yellowbird**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new life. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The congregation is asked to stand and profess their faith with the confirmands.

P: I ask you, along with the congregation, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Sit

The confirmands will remain standing and respond to the following question in the pew.

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism,

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, respond, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

The confirmands respond individually, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray.

C: We give thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

At this time the confirmands come forward and kneel at the communion railing to receive the blessing. Parents, sponsors, and family members are invited to come forward with their confirmands for the blessing as each set of confirmands are called (when "Adelaide and Charles" are called, their families come forward and

child and family say “Amen” together following the blessing. Then they return to their seats and the next set of confirmands’ families come forward: “Elaine and Elizabeth,” etc...)

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *his/her* in *him/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

Confirmands and Families: Amen.

After all are blessed, the confirmands are invited to stand and face the congregation.

P: Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

All share the peace. The confirmands return to their seats.

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The congregation will eat the bread and wine in the pew. Confirmands are invited forward to kneel at the communion rail.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Stand

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "Go My Children" ELW #543

Vs. 1: "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

Vs. 2: "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

Vs. 3: "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

**Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

POSTLUDE: "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" Doran Miller