

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

711 Court Street Pekin, IL 61554-1735

(309)-347-2136/2137

Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor

Reva Simpson, Principal - Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

REFORMATION DAY

(OBSERVED)

October 28, 2018

Christ's blessings to all! **To our visitors**, we rejoice to have you gathered together with us in our Lord's House this day & look forward to having you with us again. If you are searching for a Church home, **please introduce yourself to Pastor** or indicate such **with your contact information** in the red 'Fellowship Booklets' in each pew.

REFORMATION SERVICE OF HYMNS AND READINGS

+ PRELUDE

+ HYMN #472 "Rise, Ye Children of Salvation"

+ INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

+ PSALM: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,

Though the earth be removed,

And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though its waters roar and be troubled,

Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,

The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;

God shall help her, just at the break of dawn,

The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;

He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,

Who has made desolations in the earth.

*He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariot in the fire.*

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!**

*The LORD of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.*

+ **HYMN #262** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

+ **THE FIRST READING:** Isaiah 55:10-11
HYMN #290 "We Have a Sure Prophetic Word"

+ **THE SECOND READING:** Matthew 11:12-15
HYMN #263 "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe"

+ **THE THIRD READING:** Revelation 14:6-7
HYMN #266 "O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word"

+ **THE FOURTH READING:** Romans 3:19-28
HYMN #377, v. 1, 9, 10 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

+ **THE FIFTH READING:** Galatians 2:15-21
HYMN #297 "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"

+ **THE SIXTH READING:** Ephesians 2:1-10
HYMN #373, v. 1, 2, 4, 7
"By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless"

+ **THE SEVENTH READING:** John 8:31-36

+ **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ **HYMN #16** "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

+ SERMON: “Jesus’ Word of Truth Sets Us Free” John 8:31-32

- I. Bondage to error and sin
- II. A call to abide in Jesus’ word
- III. Freedom in Jesus’ word of truth

+ OFFERING

+ PRAYERS

- The Lord’s Prayer
- Special Petitions
- The Reformation Collect
- Luther’s Morning Prayer (*sung by Sanctuary Choir at 10:30*)
- Luther’s Evening Prayer (*7:00 p.m.*)

+ BENEDICTION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

+ HYMN #261 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word”

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THE LUTHER ROSE

Here is how Martin Luther explained the symbolism of the Luther Rose. Though the image on the cover of this service folder is in black and white, you can well visualize the intended colors as you read this. Luther wrote:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color (red). This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).

The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace; it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of spirits and angels.

This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.

Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.