

† CONFIRMATION SUNDAY †

**THE COMMEMORATION OF  
THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH**

**WELCOME FRIENDS AND GUESTS!**

*We are delighted that you are here, and so is the Lord!*

**October 28, 2018**

**9:00 AM**



VDMA, stands for the Latin *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum* – in English: “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever,” the motto of the Lutheran Reformation. It is a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God’s Word based on Isaiah 40:6-8 and 1 Peter 1:24-25.

**AS WE GATHER**

We celebrate in worship today the Confirmation in the Christian Faith of four of our young people and we also commemorate the Reformation of the Church. Confirmation is a joyous custom of the Church. It links the candidate for confirmation to his/her Baptism and allows the congregation to celebrate with them the reception of the Lord’s Word. Confirmation declares of the catechumen that he or she is a Christian who has been baptized, confesses the Faith, and is in communion with Christ and His Church.

Today, these young adults: *Marty Boland, Tyler Folkmann, Rachel Palermo* and *Courtney Polarek* will stand before God, their family, friends and Zion Congregation and publicly confess their Faith and freedom in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

They will continue in the tradition of Martin Luther and our church fathers to boldly witness to God’s free gift of forgiveness and life. That was Luther’s mission and so should it be ours as well, that future generations would not be deprived of the glorious Gospel of salvation through faith alone in Christ!



The color for this day is red, which symbolizes the Holy Spirit's operation through spokesmen as on the day of Pentecost. He showed His presence then in tongues of fire resting on the Apostles. It is also the color of blood and reminds us of the dedication of God's servants including Luther and the other reformers who were willing to suffer and shed their blood if necessary for the sake of the Gospel.

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (October 28 – November 3)**

**John 15:16:** *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you so that you might go and bear fruit." (NIV)*

*This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.* – Martin Luther

**✝ PREPARATION ✝**

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

**THE THREE SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION**

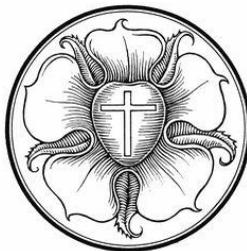
***Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone***

***Sola Gratia – Grace Alone***

***Sola Fide – Faith Alone***

**... ALL ON ACCOUNT OF CHRIST ALONE!**

**PRESERVICE MUSIC**



*Please rise for the Hymn of Procession*

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" – LSB 656*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Dear saints in Christ, we have come together to affirm again the truths that the Reformation restored to the one holy apostolic Church. We are here to worship God because of His infinite grace in creating us, in saving us through the sacrifice of our Lord, and in working faith in our hearts so that we might receive His own righteousness. Indeed, without the promise of forgiveness, we would never admit to our failings but would, in our fallen nature, constantly flee from God. But with the gracious promise of full and free forgiveness, let us consider our sins and call on God for mercy.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**Pastor:** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. *[Psalm 103:8]*

**People:** **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.** *[Psalm 103:10]*

*(Silence is kept to reflect on God's holiness and His grace.)*

**Pastor:** Almighty God,

**People:** **hear our confession and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We admit that we have not completely trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. We praise You, Father, for You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your**

**present help. Lead us by the power of Your Spirit so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Pastor:** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

**People:** **Yes.**

**Pastor:** Let it be done for you as you believe.

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to each of you and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **INTROIT Psalm 46**

**Psalm tone:**

**Choir:** God is our refuge and strength,\* a very present help in trouble.

**People:** **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,\* and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;**

**Choir:** though its waters | rage and foam,\* and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

**People:** **The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

**Choir:** The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,\* the holy habitation of | the Most High.

**People:** **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;\* God shall help her at the | break of day.**

Choir: The nations make much ado, and the king | doms are shaken;\* God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.

**People: The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

Choir: The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. Come now and look upon the works | of the Lord,\* what awesome things he has | done on earth.

**People: It is He who makes war to cease in | all the world;\* He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.**

Choir: Be still, then, and know that | I am God;\* I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.

**People: The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

Choir: The Lord of | hosts is with us;\* the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (Verses 1 & 5) – LSB 525*

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *(Please be seated)*

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT: REVELATION 14:6-7**

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. 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." *(ESV)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE: ROMANS 3:19-24, 28**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. *(NIV)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*Please rise*

*"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (Verses 1 & 2)– LSB 655*

**Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.**

*(Continued on the next page)*

**Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 8:31-36**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (NIV)

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*From the Second Part of the Smalcald Articles written by Martin Luther in 1537 and recorded in The Book of Concord (The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church)*

**People:** The first and chief article is this, that Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification, and He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; and God has laid on Him the iniquities of us all. Likewise: All have sinned and are justified without merit – freely, and without their own works or merits – by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood. Now, since it is necessary to believe this, and it cannot be otherwise acquired or apprehended by any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us. Of this article nothing can be yielded or surrendered. For there is none other name under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved. And upon this article all things depend which we teach and practice. Amen!

**HYMN** "*Thy Strong Word*" – LSB 578 (Please rise for verse 6)

**THE SERMON: John 15:16:** "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit." (NIV)

*Please rise to sing:*

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (Verses 1 & 2) – LSB 702*

**My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!**

**May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE CATECHUMENS**

† **Martin David Boland**

*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. – Proverbs 4:23*

† **Tyler James Folkmann**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9*

† **Rachel Anne Palermo**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9*

† **Courtney Ann Polarek**

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11*

## **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

*The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Please rise)*

## SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS: THE OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

*I will speak of Your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame. – Psalm 119:46*

Because we value your presence in worship and desire to serve you as best as we can, please use this time to complete the Fellowship Pew Pad and pass it to your neighbor. Prayer requests may be made by filling out the blue card in the pew rack in front of you and placing it in the offering plate.

### **CHOIR** *“In Christ Alone” – Arr. by Mark Hayes*

*In Christ lone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
The gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns of calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand*

*As the offering is brought forward please rise to sing:*

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” – LSB 805*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR OUR YOUTH

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All:** **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.**

## BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord. *[Psalm 103:1]*

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor:** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you + peace. *[Numbers 6:24-26]*

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN "The Church's One Foundation" – LSB 644

*All*

**The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.**

*(Continued on the next page)*

### **Women**

***Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.***

### **Choir**

*Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.*

### **Men**

***Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.***

*(Interlude)*

### **All**

**Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.**

### **POSTLUDE**



#### **Evangelism: Winning and keeping souls for Christ!**

The word evangelism means *preaching the Gospel*. Evangelism is the way in which the saving words and works of the Lord Jesus are shared with people everywhere and it strives to help everyone grow in faith, hope, and love. This process includes evangelizing both those who are already members of the church, as well as reaching out to those who do not yet know the Lord or who no longer practice their faith.