

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Bulletin
October 29, 2023 – 10AM
Reformation Sunday

Prelude

Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

THE LUTHER ROSE



Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind us 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 14:12). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Mathew 28:3; John 20:12). 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.

Opening Songs

“Chain Breaker”

“Breathe”

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Praise Band
and Congregation

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,
we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.

REFORMATION SUNDAY



Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone

**We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together...

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

A New Covenant

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

SECOND LESSON

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 silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

Righteousness through Faith

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ^[a] for all who believe.^[b] For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement^[c] by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.^[d]

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

True Disciples

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ 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'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Sermon "Continuing in the Word"

Sermon Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Choral Song Leaders
Congregation Please Join

Hymn 504
(vv. 1-2, 4)

Luther's Hymn Creed

We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us; all we need his hand provides;
through all snares and perils lead us, watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us day and night; all things are governed by his might.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, his own Son, our Lord, possessing an equal
God-head, throne and might, source of every grace and blessing;
born of Mary, virgin mother, by the power of the Spirit, Word made flesh,
our elder brother; that the lost might life inherit, was put to death on the cross
and raised by God victorious.

We all confess the Holy Ghost who, in highest heaven dwelling with God the
Father and the Son, comforts us beyond all telling; who the church, his own
creation, keeps in unity of the Spirit.

Here forgiveness and salvation daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise; we shall be in bliss with God eternally.
Amen.



Prayers of the People

On this Reformation Sunday, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, on this Reformation Sunday we value our freedom. Certainly, we are a nation set aside to be free, to live in a democracy where the people govern through chosen leaders. Thank you, Lord, for guiding the founders of this nation to our shores where they could be free from the tyranny of kings and oppressors. Even now, people around the world are clamoring to our borders. ***Lord in your mercy...***

But the reformers of the Church in the sixteenth century spoke of a different kind of freedom. By strictly following the law of God, everyone was made captive to the law; and yet no one could follow all its commands. They could not free themselves from God's requirements for salvation. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, we are each at war with the sin that holds us captive. But God had a better way. In Jeremiah, God says, *"I will make a new covenant with the [people of God]...not like the covenant...which they broke.... But I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* Our Heavenly Father wants a daily walk with each of us, where we intimately commune with the Creator of the Universe. ***Lord, in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation its pastor and people as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and renewal by the Holy Spirit. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

How is this forgiveness accomplished? Through Jesus and the cross. Again, Jeremiah gives God's words, *"They shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* God is righteous, and *"He justifies him who has faith in Jesus."* Jesus said, *"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* Lord God, thank you for your everlasting freedom. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. ***Amen.*** CAROLYN T. LINN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

*Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are glass.**—Benjamin Franklin*

A Franciscan monk in Australia was assigned to be a sort of guide and “gofer” to Mother Teresa as she visited New South Wales. He was thrilled at the prospect of being so close to this great and holy woman. What would they talk about in the many hours they would spend together, he wondered?

Yet as her visit unfolded, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near Mother Teresa, the Franciscan brother never had an opportunity to speak more than a few words to her — and then, always about practical matters. There were always so many other people for her to meet.

Finally, her tour was over and she was due to fly on to New Guinea, her next stop. In desperation, the Franciscan friar approached Mother Teresa and pleaded, “If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, could I sit next to you on the plane, so I can talk with you and learn from you?”

Mother Teresa looked at him. “You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?”

“Yes,” he replied eagerly.

“Then give that money to the poor,” she said. “You’ll learn more from that than anything I can tell you.”

In today’s Bible reading, when Jesus is asked to identify the greatest commandment, he says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (vv. 37-39).

Although loving God may be *passionless*, it is not *passive*. This was Mother Teresa’s message. One cannot love God without being responsive to God. Jesus himself taught us how to love God.

We must live life in a way that responds to God ... with our hearts and our souls and our minds. This is why we give to the poor and advocate on their behalf.

In other words, our love for God is not passive love; on the contrary, it is very active, visible and demonstrative. In fact, to use the words *heart*, *soul* and *mind* pretty much covers everything that we are — our total selves.

This is how we are to love God: with everything in our being ... all that we are ... the best versions of ourselves. When we love God, we’re all in. Nothing is held back.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, I am all in. I withhold nothing. Amen.

Special Music “By Faith”
Choral Ensemble

Words of Institution

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in this place, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we humans call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron, for Jeremiah and the psalmists, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg and Fedde, for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai, Nommensen and Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld, for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free, who on the night before he died, 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.

And so we remember your Word, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your law, your grace, your freedom. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household.

We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Amen!

Prayer Concerns

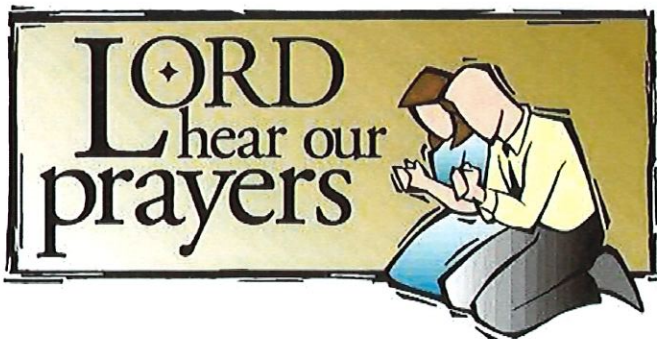


Members in Need of Prayer:

Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy & Stacy Lairson
Sue Hays & Family on the passing
of her Uncle Bill
Essman.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Ken & Becky (Lairson)
Russel DiGirolamo
Blaise (Linn)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Belinda Zavala (Norris)
Renee Family on her passing. (Norris)
Dan Fey & Family (Norris—No
Relation)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Emily Burton (Hays)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Gloria Valdez (Norris)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Communion Hymn

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Hymn 351

Choral Song Leaders

(vv. 1-3)

Congregation Please Join

Blessing

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church; Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Break Forth Into Joy"

Susan Berg, Organist

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4-6

Monday: Nehemiah 10-13

Tuesday: Micah 1-4

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-9

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10-13

Friday: Acts 20-22

Saturday: Psalms 127-129

Verse to Remember

*Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127:1*

Walk the line

DIRECTIONS: Below you see letters of the alphabet above or below the line. Think about why they are arranged in this way. Finish writing the alphabet by correctly putting the letters either above or below the line.

A E F H I K L M N

B C D G J O P

The Family Motto

DIRECTIONS: This motto can be seen over the fireplace of the 18th-century home of the McFarland family, but some of the letters have fallen off. What is the motto?

S _ R _ K _ W _ I _ E _ H _ I _ O _ ' S H _ T

100!

Take the numbers

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

and arrange them so that they add up to 100.



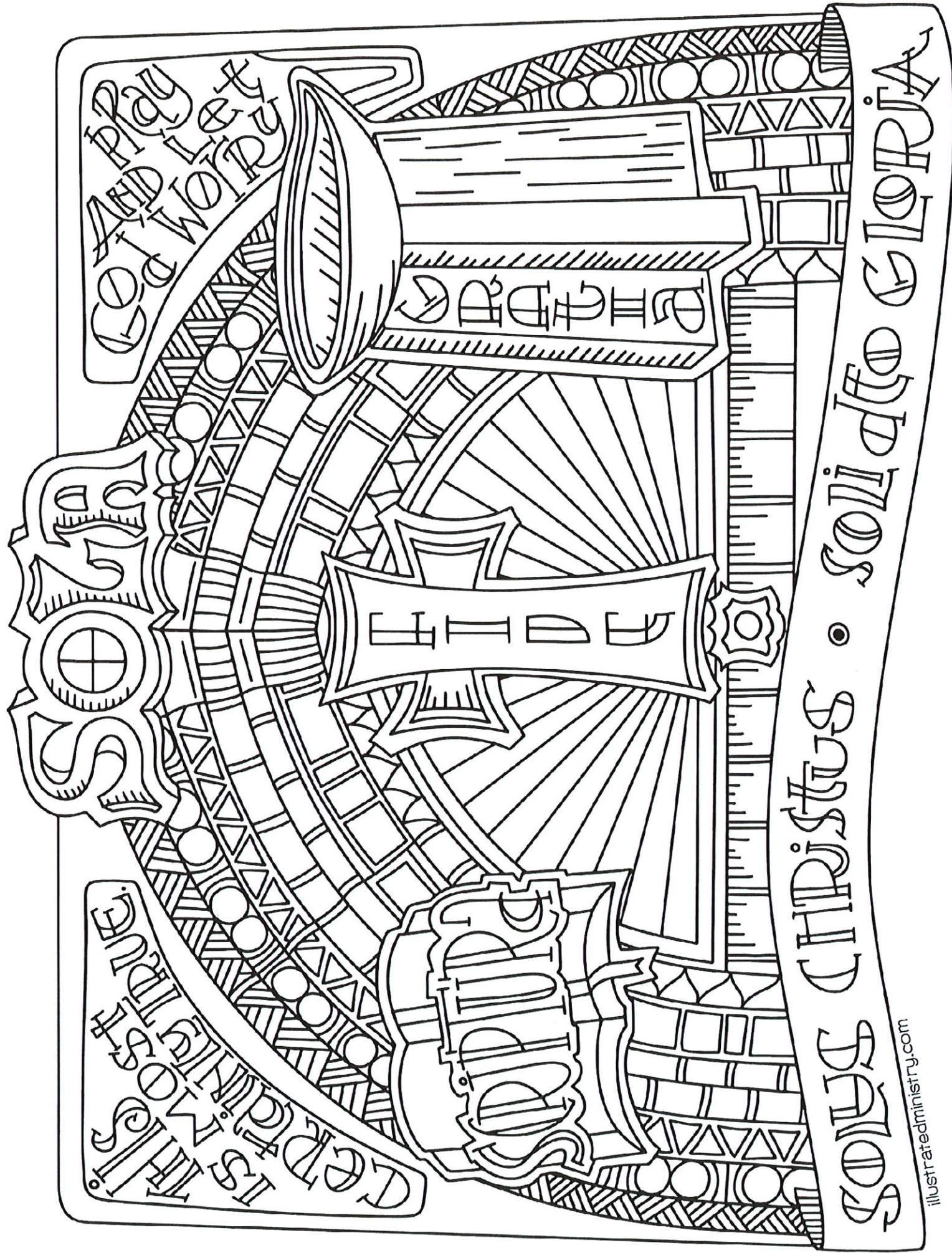
Answers

100:

1	6
2	14
34	23
56	57
7	100
100	

Walk the Line:
The letters above
the line are made
with straight lines;
the letters be-
low the line have
curves.

**The Family
Motto:**
"Strike
While the
Iron's
Hot"



ANNOUNCEMENTS



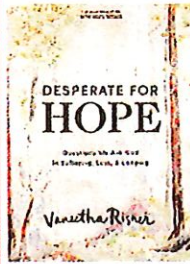
**Reformation Sunday TODAY,
Spooooooky Potluck, and Pumpkin Carving !**
Please plan to stay after the service for a

P
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"Spooooooky Potluck" in Jacobson Hall. There will be pumpkins for carving for any who desire to do so. All are welcome to join in this congregational meal as we celebrate both Halloween and the Great Reformation that Martin Luther began!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30PM



We will be studying from the Bible Study written by Vaneetha Risner. **"Desperate for HOPE - Questions we ask God in suffering, loss, and longing."** The study book is available at all the usual places including, Amazon, and Christian Book Distributors. This study book includes video access. This will be a 7-week study and will end November 8. We meet at 6:30 in the Community Center. Questions? Contact Sharon Rowley 313-0757 or shandrow@outlook.com (Put Bible Study in subject line).

Memorial Garden Committee 2023 Raffle:



Don't forget! The Memorial Garden Committee Drawing will be on November 19. Meet us in Jacobson Hall after church to find out who will win prizes. It just might be YOU!!

GSLC BOOK GROUP—Nov. 19 @ 4PM

November 19: "The Last thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave
Plan to read this month's selection and join us for a casual discussion, **Sunday, November 19, at 4:00** in the Comm Ctr. No long-term commitment required - join us any month a book catches your interest.



ALSO ... There has been a revision in the order we will be reading books this year:

January 21: "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams
February 18: "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson
March 17: "A Spanish Sunrise" by Boo Walker
April 21: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak
May 19: "To End All Wars" by Ernest Gordon

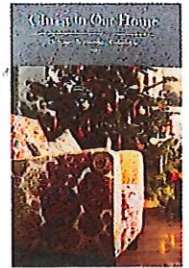
Coffee Hostess Leftovers Sunday



We'll be doing a Leftover Sunday every last Sunday of the month. There always seems to be leftover cookies, chips or crackers - what better way to use up those leftovers than by having one Sunday where we have some of the treats we've previously enjoyed? Steve will freeze those cookies or cakes, so they they'll still be fresh. Also, if you have any leftover snacks you'd like to contribute, bring them in any other Sunday - Steve will freeze those too!

'Christ in Our Home' Devotional

The 'Christ in Our Home' Devotional for Oct.—Dec. is available on the ushers table and the office. You may pick one up M-F, 9-1pm or you can email Kathy and she will send one out, just let her know if you prefer regular or large print.



OWLS—November 20th @ 12PM, Jacobson Hall



OWLS will touchdown on JACOBSIN HALL on November 20th, Monday at noon. Washdown liquid and devouring gear available. Buffet dishes subject to each attending Hootie's desire. "How to Survive A Friend" and "Prayers by Children" are on the program. Tote your favorite board game to enjoy with fellow Hooties.

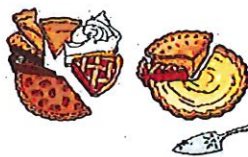
Sunday Bulletins Available Online

Bulletins/Devotional with announcements are available prior to each Sunday's worship on our website, so you can follow along if you're watching on Facebook! <https://fresnogslc.org>

Please spread the word.



'Leftover Pie Sunday' 11/26



Please bring your leftover pies, cakes, cookies and desserts to church on Sunday, 11/26 for **Leftover Pie Sunday**. Even if you have just one or two servings, please bring them to add to the assortment.

Westside Rescue Thanksgiving Pies!

Be sure to contact Julie W on Sunday mornings or at: 13jdixon13@gmail.com /559-287-3457 if you'd like to order any Marie Callender Thanksgiving pies. Ordering begins Nov. 1st! Pickup will be the afternoon of Nov. 21 (4668 N. Sonora Ave, #101) or the 22nd (church office, 9-1). You will be supporting an all-volunteer group in their mission to care for the Homeless of Fresno with pets. You can also purchase a pie to be delivered to one of the temporary homeless shelters. Thank you!



It's Fall ! A Time for Thanksgiving

Our Good Shepherd family will once again be providing Thanksgiving meals to families at Roeding School. Last year we provided meals for 24 families.

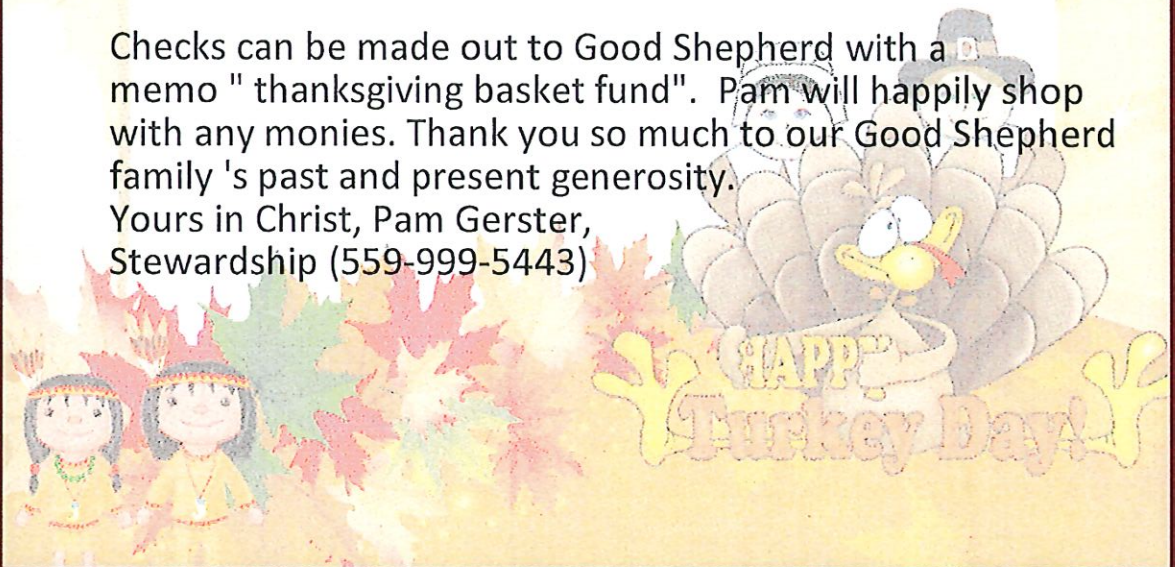
Please bring canned or dried food stuffs to church - a pink bin will be in the Narthex for donations or you may drop them off with Kathy in the office M-F, 9am-1pm.

Food Suggestions:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Canned Fruit | 5. Canned Yams | 10. Jell-O |
| 2. Green Beans* | 6. Peanut Butter | |
| 3. French Onion*
Rings | 7. Grape Jelly | |
| 4. Cream of Mush-
room Soup* | 8. Mashed Potatoes | |
| | 9. Cornbread Mix | |
- *(these 3 make an easy casserole)

Checks can be made out to Good Shepherd with a memo " thanksgiving basket fund". Pam will happily shop with any monies. Thank you so much to our Good Shepherd family 's past and present generosity.

Yours in Christ, Pam Gerster,
Stewardship (559-999-5443)



The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Board is asking for suggestions to identify worthy organizations for the distribution of interest funds. Please place any suggestions you may have in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your input!

Holiday Concerts



The beauty of Christmas music may be heard in our community through Christmas Concerts by wonderful choral groups. Additional information for these concerts may be found on Good Shepherd's bulletin board.

1. The 46th Annual Messiah Sing-along, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, will be on Sunday, November 26, at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street in Fresno. The event is free but please bring a non-perishable food item to feed the needy. For more information call 559-485-6460.

2. Three concerts for the Holiday Season will feature The Fresno Master Chorale and its select ensemble, Coro Picolo. Ticket information for these concerts may be ordered through the Chorale's website fresnocommunitychorus.org or by calling (559) 709-6245. The Master Chorale will present a concert featuring Gjeilo's "Song of the Universal;" Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna;" and O'Regan's "Triptychon" on Sunday, November 12 at 2:30 p.m. at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis North Educational Complex at 2770 E. International Ave. in Fresno. Good Shepherd's Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of the Chorale.

On Sunday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. Coro Picolo will present a concert, "And Suddenly with the Angels." The location has not yet been announced. Good Shepherd's Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this select ensemble.

On Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. the Master Chorale will present "Home for the Holidays," a concert with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra at the Saroyan Theater in Fresno at 730 M St.

3. Friday, November 17

The women's ensemble, Soli Deo Gloria, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, presents their 15th season's Fall concert, "Celestial Joy," on Friday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts in Fresno. The choir will sing the poetry of St. Francis of Assisi, Hildegard von Bingen, John Milton, Sara Teasdale and the Bible. Two pieces by Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds will celebrate the beauty of Northern Light and stars, accompanied by tuned water glasses. Tickets for the concert as well as Season Tickets for the 2022-2023 season are available from Good Shepherd's Cheryl Montgomery, who is a member of Soli Deo Gloria, or on the ensemble's website, sdgchoir.com, or you may call (559) 285-3993 for further ticket information.

Soli Deo Gloria

4. Sunday, December 3

The Fresno Pacific University Music Department presents "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street in Fresno. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for the FPU community. Tickets are available online at eventbrite.com/e/lessons-carols-tickets-76081342343 or at the door (if still available). For more information call 559-453-2267.

ADVENT
LESSONS
CAROLS

5. Saturday/Sunday, November 18/19

On the weekend of November 18 (7:00 p.m.) and 19 (2:00 p.m.) the senior song and dance troupe of New Wrinkles presents "Step into the Holidays" at Fresno City College. Visit the college's website for further information.