

Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025 8:30 A.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church

*Bulletins are subject to change based on the Pastors' discretion

Announcements

Prelude

Promised Land
Senior Bell Choir

arr. Julie Turner

Ringling of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

page 116-117

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW # 504 VS 1-3

Greeting and Kyrie

pp. 147-148

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.**

Kyrie

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia. **C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever, Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day: **P:** Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22.

⁷ Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake; our rebellions indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.

⁸ O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?

⁹ Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

¹⁹ Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace but find no good, for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰ We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. ²¹ Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²² Can any idols of the nations bring rain, or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

Psalms: (read responsively) Psalm 84: 1-7

P: ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

C: ² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

P: ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

C: ⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

P: ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

C: ⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

P: ⁷ They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18.

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Special Music: *Plenty Good Room* (African American Spiritual) arr. Kevin Boesinger
Senior Choir

Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?"* page 151

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Message

Pastor Charis Combs-Lay

Confession of Faith

Apostle's Creed

page 127

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. 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.

Offering Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

ELW # 517

Offering Prayer: P: Lord of the harvest, we praise you for the abundance you have given to us. Write your vision on our hearts and turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of the Church: P: Lord in your mercy ... C: Hear our prayer

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

page 112

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.

Communion Distribution Hymns: *ELW #515 Break Now, the Bread of Life;*
ELW #516, Almighty God, Your Word is Cast.

Post Communion Prayer: P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to serve others and to share the news of your redeeming love with all the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. C: Amen.

Benediction: P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation* *ELW # 654 VS 1-3*

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Toccata in D Minor* *J. S. Bach*

Activities this Week at St. John's**Oct 26, 2025, to Nov 2, 2025**

Sun, Oct 26	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services w/Comm
	9:30am	Sr Choir, Sun School
	7pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8pm	Men's Choir
Tues, Oct 28	1pm	Northgate Care Center
	2:30pm	Evergreen Court
	3pm	Good Samaritan Center
Wed, Oct 29	6pm	Youth Bells
	7pm	Confirmation & Sr Bells
Sun, Nov 2	8:30am & 10:30am	Worship Services w/Comm
	9:30am	Sr Choir, Sunday School
	7pm	Ecumenical Choir
	8pm	Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – Oct 22, 2025****Actual Income \$161,192****Actual Expenses \$143,439****Jan 1 – Oct 31, 2025****Budget Expenses \$171,844****Attendance****Last Sunday 91****2025 Average 97****2024 Average 99**

Greeters	8:30am	Dan & Lori Treangen
	10:30am	
Readers	8:30am	Karen Grimstad
	10:30am	
Ushers	8:30am	Matt/Dawn Teslow, Bob Joachim
	10:30am	
Comm Prep	8:30am	Lyle/Brenda Kurth
	10:30am	
Comm Assistant	8:30am	Altar Guild
Secretary	10:30am	Wendy Bucheit, Cindy Barness
Custodians		Sarah Sweeney
Organist/Director of Music		Jill Kistler, Melissa Clarke
Pastor		Rhonda Barr/Lana Dahlstrom
		John & Sharon Roe
		James H. Bieber
		Charis Combs-Lay

Today we welcome Pastor Charis Combs-Lay, to St. John's. She is a Pastor joining us today from Cresco, IA. Please greet and welcome her.

Radio Broadcast Ministry –Today's radio broadcast is from generous donations from the congregation. Thank you for your continuing support of this outreach ministry. Join us on Sunday

mornings on KNEI 103.5 at 8:30am. *Note: you have the option of selecting a hymn of your choice for the service you sponsor.*

We are still accepting pledges toward the Solar Project. Pledges may be made by filling out the forms on the table by the Narthex.

Decorah Performing Arts Boosters Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

The 40th Annual Northeast Iowa Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Saturday, November 1, from 9 am-4 pm at Decorah High School. This community event is free and open to the public. The event will showcase nearly 100 vendors offering a wide variety of handmade crafts, unique gifts.

Daylight Saving Time - End Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025

- **Time Change:** the clocks **go back one hour.**

Allamakee County 4-H Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction Sunday, November 2 at the Allamakee County Fairgrounds Pavilion from 8am to 12:30pm. Free Will Donation at the door. Menu: pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, juice, milk, and coffee. All proceeds benefit the Allamakee County 4-H program and development fees.

Burr Oak Lutheran Church Meatball Supper (drive-up only) Wednesday, November 5 4pm to 7pm. Tickets \$15 advance ticket sales appreciated. (see flyer on bulletin board for locations) Menu: meatballs, “real” mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, green beans, pumpkin pie.

Zion UCC in Waukon Fall Harvest Dinner Sunday, November 9, 10am until sold out. Dine in or Carry Out available \$16 for adults, \$8 per child 10 and under. Menu: Edgewood Locker's Glazed Sliced Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Apple Crisp or Pumpkin Pie Bar. Proceeds will be used by Zion's Sunday School and Confirmation Class to adopt families through the Relief Office Christmas Giving Tree.

Volunteers for Nov 2 service:

Ushers for November: 8:30am Linda & Dennis DeBuhr, Fred Oelberg
10:30am:

Greeters: 8:30am Todd & Marlene Hills 10:30am

Readers: 8:30am Blake Roe / 10:30am Lori Hesse

Comm Prep: 8:30am Dawn Teslow, Chris Ellickson/10:30am Wendy Bucheit

Comm Asst: 8:30am Bailey Benson, Randy Hesse, Vickie Larson/10:30am Lori Hesse

We will be hosting Pastor Mark Oehlert from Peosta, IA.

