

KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

10:00 am

P: Pastor

A: Assisting Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

PRELUDE

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Handbell Choir*

arr. D. Wagner

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

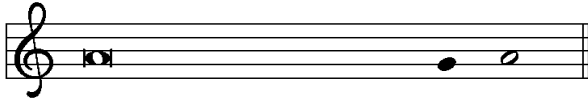
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504

THE GREETING

A 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.



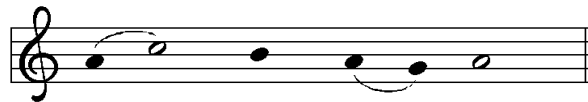
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



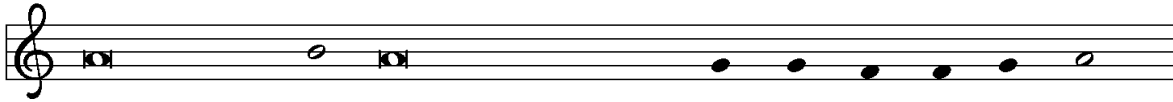
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

LET'S TALK

READING

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

L Now for the reading from Romans...

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. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

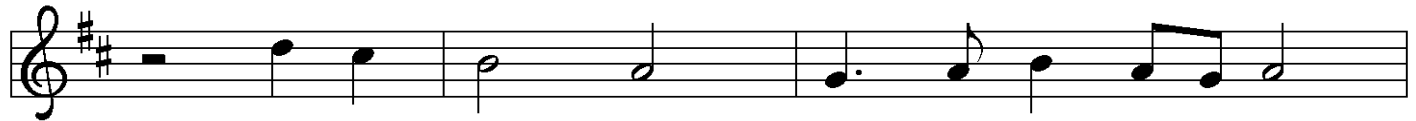
L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

L Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW S151a



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

C



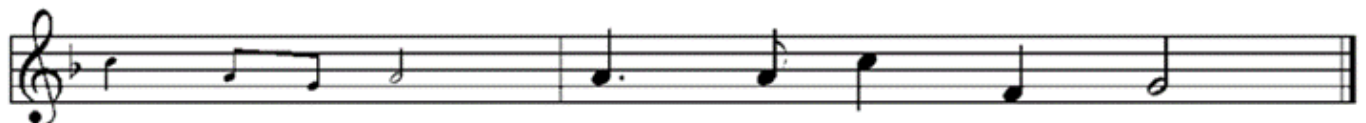
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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?’” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

ANTHEM

Lord, I Believe

Larry Shackley

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers at the font.

A These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

Their names are read.

P Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

P Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

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, 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 into hell. 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.

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.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

A That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death:
Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be added.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

AFFIRMATION

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?

Each person responds:

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.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen

The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:

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

Each person answers: Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

Especially greet the children and youth.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

(Please stand, as able)

ELW 182

C

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C 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.

INVITATION

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**You may receive the Elements as the words are said:
*The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.***

COMMUNION HYMN

Come to the Table

ELW 481

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.



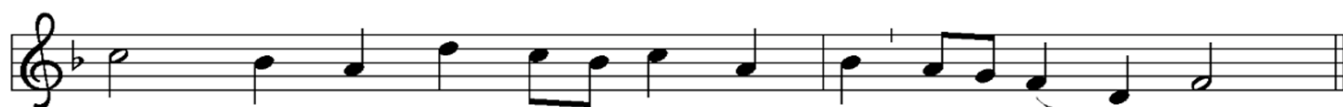
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation

arr. L. Smith

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

On this Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the reforms initiated by Martin Luther and others as they prayerfully moved the Church back to the Hope and Promises of the Gospel. We hope to continually proclaim the "Good News" of God's Love for us in Jesus Christ each and every time we worship in this place. A SPECIAL WELCOME to Visitors who are here with us - please take a moment to fill out the Information Card which you'll find in your bulletin today. We're glad you're here!

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Pastor John will begin a Fall Bible study on Tuesday, November 7th at 10:30 am. Classes will continue the following two weeks on November 14th and 21st. The Bible study will be on the Gospel of St. Mark (our Gospel for the upcoming Church Year.) Classes will be held in our sanctuary and will be live streamed and posted to our website later that day. This Bible Study is based on the book *A Guide to the Good News of St. Mark*, by Amy-Jill Levine. We hope you can join us!

THIS WEEK AT KIMBALL

Sunday 10/29

9:00 am Reception for Gail Mosher
10:00 am Combined Worship

Wednesday 11/01

6:30 pm Contemporary Ensemble

Thursday 11/02

5:00 pm Samaritan's Table

Sunday 11/05

8:30 am Contemporary Worship
9:45 am Adult Sunday School
10:00 am Faith Formation / Young Adult SS
11:00 am Traditional Worship
12:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal

RECEPTION FOR GAIL MOSHER

Earlier this morning we recognized our retiring Parish Assistant, Gail Mosher, who was here with us at Kimball Memorial for 19 years. We are grateful for Gail's skill and expertise in this position, but more so for her love and support of this parish and our staff during her long service with us. She will be missed - but we rejoice with her and husband, Wayne, as they begin this new chapter of life in retirement! Peace and Blessings to you both in this new endeavor!

PRAYERS

OUR PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY AND LOVE are with Alice Lloyd at the death of her brother, Ben Fesperman. Funeral services were held this past Friday at Concordia Lutheran Church in China Grove. We remember the Hope and Promise of the Gospel.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND BEST WISHES are extended to Hunter and Holden Patterson, at their recent wedding. Hunter is a life-long member of the church, and is the son of Kimball Memorial Members Tim and Fran Patterson, and the grandson of Pastor Emeritus David and Diana Keck. We rejoice with the family at this happy time!

CONFIRMATION

We are pleased to confirm four of our young people. They are: **Von Blocker** - grandson of Lisa Stirewalt; **Gracie Matheny** - daughter of Milton and Sherri Matheny; **Taylor Murph** - daughter of Nathan and Kathryn Murph; and **Abbey Schmitt** - daughter of Trevor and Susan Schmitt. Each of these members also have grandparents and other family members who are active and involved at Kimball Memorial. We will also be confirming **Paul Smith** - who had an out of town commitment today - at a later date this year. We rejoice with these confirmands and their families at this important and meaningful time!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the five confirmands by the Congregation and Staff of Kimball Lutheran Church.

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

All names will remain on the prayer list for 2 weeks only, unless resubmitted.

KIMBALL MEMBERS

Mike and Laura Abernathy
Sylvia Anderson
Becky Brantley
Sharon and Doug Brothers
Brenda Brown
Mabel Brown
Buttner Family
Florence Calandra
Jean Davis
Mary Dorton
Lisa and Eddie Dunlow
Teresa Erwin
Caleb Falls
Ava Farris
Shelly Farris
Judy Ferguson
Liz Fisher
Fran and Keith Garver
Todd Haley
Judi and Bob Hill
Tim and Huyla Jackson
David and Diana Keck, Sr.
Eric and Jenny Jones
Steve Lynch
Ed MacTaggart
Dianne Marlin
Margaret McCombs
Taylor and Kaylee Murph
Hunter and Holden Patterson
John Patterson
Marty and Perriann Payne
John Pendleton
Louise Propst
Andy, Lisa, Grace, and Blake
Robinson
Joe Saullo
Juanene Savage
Kathy and Cliff Scott
Betty Shaver
Roger Sizemore
Conrad Sloop
Earlene Snipes
Mary Jo Snipes
Gaye St. John
Sarah Teumer
Randy Triece
John Troutman

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Fay Absher / Dana Absher
Kelly Bamm
Teresa Beaver
Hans Bengston
DeBerry and Judy Blackwelder
Dennis Blackwelder
LeaAnn Buckwell
Mike Burr
Darrin Carr
Alice Chase
Family of Jacob Cole
Annie Corriher
Tim Cox
Duplisan Family
Family of Ben Fesperman
Will Fesperman
Jordan Fiala
Brandt Goodnight and Family
Tommy Graves
Judy Harmon
Sylvia Harrington
Jeff Hearn
Annette Heller
Sonya Helms
Mike Hollander
Helen Holt
Michael Hunter
Betty Ingram
Beth Jennings
Phyllis Lee
Suzanne Lent
Jim Measmer
Wayne Mosher
Kaylee Murph
Pam North
Family of Alice Olenchuk
Mable Packer
Paul Parker
Sharon Pasniewski
Denise Pegram
Celeste Pierce
John Poston
Nancy Quinn
Bobby Reynolds
Gary Ritchie
Gerri Ruane
Alisha Ryan
Allen Scott
Jerry Sellers
Kay Simmons
Natalie Valdez
Vicky
Gary Walter
Buck and Judy Wingler
Barbara Wise

MILITARY

- Robert Busteed, Jr. (Virginia)
- Andrew Smith (Arizona)
- Chris Kirchner (Missouri)
- Ben Kirchner (Georgia)
- Preston Mays (Maryland)
- Chris Overcash (NC)
- Christopher Bame (California)
- Mike Peterson (Virginia)
- Keith Lee (NC)

DURING THE LONG PENTECOST SEASON

We will be remembering in prayer all of the 195 ELCA Congregations in NC.

We'll also be praying weekly for:

- Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton
- NC Synod Bishop, Timothy Smith
- All Pastors, Deacons and leaders of Lutheran congregations in the NC Synod.

Today, we are praying for:

- Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, Vale
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Vale
- Grace Lutheran Church, Washington
- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Waxhaw
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Welcome

PRAYERS-SPECIAL NEEDS

If you know of a member of the congregation who is hospitalized, sick, or has special needs, contact:

Church Office @ 704-933-4101
Pastor John Futterer @ 704-699-2547
Deacon Liz Fisher @ 704-713-1758.

HOSPITALIZED

Ed MacTaggart - Atrium Cabarrus, dismissed

Roger Sizemore - Rehab at Trinity Oaks, Salisbury

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October 29, 2023

LECTOR

10:00 am Darian Miller

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

10:00 am Liz Fisher

ACOLYTE

10:00 am Hunter Murph

COUNCIL ASSISTANTS

10:00 am Tony Lippard and Ben Hesley

COMMUNION PREPARERS

10:00 am Liz Wise

HEALING PRAYER MINISTER

10:00 am Anne Futterer

GREETER

10:00 am Shirley Miller

PROJECTION/SOUND

10:00 am David Taylor and Nathan Carpenter

TELLERS

Tim and Huyla Jackson

REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING	
October 22, 2023	
Attendance	131
GENERAL FUND	\$ 8,813.00
OTHER	\$ 275.00

KIMBALL'S BOOK CLUB INFORMATION

Tuesday Morning Book Club

Date: November 7th 10:00 am

Location: Church Parlor

Book: *Orphan #8* by Kim van Alkemade

Tuesday Night Book Club

Date: November 7, 6:30 pm

Host: Sally Peterson

Book: *Orphan #8* by Kim van Alkemade

Friday Night Book Club

Date: November 17, 6:30 pm

Host: Tim and Fran Patterson

Book: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus



ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

Kimball provides a number of different options for our congregation to electronically present their offerings to the church.

BILL PAY – Most banks today offer a bill payment service with recurring feature. Individuals can set up their offering as a bill, and a check will be issued from that account and mailed to Kimball. The frequency of the check issuance and the amount of the check is determined by the individual and is easily changed.

TITHE.LY (through kimballchurch.org) – By going to our church website, individuals can present offerings through an electronic service provided by Tithe.ly. The offerings can be set up as a one-time event or as recurring. There is a charge for this service and the individual has the option of paying the charge, or the amount will be deducted from the offering when sent to Kimball. Electronic offerings set up by our previous provider, Vanco, will remain in place and the change to Tithe.ly will have no impact on these items. If you would like any more information about any of these options, or assistance in getting one of the options set up, please contact any member of the finance team, or the church office.

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

ITEMS WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF:

- Ramen Noodle/Instant Noodle cups and packs
- Assorted single serve chips/Cheetos/Doritos
- Single serve/small jars of peanut butter
- Ketchup packets or small bottles of ketchup
- Combs/Brushes

RUNNING LOW:

- Applesauce
- Feminine products (Tampons)
- Plastic forks/spoons
- Fruit Cups
- Bars of Soap

WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF:

- Oatmeal
- Potted Meat/Vienna Sausages
- Nutri-Grain bars
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Thanks!

Kara Hardister / Kathy Hunter

Please place your items in the old Joe Gribble Sunday School Classroom on the first floor of the educational building.



FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Canned chicken
- Macaroni & cheese, pasta (other than spaghetti), rice
- Other canned meats (hash, chili, vienna sausages, etc.)
- Canned peas, carrots, potatoes, and mixed vegetables
- Pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, soup, and shelf stable milk
- Any kind of canned beans (baked, chili, kidney, etc.) except pintos
- Any canned fruit (mixed, pears, pineapple, etc.)
- Toilet paper and paper towels

As always, they especially seek low sodium, no sugar-added, and whole grain items.

Currently, they have plenty of: tuna, green beans, corn, canned tomatoes, pinto beans, spaghetti, and canned peaches.

Please place your items in the containers on the ramp. Thank you!

THANKS AND THANKSGIVING November 19 at 10:00 am

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, November 19th for our annual Stewardship Service - one service at 10:00 am with Pastor Delmer Chilton as our guest preacher. Our children and youth will be helping to serve the meal that follows the service - we do hope you'll plan to join us!

COLUMBARIUM CHAPEL

The Columbarium Chapel has been painted and the slate floor cleaned in preparation for the niche cabinet installation. This phase is projected to be completed by the end of the year. Niches are still available. Contact Keith Garver for more information.

KIMBALL STAFF

Rev. John Futterer, Senior Pastor
pastor@kimballchurch.org

Deacon Liz Fisher, Minister of Word & Service
youth@kimballchurch.org

Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator
churchoffice@kimballchurch.org

Dr. Don Simmons, DSM, Music Director
(Chancel Choir / Handbells) and Accompanist
musicdon2@yahoo.com

Rev. Dr. David Keck, Pastor Emeritus
Mabel Brown, Parish Worker Emerita

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 19TH ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM



Just a reminder that letters and intent cards will be mailed very soon to all our members for our Stewardship Campaign for this year. Our theme is: ***Lasting Legacy – Gifts that Change Lives.*** We're asking that you bring these commitment cards with you for our ONE worship service on November 19th at 10:00.

Please read your letters carefully, as they explain what our focus will be in this new year of Serving and Giving. A Commitment “tool” will be included in the mailing, and we have high hopes that our members will step up a level in their giving for the new year. If you have any questions about our Stewardship goals or needs, please contact Pastor John for more information. We appreciate the strong Stewardship in this congregation – your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. THANK YOU for your faithfulness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ...and to Christ's Church in this place!

PASTOR DELMER CHILTON IS OUR STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY GUEST



We're so pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton to our pulpit on November 19th as our Stewardship Preacher for 2023. Pastor John quotes Delmer often in his own sermons...always beginning the quote by saying “My friend, Delmer...” Pastor Chilton – along with his friend Pastor John Fairless – produces a very popular weekly podcast for preachers known as “*Two Bubbas and a Bible!*” He has authored numerous books and articles about the art of preaching, and his sermons are strong, memorable, and – most of all – faithful to the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Delmer grew up on a farm near Mount Airy, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, completed his Master of Divinity degree at Duke University Divinity School, and did post-graduate work at our Southern Seminary in Columbia. Having previously served for five years as a United Methodist Minister, Delmer has pastored Lutheran congregations in North Carolina (including Lutheran Chapel in China Grove), Georgia, and Tennessee. He was the Chaplain and Continuing Education Director at the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC, and served as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Delmer has been married to Deborah since 1974. They have two sons: Lowell is married to Kate and they are Lutheran Pastors serving in Albany, NY; Joseph is married to Crystal and they are attorneys working in Murphy, NC. Joseph and Crystal have one son, 5 year old Luke.

CONFIRMATION

It was our pleasure to confirm five of our young people – four on Reformation Sunday and one on November 5th. These young people have completed two years of Confirmation classes in our local cluster and a week of Confirmation Camp at Lutheridge with Deacon Liz and Pastor John.

They are: Von Blocker – grandson of Kimball Memorial Member Lisa Stirewalt; Gracie Matheny – daughter of Milton and Sherri Matheny and granddaughter of Kimball Memorial Members Jerry and Pat Beam; Taylor Murph – daughter of Nathan and Kathryn Murph and granddaughter of Kimball Memorial Members Mike and Kathy Hunter; Abbey Schmitt – daughter of Trevor and Susan Schmitt and loved and supported by Kimball Members and relatives Lisa and Kayell Schmitt; and Paul Smith – son of Lauren and Craig Nichols and grandson of Kimball Memorial Members Danny and Susan Sloop. We rejoice with these families at this special time in their lives, as they affirmed their faith and became adult members of our congregation.

LUTHER AND LUTHERANISM



Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, “captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans.”

In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. “I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God.” Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a “merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates.”

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God’s mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, “Faith is God’s work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times.”

This discovery set Luther’s life on a new course —both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God’s unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society.

<https://www.elca.org/faith/elca-teaching/luther-and-lutheranism>