**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 31, 2021**

Reformation Day

**Introduction to the day**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Free, Indeed?**

Today the scriptures tell us that God’s grace comes freely, as a gift. But is anything really free? Advertisements claiming “free” goods or services pique our attention: What’s the catch? What does the small print say? Even beyond the world of commerce, we know that nothing comes without a price: time and sacrifice are required for a scholarship to college, a promotion at work, a happy marriage, a worry-free retirement. Our worthiness and success can seem to hang on our ability to perform, to do well, to get things right, to excel. Even with those closest to us—friends, coworkers, and family members—we may feel just one mistake or misstep away from losing their approval. In such a world, is God any different?

Yet before we were even born, before our first exam or job interview, before our first failure or sin, before our first fight or our first loss, Jesus Christ hung on a cross to be a sign that God’s grace is free indeed. To his cross he drew every cost, every pain, every judgment, every failure—and what poured forth was only love, as pure gift. In his cross, there is no catch or small print; there is simply the divine love that has been there for us all along. This is the love of a God who made the world and called it good. It is the love of a God who formed us and gave us life. It is the love of a God who sees us, suffers with us, and binds up all our wounds.

Child of God, God loves you, deeply and freely. As an assembly, we are gathered by this truth. We practice it in the font and at the table, through our words and in our offerings. It calls us to always be reformed so God’s grace and love may pour forth through us into the world, free of charge.

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Announcements**

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the recent continued dramatic increase in positive COVID case rates in the city and county, it is necessary that everyone must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, during worship and all other in-person gatherings at Faith Lutheran Church. This policy is necessary for us to continue having in-person gatherings and we appreciate your participation and understanding. If you have forgotten your mask, please raise your hand and the ushers will provide one.

Sunday, October 31st: New Member Sunday!

Wednesday: Bible Study leaders meet at 9:30 in person

Thursday: Call to Prayer & Worship meets at 4:00 by Phone and Zoom

Friday: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Other:  Let's talk a bit about the Faith Lutheran Bucket Toss! Did you notice that the narthex looks a little different? It’s filled with displays of our ministry areas. There is a bucket set in front of each display – just waiting for the tokens you and I are going to toss in. The Bucket Toss is a 3-step process. Step 1: go to your church mailbox, and take out the plastic baggie that contains wooden tokens with your name on them. Step 2: go to the ministry areas you are interested in volunteering for or would like more information about. Step 3: toss one token into each of the buckets of your choosing. You don’t have to decide today. The Bucket Toss will be ready for you from now through November 14th. If you don't have a mailbox, you'll find a bowl full of blank tokens you can put your name on.

If you would like to order poinsettias, please be sure to complete the form put in your mail box and return it to church no later than November 14th.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**Welcome New Members!**

Pastor: We are here this morning to welcome these new members into our community of Faith Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Faith Lutheran Church? If so please answer: “We do.”

I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen**

Pastor:

Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

**Congregation:**

**We welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in God’s name.**

**New Members:**

**We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation.**

Pastor:

We welcome you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and present you with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to help you on your journey in faith.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing to us these new members to Faith Lutheran Church. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that others may come to know you through our interactions and through your ever-present love and grace. We pray all of this in the name our Savior Jesus Christ,

**All: Amen**

Pastor:

Let us welcome our new members as they return to their seats!

Farewell and Godspeed to Gale Eury

**And now please turn to page 504**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric)* (ELW 504)**

**TEMPLE TALK:** God's Gift of Talents by Andrew Quinn

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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.

**Amen.**

**Word:** God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading:** A reading from Jeremiah.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

1God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

3though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

5God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

6**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

7The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8**Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;** 9behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

11The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Amen.**

**Second Reading:** A reading from Romans.

19Now 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31Jesus 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to page 631**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)**

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**Creed: 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.**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God’s creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places (especially). Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (especially). Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation (especially). Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Susan Aldrich; Boss Anderson; Gloria Anderson; Arnette Calkins; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Joni Gray; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Patsy Loughboro; the McGavran and Hicks families; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron Neumen; Tina Peteroski and family; Andrew Quinn; the family of Erin Quinn; Edy Rose; JoAnne Schriock; Dee Seel; Sharon Seims; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones. At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship. This month we are highlighting the ministry of Stewardship, especially this year’s emphasis "Let your light shine – to the glory of God!" It is as Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

...Your offering, gathered in praise of God, helps this ministry by...

This month, we will hear during worship from three Faith members about how God has worked and continues to work in their lives, and how they respond to God’s generosity through their gifts of time and energy, talents and skills, and monetary giving.

Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times

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.

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

**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 to Communion:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page 660**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song*Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)**

**REMINDER ABOUT THE TOKEN TOSS**

As a reminder, the ushers will release you when the service is over. Please do not congregate in the narthex, but if you need to have further conversation with anyone, please do so outside.

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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