Reformation Sunday

October 25th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

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WELCOME

(*) Please stand as you are comfortable and able

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany for Reformation Sunday

P: We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit whose light brought new understanding of both the Living Word and the written Scripture.

C: We give thanks for the reminder of consistent grace and mercy from God through Jesus Christ.

P: Generous God, we thank You for open hearts that were prepared to hear and receive the good news of freedom in Christ.

C: We remember the lives that struggled to reform the Church and that have been lost throughout history in the name of religion for daring to believe.

P: We thank You for the presence of Jesus Christ — in us, with us, and for us — and for the support of the Holy Spirit, ever-transforming us.

C: God of stability and change, out of compassion for your whole creation, reform our hearts, minds, and lives by the power of your love. Amen.

*Hymn #503 "A Mighty Fortress"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

P: 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.**

The First Reading ~ Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy. The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in God who forgets.

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

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

Psalm 46 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

1 God 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;
3 though 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.
[5] God 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.
[7] The 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;
[9] behold 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."
[11] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The Second 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.

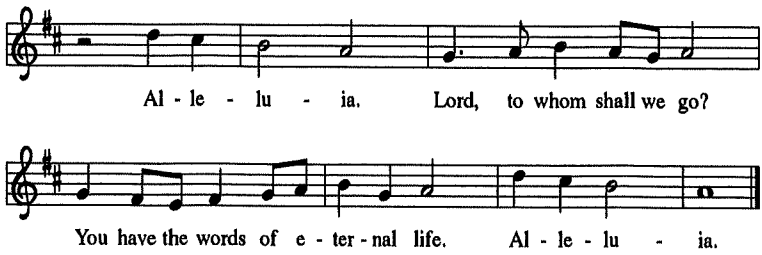
[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[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 for all who believe. 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 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.

[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.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ John 8: 31-38

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

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

[31] 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Patti Hoyt

*Hymn #652 "Built On a Rock"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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

*The Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God ... **Your mercy is great.**

Anthem "The Reformation Polka"

Blessing of the Communion Elements 

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

P: 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."

The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth. Young children who do not yet receive the sacrament are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a butterfly cracker.

Post-Communion Prayer and Benediction

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: Depart as reformers energized by God, Jesus, and the Spirit! Stand firm in the freedom of the Gospel, live as bold witnesses of God's redeeming grace, and let your light shine in a world still waiting to be made new. May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn #729 "The Church of God ..."

*Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Music

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No formal offering is taken during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex hallway to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

thank you

... to Kay Sheerer for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna & Dan Brucker, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Harlan, Bill Hechler, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Andrew Trump, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones we name before God. ✞

~ Today is Cancer Awareness Sunday ~

Giving thanks for those who have survived and remembering those who fought the good fight.





Have you marked your calendar for our next **Soup & Bake Sale and Basket Raffle** this Sat., October 31st?

(9am-noon in the fellowship hall)

Once again, Friedens will be serving as a polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd. We will be holding a Bake Sale that day. A light lunch may also be purchased.





A BIG "thank you" to everyone who donated coats to benefit the clients of Betty Lou's Pantry!