

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 3rd - 8th, 2025

Mon 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 The Lord brings about a reformation through King Josiah. During a Temple repair project, the Book of the Covenant is found. Josiah has it read and all the people pledge to follow it.

Tues Psalm 46 This is the basis for the reformation hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God." Surely it is God Himself who upholds His people and gives them strength to stand firm when everything else is shaking.

Wed Luke 15:25-32 When the older son learns of the celebration held for his repentant brother's return, he is angry (v28) and points to his many years of service (v29) as a better reason for joyful celebration.

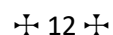
Thurs Revelation 2:1-7 The Lord's message to the church in Ephesus commends them for their opposition to evil, but reproves them for their lack of love toward repentant brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fri 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elisha's pledge to stay with Elijah is tested several times as Elijah nears his final day upon earth. Elisha requests his mentor's spirit as his inheritance, and God grants it as he bids farewell.

Sat Proverbs 6:6-11 Just because the Lord provides our every need does not mean that we should leave unused the strength and abilities He has given us. Even the animals whom God feeds also gather provisions.



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Reformation Sunday

November 2nd, 2025

Liturgy: Reformation Liturgy

Organist: Kathy Lueck



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #266

"O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 119; TLH #261:1

P Oh LORD, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

C **You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**

P I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

C **I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts.**

P How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C **Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

P Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

C *♪ Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who vain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.*

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 2; TLH #261:2

P Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

C **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,**

P Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

C **"Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."**

P He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.

C **Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:**

P "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

What is a Lutheran? Many Christians today might not know what a Lutheran is. "Is that a cult?" "What's the difference between that and Christian?" While we proudly bear the name "Lutheran," that does not mean we worship Martin Luther. In 1519, "Lutheran" was a derogatory slur used against Martin Luther by the German Scholastic theologian Dr. Johann Eck during their debate in Leipzig, Germany. The Catholics followed the practice of naming a heretical group after its leader, and so Eck and all Catholics began using "Lutheran" as an offensive word to describe anyone who followed the teachings of Martin Luther.

What were those teachings? Simply put, they're God's teachings—that we are saved by God's free **Grace Alone**; justified through **Faith Alone** apart from our works; and the basis for our hope of salvation is **Scripture Alone**. These ought to be truths eagerly proclaimed by anyone who would call themselves Christian; sadly that is not the case. Nevertheless, this is what we believe and hold fast to, not because it was taught by Luther, but because it was taught by Christ Himself.

So what is a Lutheran? A Lutheran is a Christian. A Lutheran believes strongly that all Christian teachings should come from the Bible, because it is the very Word of God. A Lutheran believes that God's Word ought to be taken very seriously, as everything God says is correct and true. A Lutheran recognizes what God teaches us in His Word: that we are all sinners deserving damnation in hell, but that we are forgiven solely because Christ died to take away our sins. A Lutheran believes that this free gift of salvation is acquired by the individual through faith in Jesus as Savior—and that this faith only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, as God tells us! In short, a Lutheran is a follower of Christ who depends entirely upon His grace and redeeming work, totally apart from any works, feelings, or decisions that we could attempt to contribute! *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast!"* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

10/19 Voters' Meeting Summary – Jacob Olmanson was transferred at his request to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato. <> Stephanie Lau (Kazemba) was transferred at her request to Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor has four ongoing adult instruction classes. <> The School Board has appointed a committee to look into the feasibility of offering pre-school at St. John's. <> The trustees will be purchasing an additional over-the-ear microphone in preparation for the Joint Mission Festival. <> The Finance Board will be finding an individual to audit the church finances. <> The Joint Mission Festival will be Sunday, November 9th at 4 pm. The Sunday morning worship and Sunday School/Bible class hours were cancelled for that Sunday. <> Thanksgiving Day worship will be held Thursday, November 27th at 9:30 am. <> The midweek Advent services will be moved up a half hour from the usual 7 pm time. The three midweek services (Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th) will be held at 6:30 pm. <> The Christmas Eve service is scheduled for December 24th at 6:30 pm. <> The Christmas Day service will be held on December 25th at 9:30 am. <> The New Year's Eve service will be held on December 31st at 7 pm.

Ushers	11/2	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	11/9	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	11/16	Kendall B, Larry B.
Cleaning	This Week – The Strikes (wk. 3)	
	Up Next – Ling, Sumey, Rovere	

**☩ Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.**

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 31; TLH #261:3

- P** In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.
- ☩ Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge a fortress of defense to save me.**
- P** For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.
- ☩ Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength.**
- P** Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.



**☩ O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.**

- P** God our Father has preserved His Word for us. It is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Our Lord Jesus has made His power known. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father and will come to judge the world. God the Holy Spirit has extended God's grace to us through Word and Sacrament. But we have not kept the Word of our Lord. I now ask you, therefore, before God who searches the heart: Do you confess the sins you have committed in thought, word, and deed; do you repent of them, believe on the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to lead a godly life from now on?

☩ I do so confess, believe, and intend with the help of God.

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto you. In the stead of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Let us praise our gracious God!

G *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.



Revelation 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim

to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."



Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so

that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law

until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college, and consider continuing your education in a solidly Christian setting! Visitors will be our guests for lunch and supper in the cafeteria, and in the evening are invited to join us for ILC's fall theatrical production, *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*. Speak with your pastor if you're interested in attending. For questions, contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: 715-836-6636, cell: 253-228-8736, e-mail: paul.naumann@ilc.edu

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip – The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

CLC Call News – Mrs. Dawn Mayhew has asked for a **peaceful release** from her call as teacher at Redeemer Ev. Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. <> Pastor Emeritus Paul Tiefel, Jr. has **returned** the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has **received** the call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Professor Mark Weis has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Matthew Ude of Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has **received** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.

The Benediction

followed by the "Amen" from TLH 458:9

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C *♪ Amen, that is, So shall it be.*

Confirm our faith and hope in Thee

That we may doubt not, but believe

What here we ask we shall receive.

Thus in Thy name and at Thy word

We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!

Closing Hymn: TLH #262

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



November 9th Worship Schedule – We will be hosting the MN Joint Mission Fest on November 9th at 4:00 pm. The Voters of St. John's have decided to have only one service that day, the Joint Mission Fest. As such, there will be no Bible Class/Sunday School or 10:30 am worship on Sunday, November 9th.

St. John's Veterans Day Program – St. John's School is putting on a Veterans Day program, presented by the school children, on November 11th at 10:30 am here at St. John's. There will be songs, recitations, recognition of veterans, and refreshments. All are welcome, and please feel free to invite guests!

Free for the Taking – A number of boxes of items were donated to the church and are free for the taking. Everything is in the hallway downstairs. Feel free to take a look and see if there is anything you can use! Thank you!

Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day is coming up on Friday, November 14th on the ILC campus in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits



and the Prophets bear witness to it-- ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.



John 8:31-36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Confession of Faith

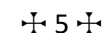
Justification by Faith

We boldly confess what we believe using the following words from the Formula of Concord — on Justification by Faith.

"We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God:

A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own.

*Grace Alone
Faith Alone
Scripture Alone*



This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel.

Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God's gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved."

Choir

"Sine Nomine"

Hymn: TLH #373

"By Grace I'm Saved"



Romans 1:17

For in [the Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."



The Gospel Declares the Scales "Righteous"

- I. Without Christ, they're anything but
- II. With Christ, there isn't any doubt!



The Offertory

TLH p. 22

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- ☩** *♫ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #377:1-6

"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

Responsive Reformation Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

- P** For sending your Son to rescue the human race from sin, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- G** For sending your Spirit to lead us to repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- P** For teaching us that our righteous acts are filthy rags, We thank and praise You also, O Lord, for the gift of Jesus' righteousness.
- G** For guiding women and men like Martin Luther to understand the scriptural truth, "The just shall live by faith," We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- P** For blessing the spread of the gospel through the Reformation during these last 508 years, We thank and praise You, O Lord.
- G** For loyalty to hold to Your truth and remain Your true disciples, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.
- P** For boldness to confess Your truth in a fallen world, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.
- G** For zeal to spread the message of salvation in Christ alone, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.
- P** And with grateful hearts we raise our voices to proclaim,
- G** "The just shall live by faith." Amen.
- P** And we unite in singing the Lord's Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer *Sung to the Tune of "How Firm a Foundation"*

- ☩** *♫ Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us From heaven's high throne.*

*The bread that we yearn for Provide us each day;
As we forgive others, Our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear,*

*For yours is the kingdom; O'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; All things You maintain.
To You be the glory, Resounding again
From all of creation, Forever! Amen.*