



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Affirmation of Faith & Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Pastor Calvin Honop, Presiding
Jess Christenson, CWF Director

Barina Roth & the Average Worship Band, Musical Leaders
218-367-2227 blc@boreal.org sharingchrist.org

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Introduction

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.

Prelude *More Love, More Power* **Average Worship Band**

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✚ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Tune: ELW 504

A Mighty Fortress Is Thy Love

By Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee



A mighty fortress is thy Love, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper still, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still an ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
A craft and power great, of fear and cruel hate,
Alone, we cannot equal.

Did we in mortal strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Without the One who dwells inside, the Light of Life infusing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ now, eternally;
With many Earthly Names, from age to age the same,
And Love must heal the battle.

And though this world, with evils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for Love hath willed a truth to triumph through us.
The Hour of Darkness grim; we tremble not within;
This rage we can endure, for lo, its end is sure,
One little word brings healing.

That word above all transient powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Love, who ever guideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
A body they may kill; this Truth abideth still:
Love's kin-dom is forever.

Greeting

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.**

Prayer of the Day

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.



Children's Time

Jess Christenson

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!*

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

Psalm 46

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.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

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

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.

Praise Song *Here on Jesus Christ I will Stand* ACS 1024

Gospel **John 8:31-36**

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.”

Sermon **Pastor Calvin Konop**

Affirmation of Baptism **ELW page 234**

Sharing the Peace

Prayers of God's People

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *(A brief silence.)*

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to

continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering

Love is Here by The Many

Average Worship Band

Offering Prayer

God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

ELW page 190

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.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! All are welcome!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.

Communion Music

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Born Reborn

ACS 956

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Average Worship Band



Prayer Requests: This week we lift up these members: Gene Erickson, Mary Sanders, Ed Hedstrom, Milly Gestel, Bonnie, Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Char Anderson, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen, & Loretta Bloomquist

This week we lift up these new members & their families: Tommy Kerntz, Eli Monson, Liam Gillespie, Lucy Kartes, and Ellen Lessard. *May God walk with these faithful friends as they live their gospel-filled lives.*

Pastor Calvin & Ashley will be celebrating their 10-year anniversary in Paris! They will be gone Nov. 2-15. Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis will be our guest preacher on Nov. 8 & 15. If you have pastoral needs while Pastor is gone, please contact the office 218-387-2227, or Denise's cell #218-370-1058.

Commemorations This Week:

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters. Monday, October 26, 2026. These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles. Wednesday, October 28, 2026. We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day, Friday, October 31, 2026 By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Day, Saturday, November 1, 2026 The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.



**Daylight
Savings Time
ends next
weekend.**

Next Sunday, Nov. 1: All Saints Sunday & Daylight Savings Ends! We will celebrate all saints who have gone before us this past year. We will remember with a slideshow of our loved ones.

Please remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday night.

This Week at Bethlehem:



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Sun Oct 25	Reformation/Confirmation 8:40 AM AWB practice 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School 3:30 PM Borealis Orchestra and 5:00 PM Chorale practice
Mon Oct 26	3:30 PM Girl Scouts
Tues Oct 27	8:30 AM Adult Ed class 9:30 AM Staff meeting 5:00 PM Girl Scouts
Wed Oct 28	12:30PM Text Study 5:30 PM Meal 6:00 PM Lefse making 6:30 PM Adult Ed Class
Thur Oct 29	8:00AM Bible Study 9:00AM Quilting 10:00 AM Jim W. in library
Sat Oct 31	5:00 pm Trunk or Treat
Sun Nov 1	8:40AM Choir practice All Saints Sunday 10:00AM Worship Service & Sunday School 3:30 PM Borealis Orchestra and 5:00 PM Chorale practice

Upcoming Events:

October 28: Lefse Making - Intergenerational Project, 6:00 pm

October 31: Barb Youngquist's Memorial Service 11:00 am (Joy Oberg's Hospitality Team)

October 31: Trunk or Treat 5:00-6:30pm at Community Center (Jess is organizing event. Please contact her to help &/or to donate candy.)

November 1: All Saints' Sunday and **Daylight Saving Time ends** (Fall back!)

November 13: Rye Bread Making Day

November 14: Lutefisk Dinner, 4:00 & 6:00 pm seatings Buy your tickets now! \$20/adult

December 5: Hanging of the Greens (Time to be determined)

Borealis Orchestra & Chorale: Practice times are 3:30pm for the Orchestra; and 5:00pm for the Chorale. Performances will be Dec. 11 & 12, 7:00pm.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons for the next Sunday. Zoom available

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

Help with Sunday Services:

sign up to help with worship using this QR Code.



Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. Come as you are able.

Grocery Cards are available from BLCW to community members who need help with food insecurity. Contact the office.

Traveler Cards are available from BLC to members of the community that need to travel out-of-town for medical appointments. Contact the office.

Bible Study: Women in the Life of Jesus. 8:30am Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm Open to all adults

Free Bibles Bethlehem has a supply of bibles for all ages including Lutheran Study Bible and young children's bibles. Please talk to Jess or Pastor if you would like one.

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(Forms are available online & the office.)