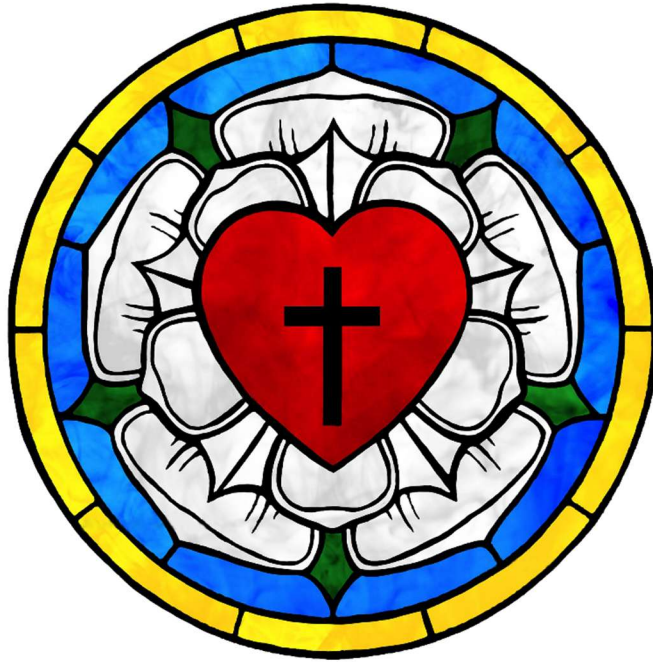




Luther's Rose

As was common practice at the time, Luther established a seal to identify himself: a cross on a heart in a rose. In a letter written in 1530, the same year the Augsburg Confession was given, Luther describes his seal in this way:

Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. "For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.

Grace Lutheran Church

736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, New York 14304
www.gracenf.org
Divine Service: Sunday 10:30 AM

Office (716) 283-1843
office@gracenf.org

Our Vision: Welcoming people to grow in hope, love, and certainty through God's Word of grace.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER 25, 2026 REFORMATION DAY

– based on Divine Service 1: LSB 151 –

Members and Guests: Please help us serve you by indicating your presence today, and any special needs, on the fellowship sheet in your bulletin & place in offering plate.

RESTROOMS are located in the parent's room (back of the church) and next to the parking lot door.

Welcome, Announcements

 **Hymn of Invocation: "Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"**

LSB 584

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Music found in LSB #155

C REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

Final Refrain

Luther's Morning Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

First Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1



C He will command his angels concerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*

and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle Reading

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



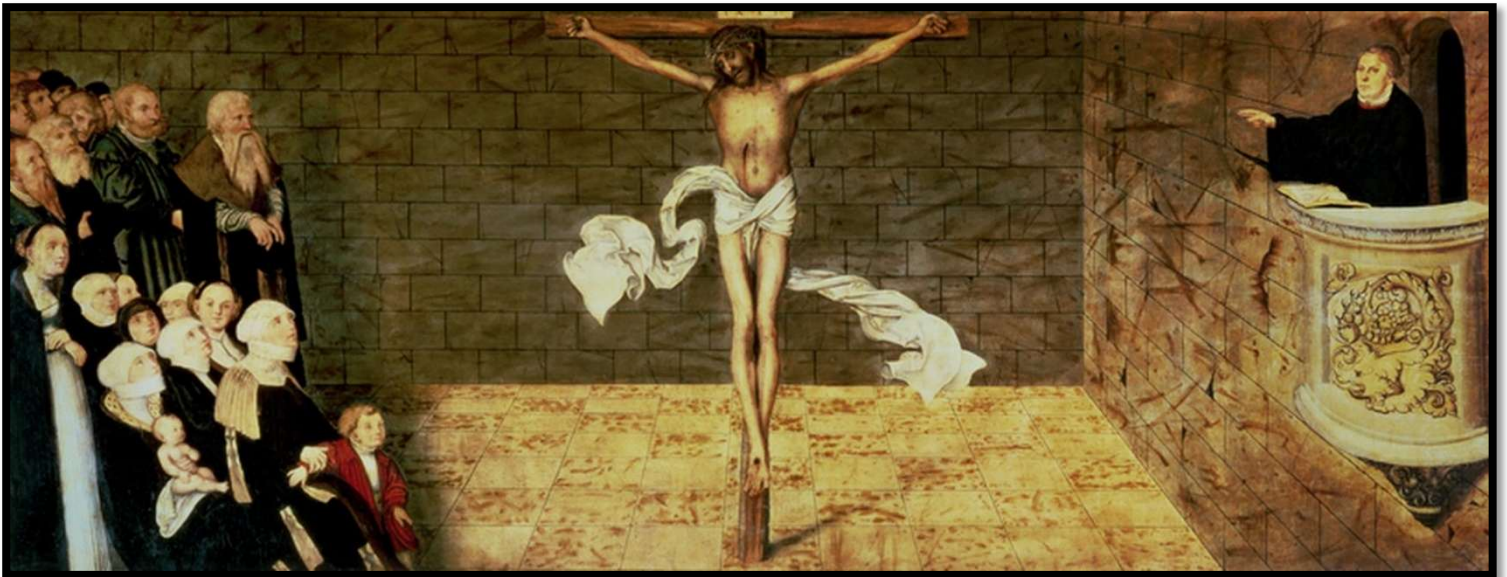
P ...This is the Gospel of the Lord.



 **Hymn of the Day: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

LSB 656

Sermon



Reformation Altarpiece (1547), by Lucas Cranach the Elder, depicts Martin Luther preaching Christ alone, as his hand rests on Holy Scripture. Cranach himself, along with Luther’s wife and son, can be seen in the congregation. This painting was installed a year after Luther’s death over the altar in St. Mary’s Church, Wittenburg, where he frequently preached.

P The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed: Sanctification

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

The Pastor will close each section: **P** Lord, in Your mercy,

Then please respond: **C** Hear our prayer.

Offering

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We believe what Jesus says about Holy Communion: that it is His body and blood, not symbolically but actually present, given to us for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible cautions that anyone who receives Communion without this understanding will be receiving it to their great harm.

For this reason, out of sincere love, we ask that those who commune at this altar are baptized Christians who, having been instructed in the faith, regret their sins and desire to receive Christ's real Body and Blood for forgiveness, trusting in God's Word as He revealed it in Scripture. If you are not a member of a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregation, please speak with the pastor before you commune.

If you are not communing today, you are welcome to come forward for a pastoral blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail. There is non-alcoholic white wine on each tray for those who require it. Finally, those who have difficulty walking may indicate such to an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

In the timeless tradition of the Christian church, the Common Cup is offered to all. If you desire to commune using the common cup, raise your hand as the individual cups approach, then assist the Elder by holding the chalice at its base and guiding it as you receive.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

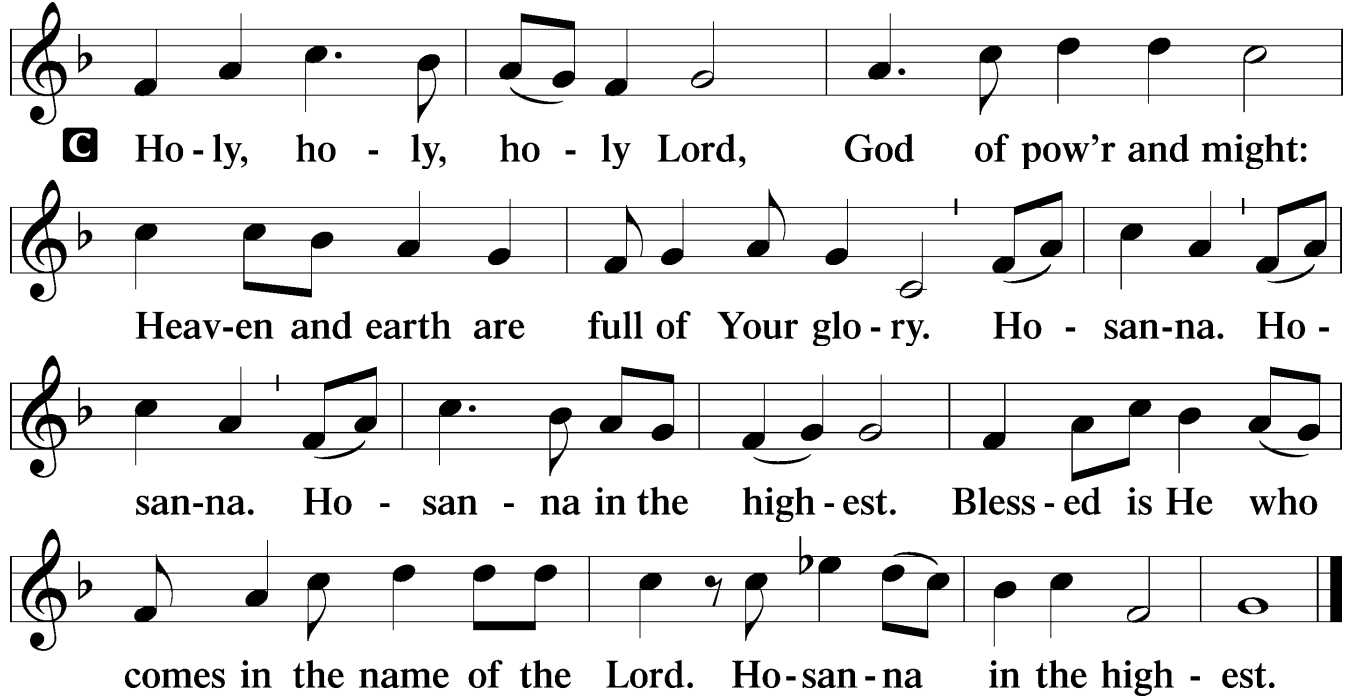
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have proclaimed an eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. For this Gospel, centered in Jesus Christ, we give You glory, and we worship You, who made heaven and earth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Dismissal

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Jesus bids us to pray: “Our Father.” What does this mean?

C With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

P Let us then pray as Christ has taught us.

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.

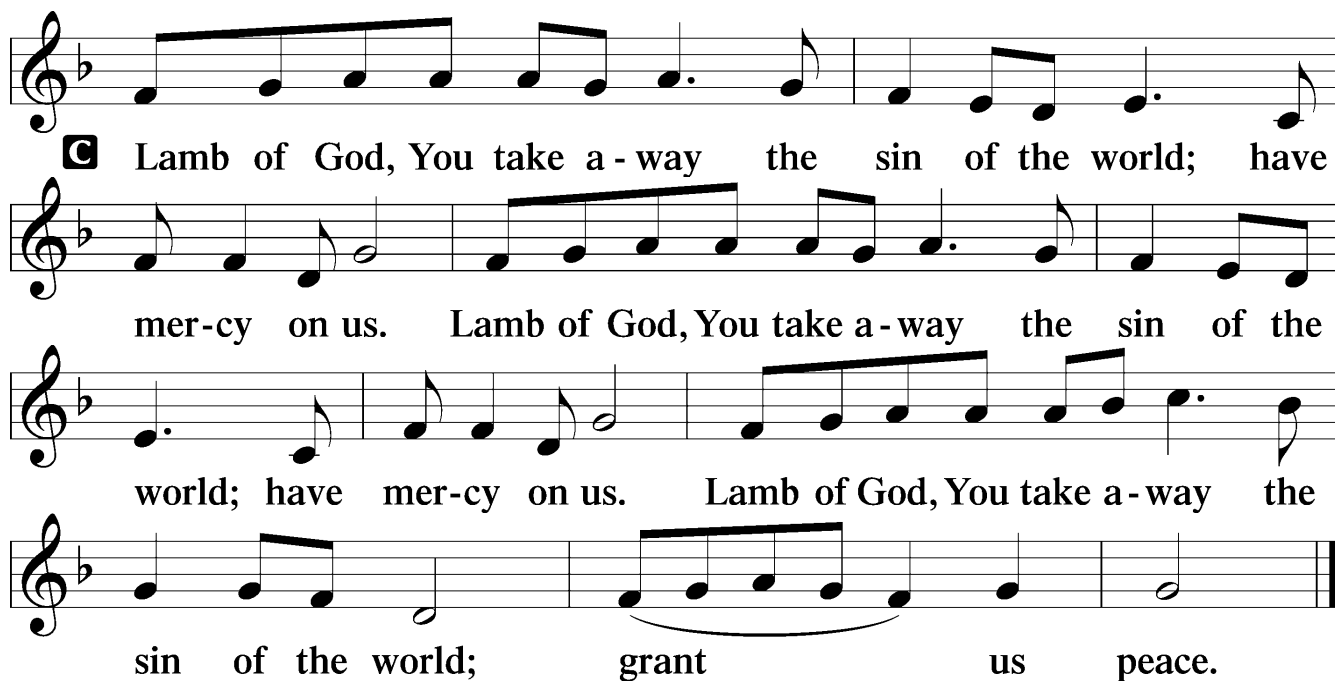
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn:

“O God of Mercy, God of Might”

LSB 852

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

LSB 554

Post-Communion Canticle

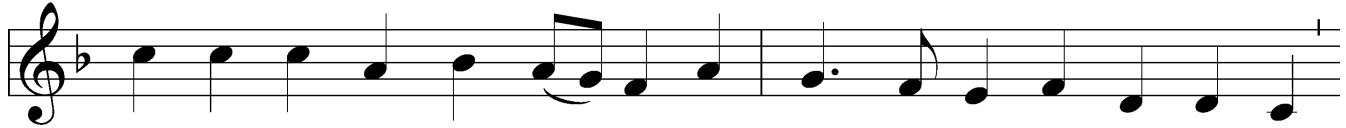
LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.



Sending Hymn: "Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578

Stanzas 1-3: All

Stanza 4: Women

Stanza 5: Men

Stanza 6: All

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

THOSE ASSISTING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor & Organist: Rev. Ben Bahr
Acolytes: Virginia Markel & Sherry Cassatt
Head Ushers: Mark Andrews & Neil Stenzel
Communion Assistants: Mark Binkley & Randy Broeker
Reader: Dillon Deskovic
Tech Crew: Mark Binkley & John Bahr
Altar Care: Sherry Cassatt & Virginia Markel

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY – 10/25/26 - REFORMATION

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship (HC)

MONDAY – 10/26/25

6:30 pm Survivors' Group

NEXT SUNDAY – 11/1/26 – ALL SAINTS' DAY

9:00 am Christian Education
10:30 am Worship (HC)

Statistics for the week of October 18, 2026

Worship Service: 73 Attended, 11 Views
Adult Education: 18
Youth Education: 10
Education Staff: 3

Offering: \$2,323.84

Mission of the Month: \$10.00

* Weekly budget needs \$4,206

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please submit new announcements
by **Thursday 10AM**: office@gracenf.org.
Office Hours 1st Sun 8:30-12:30, M/W/Th 10-2
GIVING: Options at www.gracenf.org*



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to glory to God for all of His blessings and the celebration of Sue Loss' 79th birthday on October 30, 2026. God continue to watch over you and keep you in his loving arms. Enjoy this special of yours, I love you – always have and always will. John

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS are Revelation 7:9-17, 1 John 3:1-3, and Matthew 5:1-12.

THANK YOU to all who supported this year's Trunk or Treat by hosting a trunk, helping with games and snacks, and donating candy. Your help made it possible to offer a safe, fun Halloween activity for our community. We couldn't have done it without you!

LAST CHANCE: October Mission Envelopes will support the Niagara Gospel Mission's "**FEED THE FALLS**" free Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. You can place your donation in today's offering plate, or donate online until Saturday by choosing "monthly mission". Niagara Gospel Mission anticipates that they will serve at least 2000 dinners this year for Thanksgiving, and more for Christmas. Our donations will help the Gospel Mission provide a nutritious holiday meal to everyone who walks through their doors.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES will have their final meeting of the year two weeks from today, November 8. We will meet for about an hour and lunch will be shared during the meeting. New members are welcome. (The Bills play the Vikings on Monday night that week, so no worries about being late for tailgating or kick-off!)

HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION: Our annual food drive to support St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Military Road will continue until the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Shopping lists of their most-needed items are located on the donation tables in the chapel and narthex, but all non-perishable food items are appreciated. **PLEASE** be sure your donations do not expire before the end of 2026.

TURKEYS AND HAMS donations are now being accepted to help our city's soup kitchens provide a holiday meal for those in need. They will be used by Community Mission, Lord's Day Dinner, Salvation Army, and Lighthouse (formerly Magdalene Project). Donations can be placed in the freezer in our basement kitchen. If you need help carrying, please ask an usher.

TWO WEEKS REMAIN to sign up to sponsor a **POTTER'S FIELD CHRISTMAS CHILD**. Many of the children that attend Potter's Field activities live in situations of poverty and neglect. Christmas gifts are not part of the life that they know. If you would like to help Potter's Field provide gifts for each of their children, **SIGN UP ON THE GLASS CASE BY NOVEMBER 8**. Virginia Markel will provide you with a child's name, age, and wish list for shopping ideas. Bring your wrapped gift(s) back to church marked with the child's name, and Virginia will make sure they get to Potter's Field.

**About the Cover**

The Reformation was all about abiding in the Word of our Lord. Martin Luther did just that during his rediscovery of the Gospel, which resides plainly in the Lord's words of forgiveness. This forgiveness has been won for us by Jesus' death on the cross and delivered to us in His words. His words come to us with the water of Baptism to bring the power of His presence. Because of His Word, wherever we go, we know that Jesus is there. Wherever Jesus is, we also have truth and freedom.

REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED)**First Reading:
Revelation 14:6–7**

⁶Then 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. ⁷And 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."

Epistle: Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the

redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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.

²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Holy Gospel: John 8:31–36

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."