

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Pianist

As Scheduled

Ministers All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



2026

October Worship Schedule

October 4 | 19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18 | 21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 25 | 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Reformation Sunday)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10



A Word from Pastor Matthew's Desk

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

The month of October is here and it signals the height and beauty of the fall season: glorious reds, oranges and yellows on the trees; cooler weather with crisp nights that foretell the coming of winter; finding that perfect pumpkin to decorate for Halloween. Autumn is my favorite time of year for all of these reasons and many more. It passes all too quickly!

In Lutheran circles, the month of October concludes with the festival of the Reformation, commemorating Martin Luther's posting of his famous 95 Theses on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany (http://reverendluther.org/pdfs/The_Ninety-Five_Theses.pdf). This occurred on October 31, 1517 – the Eve of All Saints Day on November 1. Why this particular day? Because many would be coming to church for special worship services on All Saints Day, and Luther's call for scholarly debate on the abuses of the Church of his day (especially the teaching of indulgences) would be noticed by colleagues and taken up for debate, as Luther proposed. The doors of the Castle Church served as the community bulletin, and so this was a logical place for Luther to post his 95 Theses. October 31 has come to be regarded by many as the unofficial beginning of the Reformation movement, although there were many others who called for reform prior to Luther. Conditions were ripe for change in Europe with the rise of nation states, exploration of the New World, and the beginning of the Renaissance. There was increasing frustration on the part of the faithful in much of Europe as their money went south to build the massive new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It is a known fact that the sale of indulgences was harnessed to raise funds for this enormous building project. It was especially for this last thing that Luther did what he did and wrote what he wrote. His concern was that God's people were being led astray. Instead of faith in the God who justifies for the sake of Christ, people's faith was in buying forgiveness of sins through the sale of indulgences. Faith had been reduced to "checking the box," a problem that plagues every generation of believers.

Here in America, the festival of the Reformation on October 31 has largely been overshadowed by Halloween, also on October 31. Because of this, the festival of the Reformation has largely been transferred to the last Sunday of October when the liturgical color is red, reminding us not only of the fire and power of the Holy Spirit, but also of the blood of the martyrs who gave their lives for the sake of the Gospel. A mainstay for Lutheran Christians on Reformation Sunday is the singing of Luther's powerful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Ein' feste Burg). The *Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns* puts this hymn in its historical context:

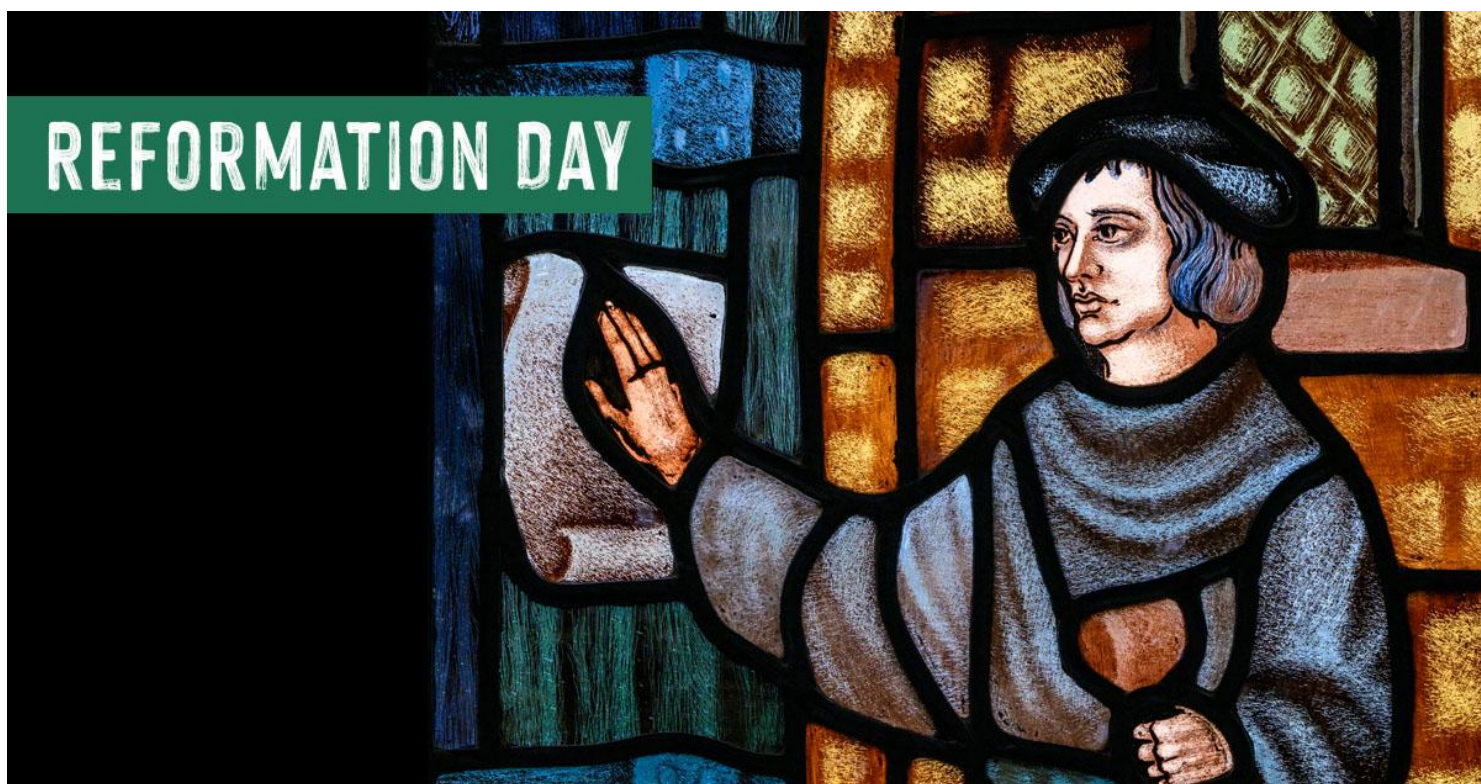
"A mighty fortress is our God" was most likely written sometime between 1527 and 1529, a period that saw an epidemic hit Wittenberg, a serious illness befall Martin Luther (1483-1546), Turkish forces threatening the German borders, further threats from Catholic armies, and theological attacks from both Catholics and more radical Protestants. The hymn is often called the "battle hymn of the Reformation," but in Luther's day, it was thought of in different terms, as can be seen from the heading on an Augsburg broadsheet of 1529: "A hymn of comfort" – something that was sorely needed at the time (Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns – Volume 1. St. Louis: Concordia, 2019; p. 836).

Luther's great hymn is based on Psalm 46 ([Psalm 46 ESV - God Is Our Fortress - To the - Bible Gateway](#)), which begins with this well-known and beloved verse: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Compare this with the first line of Luther's hymn:

*A mighty fortress is our God;
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken.*

The abiding truth of Luther's hymn continues to stir hearts and minds today with its powerful text and stirring music. There are two versions of the melody or tune for this hymn, and both are contained in *Lutheran Service Book* (see hymns #656 and #657). Luther, who was himself well-versed in music, is believed to be the composer of the original melody, which is a rhythmic setting. But the other hymn setting from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries is just as familiar and probably easier to sing for most people today. There have been multitudinous hymn settings, variations, cantatas and more all based on this hymn.

Whatever hymn version we may prefer of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," the important thing is the message that the hymn contains. That message remains the same throughout the centuries, and centers in the three great "solas" of the Reformation: that we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone, made known in holy Scripture alone. *Sola gratia – Sola fide – Sola Scriptura*.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry - Originally Published October 2023

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should “not misuse the name of the Lord.” In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

“We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.” (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 am

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (unless otherwise noted)

October 4 "Embrace Life" John 10:10-11

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros
Jesus offers His abundant life to people plagued by pain and problems.

October 11 "Covered" Matthew 22:11-12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Proper Attire Required: how God covers us with the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness.

October 18 "The Heart of the Matter" Matthew 22:15-22

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti
How do you respond to tough questions about God and faith? Hear how Jesus delivers us from the tightest of tight spots and keeps us from falling into a trap.

October 25 "Relief" Romans 3:23-24

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
You don't have to earn God's favor. It is the relief waiting to find us before we even knew we had a problem.

Main Street Living | Sundays 9 am

Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, Channel 29/9.2, viewer area.
Channel 10 on Comcast.

The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*, a Lutheran Hour Ministries program made popular in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. For more information see their website: www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab OR to watch the program go to mainstreetliving.com.



Official Acts

None

Time of Grace

Time of Grace tv program airs globally via various outlets, but you can also search topics and watch the program at timeofgrace.org/tv-program. Each episode is a 30-minute study of God's Word with Pastor Mike Novotny. Pastor Mike Novotny has served God's people in full-time ministry since 2007 as a pastor in Madison and now Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for the Time of Grace television program and contributes to the written resources of Time of Grace Ministry.

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am
www.timeofgrace.org

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To help you stay rooted in Jesus by taking time out for God's Word every day. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. It's easy to subscribe to resources that'll keep you rooted in Jesus. Just select which types of resources you would like to receive, and they will be sent right to your inbox!
<https://timeofgrace.org/subscribe/>



*"The pleasure of revenge lasts a moment,
but the peace of forgiveness lasts forever."*



If you have Thrivent Insurance, Use Your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

Call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836).

Don't forget to direct 2026 Choice Dollars® before Dec. 31, 2026. Please consider keeping Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in mind—your support truly makes a difference, and we are deeply grateful for it. Learn more or direct Choice Dollars® at thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice."

All Thrivent clients with membership can now direct Choice Dollars® to support organizations like ours. With every Choice Dollar directed, Thrivent provides \$1 in grant funding—helping generosity go even further. Choice Dollars are designated in full at the beginning of the year and can be directed any time until December 31. Balances are based on a member's prior-year qualifying product activity.

Thank you for your generous giving!

Gloria Dei has a fund for **Youth Care International**, supporting Royal Family's children's mission in Liberia. Contributions help build schools, provide meals and school supplies, support bible camps, and contribute towards Pastor Matthew's spring mission trip.

To contribute, please note "*Youth Care International*" on your envelope. *Thank You!*



From Rapids to Reservoirs & Back Again?

In 2014, Congress directed the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to permanently close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock. This ended commercial barge traffic at the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. Now the Corps wants to leave all three. The Upper St. Anthony Falls Dam will stay, but Minneapolitans have a choice whether the other two locks and dams remain or come out. River historian Dr. John Anfinson will discuss the opportunities and choices at the Mill City Museum, 704 South Second Street., **Thursday, October 1, 7-8:15 pm**. Free, but registration encouraged: <https://www.mnhs.org/events/59729989412>

HeightsNEXT Fall Cleanup - October 3 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Gather at the Columbia Heights Public Library, 3939 Central Ave. NE, Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 am to get safety vests and garbage bag and your street/park assignments for all volunteers. Each group goes to their area and safely picks up trash from the sidewalks and vegetation along the sidewalks (or park). Dress for the weather. Wear gloves to pick up trash safely. The event will be canceled if there is dangerous weather, but otherwise, this happens rain or shine. All ages are welcome, but children must be supervised. Families with young children will be assigned to parks.

St. John's Fall Festival

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, 2215 Third Street NE, will hold a Fall Festival, Saturday, **October 3, 11 am-4 pm**. Food, silent raffles, bingo, kids' games, church tours.

Free Community Meal

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are **October 8**, November 12 and December 10.

36th Annual German Dinner and Polka Mass

St. Boniface, 633 Second Street NE, will host a polka Mass on **October 11 at 11 am**. Traditional German Dinner featuring Jaegerschnitzel (Roast Pork), Potato Dumplings, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage and a special Bavarian Dessert. Special appearance by Northeast Royalty. Music by Rod Cerar. Dancing encouraged. Tickets available at the door: \$18 for adults, \$10 for children 12 & under. Info: 612-379-2761.

Community Dinner

Join St. Timothy's and the local community on **Tuesday, October 13, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm** (or until the food is gone) for their drive thru community dinner. Please invite your family, neighbors and friends. Everyone is welcome! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, Columbia Heights.

Community Blood Drive

Thursday, October 15, 11 am-5 pm, at Pritzker Hageman Law Firm, 100 University Avenue SE. Pritzker Hageman is partnering with Memorial Blood Centers to host a community blood drive. The Memorial Blood Centers Bloodmobile will be parked in the firm's parking lot, and therapy dog teams from North Star Therapy Animals will be onsite. Appointments: pritzlaw.us/donateblood. More information: blooddonation@pritzkerlaw.com.

Family Gathering Concert

PILLAR Forum, 2300 Central Ave. NE, will host a free Family Gathering Concert on **Saturday, October 17, 10 am**. Colin Bracewell and School of Rock will perform. The concert is part of the City of Minneapolis' work to build community by bringing families together and supporting independent music venues. Funded through the \$7 million Small Business Resiliency Fund, the series supports Minneapolis businesses and communities impacted by Operation Metro Surge.

Fall Craft & Bake Sale

The Autumn Woods Apartments, 2600 Kenzie Terrace, will hold a Fall Craft Sale on **Saturday, October 24**, in the lobby area from **10 am-2 pm**. Nine vendors will display unique handcrafted items and a large bake sale will include jams and much more. Flags will be posted near the parking lot and a sign on Kenzie Terrace at the traffic light the day of the event.

Cribbage Tournaments

Test your cribbage skills at free weekly tournaments held at Insight Brewing, 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., every Thursday, 6-8 pm. See the full calendar at <http://bit.ly/CribbageTwinCities>.



Special Occasions for Special People



Happy Birthday

3rd Pastor Matthew Cephus
 11th Al Morelli
 11th Pastor Martin Cornes

Happy Anniversary

7th Derald & Christine Hadrath

OCTOBER SERVANTS

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Altar Care and Usher sign-up is located on the lobby bulletin board.

Counters:

4th Shirley Holzinger & Verlayne Sather
 11th Sandy Westling & Tom Harris
 18th Dale Raschke & Wade Billmeyer
 25th Al, Pam & Aaron Morelli

Ushers: Please see sign-up sheets to volunteer!

4th Dale Raschke & Wade Billmeyer
 11th Tom Harris
 18th Dale Raschke & Wade Billmeyer
 25th Al, Pam & Aaron Morelli

FLOWERS



4th
 11th
 18th
 25th

CANDLES



4th
 11th
 18th
 25th

If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure and let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin notes.

Thanks



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis 612-781-1989				1	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	3 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
4 19th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	5 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	6 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	7 11 am Bible Study 7 pm Neighborhood Block Meeting/Group Soup Swap (downstairs)	8	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	10 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
11 20th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	12 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	13 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	14 11 am Bible Study	15	16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	17 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
18 21st Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	19 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	20 5 pm GDLC Council Mtg 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	21 11 am Bible Study	22	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	24 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
	<i>P. Matthew attending Pastor's Fall Conference in Corcoran – October 19-20</i>					
25 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	26 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)	27 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	28 11 am Bible Study	29	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	31 <i>Happy Halloween!</i> 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night