

October 25, 2015

Reformation/Stewardship Sunday

**LESSON. Jeremiah 31:31–34**

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. 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. 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. 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.

**SECOND LESSON. 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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

**GOSPEL. John 8:31–36**

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

# REFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



*By Grace,  
through Faith*

**October 25, 2015**

**Reformation/Stewardship Sunday**

October 25, 2015  
8:30 & 11:00 am

First Lutheran Church  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
(218) 739-3348

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org firstlc@live.com

Online  
Giving  
(QR Code)



Today's Gospel speaks of freedom for those who "...continue in my word," and are truly Jesus' disciples. As disciples of Jesus, we will explore together what freedom means for us and for the world in which we live. Does Christian freedom mean that we do what we should do? Does it mean freedom to do just anything? Or does it mean something else altogether?

**Prelude**  
**Announcements**

\* **Confession of Sin and Absolution** (Based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

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

**C: Amen.**

P: What benefits does God give in Baptism?

**C: In baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.**

P: What does baptism mean for daily living:

**C: It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned though daily repentance, and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God. Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we have not lived in the promises of our baptism, but have sinned against you and our neighbors in many ways. Grant once again today, dear Lord, that our sinful selves may be drowned and that we may arise again as new creations in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I declare is the forgiveness of God?

**C: Yes, I do.**

P: Be it done for you as you have believed. According to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Live in the promises of your baptism.

**C: AMEN**

\* **Processional Hymn**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

ELW 855 (v. 1-4)

\* **Apostolic Greeting**

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\* **Kyrie**

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**This Week at First Lutheran:**

Today:	<b>8:30 &amp; 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Reformation/Stewardship Sunday Worship/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Millstone Blessing</b>
	<b>9:15 - 11 am</b>	<b>Stewardship Brunch</b>
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	<b>4-6 p.m.</b>	<b>New Member Class in the Narthex</b>
Mon.:	9-3 p.m.	WELCA Love Days
	5:00 p.m.	AI-Anon
	5:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
Tues.:	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
Wed.:	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study at Lake Region Hospital
	9:00 a.m.	Sarah's Circle at Pioneer Pointe
	9:30 am	AI-Anon
	10 am	AA
	10 am	Caregiver's Support Group
	1:00 p.m.	Hannah's Circle in Kairos Room
	3:45-4:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	<b>4:30 -5:30 pm</b>	<b>FLY K7 Halloween Party</b>
	6:00 p.m.	Hosanna Handbells
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Super FLY Trick or Treat</b>
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thurs.:	8:45 a.m.	Morning Watch – Pr. Jennifer– KBRF AM 1250
	9:30 a.m.	Sr. Coffee & Bible Study
Friday :	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

**Next Sunday, November 1st: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY & Daylight Savings (set clocks BACK 1 hour)**

<b>8:30 &amp; 11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship/Holy Communion/Sunday School sings in worship</b>
9:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Adult Bible Study
<b>4-6 p.m.</b>	<b>New Member Class</b>

**Dresses for the girls in Haiti:** We hope you noticed the cute little dresses for the Haiti girls on the ramp railings as you came to worship this morning. This is the work of Hannah Circle, as we want to make these little girls so happy. Can you just imagine the excitement of a little girl with only one article of clothing when she receives one of these dresses? We had so much fun making all 70 dresses! It really takes a lot of work and planning to get these dresses made for approximately \$3.67 each. God is Good! They will be shipped soon to Haiti. Also, we are sending small purses with a bar of soap and wash cloths with every dress.

**Greg Wollan**, a son of the congregation and a church musician, is performing at First Lutheran Church on **November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** Please come and enjoy the wonderful music and fellowship, treats will be served by the Fellowship Committee in the Fellowship Hall following the concert. There will be a free will offering, and Greg will have his CD's on sale for \$5, proceeds will go to the Library Committee, in honor and memory of Greg's mom, Val.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME E N D S THIS WEEK .... SO SET YOUR CLOCKS B A C K WHEN YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT (October 31).**

**Please Join Us** downstairs for a Celebration Meal in Fellowship Hall after the 8:30 service. The Stewardship Committee will be serving brunch from 9:15-11:00 am. You are welcome even if you didn't RSVP. (There will be no coffee in the narthex this morning.)

**Altar Flowers** are given by Pete & Jody Thom in celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Large Print Bulletins are available.** If you would like a copy for worship, please ask an usher.

**Do you enjoy singing?** The Adult Choir is always open to new singers! Join our new director, Erik Vigesaa, at rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The Adult Choir sings in worship about once or twice a month.

**Meals by Wheels:** November Meals by Wheels dates: November 2 thru 6 and November 9 thru 13. If you are available to help out one or more of these dates, please contact Rick West at 218-205-6963.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** The Outreach Committee is in need of volunteers to help out at the upcoming Blood Drive on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Rick West at 205-6963 if you are interested in helping.

**Do you use offering envelopes?** With the addition of simply giving and electronic giving options, many members don't use their offering envelopes. If this sounds like you, you could help save the church some money! The 2016 envelopes will be ordered within the next month. **If you wish to NOT receive the envelopes, please contact the church office.**

Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Lisa Wolfe
Lectors:	8:30- Kevyn Heck 11-Annah Pajari
Acolytes:	8:30- Brandon Hinsverk 11- Alexis Larson
Greeters:	8:30 –Mark & Susan Hermes 11 –Eldon & Margaret Kratzke
Sacristan:	8:30- Teresa Shannon 11- Carolyn Sund
Ushers:	8:30- Robert & Karla Wynn, Chad & Kelsey Felstul & family 11- Robbie & Karen Olson, Rylynn Krein, Tom & Jane Willett
Hosanna Handbells Director:	Linda Mellon
Pianist:	Joyce Perez
Organist:	Anne Taylor
Cantor:	8:30- Cyntreya Lockett 11- Madison Hinsverk
PA Operators:	8:30-Paul Dimke 11- Bud Mellon

**\* Hymn of Praise**

***Let All Things Now Living***

**ELW 881 (v.1)**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to  
God the creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who  
still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before  
us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished as  
forward we travel from light into light.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone Blessing**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students receiving Milestone Blessing this morning...**

Jack Anderson, Cooper Batzlaff, Carter Bernstetter, Dejah Charles, Julianna Flugstad,  
Dane Hastings, Madison Karsten, Ava Lewis, Mason Lilly, Hayden Lappegaard, Darius Lockett,  
Kendal Mouritsen, Andrew Muchow, Michael Schmidt, Siiri Smestad, Gavin Toso,  
Tessa Trosvig and Alyssa Wagner.

**Blessing of Dresses for girls in Haiti**

**Anthem**

***A Mighty Fortress***

arr. Raney

Hosanna Handbells

**First Lesson**

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 (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

**Second Lesson**

Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the 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.*

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

**\* Gospel Acclamation**

(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

**\* Gospel**

John 8:31-36

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

(Congregation responds after Gospel is Read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

**Sermon**

***I Don't Want Your Money***

Pastor Jimalee Jones

**Hymn of the Day**

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

**ELW 504**

**Children's Event**

(children come forward during last verse)

Pastor Jimalee Jones

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

**Inside Rear Cover of ELW Book**

**\* The PEACE is shared**

C And also with you.

**Offering**

**\*Offertory Response**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy,  
C hear our prayer.

OR

P ...Let us pray to the Lord,  
C Lord, have mercy.

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**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Blessing**

**Time of Consecration**

After prayerfully filling out a card, please come forward by the center aisle to place your card on the altar. (The ushers will not be sending you by pew.) For those who have difficulty negotiating the steps, there will be baskets on the lower level. After the 8:30 service, please return by the side aisle and go immediately down to Fellowship Hall for brunch. After the 11:00 service, you may leave the sanctuary after dropping off your card.

\* Indicates when to stand

**WELCA FALL CAMPAIGN**

**“Coins, Cash & Checks Change Lives”**

Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out to each of you asking for financial support of Missions that are important to all of us. Therefore the product of this Campaign is Coins, Cash and Checks. The product of a generous culture is Changed Lives locally and Around the World.

We helped financially to Change Lives in these areas in 2014:

KBRF Morning Watch, Jail Ministry, Lutheran Campus Ministry, A Place to Belong, WELCA Scholarships, Lakeland Hospice, Luther Crest, PioneerCare Chapel Fund, OBA Scholarships, OBA Shule Funds, OBA Mama Naomi Clinic, Haiti Medical Mission, Haiti School Children( Soaring Unlimited) and Haiti Mission Fund (wells).

You are asked to place your coins, cash, or checks in an envelope marked WELCA Fall Campaign and either put it in the offering plate or bring it to the office before the end of October.

We are all called to Grow in faith, to Support one another and to Engage in Ministry and Action. Thank You for your Support of this Campaign. Because of your Actions, we will be able to help Change Lives again this year.

-WELCA Board

**All Saints Sunday NEXT SUNDAY , November 1...** Everyone is invited to write the names of any loved ones they would like us to remember in the “Book of Saints” located on the podium in the narthex. We will print these names in the bulletin next Sunday, and remember them as a group during worship.

**NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY begins TODAY...**with Pastor Saul, Pastor Jennifer and the Membership committee from 4-6 pm in the narthex. (We will also meet on Nov. 1 & Nov. 15) If you or someone you know is interested in exploring membership at First Lutheran – PLEASE COME. This friendly, informal atmosphere offers an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another and take a look at our Lutheran teachings. Attending the sessions doesn't commit you to join. Childcare is available.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

Research Says, “Givers Also Get”

“While most people probably subscribe to the general theory that charity is “good for the soul,” almost all would be hard-pressed to say why. Many would also be surprised to learn that philanthropic acts are also good for the mind and body. Research is beginning to confirm these claims. These emerging findings can transform the way people live and feel about themselves...philanthropic involvement is measurably wholesome for mind, body, and soul.” [Give to Live, Douglas M Lawson]

Of course, that research is not new information. The Bible has been telling us for two thousand years that giving is more blessed than receiving.