

Reformation Sunday

November 1st, 2026

St. John's School Reformation Service

Organist: Lana Strike



Heritage

GOD'S WORD IS
OUR GREAT



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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“And Shall Be Ours Forever”

Song: *He Is Exalted*

Students:

*He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;
I will praise Him. He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise His name!
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.*

Part One: God's Word Was Given

Trysten: The Bible is God's written Word. Moses, David, Isaiah, Luke, John, Paul... and many more: The Lord directed over 35 different men to write the 66 books of the Bible. He gave them the words to write.

Isaac: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

Aubrey: “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Ava: Genesis is the first book of the Bible. In that book, the Lord inspired Moses to record over 2300 years from the beginning of time. Genesis means “the beginning”. The book tells us about the beginning of the world, the beginning of sin, the beginning of redemption, but not the beginning of God.

Ella: “Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or

ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psalm 90:1-2)

Katelyn: Throughout the Bible, lives of individual believers were specifically chosen to be recorded for us. Those examples show us that sin is nothing new, and the effects of it never went away. People then, just as now, needed to be shown their wrong, repent, and be assured of the Lord's mercy and grace. We can learn from what they experienced and apply that knowledge to our own lives. We can encourage each other in the Word of God. We can use it to defend our faith.

Aaron: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Remmie: We learn in the Bible of God's love for mankind. As soon as sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God promised a Savior. The ultimate reason for God giving us His Word is to show us the sin in our hearts and the Savior Who has redeemed us.

Lylyan: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

Jessa: In this verse of John, the Word of God refers to more than the Bible text. The Word is the most gracious, knowledgeable, and powerful being there ever was or would be, Jesus Christ.

Matthew: "These words are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

Kysa: "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Levi: "In Him you have also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)

Song: *I Hide Your Word Within My heart*

Students:

*I hide Your Word within my heart
To keep me safe from sin;
For where Your truth is in control
No lie can enter in.*

*I shine Your Word upon my path
And walk within its light;
For where Your wisdom shines, O Lord,
It drives away the night.*

*I trust You Lord with all my heart
And give You thanks and praise;
For all the beauty of Your truth
That stands from age to age.*

All Students: "Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

Part Two: God's Word Was Preserved

Song: *We Have a Sure Prophetic Word*

Congregation:

***We have a sure prophetic Word
By inspiration of the Lord;
And though assailed on every hand,
Our Father's Word shall ever stand.***

***By powers of empire banned and burned,
By pagan pride rejected, spurned,
The Word still stands the Christian's trust
While prideful empires lie in dust.***

***Lo, what the Word in times of old
Of future days and deeds foretold
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,
As traced on the prophetic scroll.***

***Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.***

Aubrey: We know, without a doubt, that God is infinite. We also know that His promises are kept. Always. For generations believers have taken comfort in these words: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Lylyan: God provided for our future by sacrificing Jesus in our place. Through Him we have the sure hope of heaven. God keeps His promises. Always.

Katelyn: Our Father in heaven has promised to protect and preserve His Word and His children from the ungodly world that surrounds them until the end of time. Looking around in our world, seeing the changes and the powerful hold sin has taken, it is easy to wonder how the Lord intends to keep His Word pure. Let us remember some of the steps He has already taken.

Isaac: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country." (Hebrews 11:7-8)

Trysten: We see the Lord's will being done, and His Word kept pure, despite the attacks of secular government and false teaching within the church. The Roman government murdered Jesus and persecuted the

church. Eventually Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity.

Ella: Soon the attacks came from within the church through false teaching. The Lord used men, such as Martin Luther, to bring about reform in the church. The invention of the printing press brought the Bible into homes. Our country was founded with the promise of religious freedom.

Song: *Preserve Thy Word, O Savior*

Congregation:

*Preserve Thy Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish,
Enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
Oh, keep our faith from failing,
Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us
While wandering here below.*

*Preserve, O Lord, Thy children,
Thine own blest heritage;
Resist, disperse, and scatter
Those who against Thee rage.
Let Thy commandments guide us,
Grant us Thy heavenly food;
Clothe us in Thy rich garments,
Bought with Thy precious blood.*

*Preserve Thy Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Thy glory,
The power that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water,
This dew of heavenly grace,
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Thy face!*

Matthew: "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." (Matthew 5:13)

Jessa: Now, it is up to us to take the Word and use it to bring glory to our Heavenly Father throughout the whole world. "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day." (Psalm 25:5)

Aaron: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Mark 13:31)

Part Three: God's Word Cannot Be Taken

Song: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Congregation:

*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 old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.*

*With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected:
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.*

***Tho' devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.***

***The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.***

Remmie: "But God, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-7)

Levi: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Cassie: "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

Kysa: We belong to God because Jesus died for our sins, redeeming us from eternal death. The world, the devil,

they cannot claim us. We are held in the mighty hand of our God. This truth does not, however, stop the devil from continual attacks on our souls.

Isaac: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:6-11)

Ava: Our caring Father fills His Word with reassurance for us, His children. He knows the troubles we will face, the fears that we will have, and the trials we will need to overcome. While we are deserving of all the consequences of sin, He puts His gentle hand on us and says, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Song: *Cares Chorus*

Students:

*I cast all my cares upon You.
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet;
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon You.*

Kysa: Only God knows what is coming toward us in this world. It may be that war, persecution, or loss of religious freedom are in our futures. Enemies of our Savior may even take the Bible from us. They, however, don't realize that even if the Bible is taken, we still have God's Word. "I

will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Hebrews 8:10)

Remmie: "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Song: O Church, Arise

Upper Grade Students:

*O Church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle-cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.*

*Our call to war - to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.*

*Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.*

*So Spirit come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.*

Trysten: "He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God." (Psalm 62:6-7)

Part Four: God's Word Is Our Sure Hope

Song: *This Is My Word*

Choir:

*As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling
showers from the sky, so is my Word.
As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty
and dry, so is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word.*

*As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin
to come alive, so is my Word.
Giving seed to the sower, and the bread to the
hungry 'til they thrive, so is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word.*

*O Lord, when I am weary,
When I feel the days I'm living are in vain,
My God, help me be faithful to the Word
You have given to proclaim.*

*And you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace,
And the hills will break before you into song.
So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you.
And when your earthly journey here is done,
I'll say well done!*

*As the snow falls from heaven and the rain comes in
showers from the sky, This is my Word.*

Kysa: Our God is the Beginning and the End. His Word is true and everlasting. The promises He has made are fulfilled. Life in Christ is ours forever.

Ella: There is no room for fear, despair, heaviness, or selfishness in the life of a Christian. Our sins are forgiven! God is with us everywhere, in every situation. We have the sure hope of heaven!

Song: *Across the Lands*

Students:

*You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began;
Every star and every planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
Let the land and seas rejoice.*

(Refrain) *You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man,
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

*Yet You left the gaze of angels,
Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry,
With a word You calmed the sea;*

*Yet how silently You suffered,
That the guilty may go free. (Refrain)*

*With a shout You rose victorious,
Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven,
Leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
Interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home. (Refrain)*

Katelyn: We have countless opportunities to share this precious Word of God. Please spread this Word. Speak about the joy that is in you because of Christ. Let all people know that the Word of God and all that it holds, shall indeed be ours forever.

Ava: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" (Romans 1:16-17)

Aubrey: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Remmie: "Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life." (Psalm 119:49-50)

Cassie: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." (Proverbs 3:5)

Aaron: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Lylyan: "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord." (Psalm 31:24)

Jessa: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Matthew: "Be looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."
(Titus 2:13)

Levi: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in His word I do hope." (Psalm 130:5)

Isaac: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Song: *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

-The congregation is asked to rise for the final hymn-

Students & Congregation:

***God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever.
To spread Its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life It guides our way.
In death It is our stay.
Lord grant while worlds endure,
We keep Its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations. Amen.***



Welcome! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the back of the church. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach.

Thank you to the students for delivering the Word of God to us this morning! And thank you to our teachers for all the work you did these past months to put this service together!

A Potluck will be held downstairs in the fellowship hall after the conclusion of the service this morning. Please be sure to stay for the meal as everyone is invited and welcome to join!

The Offering Plates will not be sent through the pews today. Instead, the offering plates will be located in the entryway.

The Sunday School Children are singing next Sunday, Nov. 8.

Area Joint Reformation Service – Today in New Ulm at Faith Lutheran Church, (26 N. State St, New Ulm, MN 56073). The service will begin at 4 pm, followed by a fellowship meal in the church basement. Choir warm ups begin at 3:30 pm.

Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day is coming up on Friday, November 13th 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 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, *The Sound of Music*. Speak with your pastor if you're interested in attending. For questions, contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: [715-836-6636](tel:715-836-6636), cell: [253-228-8736](tel:253-228-8736); paul.naumann@ilc.edu

Ushers	11/1	Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	11/8	Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.
	11/15	Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.
Cleaning		This Week – Ling, Rovere, Sumey (wk. 4)
		Next – The Albrechts

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

November 2nd – 7th, 2026

Mon Matthew 18:23-35 Peter has asked how often he should forgive his brother's sins against him (v21-22). Jesus shows by a parable that forgiveness is absolutely essential in the kingdom of heaven.

Tues Philippians 1:3-11 The apostle prays for the Philippian believers with thanksgiving and joy because of their fellowship in the gospel. May their love continue to grow, along with their knowledge and insight.

Wed Deuteronomy 7:9-11 Moses reminds us that God is always faithful to His covenant of grace and mercy. This is what moves us to love Him and walk in His ways throughout our earthly life.

Thurs Psalm 31:9-16 David calls to the Lord in distress and sorrow (v9), grief and groaning (v10), guilt and disgrace (v11). In all of these and more, he looks to God's merciful deliverance (v15) and gracious smile (v16).

Fri Psalm 119:169-176 Our psalm closes: give me understanding (v169) and merciful deliverance (v170). Thank You for teaching me Your word (v171). "I have strayed" like a sheep. Seek me, O Lord. (V176)

Sat Ephesians 4:30-32 The apostle Paul reminds us again that being led by the Spirit of God means being filled with a love that is kind, compassionate, and forgiving toward one another, as Christ is toward us.

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