



Sola Gratia
Sola Fide
Sola Scriptura

500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Circuit Celebration

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

October 29, 2017 — 3:00 P.M.

Welcome to the House of the Lord

500 years ago, Monasticism offered an intense, steep path to heaven according to the false teachings of the Church, and regarded the monastic life as God's special gift. Monks, divorced from the world's ways and daily life's distractions, hoped to find assurance of standing in God's favor on the basis of the rigid, strenuous practices to which they committed themselves. Luther chose the Augustinian Hermits, a strict order from which he expected to receive the severest demands of the monastic ideal. He would pledge himself to a life of simplicity, nocturnal vigils, hard work, chastisement of earthly desires, poverty, fasting, seclusion, and the discipline of seven daily prayer services.

Luther then became a priest. The office terrified Luther, for it placed him indirect contact with God and with the body and blood of God's Son when he conducted the mass. His conviction of his unworthiness, simply of being in God's presence, brought him near collapse in his first celebration of the mass. Terror in the face of God haunted him in the years following. He was continuously in doubt of his standing with God. His monastic superior saw profound ability in Luther, and arranged for Luther to become engaged in advanced theological study, which over time led to Luther's reinterpretation of who God is, of what it means to be human — to live in relationship with God and with our human brothers and sisters — and above all, of God's plan of salvation for sinners through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of His Son, and thus of God's unconditional grace in giving to us freely all that Christ Jesus has done and earned.

Indeed, we are redeemed and spared of the damnation we deserve by God's grace through the gift of faith unto eternal life. Utterly convinced of God's love and power over death and hell in Christ Jesus, Luther, commending himself into the hands of God, would never recant even under threat of death. His faith and strength in Christ alone by grace alone through Scripture alone would cause Luther to write much, including the final lines of the last stanza of his most well-known hymn. In the face of Satan, regarding his work, threats, acts, and demons, Luther exclaimed:

And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remainest."

We are drawn together on this afternoon of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to hear the living Word of God for us and for our salvation, and to lift our voices with all thanksgiving and praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Notes for the welcome paragraph taken from *Martin Luther Confessor of the Faith*, published by Oxford 2009; authored by Robert Kolb, pages 15-16.)



Prelude

Ringing of the Bells

Processional Hymn *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest* (Please stand)

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And make our hearts Your place of rest;
Come with Your grace and heav'nly aid,
And fill the hearts which You have made.

Children's Choir

*To You, the Counselor, we cry,
To You, the gift of God Most High;
The fount of life, the fire of love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

In You, with graces sevenfold,
We God's almighty hand behold
While You with tongues of fire proclaim
To all the world His holy name.

Choir

*Your light to ev'ry thought impart,
And shed Your love in ev'ry heart;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.*

Drive far away our wily foe,
And Your abiding peace bestow;
With You as our protecting guide,
No evil can with us abide.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And You, from both, as Three in One
That we Your name may ever bless
And in our lives the truth confess.

△ Praise we the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, with them One,
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

Invocation

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

Psalmody *Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,

how he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Choral Anthem *Come and Sing a Song unto the Lord (children's choir anthem)*

Reformation History

Part 1: Luther's Early Years

Born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, to Hans and Margaretha Luther, Martin Luther was baptized the next day, St. Martin of Tours Day, and was therefore given the name Martin in honor of this event. He was educated in Mansfeld and later at the University of Erfurt. He studied law and earned his baccalaureate and master's degrees in the shortest time allowed by the statutes of the university. However, at the age of 21, Luther was disturbed spiritually, sought to avoid eternal suffering and to make peace with God. He also endured the deaths of two close friends and accidentally stabbed his own leg with his rapier. After visiting his family and seeking advice, Luther, while returning to Erfurt, was caught in a severe thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning struck the ground near him, and Luther cried out, "Help me, St. Anne! I will become a monk!" Giving away all his possessions in July 1505, Luther entered the Black Cloister of the Observant Augustinians.

As we begin our worship this afternoon, we too, like Luther, cry out for mercy, not to St. Anne, but to the Lord.

Part 2: Luther as a Monk

Luther studied hard at the monastery becoming an extraordinarily successful monk, but he was spiritually troubled. No matter what he did, no matter whether he punished himself with beatings, or deprived himself of sleep, or slept without blankets in bone-chilling weather, or fasted, or frequented the confessional, he never felt he had earned forgiveness from God. He saw God as an angry judge, ready to punish sin. Luther said, "If anyone could have earned heaven by the life of a monk, it was I." But for Luther heaven was as far away as it had ever been.

He misunderstood the righteousness of God to mean God's righteous anger over sin and His just condemnation of the sinner to hell. Luther was gradually beginning to understand the actual biblical meaning of the "righteousness of God". The righteousness of God is the righteousness of Christ, His perfect, sinless life. This righteousness, Christ's righteousness, God credits or gives to His children by His grace through Holy Baptism. In turn, the righteous Christ also takes our unrighteousness, our sin, and the punishment we deserve, and suffers for it all upon the cross.

Luther learned that one does not earn, but receives the righteousness of Christ as God's gift to him, totally by grace. God declares sinners righteous and forgiven for Christ's sake! This truth is foundational to the Reformation. We hear of this righteousness in the readings for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

Part 3: The Righteousness of God

God's Word from Romans 3, "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law," was the key for Luther to understand that the righteousness of God comes by His grace through faith, a gift, making him free from sin. Forgiveness from God is not something to be earned, not something to be bought through indulgences, but a free gift from God. It is a gift obtained not by works, but by grace through faith in God.

Given a true understanding of "the righteousness of God," Luther said, "Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through gates that had been flung open." Forgiveness was his, God loved him, and Luther sensed peace with God.

You and I stand before the throne of God today, forgiven saints of the Lord. We have been freed from our sins through the work of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Part 4: Luther's Confession at Worms

The writings and preaching of Luther spread rapidly throughout Germany. In May of 1521, Luther was summoned before the Diet of Worms to give answer to the books and manuscripts he had written against the Roman Catholic Church. He was not given a chance to defend his writings, but was asked whether he would recant them or not. He was given one day to think it over.

It was evening of the next day before Luther was allowed to speak to the diet. He tried to defend his writings but the examiner interrupted him by declaring, "You must give a simple, clear, and proper answer . . . Will you recant or not?"

Luther replied, "Unless I can be instructed or convinced with evidence from Holy Scripture or with open, clear, and distinct grounds of reasoning . . . then I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor wise to act against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

We may never be asked to confess our faith before kings and emperors, but God has called us to be confessors of the faith in this ever-changing world and culture. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have," (1 Peter 3:15).

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

Part 5: Luther's Writings

The Diet of Worms declared Luther a heretic. No one was to harbor him. He was branded an outlaw to be done away with as one wished. Returning to Wittenberg, Luther was kidnapped by his friend Elector Frederick the Wise and hidden safely away at the Wartburg Castle. It was here at Wartburg, disguised as Knight George, that Luther

translated the Greek New Testament into the German language of his people. It was also one of the most productive periods of his life in theology and scholarly works.

Besides writing his large and small catechisms, Luther is also known for his books entitled *The Freedom of a Christian, On Temporal Authority, Bondage of the Will, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and his many commentaries on the books of the Bible. Luther was a prolific writer. Through the many essays, books, commentaries, devotionals, and hymns Luther wrote, God has blessed Christians around the world. 500 years later, Lutherans still turn to the Small Catechism for learning and strengthening of faith. Central to all of Luther's writings is the love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ alone.

Part 6: Grace, Faith, and Scripture Alone

On February 18, 1546, while visiting Eisleben, the city of his birth, Luther died. Even though he was afflicted with many health problems, he continued to carry on the work of the Reformation – the proclamation of Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins – until the end.

Luther has left the church a great legacy of writings, essays, and hymns. Today we celebrate the Reformation begun by Luther as he nailed 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg. Luther's Reformation call – *Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone* – still echoes through the centuries. We give thanks to God this day for men who have led us to Christ, who have led us to the Gospel message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Scripture Readings

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

Then 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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading *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 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

So 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God arr. Jeffrey Blersch

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry 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.

Choir

*Though 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.*

Stand

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,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Sermon

“Christ Unchanging Changing” (Psalm 46)

Offering

Music during offering — *Lord Keep Us Steadfast in thy Word*

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Thy Strong Word*

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, while Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth all Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, to Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!



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Serving the Lord in Worship

Officiant Pastor: Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, St. Paul–Bonduel
Assisting Pastors: Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor, St. Paul–Bonduel
 Pastors from Circuits 12, 13, and 14

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher
 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN

District Representative: Rev. Dwayne Lueck, President: North Wisconsin
 District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

Organist: Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Director of Parish Music
Accompanist: Mrs. Debbie Welch
Music: Children’s and adult choirs from St. James–Shawano;
 St. Martin–Clintonville; St. Paul–Stony Hill, Shawano;
 St. Paul–Bonduel; Zion–Embarrass; and St. Jakobi–Shawano.

Crucifer:	Mr. Jeff Wegner
Bible Attendant:	Andrew Schmidt
Banner Bearer:	Jacob Moede
Adult Choir:	Choirs of Circuits 12, 13, and 14 Congregations
Children's Choir:	St. Paul Lutheran School, Bonduel, WI
Hand Bell Choir:	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bonduel, WI
Brass Instruments:	Philip Schmidt, Rachel Emrick, David Schmidt, and Gerald Schmidt
Pianist:	Rev. John C. Eyer, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI Zion Lutheran Church, Gresham, WI
Banners:	St. James Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI St. Jakobi Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI St. John Lutheran Church, Hermansfort, WI St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bonduel, WI St. Paul Lutheran Church-Stony Hill, Shawano, WI Zion Lutheran Church, Embarrass, WI Zion Lutheran Church, Gresham, WI

Sola Fides (Faith Alone) • Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)

Ephesians 2:8-10, For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

In reading the Scriptures, Luther came to understand, believe, teach and confess that we sinners are saved by God not in any way by our good works, as was taught by Rome at the time, but solely by His grace and favor. By faith alone we receive this gift of salvation, listening to God and receiving His word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ with joy and relief. Now that we are justified by God's grace, He equips us to do the good works He created us to do for Him and His purposes.

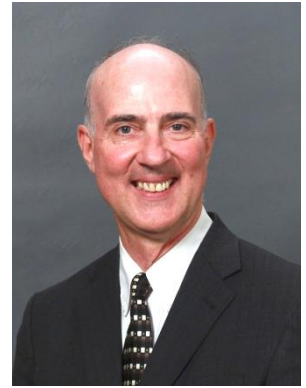
Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)

2 Timothy 3:14-17, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

The Roman Church of Luther's time held up certain traditions that were at odds with the Scriptures. Luther boldly asserted that the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, was the supreme authority over all others, including church tradition and human reason. When at odds with Scripture, it is the Word of God alone that must judge every other authority and shape our belief, confession and teaching for the sake of Jesus Christ and His reign.

Guest Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II is professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and chairman of the Pastoral Ministry and Missions Department of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, teaching primarily in the area of homiletics. He is also director of Pastoral Formation Programs of the Seminary.



Fickenscher is editor of Concordia Pulpit Resources, the Synod's preaching journal published by Concordia Publishing House (CPH), and chairman of the LCMS Preach the Word Project, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He has published numerous articles, essays, sermons and curricular pieces, receiving an award from Concordia Historical Institute in 2012 for a series of articles on the preaching of C. F. W. Walther, edited CPH's Faith Alive Bible (a study Bible for youth) and was a theological consultant on the current CPH Sunday school curriculum Growing in Christ. He is a member of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations and earlier represented the Synod on its dialogue panel with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He served as chairman of the Society of Concordia Theological Faculties. In 2005 he traveled for LCMS World Relief to areas of India and Indonesia stricken by the tsunami and subsequent earthquakes. He is a strong supporter of the sanctity of human life, including serving as a district pastoral advisor for Lutherans for Life. He is a frequent speaker for conferences, retreats, and workshops.

He and his wife Claire are the proud parents of Rachel (a recent deaconess graduate of the seminary), Daniel (a student at CTSFW and a former GEO missionary for the LCMS in Latin America) and Gabriel (also a recent LCMS GEO missionary to Slovakia and the Czech Republic).

Display Bible: Our German Bible of Luther's translation, printed in 1670 in Nuremberg, Germany, by Christoph Endter was discovered in an old section of the St. Paul school. The Bible is huge by today's standards – 17.5 inches long, 11.5 inches wide and 6.5 inches thick. It has a pigskin binding over boards with brass bossed corners and clasps and contains a copy of the Augsburg Confession, the principal doctrinal statement of the theology of Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers as presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at Augsburg, Germany, on June 25, 1530. It is one of 40 known copies in existence.

Altar Flowers: placed by *Rev. Harley and Donna Kopitske* in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Refreshments: Provided by congregations of NWD Circuits 12, 13, and 14
Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall after the service.

Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor
Mr. Gerald R. Schmidt, Principal
Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Music Director
Mrs. Robin Reep, Youth Director
Mrs. Donna Niles, Preschool/4K Director

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