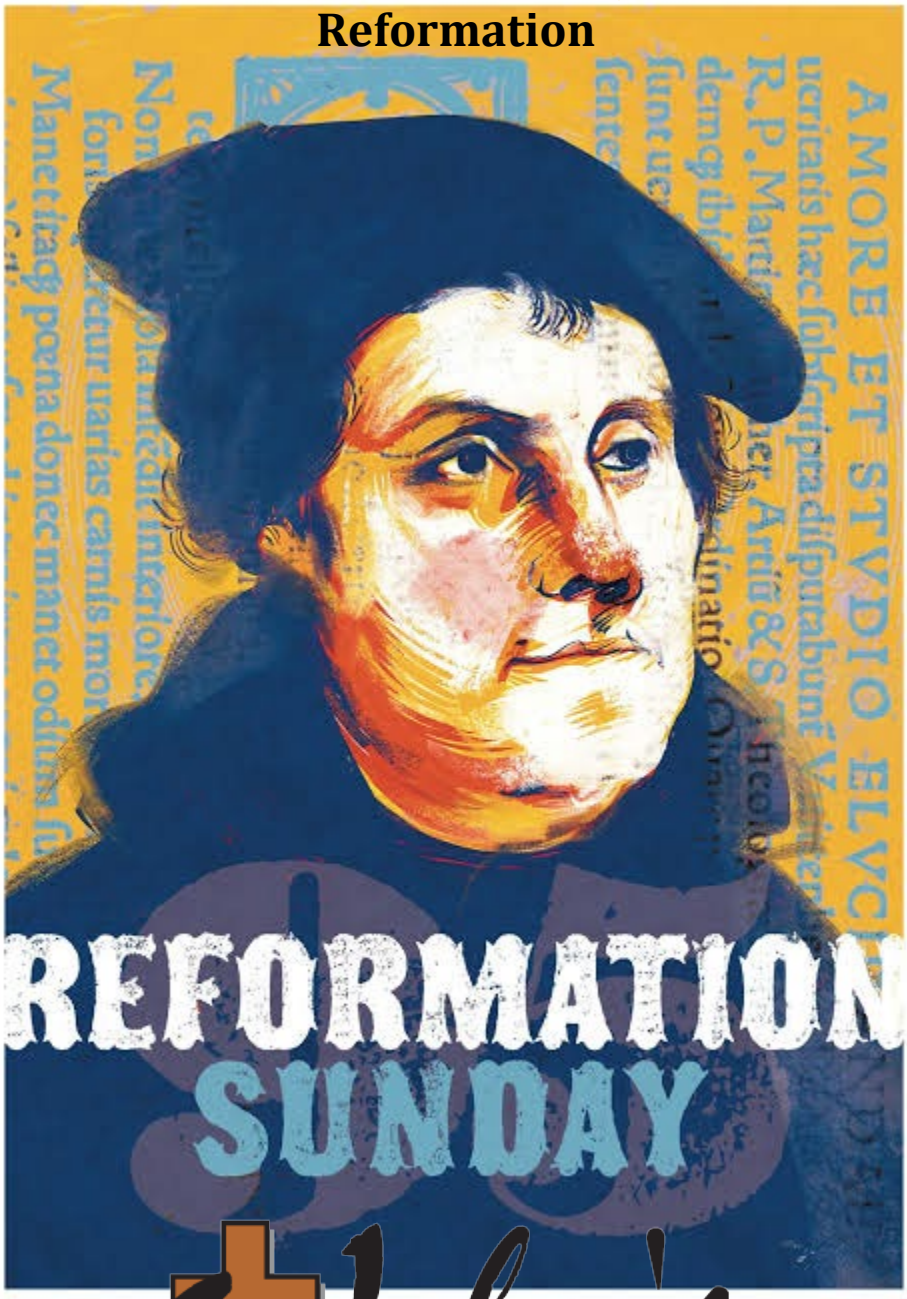
Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25, 2026

Reformation



St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Selena Blackwell · Cell: 860-965-4446 · Email: pastor@elcastjohns.org

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am

Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm (call first)

Announcements

(The regular announcement page will return in the coming weeks)

This week at our church: October 25th-November 1st

Sunday	**8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum**
	9:45am Worship
	6:00pm Glory Way Concert
Tuesday	**4:30-6:00pm Community Feast**
Wednesday	**10:00am Reading Buddies**
	6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
Saturday	**5:00pm Worship**
Sunday	**8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum**
	9:45am Worship

Offering from 10/17 and 10/18:

General Fund	**$1488.00**	**YTD: $150,829.72**
Capital Fund	**$282.00**	**YTD: $20,080.41**
Ed Stahl Memorial	**$50.00**	**YTD: $50.00**

Prayer Requests:
Mary Bark, Mary Carlson, Lance Davenport, Lee Gehrke, Sharon Goode, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Mary Ann Hulon, Anna Judge, Rhea Lumsden, Linda Martin, Family of Terry Miller (Evelyn Smith's son-in-law), James Moris, Lonnie Murray, Kay Nelson, Jeanette Pfeifer, Anita Reiss, Bob Reiss, Roger & Helen, Shelly, Lynn Skryzpiec, Family of Ed Stahl, Rosemary Underwood, Jackie Wendland, Cindy Westbrook, Susan White

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.
P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

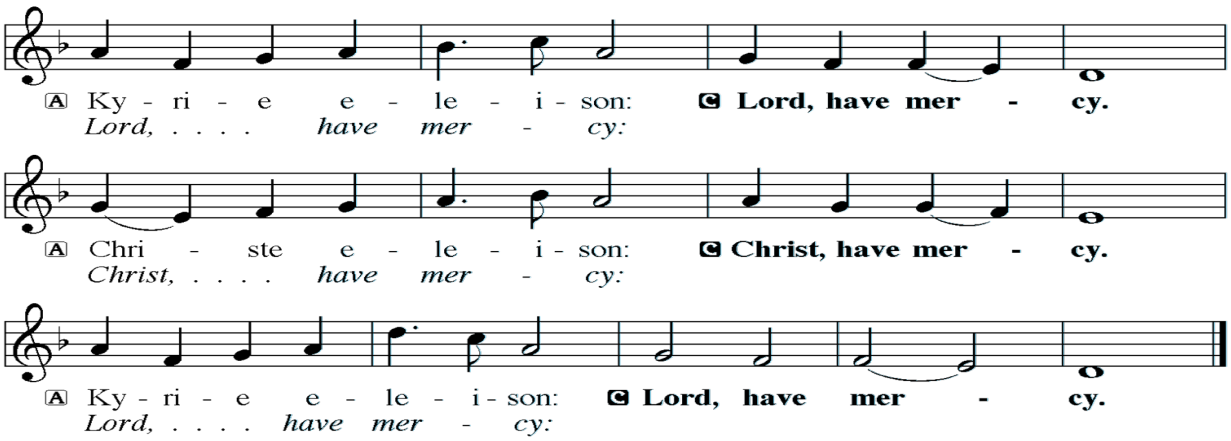
Gathering Hymn ELW 503 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord,

C: we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

A: The First Reading comes from Jeremiah, chapter 31 verses 31-34

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Our Psalm today is Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
**6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
**8 Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks

the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 **"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**
11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

A: The Second Reading comes from Romans, chapter 3 verses 19-28
A: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter
C: Glory to you O Lord. **Gospel: John 8:31-36**

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.
C: Praise to you O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day W&P 25 By Grace We Have Been Saved

Apostle's Creed

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence

A: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us offer to each other the sign of peace.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

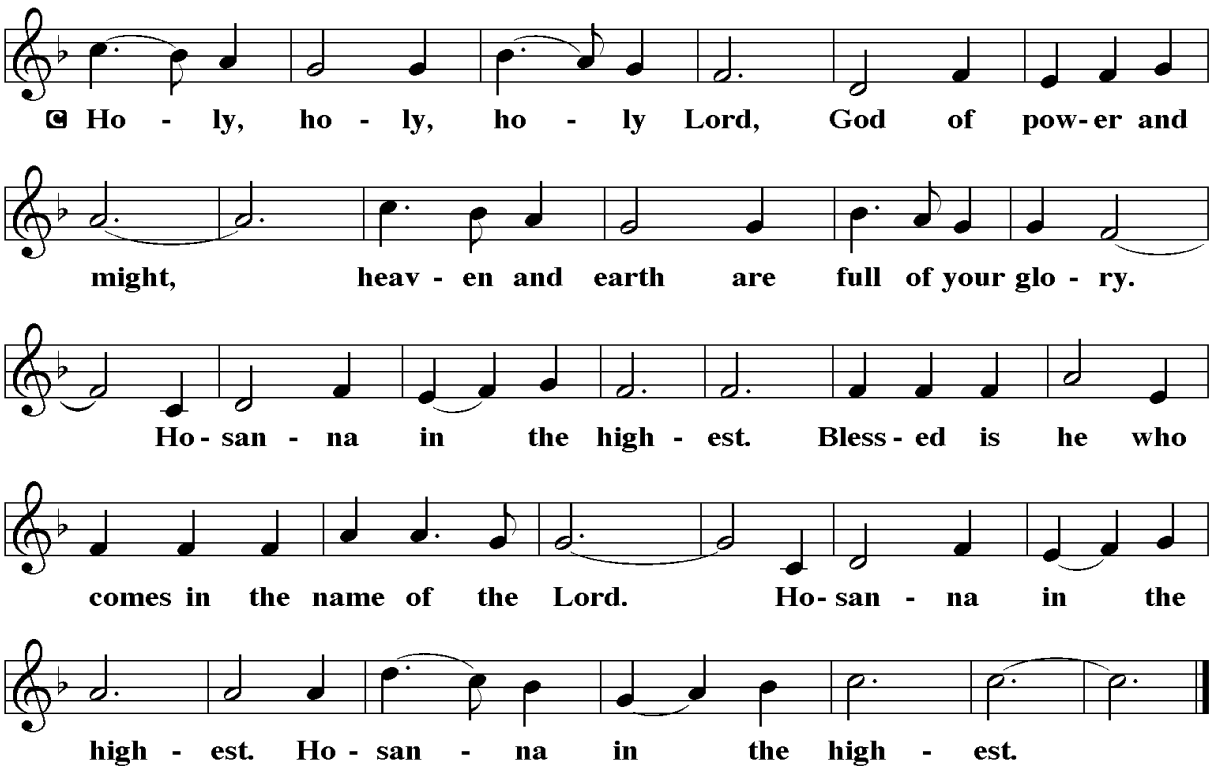
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

P: Gathered at and around the Lord's table, we remember with thanksgiving that *"In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.' Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

Do this for the remembrance of me.'"

The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray together the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please be seated.
The usher will direct you when to come forward for Holy Communion.

Holy Communion is served.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW 665 Rise Shine You People

Dismissal

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.