

St. John Lutheran Church

The truth
will make

you free

JOHN 8:32

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20261025-REF ITEM014779 ELCA-K

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

REFORMATION SUNDAY • OCTOBER 25, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: A Mighty Fortress (#504)

Apostolic 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 p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

*Almighty God, gracious Lord, 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.***

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

Response: “Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.”

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. R**

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. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ 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'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Apostles' Creed

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

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

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed (local places may be named). Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

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.**

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: I Come With Joy (#482)
Here is Bread (#483)
Let Us Break Bread (#471)

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Send Forth by God's Blessing (#547)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th

Dedicated by Carl Knopp in memory of Eunice Knopp on her birthday.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA)
	After Worship Service	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
		Harvest Home Donations through November 22nd
Monday, November 9th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Tuesday, November 10th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Saturday, November 14th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Sunday, November 15th	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, November 18th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Friday, November 20th	Games Begin 7:00 pm	Designer Bag Bingo in the Ed. Building
Sunday, November 22nd	4:00 pm	Community Thanksgiving Service at First United Methodist

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Helen Dominic	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Emily Meighan	Gladys Sheppard
Krystal Booras	Frank Donovan	Ella Hirsch	Melanie Miles	Meilani Showell
Michael Botti	Marie Lentine Douglas	Valerie Hoffmann	Bill Murray	Frank Siderio III
Brian Byrnes	Tracey Drew	Makenzie Jack	Renate Murray	Maryann Smith
Barbara Cadwallier	Indie Fisher	Ed Kagen	Erica Polito	Bill Steel
Meadow Cantoral	Kayla Friant	Tracey Kelly	Samantha Reed	Carol Taylor
Randy Cantoral	Stephanie Friant	Deb Kuhn	Howard Rolette	George Vaneman, Sr.
Debbie Capasso	Rhea Fryor	Donna Leek	Ashley Rosser	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Ashley Fuhrman	Doug Levandowski	Dorcas Schellhas	Beverly Warming
Joe Condoli	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Jean Schlotz	Mary White
Sandra DeRitis	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

Dedicated by Henry and Marie Fickenscher in memory of and in honor of their loved ones,



GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday after the Worship Service
(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!

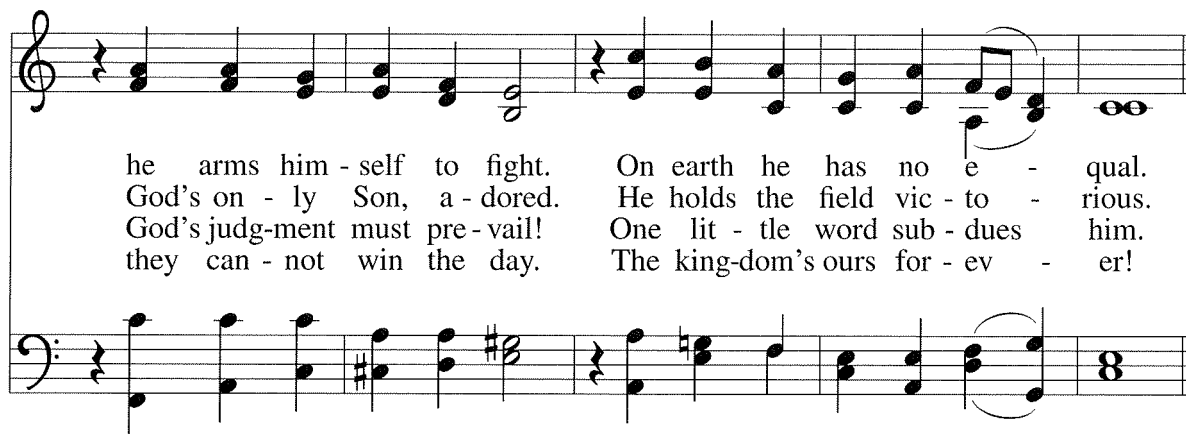
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

482

I Come with Joy



- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
- 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
- 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
- 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD

3 3 4 4 3 3 5 and refrain

Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are for three parts: 1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system of the song features a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 9th
7:00 pm in the Parish House

Bible Study



Tuesday, November 10th
at 7:00 pm
in the Parish House

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

All are welcome!



Saturday, November 14th • 11:30 in the Ed. Building

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, November 15th
11:30 am–12:30 pm
In the Parish House



GRIEF GATHERING

Wednesday, November 18th
7:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room
All Are Welcome!



BAGS, BINGO, AND BIG BLESSINGS!

Can I Get an AMEN... and a Michael Kors?

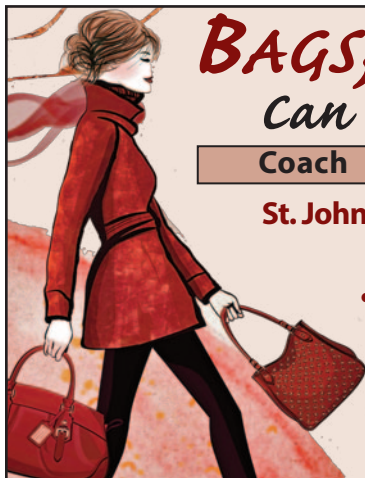
Coach • Kate Spade • Michael Kors • Dooney and Bourke

St. John's Ed Building | Friday, Nov. 20th | Doors Open 6 PM | Games 7 to 10 PM

\$40 per ticket Reserve a table (10 people)

- 10 games • Basket Raffles • 50/50 • Complimentary desserts and coffee
- Beverages, soft pretzels and daubers available for purchase
- Must be 18 or older to play

To purchase tickets ONLINE scan here:
or contact: Stephanie Weist at (856) 912-9875 or sch8730@msn.com





Sunday, November 22, 2026 • 4:00 pm
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF WILLIAMSTOWN
159 S Main St, Williamstown, NJ



ST. JOHN'S HARVEST HOME
Donation accepted through November 22nd
Help CIA gather items for families with food insecurities this holiday season

Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)
Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .
Donate Shelf Stable Milk for
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.
Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

SAVE TIME . . . no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One-time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094
Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer
Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohslutheran1002@yahoo.com
Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

Monroe Twp Halloween Parade • Saturday, October 17 2026



Adeline Mae Hoffman Baptism • Sunday, October 18, 2026



St. John's Lutheran Church

970 B South Main Street, Williamstown

BAGS, BINGO, AND BIG BLESSINGS!

Can I Get an AMEN... and a Michael Kors?

Coach • Kate Spade • Michael Kors • Dooney and Bourke

Friday, Nov. 20th
Doors Open 6 PM | Games 7 to 10 PM

\$40 per ticket includes 3 dauber cards per game
Lots of Friends? Reserve a table (10 people)

- 10 games • Basket Raffles • 50/50
- Complimentary desserts and coffee
- Beverages, soft pretzels and daubers available for purchase
- Must be 18 or older to play

To purchase tickets ONLINE scan here:
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