



Affirmation of Baptism/Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 25, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: God has been our dwelling place

C: **For all generations.**

P: Before the world was formed,

C: **God was God.**

P: A thousand years for us

C: **Are like one day to God.**

P: Give us your favor, O God!

C: And make our work prosper for the sake of others.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

- P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
- C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Wade in the Water” (ELW 459)**

Chosen by: Bode Wagner

Refrain

**Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

- 1 (See that host all dressed in white,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

Refrain

**Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

- 2 (See that band all dressed in red,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(looks like the band that Moses led.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

Refrain

**Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

- 3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

- 4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

Text: African American spiritual

***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.**

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 us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us 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

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: 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.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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. Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 46: Congregation read the bold

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹God 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;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought up-on the earth;

⁹behold 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.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 3:19-28

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

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

²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is

attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it 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. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Here ends the second reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *sung* (ELW pg. 102)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: 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.*

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They 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'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
The Gospel of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* (ELW 742)
Chosen by: Mya Holmquist

1 **What a friend we have in Jesus,**

all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

FAITH STATEMENTS BY CONFIRMANDS:

Cora Rynn Schlosser
Bode Jerome Wagner
Mya Jeanette Holmquist
Jaxson Edward-James Bosl
Brianna Mary Skoglund

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM: (ELW pg. 234)

Confirmands, please come forward and face the congregation.

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMANDS:

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

CONGREGATION REPRESENTATIVE: I present Cora Rynn Schlosser, Bode Jerome Wagner, Mya Jeanette Holmquist, Jaxson Edward-James Bosl, and Brianna Mary Skoglund who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these young people, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH:** *Congregation please stand as you are able*

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C. 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C. 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.**

Congregation may be seated

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
-

CONFIRMANDS: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

- P: People of God, do you promise to support these young people and pray for them in their life in Christ?
- C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

PRAYER:

- P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Amen.

BLESSING OF CONFIRMANDS: *Family members are invited to come forward during the blessing and laying on of hands for their confirmand. After the blessing, they may return to their seats.*

**Cora Schlosser
Bode Wagner
Mya Holmquist
Jaxson Bosl
Brianna Skoglund**

- L: Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF CONFIRMANDS:

CONGREGATION REPRESENTATIVE: Let us rejoice with these young people in Christ.

- C. **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PEACE:**

- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

We thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our communities and the world.

OFFERING HYMN: “My Jesus” by: Anne Wilson

Chosen by: Bri Skoglund

Are you past the point of weary?
Is your burden weighing heavy?
Is it all too much to carry?
Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus
Do you feel that empty feeling?
‘Causes shame’s done all its stealing
And you’re desperate for some healing
Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus

He makes a way where there ain’t no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain’t no sinner that He can’t save
Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus
His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He’s done for me
Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, amen, amen

Who can wipe away the tears
From broken dreams and wasted years?
And tell the past to disappear, oh
Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus

And all the wrong turns that you would
Go and undo if you could
Who can work it all for your good?
Let me tell you about my Jesus

He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that He can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, amen, amen, amen

Who would take my cross to Calvary?
Pay the price for all my guilty?
Who would care that much about me?
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus, oh

He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that He can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, amen, amen
Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, let my Jesus change your life

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Dear God,

C: We bring these gifts not in search of praise, but out of gratitude for all you have done for us. Receive them and use them for the benefit of your children everywhere, as a sign of your love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING: *spoken* (ELW pg. 107)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift our hearts to the Lord.

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

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

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER:** *spoken*

**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,
forever and ever. Amen. forever. Amen.**

*** EUCHARISTIC INVITATION:**

**P: We gather around the Lord's table with gratitude for what has been, what
is, and hope for what will be. We welcome all who believe in Christ and
trust in his promises to come and share in this meal.**

Please be seated

COMMUNION

The acolytes, ushers, organist and those assisting with communion should come forward at this time and receive communion. Following the assistants, each confirmand and their family will come forward for Holy Communion around the altar. When all confirmand families are completed, the rest of the congregation will celebrate continuous Holy Communion. The ushers will direct you.

**Cora Schlosser
Bode Wagner
Mya Holmquist
Jaxson Bosl
Brianna Skoglund**

COMMUNION HYMN: “*It Is Well with My Soul*” (ELW 785)

Chosen by: Jaxson Bosl

- 1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
 when sorrows like sea billows roll,
 whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 let this blest assurance control,
 that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 and has shed his own blood for my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

- 3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

- 4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Borning Cry*” (ELW 732)

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,

**I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."**

**3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."**

**4 "I was there to hear your boding cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

COMMUNION HYMN: *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"* (ELW 504)

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

**2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!**

**Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

**3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.**

**4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION HYMN: “*The Church's One Foundation*” (ELW 654)

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,

yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Please stand as you are able

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Sustaining God,

C: **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. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

THREE FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG: "Ten Thousand Reasons" (ACS 1097)**

Chosen by: Cora Schlosser

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.**

**Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.**

**You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and your heart is kind.**

**For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore!**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.**

Songwriters: Matthew James Redman b.1974 and Jonas Myrin b.1982.

***DISMISSAL**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

This morning we celebrate our confirmands as they reach another milestone in
their faith journey:

Cora Rynn Schlosser
Daughter of Justin & Jaci Schlosser

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3

Bode Jerome Wagner
Son of Bill & Karin Wagner

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.”

1 John 4:18

Mya Jeanette Holmquist
Daughter of Peter & Jeri Holmquist

“God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.”

Psalms 46:5

Jaxson Edward-James Bosl
Son of Dane Bosl & Jen Melby

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Brianna Mary Skoglund
Daughter of John & Sara Skoglund

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

Congratulations! This is a beautiful day of commitment, celebration, and joy. Your Esther church family hopes nothing but the best for you as you continue your spiritual journey. God’s richest blessings!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson	Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather	Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist	Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart	Sara Skoglund

Steph Stueve
 Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
 Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
 Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
 Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
 Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
 Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
 Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
 Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
 Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
 Becky Ytrie – friend of the Townsends
 Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
 Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
 Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
 Barb Hoyhtya – friend of the Thoms
 Audrey Plessner - sister of Kathy Mittag
 Dirk Bergquist – friend of Esther members
 Family and Friends of: Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt,
 Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta,
 Kathy Wilkins, Ivy Christensen, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale
 Flemming, Wally Schlosser, Carter Stockert, Woodrow Peery, Elaine Salvog, and
 Wes Hoyhtya.

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, October 25th – Affirmation of Baptism/Reformation Sunday

9 am – Sunday School

9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation

9:30 am – Confirmation Cake Reception

10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend – **Remember to wear Red!**

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Wednesday, October 28th

6 pm – Confirmation: Meal: Logan Arvidson

Thursday, October 29th

Newsletter articles due to Church Office

All Saints Day names to Church Office

Sunday, November 1st – All Saints Day

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

9 am – All People Sunday School

9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation

10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Pastor: Oct 25 (Confirmation)- SAM Jewel Townsend

Organists: Marcia Guenther

Altar Care: Deb Koep

Usher: Dave & Elliott Arvidson

Acolyte: Emma & Elliott Arvidson

Lay Reader: Deb Koep

Communion Assistant: Christy Hart

Birthday Card Sender: Deb Koep

NEWS AND NOTES

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening! Go to estherlutheran.com and click on "Esther Calendar."

All Saints Day is Sunday, November 1st. You are invited to share the names of family or friends who have passed away in the last year. Please send their date of birth and date of passing to Mandy in the office by **October 29th**.

Porch Pot Making Event will be held on November 7th at Kathy Mittag's at 9 am. ALL are welcome! We look forward to a fun morning of creativity and fellowship!

Get your lefse ready for the holidays! Each package includes four lefse for \$7. Please submit your orders by November 30th. Order forms are available in the Narthex, or you can place your order by calling Lana Doll at 218-280-6326.

Mark your calendars! Our lefse-making events are coming up soon!

- **First Event:** November 20th & 21st
- **Second Event:** December 4th & 5th

Any and all help is greatly appreciated! Whether you can help for a little while or the whole time, we'd love to have you join us. Thank you for your time and support!

December 6th is our Christmas Market! A sign-up sheet for soup & BBQ will be available soon. If you are unable to bring food, but would still like to contribute, monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to WELCA and give them to either Luella or Lana.



The Bell Tower is leaking and needs to be repaired. Because of the high reach and difficult area to work with, we do not have an exact idea of cost, but it could surpass \$50,000. Please consider helping with this important and much needed repair. Help keep the bell ringing! Please send your donation to the church: 11019 625th Ave Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 or scan the QR code.



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab "Give to Esther Lutheran Church" and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app

Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

We welcome you to join in the weekly "Behold the New Has Come" devotions available on our website estherlutheran.com on the "Behold" tab. Devotions are posted to the website and emailed out each Monday. If you

are not currently on the email list and want to be, please notify Mandy in the office. Each weekly devotion includes a challenge for the week.

This past week's challenge is:



Is there a bible verse that you turn to as a guide in your life? Remember the words, *"your word is a light on my path"* this week. In the moments of joy, disappointment, and doubt, think about how God's word can be a guiding force. This is your baptismal promise – to practice carrying the light of Christ with you wherever life takes you in your journey.

We hope these devotions and weekly challenges will inspire conversations and stories that we can share with one another as, together, we grow in faith through this initiative.

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God's image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - "Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love". If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
11019 625th Ave, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 - Telephone:218-338-2171
Website:estherlutheran.com
Email: secretary@estherlutheran.net
Facebook: facebook.com/estherlutheran/
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