

REFORMATION SUNDAY

8:30AM

October 26, 2025



True Freedom

AS WE GATHER

Reformation Day is sometimes treated as merely a nod to history for those who claim Luther's legacy. But the great Reformation is not about recalling a hero. It is about **reclaiming the Gospel** in our own time.

We are blessed with many freedoms in this country. We have freedom of speech. We have freedom of religion, with the freedom to assemble. We live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." It is easy to rely on our citizenship for proof of our freedom. In that way, we are like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They relied on their Abrahamic lineage for freedom, recalling the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. While these national freedoms are great blessings, in the Holy Gospel, Jesus points out that for true freedom, one must be free from slavery to sin. Only in Christ is anyone truly free.

Through his sermons and hymn texts and writings, Luther presented the Gospel simply and directly. Today we honor and celebrate his faithful rediscovery of that Good News!

PRELUDE

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

Come Christians Join to Sing*St Paul's Choral Ensemble***RINGING OF THE BELL****Processional Hymn** (Please follow the Cross as it enters the church)**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***Brass introduction*

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

2 (Women)

No strength of ours can match his
 might!
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 whom God himself elected.
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is
 he!
 Christ Jesus our Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.

3 (Men)

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 tyant rage, in battle
we'll engage.

He is doomed to fail

God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

4 (ALL)

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.

If they take our house, goods, fame,
child, or spouse,

wrench our life away,

they cannot win the day.

The kingdom's ours forever!



INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.

Pastor: The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*St Paul's Choral Ensemble***PSALM** *Psalm 46*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: 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.

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

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

Pastor: God will help her when morning dawns.

People: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

Pastor: He utters His voice, the earth melts.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord, how He has brought desolations on the earth.

People: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

FIRST READING *Romans 3:19–28*

(By grace are you saved through faith and not of yourselves.)

Reader: ¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

People: ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Reader: ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness,

People: for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Reader: ²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on

faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL *John 8:31–36* (The truth will make you free.)

Reader: ³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

People: ³³ **“But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?”**

Reader: ³⁴ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. ³⁵ A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Crown Him Lord of All

- *St Paul's Choral Ensemble*



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.



655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

MESSAGE – *Pastor Christopher Fairbairn*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Preserve Your church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. To You alone be all glory, now and forever, for You rule and reign as one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Give us this day our daily bread.
 Forgive us, forgive us
 As we forgive the ones who sinned
 Against us; forgive them.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.
 Let your kingdom come.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.



It's yours, it's yours,
 All yours, all yours.
 The kingdom, the power,
 The glory are yours.

It's yours, it's yours,
 All yours, all yours.
 Forever and ever

The kingdom is yours.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

777 Grant Peace We Pray in Mercy Lord (*Martin Luther*)

Grant peace, we pray, in mer - cy, Lord; Peace

in our time, O send us! For there is

none on earth but You, None oth - er

to de - fend us. You on - ly,

Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord has wiped our slates clean. In Him we know true freedom!
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.

People: **Lord Jesus, You are my true foundation! Amen**

The Church's One Foundation*Brass Introduction*

V1: All 1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
V2: Women 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
V3: All 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
V4: Men 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

Verse 5: All

Yet she on earth has union, with God the three in One
And mystic sweet communion, with those whose rest is won.

O Blessed Heav'ly chorus, Lord save us by your grace
That we like saints before us, may see You face to face



Need some PRAYER? Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher
 Officiant
 Music Director
 Family Life
 Elder
 Reader
 Musicians

St Paul's Choral Ensemble

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
 Pastor Jim Frusti
 Paul Ventimiglia
 Jeanette Koch
 Mark Potter
 Mark Ernst
 Charlie Miller / Trumpet
 Anthony Stanco / Trumpet

Lisa Fairbairn
 Cheryl Bailey
 Nancy Berg - Crenshaw
 Anne Burgess
 Chris Burgess
 John Hasse
 Barbara Hoffmeier
 Will Hoffmeier
 Linda Johnson
 Rich Johnson
 Chris Englert
 Sue Roman
 Jeff Shapiro
 Justin Dotson

Greeter

Benson Family

Welcome Center

Pat McGuigan

Ushers

John Hasse
 Charleen Hill
 Bob McGuigan
 Pat McGuigan

Tech Team

Thomas Kutz

Coffee Hour

Elders

Counters

Katie Helmick
 Carole Crete
 Thomas Kutz

Acolyte

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

WEDNESDAYS: Women's Bible Study- Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the church Parish Hall.

SUNDAYS: Join us for bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.

SATURDAYS: Men's Bible Study – Every 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 10.19.2025– Attendance – 8:30am –101 + 11:00am – 62 = 163

Communion - 125

Received week of 10.19.2025- for Church (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$ 9,905** total includes online giving School - **\$704.33**

26	OCT, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship
		● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/ Communion
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship
		● 7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball school gym
27	OCT, MON	● 3:45 – 5:15pm	School Early Childhood Meeting
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Council Mtg PH Parish Hall
28	OCT, TUE	● 10am – 2pm	School Hot Lunch - Kitchen
		● 5:45 – 6:45pm	Little League BQ Practice - Parish Hall
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting room #5
		● 7 – 8pm	JV/Varsity BQ Practice - Parish Hall
29	OCT, WED	● All day	SCHOOL PICTURE DAY
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Ladies Bible Study -Church Parish Hall
		● 10 – 11am	School Picture Day
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Newcomer Class - Parish Hall
30	OCT, THU	● All day	1/2 Day of School Parent Teacher Conference
		● 10am – 2pm	School Hot Lunch - Kitchen
		● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice
		● 5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal - church
31	OCT, FRI	● All day	Trunk & Treats
		● All day	NO SCHOOL Conference Cont.
		● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
1	NOV, SAT	● All day	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall

Altar Flowers

**Two vases in honor of the birthday of their father Chris
From Jacob, Emily and Joey Fairbairn.**



Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11 am service

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Jean Pichan
Brookdale Senior Living
40405 6 Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48168



Congregation, the coffee hour crew needs your help in providing coffee hour during Bible study. We have four coffee hours that need to be filled before the end of the year. November 2nd, 23rd, December 14th and the 21st. Can you please find a small group of 3-4 to provide coffee hour on one of these days? If you have questions, please see Claudia, Sue or Jan Paver. Also, look forward to our 2026 list coming soon with lots of (blanks) opportunities to SERVE.

We are back to serving our warm casseroles at Family of God. We are sure it was a welcome meal as it drizzled rain as the deacons and pastors handed to-go plates to those who waited outside for a meal on Tuesday, October 7th. It was a bit different for us but we adjusted fast. We made up to-go meals with the Chicken Tamale Casseroles made by Mary Lou Jaussi (2), Julia Smith (2), Kathy Verseman, Cindi Gliesman, Kathy McFall, Meg Loodeen (**school grandma 1st timer**) and Sue Poole (2). Jan Faerber brought the Sour Cream, Anne Burgess the Salsa, Chris Henning the Nacho Chips, Marilyn Breuhan and Pat McGuigan the cups of Applesauce, Katy Baetz-Matthews, Shelly Ernst and Carole Crete all brought a Case of Water, Carole Crete, Cheryl Bailey and Charlene Hill yummy desserts. Our servers were Julia Smith (driver), Sue Poole, Pat McGuigan, and Shelly Ernst. Margo organized our kitchen and Marcy packed our to-go paper products. It was different and we missed seeing and talking to our people. As we were walking out, we heard for the first time I can ever remember, "We Love You" from many of the staff at Family of God, we repeated it back to them. We are family and look forward to serving again on October 22 (our Wednesday night dinner). Thank you to all our helpers. Please contact us if you have any questions, Barbara Hoffmeier, Sue Poole or Pat McGuigan.

\$\$\$\$ **Endowment Fund News** \$\$\$\$

Our grant window is now open through November 14th for the second half of 2025, and we have \$2575 in grant dollars remaining. Please contact the church office for an application.

St. Paul's Endowment Fund 2024 year-end balance was **\$96,665.36** which generates **\$4825** in grant dollars available for 2025. We are headed into our fourth year of grants and have been able to give over \$13,750 in total grants. Here is a re-cap of what the Endowment Fund has supported thus far:

- \$1600 St Paul's National Youth Gathering in Texas
- \$450 Belize mission trip
- \$1200 Protect Young Eyes Tech talk 101 event
- \$470 Hand Bell Choir storage cases
- \$3365 Church administration office space construction
- \$2000 Church Roof
- \$450 VBS T-Shirts
- \$500 Bible Quizzers
- \$1000 New Church Website
- \$500 School science experiment/chemistry supplies
- \$2000 Church sign refurbishment project (2025)
- \$250 Bible Quizzers (2025)



Thank you to everyone that has donated and continues to donate to our Endowment Fund.

Another MOST eyeglass mission trip is currently being planned for April 11-18 2026 at a mission church in the town of Pasaquina in El Salvador. MOST has only recently established a presence in El Salvador, and we are excited to be among the first MOST missions to that country. We are establishing an email contact list for anyone who would like to be kept informed as we go forward with the planning. The list is not only for "goers", people considering going on the trip, but also for "senders", people who might want to be involved with supporting the team with fundraisers, etc. There is no commitment so if you would like to be kept informed, please forward your email address to Chris Burgess at chris.burgess917@gmail.com.



Newcomer Class began! Are you **NEW** to St. Paul Lutheran? Join us Wednesday evenings **October 22nd , October 29th and November 5th - 6:30pm** in the church parish hall. This group will explore the unique, unequalled story of how God's remarkable love gives direction and meaning to your life, today and always. Whether you are new to our church or looking to transfer from another church home, this open discussion group is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Please call the church office to register! 248-349-3140 ext. 10. **All are welcome!** If you are looking to join St. Paul Lutheran Church, **THIS IS THE GROUP FOR YOU!**
Childcare provided – please call church office if needed. 248-349-3140

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, LWML, supports a large number of national and Michigan grants through the MITES we collect every year. October is one of four times a year that MITE boxes are collected. For the month of October, our local chapter, Women in Christ, is supporting a mission grant requested by POBLO International for starting an Afghan Ministry in Michigan. The grant funds raised, \$1,550, will be used to support a female Afghan bilingual coordinator as well as provide Bibles and Luther's Small Catechism in the refugees' native language. Transportation to programs and events will also be provided for all participants. Women in Christ graciously thanks you for helping us fulfill our mission grants over the years

Pasta Dinner and Basket Auction: Saturday November 8th, 2025 at 5pm
 (Free Will Offering).

Invite your family and friends for a fun filled night.

Salem National Ev. Lutheran Church, 32430 Ann Arbor Rd. Westland.
 RSVP to (734)422-5550

Salem Nat. Ev. Lutheran Church
 32430 Ann Arbor Trail



WHAT: St. Paul Annual Trunk 'n Treat

WHEN: October 31 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WHERE: St. Paul Parking Lot and Church Parish Hall

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Watch for Signup Genius or a sign-up

poster if you prefer. We need help with set up, kitchen and serving, candy and door prize donations. Our biggest need though is trunks with a goal of 8.

Let's welcome our Northville neighbors and show them a good time with free parking as a bonus for the community.

GRADES 5TH TO 12TH GRADE



ALL MISSIONS ARE IN NORTHVILLE

**ROAD RALLY
GOOSECHASE**

**ST PAUL
NORTHVILLE
HOSTING**




**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SATURDAY
11/22/25
2:30-6:00**

**DON'T MISS
OUT ON A
FUN TIME!**

**BUY-A-BRICK
FUNDRAISER**



**You can choose Memorial
or Honorium brick
to support the new church sign.
Cost of each brick will be
\$125.00 (\$6 extra for symbol)
We will be laying the brick garden in
front of the new sign.
More information to follow**

HELP ST. PAUL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
RAISE MONEY

RETURN BOTTLES

OCTOBER 6TH
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 7TH



Bottle Return Drive

WINNING CLASSROOM GETS A SPECIAL PRIZE!

Drop off @ school foyer



Help Continue the Legacy of St Paul’s Lutheran School for Generations to Come

Our St. Paul’s family would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support of our school over the years... We sadly are faced with the possibility of our precious preschool being closed due to low enrollment. This would be important for the future of our school. With the help of your generous donations and a leap of faith, we are asking to share this GoFundMe link and QR Code with all your friends, family and even employers.

The proceeds of this GoFundMe will be offsetting the deficit of this MAP year and providing the preschool with the ability to continue to enroll students and support its devoted staff. We already have children attending the preschool program and are continuing to receive in-person tour requests as well as submissions to our online enrollment portal.

We are hoping to enroll students and reach this goal by November 21st of 2025.

* In the event we do not reach our goal of \$50,000 all donors will be given the option to be refunded or have their donation go towards supporting our K-8 program.

Please pray for our school... We love our children and want them to continue to grow in their faith and love of Jesus.



Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

Church
DECORATING PARTY

Celebrate the holiday season by getting the church ready for Christmas! Join us by coming November 30th after the 11am service to decorate the church. Your family, group or board can sign up for a specific area to focus on! See the sign up in the church hallway or call the church office for more information!

12 Noon Sunday
November 30, 2025

Cookies, Hot cocoa and music included!

248-349-3140 ext. 10 for more information