



Reformation Lutheran Church

"Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!"

November 2025

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1-2

Thanksgiving Day often includes a mad rush of preparation for family and friends to gather together to thank God for our blessings. We buy turkeys and all the fixings, cook for hours, and clean our homes for company, try to ensure that our cars are up to some travel. The grocery stores have been filled with people trying to prepare for the festive meal. There will be a moment during the gathering for prayer, but sometimes it seems like there is little sign of thanksgiving. People push through the aisles, grumbling about the crowds, worrying about the cost and work. It seems like a thankless task for those who do all the work, but I wonder if they are truly thankful for what God has done.

We can't avoid the usual celebration, the tradition of family gatherings around the table and lazy times watching parades and football. We love those aspects of the day. But this year, as we are buried in turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, let us not lose the purpose of the day. We gather to praise the One who has provided for all our needs. The pilgrims and native Americans who gathered for the first Thanksgiving may have been celebrating their friendship and the good things they had done for one another, but they were also praising God for His provision.

Rather than giving God just five minutes of half-hearted prayers, let us sing praises to God as we prepare for the feast. Instead of grumbling at the crowds, thank God for your neighbors. Rather than complain about the cost of the ingredients, thank God that you have food and buy a little extra to share. Take a walk and praise God for His creation. Enjoy the all people who cross your path. This Thanksgiving will be more joyful as we truly thank God for all things. Let us make a joyful noise for the One who deserves our praise because He has done great things for us.

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Mission and Ministry Outreach: We will have several outreach possibilities coming up. FOCUS is in need of extra food due to many people now without SNAP or other food benefits they may rely on for their family. With Thanksgiving and Christmas closer than we realize, I'm sure we'll be able to find ways to reach out in our community. I will be getting with the school counselor about sponsoring a family at Christmas again this year.

I had a large amount of donated shampoo and other hygiene items that I took to the high school. The senior counselor there will let me know if there are any other needs in their, "Help Yourself Shelves." As always, any and all ideas are welcome!

Fellowship: We had some great food at our Reformation potluck! Thanks to all who contributed! Looking ahead, there will only be three Advent Wednesdays this year. The first will be on December 3rd. I'm all for a meal before service as we've usually done. A signup sheet will be out closer to time.

Education: Sunday Bible Study has resumed, at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The focus of our study is "Luther's Catechisms" from CPH's The Lutheran Confessions Series.

Property: Our November clean-up day will be Saturday, November 29th at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE ☺

November 19th – Keith Becker

November 22nd – Cheryle Wadsworth

Sunday – Nov. 2 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

Sunday – Nov. 9 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service; Council after service

Thursday – Nov. 13 – 11:30 a.m. Lutheran Men's Lunch – Cataula Creek

Sunday – Nov. 16 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

Sunday – Nov. 23 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

Saturday – Nov. 29 – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday – Nov. 30 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

	Nov. 2	Nov 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
Altar Guild	Tammy	Amy	Junior	Tammy	Junior
Usher/Greeter	Amy	Junior	Amy	Junior	Junior
Lector	Gabi	Tammy	Amy	Dick	Chuck
Music	Amy	Amy	Amy	Amy	Teresa
Children Time	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat
Sermon	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
Bible Study	Tammy	Tammy	Tammy	Tammy	Tammy
Thrive	Gabi	Pastor	Gabi	Wayne	Gabi
Oaks	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor	Chuck

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A woman was talking with her pastor and said, "Pastor, I'm not going to come to church anymore." The pastor wondered why.

She said, "When I'm sitting in church, I see people sleeping, people reading the paper, looking at their phones. It just doesn't seem like there is any reason to be there."

The pastor thought for a minute and then asked the woman if she would do something for him. Of course, she said yes. He told her to get a glass of water and when she had done that, he asked her to walk around the church twice without spilling any water. She carefully began walking and two laps later returned to the pastor. Did you spill any water he asked, and she replied, "No". Why not he asked. "Because I was concentrating on the glass," she said.

He looked at her and said, "Remember this when you come to church. You didn't spill any water because you were concentrating on the glass. When you are in church you should be concentrating on God...God's words...God's lessons., not on what anyone else is doing."

Chuck Hunsaker
Council President

WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH "Out of Necessity:" The Church of the Lutheran Confession.

If mapped out on paper, the history of the Lutheran church in America resembles a tree with myriad branches. Some branches bend toward each other for a time, and then head a separate way. Sometimes twigs split off forming new branches. The Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC), a Lutheran body with about eighty congregations or teaching points throughout the United States, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2010. But it traces its history back to the origins of the Lutheran movement. The CLC became its own branch "out of necessity."

In 1872 American Lutheran church bodies often had geographic or ethnic identities; some were allied with a "home" state church, others were opposed. In that year, the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America, or popularly the Synodical Conference, was organized by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS), the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Ohio Synod, and the Norwegian Synod. This new body was to be an expression of the unity of these four church groups. The Slovak Synod joined the Synodical Conference in 1908, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod joined in 1917. These groups were in full communion, shared educational facilities, did joint mission and benevolence work, and had open pulpit fellowship.

Early on, the Synodical Conference, which held a high regard for fellowship and accountability, struggled with internal disagreements over the doctrine of predestination. But it was in the 1950s that some congregations were challenged to confront what members took as an affront to biblical commitment. In the 1950s concerns arose among several of the synodical partners about stances taken by LCMS, particularly in terms of biblical interpretation. Some saw indications that LCMS was no longer committed to sola scriptura, scripture alone. The concerns were so deep, a call for disassociation from the Synodical Conference began to be heard from some pastors and church leaders, especially within WELS.

As David Lau, archivist for the CLC, explained in his recently published history of the CLC, *Out of Necessity: A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*:

In 1955 one of the other synods of the Synodical Conference, the Wisconsin Synod, passed a resolution declaring that the Missouri Synod was causing "divisions and offenses" [from Romans 16: 1 7] contrary to the Word of God. One of their committees said that, because of this, it was necessary to avoid the Missouri Synod because of its toleration of false teaching. In fact, the committee said that if they postponed the decision to avoid the Missouri Synod in 1955, they would be violating the Word of God. But when the matter came to a vote, the Wisconsin Synod voted not to break fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

Over the next few years, a debate arose within WELS concerning the appropriate time and method for ending fellowship with the Missouri Synod. In each instance, action was postponed. Eventually, some then-WELS leaders felt compelled to withdraw participation from a group they saw as in error. Pastor Maynard Witt of Spokane, Washington, first took a stand, saying in 1957, "Out of love to the Wisconsin Synod and out of love and fear of the Word of God, I am compelled to announce my severance of fellowship from the official Wisconsin Synod." Later that year, another WELS leader, seminary professor Edmund Reim, concurred: "I hope and pray that the Synod may yet return to its former ways and to full obedience to the Word of God. I trust that you will realize that I take this step, not in anger, but in deepest sorrow, and because I am constrained by the Word of God."

These statements set in motion developments that led to the forming of a college and seminary in 1959 (Immanuel Lutheran College and Seminary), and a convention to establish a new Lutheran church body in 1960. In August 1960, about seventy-five delegates (forty-two pastors included) met in Watertown, South Dakota, to function as an Interim Conference to determine if there was sufficient common belief to form a joint body. For several years committees had been drawing up documents to approve in order to move forward in common mission. These documents were now put forward for adoption. David Lau states:

For a while it looked as though we would not be able to adopt a confession on church fellowship at this convention. There were even charges of false teaching directed towards some of the participants in these debates. But, after more discussion it was realized that the problems were based on misunderstanding.

The confession "Concerning Church Fellowship" was approved unanimously. When voting on the name of the fellowship, Immanuel Lutheran Conference won the first ballot, matching the name of the already existing college. But on the third ballot, Church of the Lutheran Confession received 39 votes to 29 for Immanuel.

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE