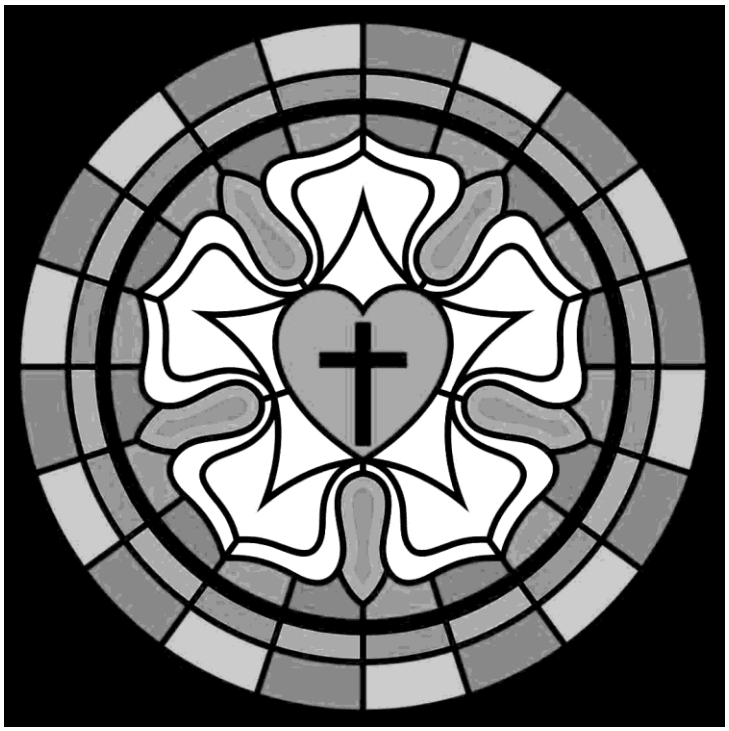
Worship Service for October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday



Welcome and Announcements

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

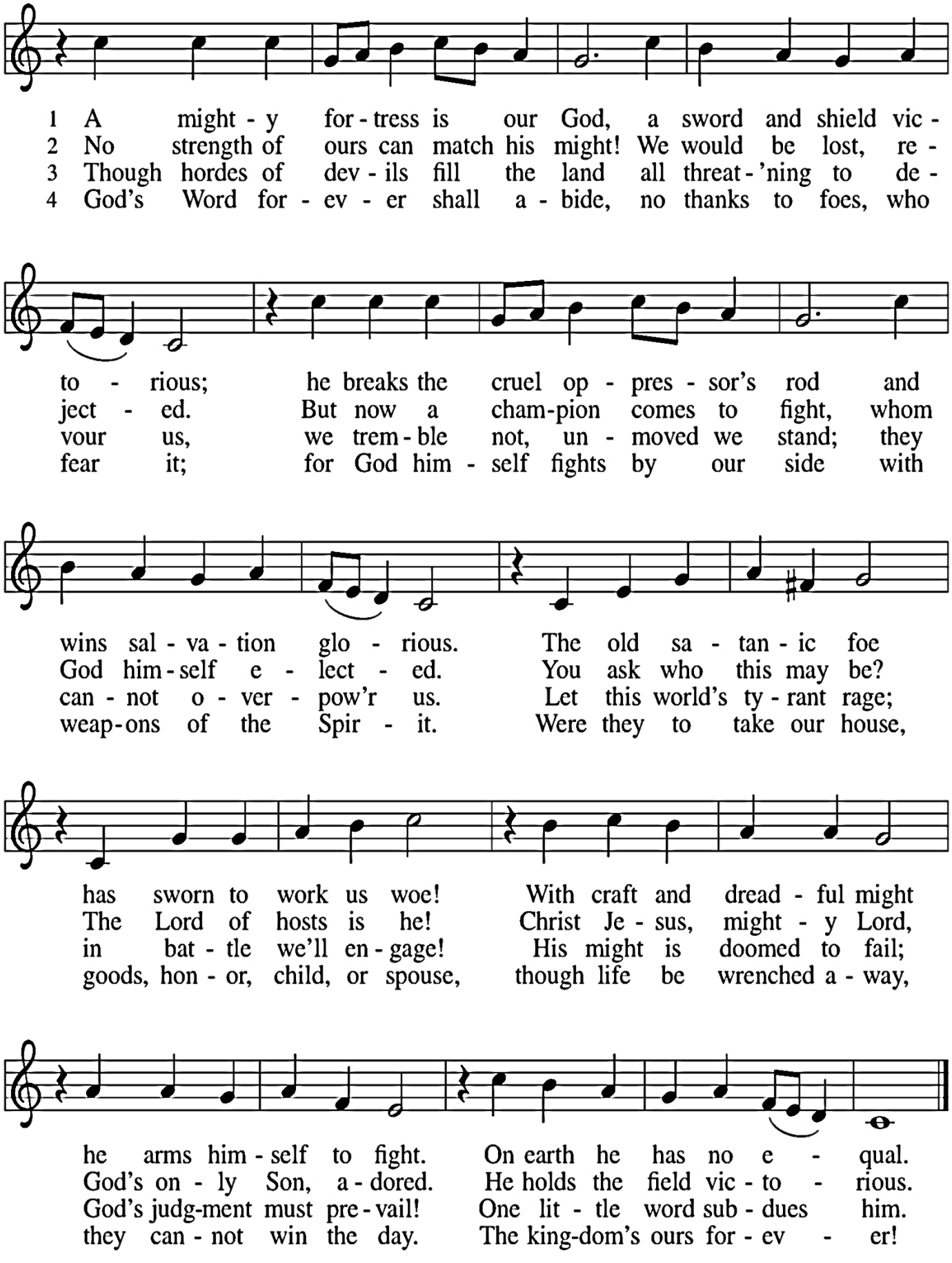
In remembrance of our Holy Baptism, we begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Beloved people of God, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Brief silence for reflection.

Together we pray: ***Heavenly Father, Maker of heaven and earth, we come before you acknowledging our brokenness. We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have often focused on our own desires instead of your will. We have failed to love you with all our hearts, and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. "In your mercy, create in us clean hearts, and send your Holy Spirit to renew us and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Beloved people of God, through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God forgives all our sins and grants us grace to walk in the way of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us go forth to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. ***Amen.***

Gathering Hymn **A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

Prayer of the Day

Together we 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.***

Reading of the 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: 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 up- on 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.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

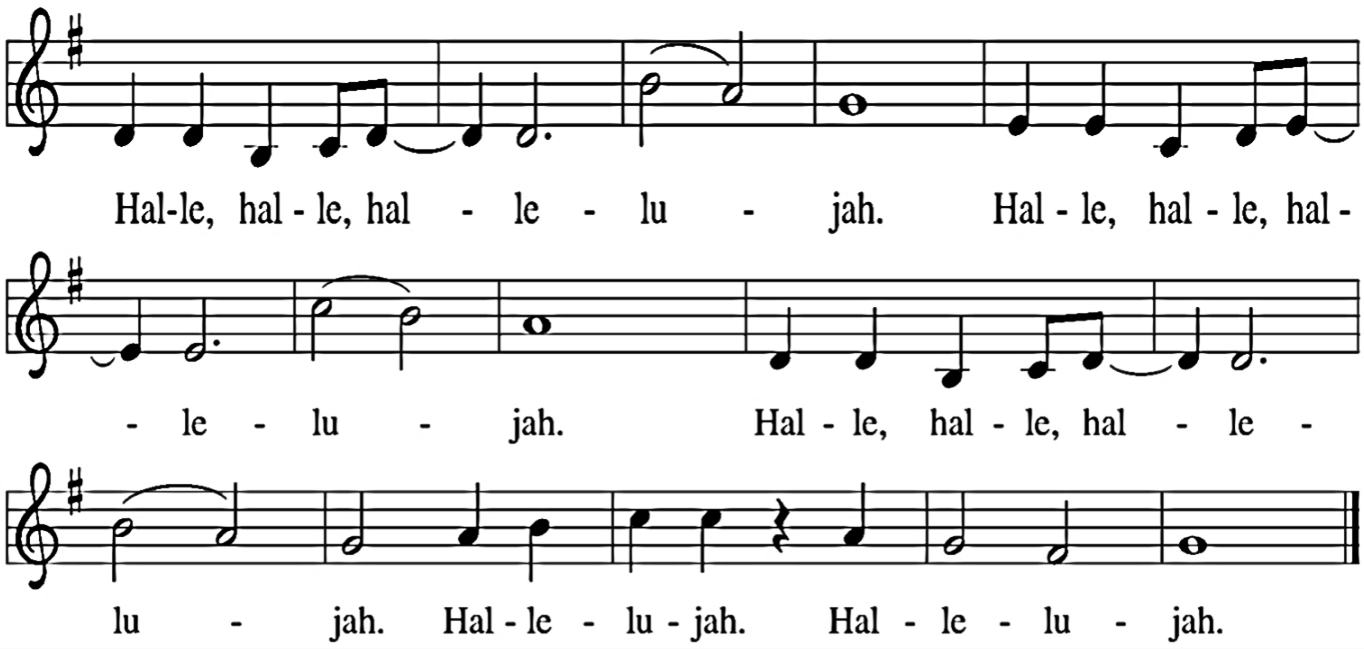
19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so
that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the
law comes the knowledge of sin.

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.***

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (sing 3X)**

Gospel: John 8:31-36

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

Welcome to New Salem - we are blessed to have you worship with us today!

If you are looking for a church home, please contact Traci Schanke in the church office at 218-586-2262 or via email at newsalem@paulbunyan.net. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book outside the church office.

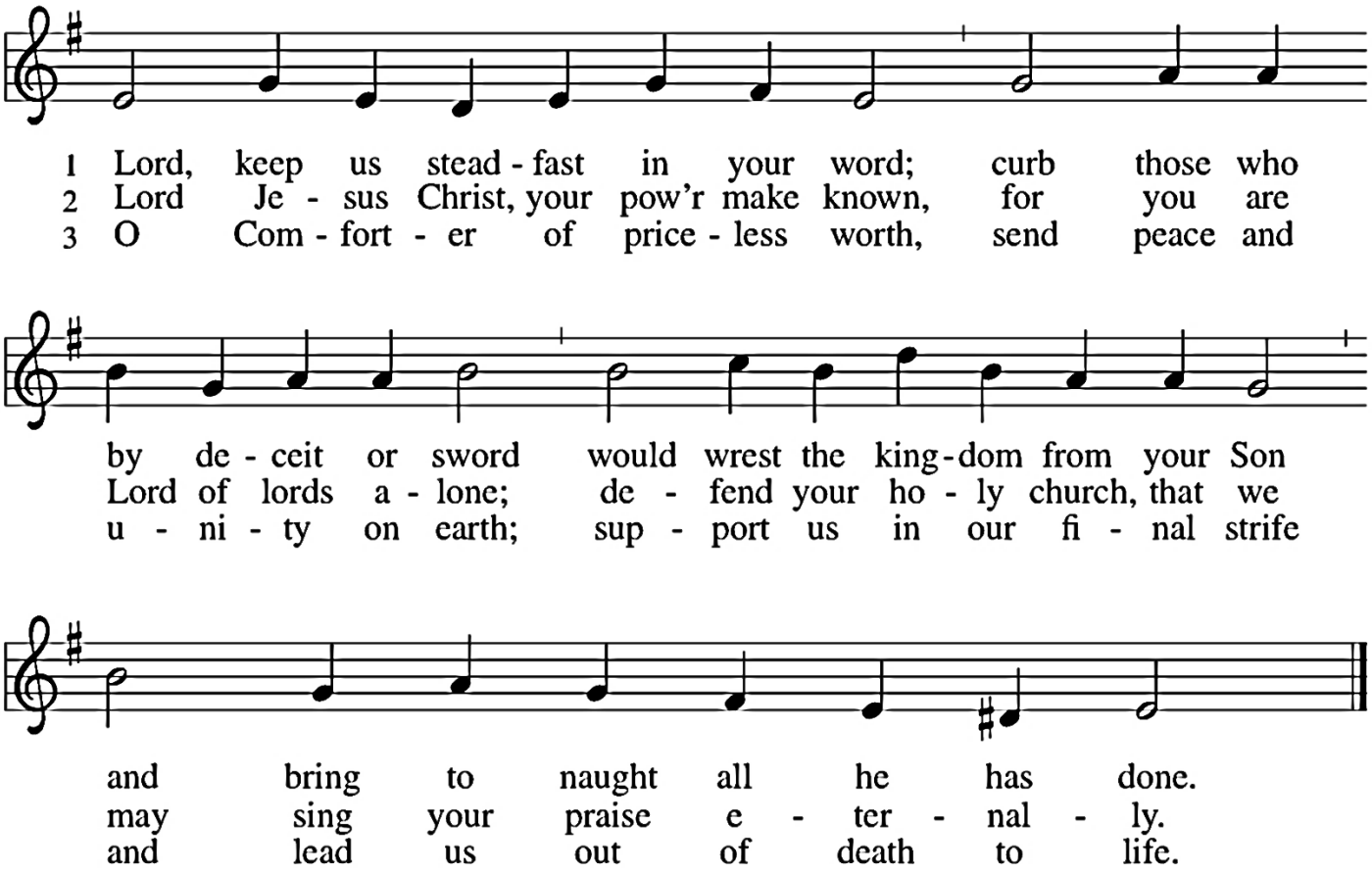
Website: newsalemlutheran.org

YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

Share in the Worship Ministries of New Salem!

YOU are invited to serve as a reader, proclaiming God's Word; as an usher, welcoming all who gather for worship; as a communion assistant, helping share the Lord's Supper with God's people; host the post-worship fellowship hour; or join the choir and lift your voice in praise. These ministries are an important part of our worship life and a wonderful way to serve God and one another. Please consider sharing your gifts! Please watch your email in the coming weeks for an invitation – or you can sign up using the sheets available on the rear table in the narthex! (Choir rehearsals are 5 p.m. on Wednesdays – no need to sign up, just join us!)

Hymn of the Day **Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**



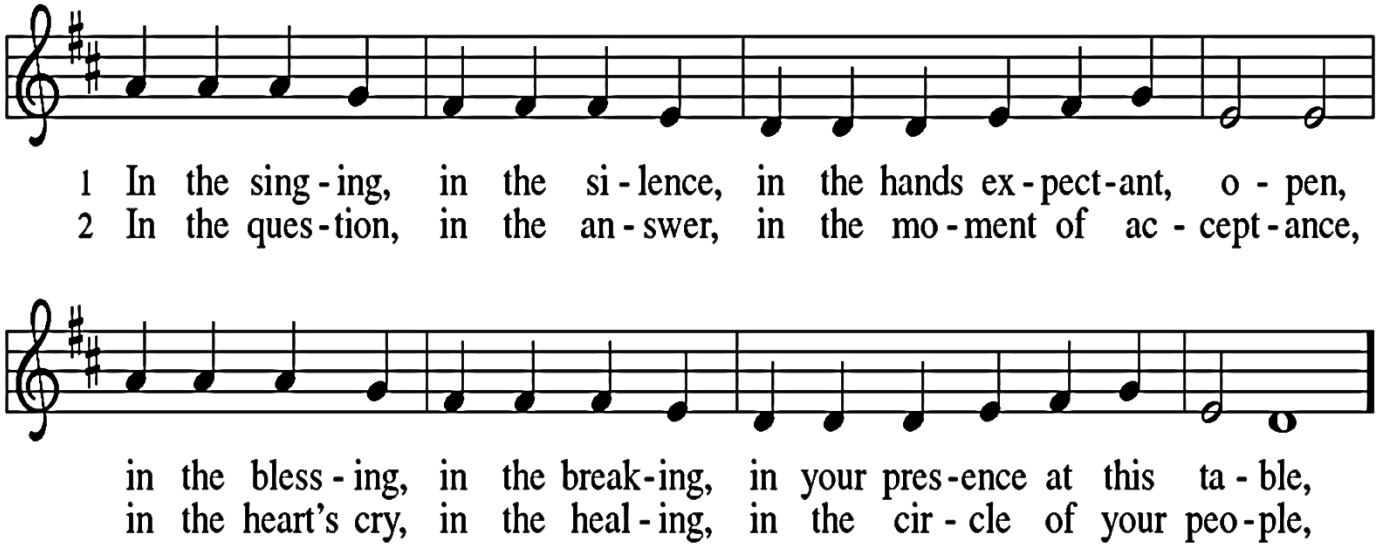
Prayers of the People

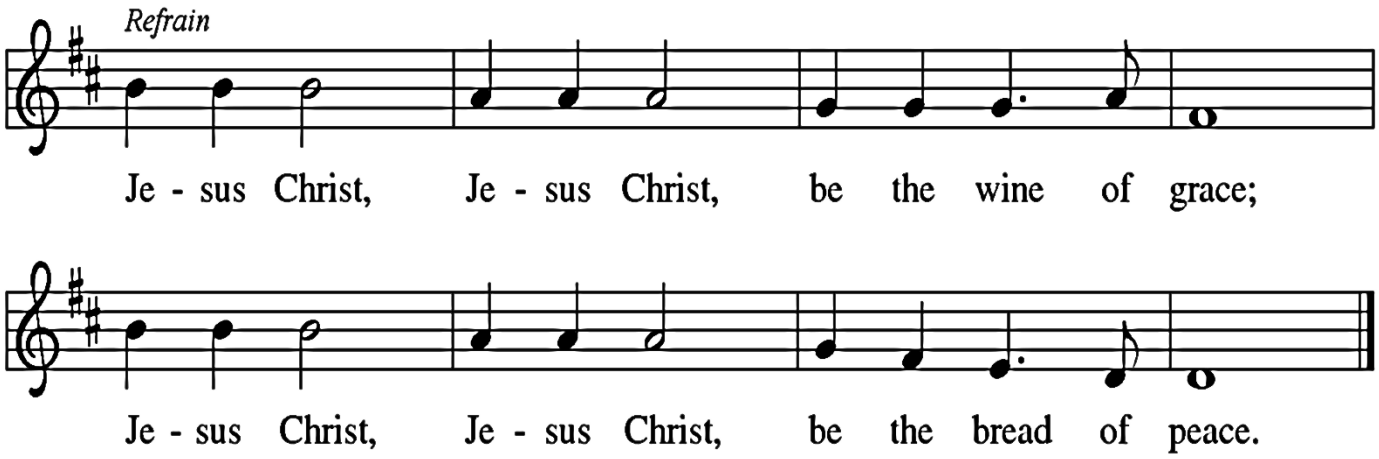
Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Sharing the Peace

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn **In the Singing (continues next page)**





Offering Prayer

Together we pray***: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with your blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, fill us with grateful and generous hearts, that we may praise you through our words and actions and respond with love to those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

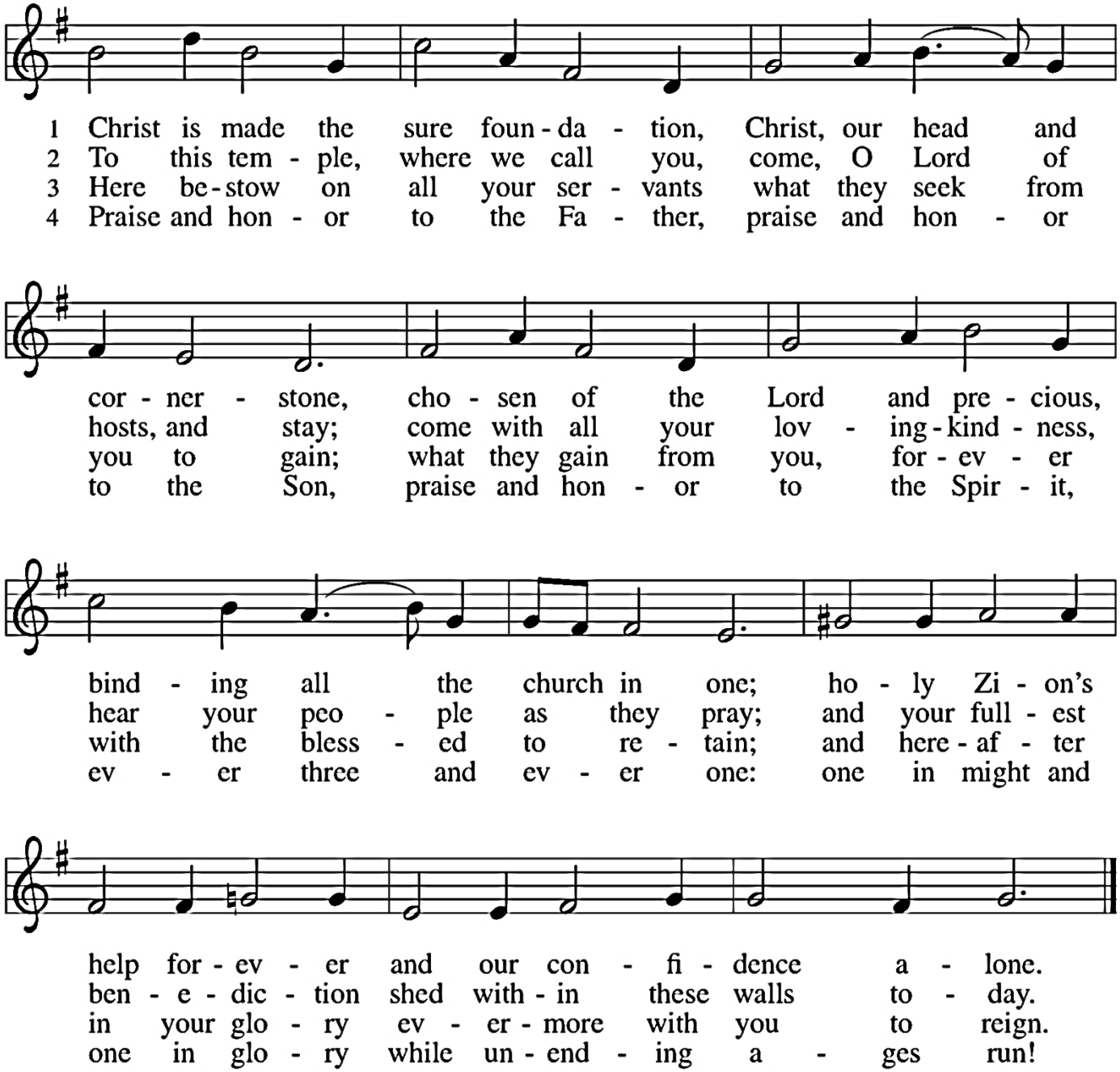
Together we pray: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Sharing Christ's Meal

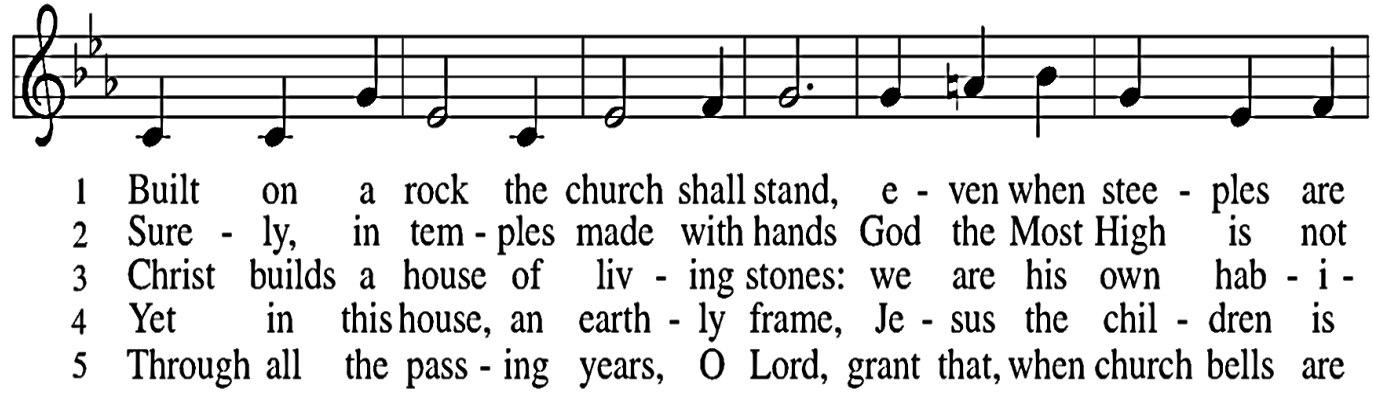
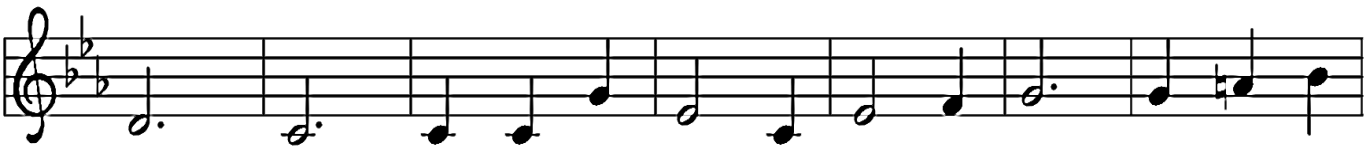
Upcoming @ New Salem

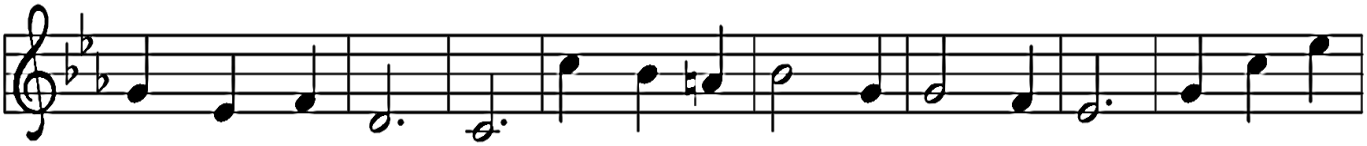
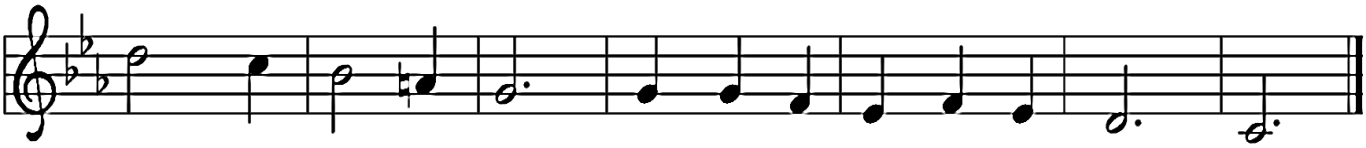
Wed, Oct 28	**Choir Rehearsal**	**5 p.m.**
	Evening Bible Study	**6:30 p.m.**
Thurs, Oct 29	**Morning Bible Study**	**9:30 a.m.**
	Confirmation Class	**5 p.m.**
Sat, Oct 31	**Trunk or Treat @ New Salem**	**2-4 p.m.**
Sun, Nov 1	**Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clocks back 1 hour!)**	**2 a.m.**
Wed, Nov 4	**Choir Rehearsal**	**5 p.m.**
	Evening Bible Study	**6:30 p.m.**
Thurs, Nov 5	**Morning Bible Study**	**9:30 a.m.**
	Confirmation Class	**5 p.m.**

Communion Hymn #1 **Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**



Communion Hymn #2 **Built on a Rock (continues next page)**

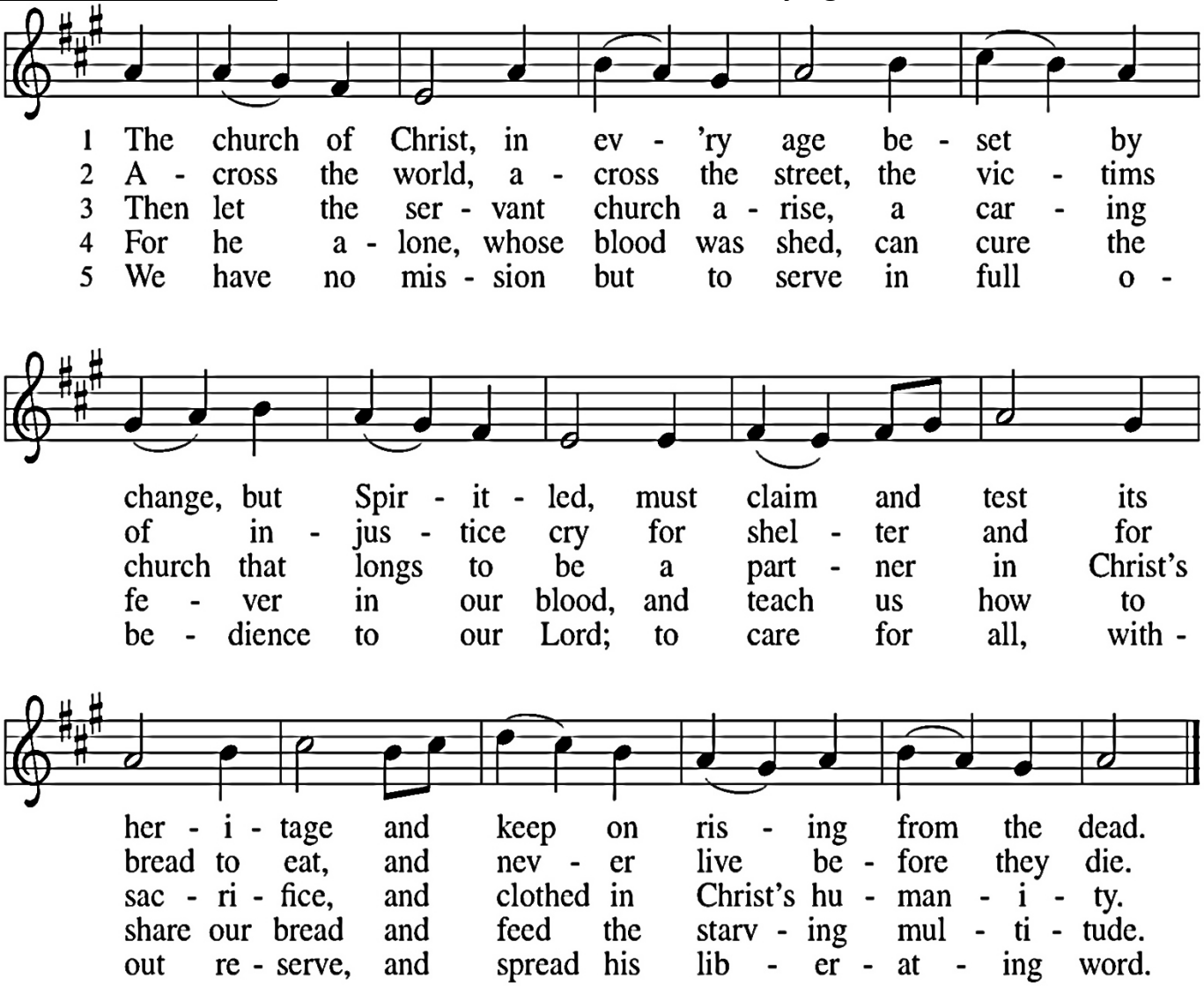


fall - ing; crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this

chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom-ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless-ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil-dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Boo! Trunk or Treat is October 31

There's still time to join the fun by hosting a trunk, serving pizza, cleaning up, or donating treats – a signup sheet is available on the rear table in the Fellowship Hall. Missing Trunk or Treat 2026 would be a GRAVE mistake...

Communion Hymn #3 **The Church of Christ in Every Age**

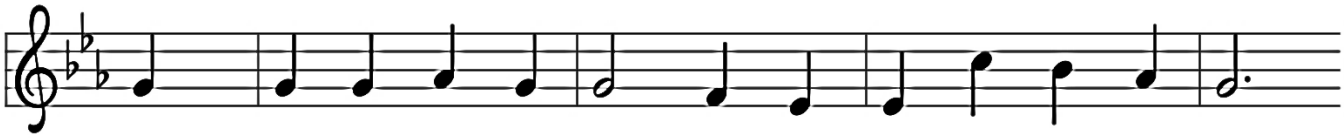
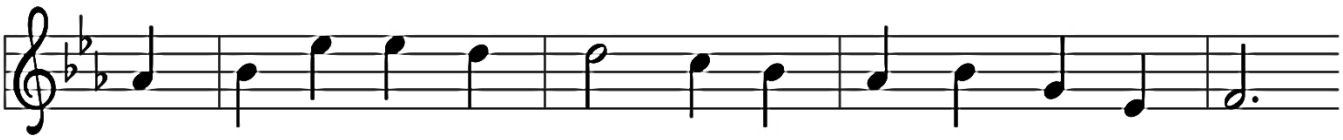
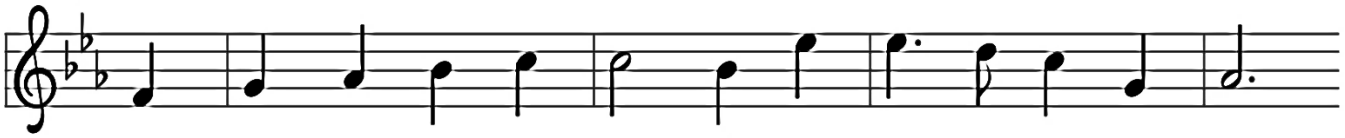
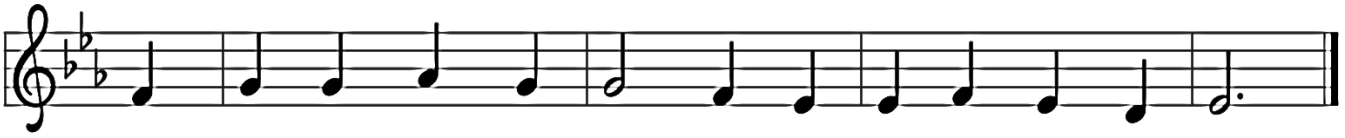


Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Together we pray: ***Life-giving God, you nourish us with your Word and strengthen us with your grace. By the power of your Holy Spirit, deepen our faith and guide us in the way of Jesus. Send us forth to love our neighbors, serve those in need, and share your grace through our words and actions; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Benediction

Sending Hymn **The Church's One Foundation (next page)**

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

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 - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

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,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

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.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

The live-streaming of New Salem's worship services is made possible by a generous memorial gift from the family of Margaret Carlson.

Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants

Presiding Clergy: Pastor Terry R. Hagensen
Ushers:
Reader: Pat Sanford
Communion Assistant: Fred Sanford
Fellowship Hosts: Val & bob Wagner
Social Media Coordinator: Nora Illies
Setting the Lord's Table: Sonya & Paul Kraft
Pianist: Cheryl Durant
Cantor/AV Services: Traci Schanke

New Salem Lutheran Church - Terry R. Hagensen, Pastor
7491 Island View Drive NE, Turtle River, MN 56601
Office Tel: 218-586-2262/Office Email (Traci Schanke): newsalem@paulbunyan.net
Website: newsalemlutheran.org
YouTube Channel: New Salem Lutheran Church, Turtle River, MN

September vs Expenses (*FINAL)*
Total General Fund Income: $17,480
Total Expenses: $17,265
SURPLUS for September: $215
10.18.26 General Fund Offering: $2,445

Attendance/Social Media Engagement (as of 10.23.26)
Sunday, October 18 (in person/online): 73/16
Facebook reach: 95,903
YouTube Views: 1,567
YouTube Subscribers: 143

Announcements for the Week of October 25, 2026

Traci's Office Hours This Week: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Continuing Email Issues: Approximately 25 member emails that worked previously are still rejecting messages from New Salem. Interestingly enough, we can receive messages from these addresses with no problems, but replies do not get through. This seems to be an issue connected to Outlook where select addresses ending in gmail.com, hotmail.com or outlook.com reject all emails coming from newsalem@paulbunyan.net as spam, even if that address is on their approved contact list. Traci is reaching out to Paul Bunyan Communications and Bemidji Communications to find a solution. We apologize for the inconvenience!

October's Mission Partner: This month New Salem is lifting up the work of **The Nameless Coalition for the Homeless**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable area ministry. You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for **The Nameless Coalition**, or send your gift to Nameless Coalition, P.O. Box 353, Bemidji, MN 56619. See page 13 of the Worship Guide for more information.

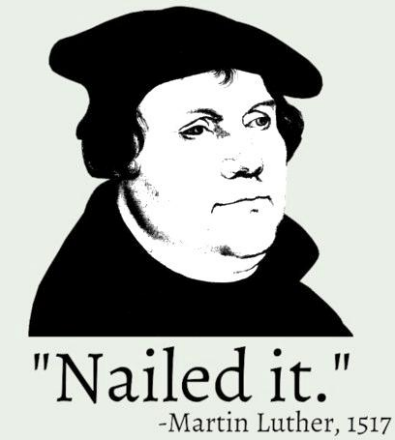
NEW Evening Bible Study, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.: The group will study the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday in a friendly and fun atmosphere.No need to prepare in advance (unless you want to!) and all are welcome to participate!

November Food Shelf Dates: New Salem volunteers assist clients on Monday, November 9 from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and 12 – 3:30 p.m. and Friday, November 13 from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Karin Snortland at 612-940-7312 or ksnortland5@gmail.com.

Fall Bazaar – Saturday, November 14! Mark your calendars for New Salem's Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 14 and start working on your wonderful crafts for New Salem's table! Signup sheets for helping with the event are on the rear table in the Fellowship Hall.

Offering Reminder: Please remember to indicate on your check/offering envelope how you wish your gift to be credited. Unmarked offerings/those marked "general" go toward New Salem's annual operating expenses; gifts marked for other entities are credited as such in your giving record and sent to those organizations. Thank you for supporting the missions and good works of New Salem!

Need Medical Equipment?/Have Medical Equipment?. If you are in need of medical equipment, call and/or come to the Bemidji Senior Center (216 3rd St NW, 218-751-8836, in downtown Bemidji) Mon – Fri 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. to see what is available through the HELP program (Home Equipment Loan Program). The item(s) can be checked out and used as long as needed. The Senior Center also accepts used-clean-workable equipment. The Disabled American Veterans (15th Street NW, 218-556-4592, in Bemidji) also has equipment to loan. The DAV has electric hospital beds/etc.; the Senior Center **does not** have any electrical equipment to loan out. You do not have to be a veteran borrow the DAV equipment.



Music Rights/Permissions for October 18

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A Mighty Fortress is Our God – Text and music: Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Text © 1979 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah – Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954)
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word – Text: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. C. Winkworth (1827-1878)/Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

In the Singing – Text: Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)
Music: Carlton R. Young (b. 1926)/Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation – Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt./Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695); arr. Ernest Hawkins (1802-1868)

Built on a Rock – Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872); tr. Carl Doving (1867-1937, adapt.
Music: L.M. Lindeman (1812-1887)/Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The Church of Christ, in Every Age – Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
Music: William Knapp (1698-1768)/Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

The Church's One Foundation – Text: Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)
Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner

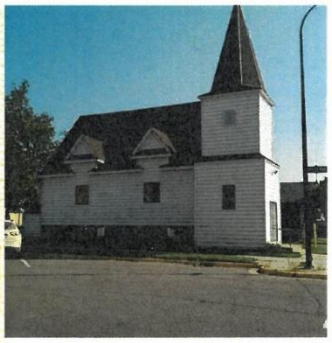
October 2026

The Nameless Coalition for the Homeless

Our vision is to provide people shelter & stability, while valuing their dignity, humanity & worth.

The **New Day Center** provide a space for homeless individuals to spend time and connect with services. Spaces are typically open during the day or evening hours. The Center provides shelter, wi-fi, , food, coffee, TV and a mail address for anyone who needs it. It offers a safe place for Homeless and unsheltered people to do laundry, shower, rest, store important items and connect with services for employment.

The **Wolfe Center** offers temporary shelter for those who are homeless or need a place to stay. The Center provides a nighttime shelter for chronic homeless people struggling with chemical dependency. We work hard to be the first line of defense for those who need to find a place to escape the cold nights of Minnesota.



God's Work, Our Treasure—OCTOBER 2026

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **the Nameless Coalition for the Homeless**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.
You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the Nameless Coalition.
Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.
https://www.facebook.com/namelesscoalition

The Readings on This Day - Reformation

During the sixteenth century, some German Lutheran churches celebrated an annual thanksgiving day for the Reformation, and in 1667 the festival was set for October 31 or the Sunday prior, since on this date in 1517 Martin Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses on the Wittenberg church door. The date on which to commemorate the life and achievements of Martin Luther is February 18, his death day in 1546. The point of the festival is the continuing need for perpetual reformation of all churches, rather than Lutheran self-congratulation.

The readings for Reformation are best used at a service scheduled on October 31. Some assemblies observe Reformation on the last Sunday of October. Current usage suggests instead to maintain the usual Sunday readings and to add an emphasis on Reformation, for example by praying both prayers of the day (Lectionary 30 and Reformation Day) and by accentuating Reformation emphases in the intercessions.

John 8:31-36: It is not the church, or any one church, that is truth; rather, Jesus Christ is truth. No church can claim ownership of the word; rather, Jesus Christ is the Word. The son is free, that is, free to remain in the house. We gather around that word to receive the truth and experience life in the Father's house.

Jeremiah 31:31-34: The oracle from Jeremiah is appointed because of its promise that God will continue a covenant of grace. Christians have seen that new covenant, and the forgiveness of sin and knowledge of God it brings, as embodied in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and renewed at the Supper—"the new covenant in my blood."

Romans 3:19-28: This excerpt from Romans is appointed because it summarizes the biblical gospel so transformative for Martin Luther. It is faith in Christ that saves, not "law," that is, religious practices stipulated in the Torah, nor by "boasting" in our church either. The church is called perpetually to renew its faith in God's grace.

Images in the Readings

The gospel's image of freedom presents a challenge to contemporary Americans, and perhaps to other Western societies as well, since popularly "freedom" is understood as the right of the individual to live out personal choices. John's gospel suggests instead that the freedom granted in Christ is the freedom of the son, who remains in the father's house and does the will of that father. Sixteenth-century Christians used this proclamation of freedom to leave behind church regulations of the medieval church, but even Martin Luther wrote detailed interpretations of the Ten Commandments, understood as "law" for Christian use. We are free to be obedient children.

A covenant was a legal agreement in which the master promised protection because the participants met certain requirements. Ancient Israelites adopted this cultural category for their understanding of the relationship that God had offered the chosen people. Christians continued to use this language in articulating the renewed relationship with God that was affected through Christ. Particularly Methodists have kept this language alive in referring to the Baptismal Covenant and in their annual Covenant Renewal ceremonies. Lutherans understand the covenant as God's continuing mercy given in word and sacrament.

Sermon Notes/Weekly Assignment