



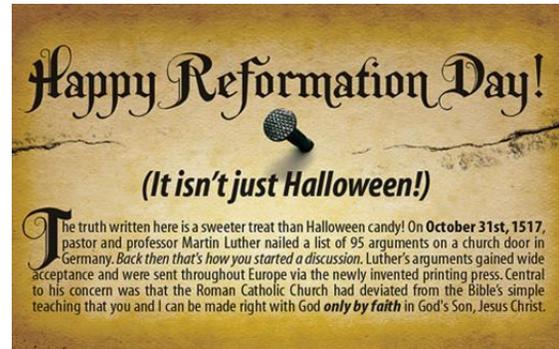
**Twenty-Third Sunday
After Pentecost
Reformation Sunday**
October 31, 2021

“Jesus replied, I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
(John 8:34-36)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We talk often about freedom, especially in the United States, which prides itself in being a country that will do whatever is necessary to uphold that freedom. We do live in a world where other countries, people, and leaders threaten the freedom we hold dear, and our military is in place to defend it. Freedom can also be applied to our faith and our spiritual life, for it is about whose we are and who we are in this world. On this Reformation Day, we recall what it means to have freedom in and through Jesus Christ. Without Christ, we are slaves to sin and condemned to death, therefore not free.

Through Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection, we are reconciled to God and given new life. We are freed *from* sin and death and freed *for* an abundant life in Christ through a grace-filled relationship with God and others.



Join us this Sunday, Invite a Friend to Worship 9:30 A.M.

This is Reformation Sunday Wear Red

Scripture Readings

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Joe Rudy will be here with us!

• **Happening Around St. James**

Children’s Sunday School invites and welcomes all our young disciples

Adult Forum in Fireside Room (see details below) All are welcome.

- **Women’s Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
- **Men’s Bible Study Gathers . . .** at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
- **Additional Bible Study Opportunity . . .** included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Adult Bible Study lead by Tracy Guffey.** The title is *“Waiting . . . a study on patience, hope, and trust as the Spirit works in our lives.”* This is a timely topic that all of us will benefit from. Join us following worship.
- **New Members Class** We will be gathering this Sunday afternoon from 3-5 PM, for our new member’s class called Discovery. Our conversation this afternoon will focus on Symbols of the church, Lutheran style of worship, Lutheran theology, and Lutheran heritage. Very fitting for a class on Reformation Day. We will receive new members on All Saints Day November 7th. If you have questions or like to sign up for these classes just jot a note on the Connections Card, call the office, or contact me directly. This is exciting.

- **Pastor Appreciation Day.** Last night I sat and read all the cards I received last Sunday for Pastor Appreciation Day. I was moved to tears. What a blessing to know the blessing of our ministry together. Thank you to all who coordinated and shared cake and cookies and decorated the serving area. I know on behalf of the other pastoral leaders that they express their heartfelt appreciation as well. I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful family of faith here at St James.
- **Blood Drive is on Halloween.** Sunday October 31st 9:30 AM to 2 PM. Mark the date on your calendar. You are giving the gift of life. There will be a special gift for all who give. You can sign up in the narthex. Blessings to all.
- **All Saints Day . . .** November 7th. On All Saints Day we remember all the saints that have left the church militant on earth and joined the church triumphant in heaven. We specially remember those who have died in the past year. If you have a loved one who has died in the past 12 months, please write them down on the All Saints sheet in the narthex.
- **Poinsettias . . .** We received the order forms for Christmas poinsettias this week. The order needs to be complete by November 7th. They are \$12 and you can order red, white, pink and marble star. So if you would like to order a poinsettias to adorn our altar area, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for your convenience.
- **Afghani Refugees Need our Help . . .** clothing donations are needed for the refugees from Afghanistan who are now temporarily housed at Camp Atterbury. We are collecting new men's and women's clothes, socks and shoes, children and newborn clothes as well underwear, and coats for the winter season. Bring whatever you get here to church and we will get them to the local Armory.
- **Looking for Volunteers . . .** As part of Care & Prayer ministry we have been thinking there may be a need to offer transportation to and from church to local residents in the Greenfield area. If you would be willing to serve in this way contact the church office or Linda Hess.
- **Ben Black's Address.** Most of us know Ben is spending time now at Fort Jackson in SC. He is in Chaplain Officer Training. Many have asked for his address so you can send a card at Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and perhaps Christmas. A card from home when he is so far from home would be much appreciated for sure. Here is his address for now:
 Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (Class # 21-003)
 2LT Black, Benjamin L
 USACHCS
 10100 Lee Road
 Fort Jackson, SC 29207-7090
- **Congratulations are Extended to our own Joe Faith . . .** who was chosen to lead the Greenfield Community Choir. We know he will do a wonderful job and all who are part of the choir will be blessed. They will be performing a Christmas concert here at St James on December 12th. All are welcome.
- **Continue to hold our Church in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.

Greetings from the HMD Council Here are prayer concerns to lift up to the throne of God as we join in prayer both individually and as a church family:

- Pray for the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) faculty as they form pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach,

and live God's eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ's cross and resurrection, and making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ's name.

- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn Indiana including Pastor Jonathan Hunter.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) mission of Christ is Lord Ministries and Pastors Salome and Divaker Pathak as they bring Jesus and proclaim the Gospel to people.
- Pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black and Pastor Chris Wendel who are both currently at Ft. Jackson in Chaplain Officers Training.

I ask for your prayers for wisdom, strength of leadership, vision, the building unity and discipleship as I take on the role of Dean of the HMD. Thank you all for your prayers. I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug