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I Stand

October 28, 2018 Reformation Sunday

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 ~ Pastor Cell 989-964-8722

As We Gather

While 2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our celebrations continue into the 501st year since Martin Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses on the practice of indulgences. The Reformation is a celebration of freedom in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This can particularly be found in today's Epistle from Romans 3. In a marvelous, great exchange, Christ takes our

unrighteousness and gives us His righteousness. Even though we all sin and fall short of the glory of God, we are justified by God's grace, as a gift. We celebrate God's love and activity on our behalf to save us.



656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 A trusty shield and weapon;
 He helps us free from ev'ry need
 That hath us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil foe
 Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
 On earth is not his equal.

- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 Soon were our loss effected;
 But for us fights the valiant One,
 Whom God Himself elected.
 Ask ye, Who is this?
 Jesus Christ it is,
 Of Sabaoth Lord,
 And there's none other God;
 He holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Based on Psalm 46:1, 8–11

- P** God is our refuge and strength,
C a very present help in trouble.
- P** Come, behold the works of the Lord.
C He makes wars cease to the end of the earth.
- P** He will be exalted among the nations.
C He will be exalted in the earth.
- P** The Lord of hosts is with us;
C the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Confession and Absolution

- P** God indeed is our refuge and strength, our help and our fortress. Yet we often choose to flee from the refuge of the Lord. We abandon the strength and safety of God, trusting in our own

strength and power. The apostle Paul writes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And Jesus says that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. As we enter the house of the Lord and call upon Him for His good and gracious gifts, let us consider our enslavement to sin and our continued shortcomings as God's people.

Silence for reflection

P Heavenly Father,

C **we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have sinned as individuals and as a community. We have ignored neighbors in need. We have caused divisions among Your people. We have sought refuge in the things of this world and not in You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to You, our refuge and strength.**

P While we have indeed all fallen short of the glory of God, we are all also justified by God's grace as a gift. Though we have been slaves to sin, God has set us free in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the risen 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.

C **Amen. The Son has set us free, and we are free indeed. Amen.**

566 By Grace I'm Saved

- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
 My soul, believe and doubt it not.
 Why stagger at this word of promise?
 Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
 No! Then this word must true remain:
 By grace you too will life obtain.

- 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
 Our works and conduct have no worth.
 God in His love sent our Redeemer,
 Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
 His death did for our sins atone,
 And we are saved by grace alone.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem “Christ, the Lord, Our Sure Foundation”

Larson

Congregation is asked to join in singing when directed.

Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong,
and now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, til sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums, with
deeds of love and mercy the heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning where’er your face appears:
Your cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light,
the crown awaits the conquest: lead on, O God of might.

Holy Gospel

John 8:31–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.

Today's Memory Verse ~ "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and so not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:13-14

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
 By God's free grace and favor;
 Good works cannot avert our doom,
 They help and save us never.
 Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
 Who did for all the world atone;
 He is our one Redeemer.

- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Your death is now my life indeed,
 For You have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.

10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessèd name we hallow.

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Sermon "Listen to Jesus, and Be Free"

John 8:31-36

Prayer of the Church

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

Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Defend Your Church from the attacks and accusations of the devil. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, since the fall into sin, all creation groans for restoration. Earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, floods, and other disasters cause great fear. But You are the God of all creation. Calm our hearts and be in our midst when the earth gives way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, in this fallen world, nations rage and kingdoms totter. War, violence, and division plague the earth. But You are the Lord of hosts, and You are with us. Defend us from conflict and be our King of peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, send healing to all who are sick, injured, and recovering, *especially* . . . If it be Your will, restore their health with the overflowing abundance that comes only from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, death remains a curse until You come again. Many mourn the death of loved ones. Today we remember the families and friends of Chris Thom. Comfort all who grieve with the hope of the promised resurrection in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we exalt You among the nations for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice, *especially* . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C **Amen.**

Offering

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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| Pastor | Paul Hauser |
| Organist | Tami Mosher |
| Elder/Reader | Dale Rohde |
| A/V | Paul Bohn |
| Ushers | Marc Pinet, Mike Hingston |
| Greeters | Bud & Millie Parker |
| Altar Guild | Jeanne Kade |

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 89 Needed for *The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,128 ~
Received for the Lord's Work \$2,693 = Loose Plate \$51, Envelopes \$2,322,
Mission \$75 Maintenance \$230; Cap Prj. \$5.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday ~ Nov 2- Ken Gath, Brittany Rohde, Arlene Rohn, Scotty Rose; Nov 3-Aimee Gath; Nov 4- Elsie Bluemer, Aaron Kocsis; Nov 5- Richard Huey, Ann Klink; Nov 7- Chad Benes, Diane McQuiston, Barry Neuenfeldt.

Today's Memory Verse ~ "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and so not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:13-14.



Christopher Thom, lifelong member of Zion died October 21, 2018 and was given Christian burial on Wednesday. Chris is survived by his parents, Dale and Cindy Thom, his sisters Shanntelle (James) Knapik and Amy (Adam) Siler; his nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandparents Alan & Elda Thom, Robert Koeppen and Alfred Smith. *And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'" (Revelation 14:13 ESV).*

Bible Study Groups ~ Wednesday morning Bible Study each week at 10:30 am until noon studying the book of Ezra. **Amen's Bible Study** meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm. except the second Thursday of the month. Currently reviewing Luther's Small Catechism. All are welcome anytime!

Annual Bazaar at St Mark Lutheran Church, 2565 N Miller Rd, Saginaw (corner of Miller & River). Saturday, Nov 3, 8:30a-2:30p. Free admission. Over 30 vendors. Luncheon available.

Don't forget to FALL BACK! Turn your clocks back 1 hour before retiring on Saturday, November 3. Daylight savings time ends!

Resources for Rachel ~ Door offering next Sunday following the worship service supporting Rachel Meyer. Follow her on Face book "Missionary Meyer in Uganda". Rachel's email is Rachel.Meyer@LCMS.org if you would like to email her. To date we have sent \$3,281 supporting her mission.

Peace Apple Pie Sale ~ Peace Lutheran School invites you to come purchase ready-to-bake apple pies, crisps and crusts during its annual Apple Pie Sale from 10:30am-1pm Saturday, November 17, at the school, 3161 Lawndale Road in Saginaw Township. Pies are only \$10 when you pre-order before Nov. 9. Call Leslie Hansen at 989-980-3025 to pre-order. Proceeds benefit the Peace Lutheran School PTL.

Upcoming Youth Group Activities ~ Join us for Movie Night on Saturday, November 10th from 6-10 pm for pizza, a movie, games and other activities! Bring a friend with you! We are also preparing for the reason for the season with a Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16 from 1-6:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. We will enjoy games, snacks and a party and then attend "A Christmas Invitation", a play at Merrill Wesleyan Church featuring a few familiar faces! Join us for this event! See JoAnn Pinet with any questions.

VLHS Craft Bazaar ~ The VLHS Parent Organization is sponsoring a Craft Bazaar/Home Party Vendor Show, Cookie Walk and Luncheon on Saturday, November 10th from 9am-3pm at Valley Lutheran High School. A luncheon will be available from 11am-1pm. Free admission. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of Chromebooks for VLHS students classroom use.

A stylized graphic of a castle or fortress, rendered in shades of brown and tan. It features several towers with crenellated tops and a central vertical structure. The graphic is positioned to the left of the text.

**A MIGHTY
FORTRESS**