

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

October 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.



GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship - Adapted from Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way,
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

We will not fear.

The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

"Be still, and know I am God";

We will be still. We will not fear.

Exalt God among the nations.

We will exalt God among the nations and in all the earth.

God is our refuge and strength.

An ever-present help in trouble.

Confession & Forgiveness

We worship in the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Creator God, we gather as your children in need of forgiveness.

We have all sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

For the times we have failed to put you first in our hearts,

God, forgive our lack of faith.

For the people we have failed to help because of our selfishness,

God forgive our lack of concern.

Most merciful God, forgive our sins, and hear the prayers of our hearts.

Silence for prayer

God has heard our prayers and forgives our sin. We are no longer held captive by the chains of sin. We are free to fly like the eagle, released from the bonds of death. Jesus loves us! This is all we need to know, for we do not receive the keys to the community of God because of our great faith, or by our kind deeds. It is because Jesus died on the cross and rose victorious over death that we have become heirs to everlasting life. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#504

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

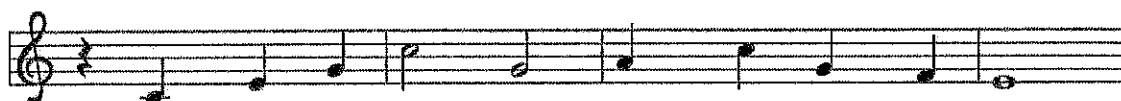
John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter. **Gory to you, O Lord.**

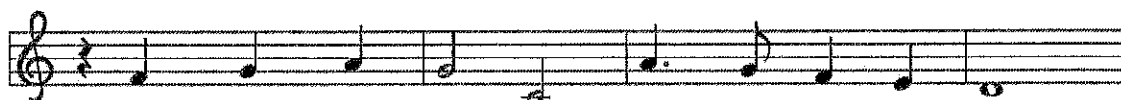
³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will 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.

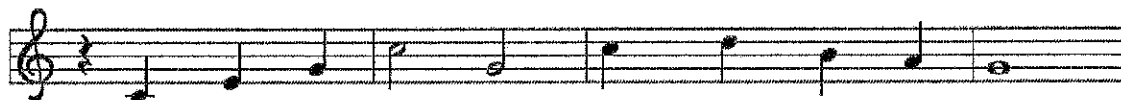
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day**Founded On Faith**

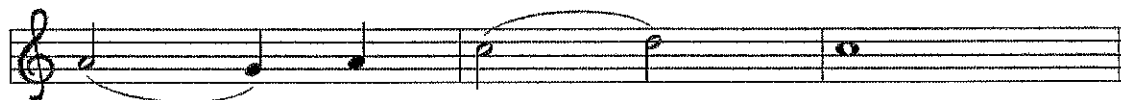
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation)

We present these young people who have come this day to publicly affirm their baptisms and take another step in their faith journey with our Lord:

Graham Boling, Mason Christiansen, Layla Peterson, Gabriel VanHouten

Scripture Verse and Faith Statement Presentations

Graham's verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Mason's verse: Joshua 1:9

Layla's verse: Psalm 21:2

Gabriel's verse: Luke 1:37

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray for Graham, Mason, Layla, and Gabriel who are affirming their baptisms, and for all the baptized everywhere...

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand answers in turn:

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to continue to support these young people in their faith and life?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Prayer

*Family and sponsors are invited forward, in turn,
and stand near the confirmands and lay on hands.*

Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Blessings to our confirmands!

Prayers of the People

Spirit of God, you make all things new. As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation.

Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them.

Give wisdom and discernment to those in authority;

Give us courage to seek justice, show mercy, and walk humbly with you.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders,

that the truth may make them free.

Bring your healing and strength... to Wyatt, Sheree, Lainey Mae, Krystal, and Cameron.

Move us to be your hands and feet to our neighbors.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us.

Give us the courage to live out our faith.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

Musical Offering *How Firm a Foundation*

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Word of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

*All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.
Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.*

Please join in singing –

Bread of Life from Heaven

st. 1, 3, 4

#474

Live Christ

Live Christ, love Christ, share Christ, be Christ.
All these things do today. All these things along your way.

Peace Hope Love

©2005 Ron and Cella Whittier, Dog Not Included Publishing (ASCAP),
<http://www.celiainmusic.net> Used with permission.

Prayer After Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Song

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All; here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost it's grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine; bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Getty & Townend, 2001 Thankyou Music, CCLI License #833795

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Amy Bisenius
Special Music:	Christina Hanson, flute
Deacons:	Justin Georg and Reuben De La O
Greeters:	Jerry & Kathy Sindt
Acolytes:	Olivia Stevenson and Lincoln Rasmus
Sound & Video:	Dave Kistenmacher and Tyler Gebers
Coffee Hosts:	Colleen & Larry Garland Hillary & John Walsh

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, October 25 ~ Reformation / Confirmation Sunday

- 9:00 AM** Worship with Holy Communion
 Affirmation of Baptism
- 10:00 AM** Sunday School
- 10:00 AM** Coffee & Fellowship
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM** 90th birthday celebration for Msgr. Ken Seifried
 at Cobblestone Inn ~ Holstein

MONDAY, October 26

- 5:00 PM** Novemberfest Auction Opens on the church website!

WEDNESDAY, October 28

- 5:00 PM** LOGOS ~ "Aloha"

SUNDAY, November 1 ~ All Saints' Sunday

- 9:00 AM** Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:00 AM** Sunday School
- 10:00 AM** Coffee & Fellowship
- 4:30 PM** Novemberfest here at St. Paul (Carry Out Only)

MONDAY, November 2

- 11:00 – 1:00** Celebration of Life for Dale & Eula Nook
 at Holstein American Legion
- 5:00 PM** Novemberfest Auction Closes

Founded on Faith Text : Pul D. Weber, b. 1949 Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber
Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Liturgical pieces from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS007047.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, division of Christian Education
of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

