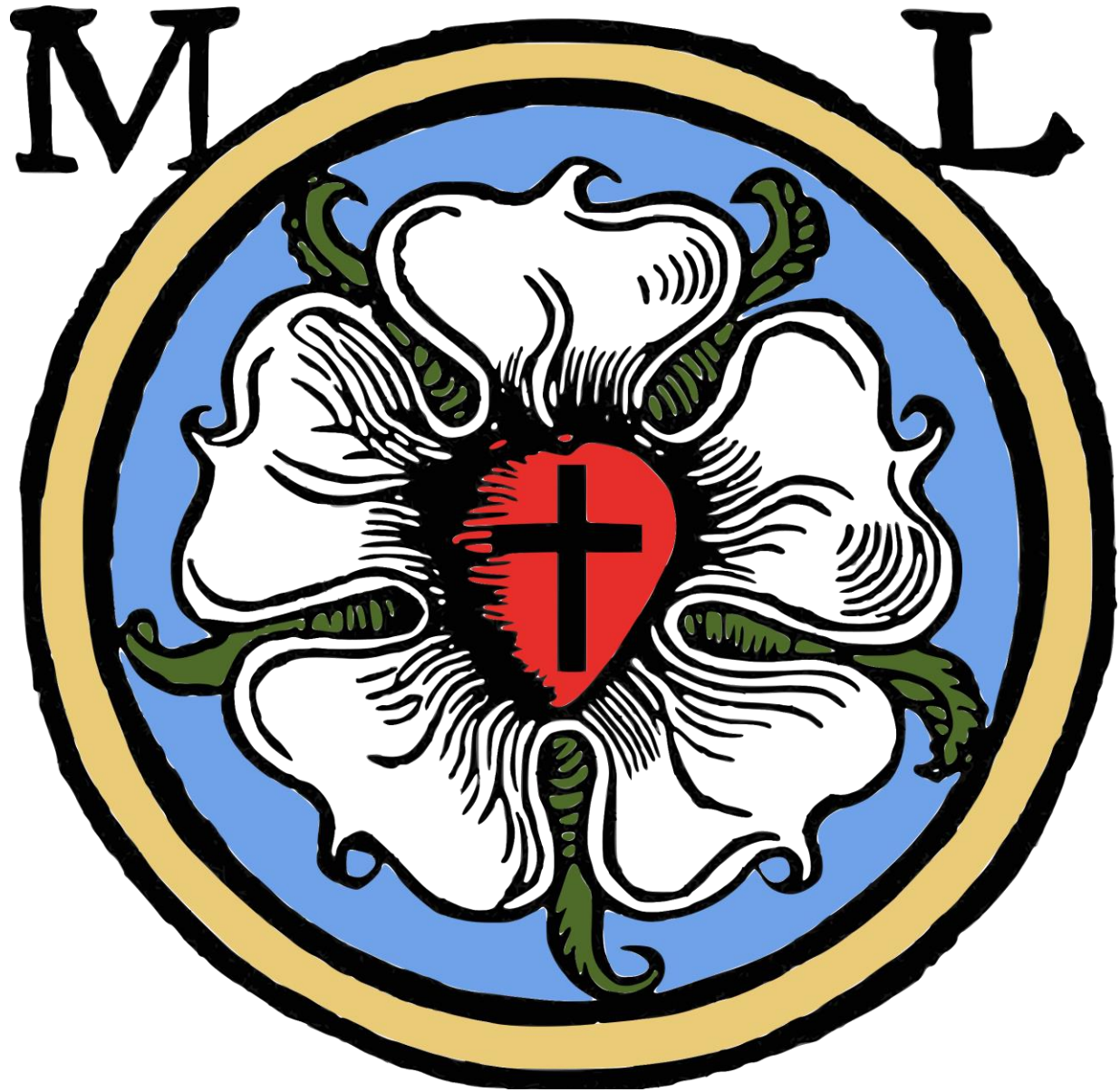


Prince of Peace  
Evangelical Lutheran Church



A Time for Steadfast Faith

Festival of Reformation

October 29, 2023



*“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”*

Prince of Peace  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God’s house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! May God bless our worship today! If you are visiting with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out one of the information cards found in the pews next to the hymnals. We look forward to getting to know you better in order to serve you fully with God’s word!

## THEME FOR TODAY

Jesus told his followers, “You will be hated by everyone because of me” (Matthew 10:22). Satan and the world hate Christ and anyone who confesses faith in Christ. So, the time in between Christ’s first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example—Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do that, both political and religious leaders attempted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes the true Church’s unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of harsh persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith and give us the peace of knowing that our lives are safe in his hands.

## END OF CHURCH YEAR WORSHIP THEMES

The Sundays from Reformation to the Last Sunday of the Church year (which begins with the season of Advent) are sometimes called the season of End Times. It’s the season of the church year when we focus on the truth that we are living in the end times and Jesus is returning soon. You could call these times “the time in between.” In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came. Yet we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence now already. We will not know such a life until Christ comes again. And so, we wait and watch, living in the time in between. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

<b>October 29<sup>th</sup> (Reformation)</b>	–	<b>A Time for Steadfast Faith</b>
November 5 <sup>th</sup> (All Saints’ Day)	–	A Time to Focus on Future Glory
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	–	A Time for Watchfulness
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	–	A Time for Faithful Service
November 26 <sup>th</sup> (Last Sunday)	–	A Time to Yearn for the End

## 836 I Walk in Danger All the Way

CW 836 sts. 1, 5–6

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.  
**Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of 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.  
**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **877 Reformation Song**

CW 877

*The congregation is invited to join in singing verses 3&4.*

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23*

*Even though it potentially meant death by lion, Daniel got on his knees and prayed to the Lord as he always had, demonstrating steadfast faith.*

<sup>10</sup>Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got

down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup>Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup>So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

<sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

<sup>17</sup>A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup>Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup>At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

<sup>21</sup>Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

<sup>23</sup>The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863

*“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” is based on Psalm 46, the Psalm typically appointed for Reformation Day.*

## Second Reading

Romans 3:19–28

*God justifies those who have been given the gift of steadfast faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup>for all have

sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— <sup>26</sup>he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. <sup>28</sup>For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:32



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Do not be afraid, little flock,  
for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

Matthew 10:16–23

*Our trust in Jesus doesn't mean absence of persecution, but faithfulness despite it.*

<sup>16</sup>“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup>On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup>for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When you are persecuted in one

place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **810 The First Song of Isaiah**

CW 810

### **Sermon**

*Still Standing Firm By Faith*

*Matthew 10:16–23*

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*Be seated*

# Prayer of the Church

## Offering

*Stand*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**



## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:15 am Bible Class 5:00 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Bible Class
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study @Cracker Barrel 7:00 pm BUNCO
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

Joe and Chris purchased the chancel flowers in honor of Avaughn’s birthday. As this little boy continues to grow and flourish may he always know that his church family is here to pray for him and guide him in the path that leads to life everlasting as we encourage one another with the good news of Jesus, our Savior.



## GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

If you are a Georgia resident and pay Georgia state income tax, you can redirect up to \$5,000 of the money you pay to the government in the form of income tax to Prince of Peace Preschool through this program. Redirecting your tax dollars in this way helps us grow our school and financial aid resources. For more information contact Jeanne Thomas or Ann Wendt. You can also check out the Apogee website at [www.apogee123.org](http://www.apogee123.org)



## BUNCO



Please join us for Bunco this Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Come one, come all for a night of fun and fellowship—no experience required! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Pastor’s office.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Daylight savings time ends Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 am.



## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 AM come join your sisters in Christ as we learn more about one of the names used for Jesus. This time we’re learning about EMMANUEL “God with us”. BRING A FRIEND!

## NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

A new playground structure has been ordered to replace the current deteriorating structure. If you would like to make a donation toward offsetting the cost of the new playground equipment you may do so by designating a special offering for the playground.



Operating Offerings		Attendance		Mortgage Progress	
10/22/23	\$ 1,981.00	10/22/23	61	10/22/23	\$ 15.00
Month to Date	\$ 11,505.00			Month to Date	\$ 675.00
YTD	\$ 155,697.00			YTD	\$ 33,255.00
Budget YTD	\$ 163,014.00			Budget YTD	\$ 28,097.00
2022 YTD	\$ 146,638.00			2022 YTD	\$ 36,026.00

Weekly needs October Operating Offering  
Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 3,922.00  
\$ 2,867.00