REFORMATION SERVICE

INVOCATION & OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen**

Pastor: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

**People: In the city of our God!**

Pastor: Walk about Zion, go around her, number her tower,

**People: consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels**

Pastor: that you may tell the next generation

**People: this is God, our God forever and ever.** Psalm 48: 1a, 12-14a

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

**All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and indeed have sinned against You in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We turn to You for mercy and repent of these our sins. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit move us to serve you faithfully. Set our feet on the new path of life, that by Your grace we may come to life everlasting through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen**

OPENING HYMN #654 *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**“THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER”**

Pastor: Hear the word from the Book of Proverbs:

**People: My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.** Proverbs 3:1-3

Reader 1: Martin Luther was born to Hans and Margaretha Lindemann Luther on Nov 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany and was baptized the next day – on the feast of Martin of Tours.

Reader 2: Raised by hardworking and devout parents, his childhood was typical of the times in which he lived. He was taught to do good works, to pray to the saints, and to honor the church, its leaders and teachings. The Christian piety with which Luther was reared remained with him for all of his life.

Pastor: Also from the Book of Proverbs we read:

**People: So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.**  Proverbs 3: 4-5

Reader 1: His father was a copper miner and wanted his son to be educated. Martin Luther went to the university to study law. While studying in the library at the university, he saw his first Bible. Up to this point, he thought the Holy Scriptures contained only the four Gospels. Now he began to read the entire Bible, and especially loved the Psalms.

Reader 2: After a terrifying experience in a storm in the forest, Martin made a vow to St Anne (the patron saint of miners) to become a monk. He gave up his plans to become a lawyer and entered an Augustinian Cloister at Erfurt Germany. He was determined to be the very best monk he could be so as to win God’s approval and hopefully have a sense of God’s forgiveness of his sins.

Pastor: During this time in history, the church had become increasingly legalistic, focusing almost solely on the laws of God and man’s failures to live up to His requirements. Very little of the Good News (or Gospel) was shared with the people, and without the Good News of Jesus’ gift to us, life seemed rather hopeless. Martin Luther attempted to find a sense of peace through his many good works and self-punishment. Even with those efforts, he failed to be at peace, determined that his sin was so grievous that it was beyond pardon. He became increasingly doubtful that the Church could actually offer him salvation. It was through the study of scriptures where he finally discovered that salvation is a gift of God, one we cannot earn on our own.

Reader 1: After being ordained, Martin Luther became a Professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg. In his preparations for lectures, he often studied the Bible, particularly the Psalms, Hebrews, Galatians, and Romans.

Reader 2: Through this study of the scriptures, Martin Luther became convinced that salvation is a gift of God.

**People: Romans 3:23-24 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace, as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”**

**THIRD GRADE BIBLE BLESSING**

Reader 1: These words opened Martin’s eyes to the gifts of God to His people, and he finally found peace. As a consequence, the current practices in the church that focused on what a person could do to win their own salvation, namely purchasing indulgences to pardon sin or reduce ‘eternal penalties’, became something to wrong to him that he could no longer keep still.

Reader 2: In response to some common practices in the Church, he posted a letter on the church door at Wittenberg. This posting of Luther’s “95 Theses”, on October 31, 1517, the eve of All Saint’s Day, is considered to be the beginning of the Reformation.

Reader 1: These questions to church leaders did not go unnoticed by either the church leaders or the public. After being called into court to answer questions about his “95 Theses”, Martin Luther refused to recant what he had written. His statement at the end of the questioning contains his not famous words – “Here I stand”. On his return to Wittenberg in 1521, Martin Luther was exiled to the castle at Wartburg where he lived for over a year. During this stay, he translated all of the scripture from Latin, which was only understood by a few, into German, the language of his people. His translation of the Bible into the *language of the people* still serves as a standard for spoken and written scripture in the German language today. And the treasury of hymnody he left, both texts and music, is an enduring legacy that enriches not only Lutherans but all Christians.

Reader 2: In 1525, Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora (known as Katie). During their years together, they had 6 children and a very happy marriage. For the rest of his life, Martin Luther continued as a professor at the University. He wrote books, gave lectures, and wrote many hymns. The best known of his hymns is “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”. Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546 in Eisleben. He lived and died with the certainty that he was a redeemed child of God because of Christ’s sacrifice and God’s Grace and that no matter how dark or difficult the world around him became, he was assured of the eternal light of the presence of Christ.

Pastor: When Martin Luther translated the Bible into the language of the people, they no longer had to have priests tell them what the Bible said; they could hear it read in their own language. Today the readings will be read from the middle of nave, to symbolize God’s Word freely available in our own hearing.

SOLO: *“Ancient Words” (David Schultz)*

FIRST READING (Lector 1) Revelation 14: 6-7

*Then I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth – to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.*

Reader 1: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING (Reader 2) Romans 3: 19-28

*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. For ‘no human being will be justified in his sight’ by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.*

*But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.*

Reader 2: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL (Pastor) John 8: 31-36

*Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ 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”?’*

*Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*

Pastor : This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**THE TEACHINGS OF MARTIN LUTHER**

Pastor: From the Book of Proverbs: Hear, O sons, a father’s instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my saying. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Proverbs 4: 1, 20-22

Reader 1: The theses that Martin Luther nailed to the church door were the beginning of his teachings. In these theses, Luther questioned the value of indulgences and condemned the sale of them. The posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in 1517 was an open invitation to debate. They were quickly translated into German and then widely distributed by a recent invention, Gutenberg’s printing press. Within two weeks, copies of the 95 Theses had spread throughout Germany, and within 2 months throughout Europe.

Reader 2: He had already begun to preach the doctrine of salvation *by faith* rather than *by works,* and he went on to publicly defend his beliefs, which were in direct opposition to the church. In 1521, Luther was declared a heretic and excommunicated.

Pastor: Ordered to appear before the Diet (or Council) of Worms in April 1521, he refused to retract his statement of his beliefs, saying “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason…I am bound by the scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other.”

Martin Luther’s statement of belief of justification is central to the beliefs of the Lutheran Church. In his statement, justification is entirely the work of God, and is God’s act of declaring a sinner righteous by faith alone through God’s grace.

SUNDAY SCHOOL **“This Little Light of Mine”**

Reader 1: Martin Luther was a man of many words. He published nearly four hundred works during his lifetime. His lectures and sermons, copied down by students, parishioners and scholars, were shared throughout Europe and beyond during his lifetime and have continued to be published in countless languages ever since.

Reader 2: Luther’s teachings have been characterized by his insistence on the “three solas” – Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone. His firm stance regarding the supremacy of scriptures and his adherence to the concept of the priesthood of all believers have continued to be central to Lutheran teaching to the present day.

Reader 1: Among his writings are the Large and Small Catechism, which we use today. The Catechisms were written as a method of imparting the basics of Christianity to the congregations. The Large Catechism was a manual for the pastors and teachers. The Small Catechism was a synopsis to be memorized by the people themselves, particularly for heads of households (fathers) to teach to their families. Luther incorporated questions and answers in the catechism so that the basics of Christian faith would not just be learned by rote, but would be understood.

Reader 2: Luther’s Small catechism was, and is, very effective in teaching children about the Christian faith. He wrote the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer in the everyday language of the German people. In order to make the creed more understandable, he portrayed the Trinity not just as a doctrine but as a person to be known. The Trinity is a divine unity with separate personalities: the Father creates, the Son redeems, and Spirit sanctifies.

Pastor: Let us now rise and confess together the words of that **Apostle’s Creed.**

**People:**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;   
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.  
 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.**

Reader 1: Martin Luther translated the New Testament while in exile at Wartburg Castle. After others began to translate the Old Testament, he retranslated it into the language of the people. During the rest of his life, he continued working on his translation of the entire Bible.

Reader 2: Luther was also a prolific hymn writer. He loved music! And his love of music showed in the many hymns he wrote both the words and the music. Many of his hymns taught the theology of Christian faith in a way the people could understand. Our hymnal contains many of his hymn words and music. Let us now sing what is undoubtedly Luther’s most well-known hymn, *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”,* based on Psalm 46.

HYMN OF THE DAY **#504 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”**

Reader 1: Shortly after getting married, Martin Luther found himself quite busy organizing a new church. He set up a supervisory council, wrote up a new form of worship service, and wrote a clear summary of the faith, in the two Catechisms. Luther found great value in the sacramental life of the Church, rejoicing in Holy Baptism and urging the faithful to frequently receive Holy Communion, where the body and blood of Christ are truly present.

Reader 2: While teaching at Wittenberg, Luther designed a seal or coat of arms. He wanted it to summarize his faith. The black cross within the red heart is to remind us that faith in Christ crucified saves us. The heart is fixed on the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, comfort and peace. The rose is fixed in a sky-colored background to show that such joy of faith in the spirit is a promise of heavenly joy to come. And around the background is a ring, to show that such bliss in heaven is endless. And because the ring is made of gold, the most precious metal, it also shows that the bliss of heaven is more precious than all other joys and treasures.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Another biblical truth recaptured by the Reformation was “the Priesthood of All Believers”. As Jesus clearly taught, each believer can pray directly to God in Jesus’ name for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Today, I will invite the prayers, and members of the congregation will offer them.

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world.

***Steve Pauloski*** *A council member: Protect and defend Your church, Lord Jesus, wherever it proclaims the Gospel. Guide clergy and laity, missionaries and teachers, to seek every opportunity to announce Your grace and mercy. Where the Church is in error, reform it; where it conforms to Your will, increase and strengthen it. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for the nations,

***Brian Rude*** *Civic leader: Heavenly Father, continue to raise up men and women who will order society according to Your Will, enabling the Church to grow and providing for the common good. May they protect the poor and oppressed, and work for peace with their neighbors. Use our abilities to work for the betterment of our communities, state, and nation. Lord, in Your mercy*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for those who defend our country and protect us at home.

***Steve Nelson*** *Police or military: Almighty God, we give thanks for each person in whom You have placed a sense of duty that moves him or her to go in harm’s way. Protect them, give them wise judgment in unexpected crises, an enable us all to support their efforts at home and abroad. Be with their families as they deal with times of separation and thoughts of unknown dangers. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for our families,

***Jason T.*** *A parent: Guide us, O Holy Spirit to make thoughtful decisions as we seek the best for our children. Give us understanding as we deal with miscommunications and hurt feelings between spouses, and children and parents. Remind us of Your presence in our homes so that they will be temples in which we reflect Your forgiveness and love. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for our youth

***Maddox Fencl*** *Child or teen: Lord Jesus, open our hearts and minds to the news of Your great love for us. Help us to grow in our trust for You and in knowing how much You have done for us. Then open our mouths to tell our families and friends about the joyful Good News of eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us pray for the sick and those who care for them,

***Sara L.*** *Health care worker: Gracious Lord, instill in each of us thankfulness for every day of health. Help us to care for the bodies You have given us. When illness or injury strikes, bring healing according to Your will for us. Strength and guide all who care for us in times of crisis or through years of chronic conditions. Give them compassion to use their skill according to Your merciful will. We remember those, know to us, that are in need of Your healing hand. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING AND PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Everything that we have, gracious Lord, is a gift from You.

**People: Receive those tokens of our gratitude; use them and all that we are to extend Your kingdom of grace, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER**

Reader 1: Hear the Word of the Lord – the word that guided and strengthened Martin Luther and shaped the Reformation, giving us a noble heritage. Luther wrote of the Book of Proverbs: “Anyone who intends to become righteous might well take this as a handbook or prayer book for his daily use, read it often and ponder his own life in it.” (The Lutheran Study Bible, pg 996, 2009 Concordia Publishing House All rights reserved. Used by permission)

Reader 2: The psalmist writes: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. The Lord redeems the life of His servants, none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Reader 1: In certain seasons of our lives we discover that what once held meaning may now seem empty or dull. We wish that a new fire might burn within us, in a significant relationship, in our faith, or in our involvement with the church.

Reader 2: Though we continue to tell the “old, old story” of Jesus and his love, it becomes fresh and new in our present time. Often, that means change! As individuals, many of us choose to stay with the comfortable faith of our childhood rather than embrace the challenges of a mature and questioning faith. As a church, we often choose the status quo rather than taking the risks that could revitalize the community.

Reader 1: The Reformation was a time of great change and upheaval. Addressing the spiritual concerns of the time, Martin Luther and the reformers taught that the heart of the gospel is God’s Grace. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s favor. Rather, the truth that sets us free is God’s unconditional love and mercy.

Reader 2: As the reformation continues and the church rises to meet the challenges of each age, the treasures of our faith are recast in new words and new music. Martin Luther translated the liturgy from Latin to German, the language of the people. In his German mass, the assembly sang portions of the liturgy in hymn settings accessible to the common person.

Reader 1: In recent decades our vision of the church has expanded. With delight we discover that the church is larger than our own parish, denomination, or corner of the world. Luther and other reformers saw themselves as returning Christianity to its roots. Their ideas changed the world and set the foundation for the modern era.

Reader 2: The church is constantly evolving. And we are now reaching out to the faithful using modern technology, thus including people from all over the country (& world) in our worship. God’s word is timeless and the words are ancient. Let us go back to **Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray together…

**People: We thank You, our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept us this night from all harm and danger; and we pray that You would keep us this day also from sin and very evil, that all our doings and lives may please You. For into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things. Let Your holy angels be with us, that the evil foe may have no power over us. Amen** Luther’s Morning Prayer

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift us His countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6: 24-26

**People: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: #**513** **“Listen, Listen God is Calling”**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*We are always so happy to include you and our CVLC family in our prayers. If you feel your name, or the name of a family member can be removed from this list please contact Jamie.* *Thank you!*

**We remember in prayer:**

**†** *Those hospitalized this past week*

**†** *Our members whose names we lift up in prayer today:* Corrine Appleman, Beverly Bagstad, Eleanor Bagstad, Tip Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Inez Beck, Brian Berg, Jeanne Ebli, Kira Foster, Lucy Hardie, Bonnie Holey, Donna Ihle, Verlin Ihle, Todd King, Jim Knutson, Paul Kogut, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Gerri Leum, Larry Lichtie, Cindy Manske, Aaron Marx, Frank Mathison, Judy Mathison, Bud Miyamoto, Romaine Nelson, Sandy Nelson, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Mary Schultz, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten

**†** *Our members who are currently in health care facilities & Assisted Living:*

Rachel Berg, Evelyn Dahlen, Joanne Fletcher, Erma Graupe, Lenore Henley, Dennis Holen, Sylvester King Jr., Glen Marshall, Bob Moilien, Irene Nestingen, Cathy Ofte, Tim Ofte, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Beatrice Olson (Leonard), Betty Sanders, Nancy Stuempges, Arlene Townsend.

**†** *Those who grieve**:* Dan & Pr. Julie Wollman in the death of Dan’s father Harvey Wollman

**†** *Our members who are currently home-bound*

**†** *All those in need of God’s healing and help*

**†** *Family and friends of our members*

**†** *All those affected by the COVID-19 virus*

**~**Bulletins are in memory of Allan & Mary Stakston’s wedding anniversary from

Gwen Bahr & Rachel Pederson families

The following third graders will receive a Bible today: Dillon Fencl, Jacob Leisso, Madeline Morey, Deanna Wichman

**Acolyte:** Haley Strangstalien

**Head Usher:** Mike Lusk

**Readers:** Deb Holen, Mike Lusk, Steve Pauloski, Brian Rude, Steve Nelson,

Jason Thomas, Maddox Fencl, Sara Lieurance

**Attendance & Offering Last Sunday: 8am/**35; **10:30/**26=61

**Offering:** $2,644.72

**Sunday School Attendance Last Sunday:** 18

**SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY: Pr. Julie’s Sabbath; 1:00-6:00p/**Blood Drive

**TUESDAY: 10:00a/**Ruth Circle

**WEDNESDAY: 4:00p/**Confirmation

**THURSDAY: 6:00p/**Rebecca Circle

**SATURDAY: Turn your clocks back 1 hour!**

**NEXT SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30a/**Worship with Holy Communion; **9:00a/**Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship

**Coon Valley Lutheran Church**

**www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org**

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Office452-3772/Cell 317-0007

**Treasurer:** Becky Lusk, [treasurer1005@mwt.net](mailto:treasurer1005@mwt.net)

**Organist:** Mary Schultz

**Indoor Custodian:** Tracy Stellner