

st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
Observation of Reformation Day
Celebration Worship
October 24/25, 2026

As We Gather

Have you ever wondered what Lutherans are all about? Today is a great day to remind ourselves that the heart of our faith is simply the heart of Christianity itself—that our salvation from sin, death, and Satan is the work of Christ alone. He frees us from evil to love the Lord who loved us first and loves us still. The hallmarks of our faith came back into focus in the era of the reformers, when faithful leaders like Martin Luther put the truth of Holy Scripture back into the hands, minds, and mouths of God's church. Christ comes to free the sinner from slavery to darkness. Join Him in the freedom of His light—free to sing, free to confess, and free to share the eternal Gospel of Christ crucified and risen again!

Please Stand

Gathering Songs

"Battle Belongs"

Verse 1

When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You

Chorus

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You
(Last time- Tag)

Verse 2

And if You are for me

Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing
Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb

Bridge

(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God **(3x)**
(Then to Chorus)

Tag

O God the battle belongs to You

“Almighty”

Chorus

Almighty most Holy God
Faithful through the ages
Almighty most Holy Lord
Glorious Almighty God

Verse 1

The beasts of the field
The birds of the air
Are silent to call out Your name
The earth has no voice
And I have no choice
But to magnify God unashamed
Let the rocks be kept silent
For one more day
Let the whole world sing out
Let the people say

Chorus

Verse 2

Well time marches on
With the innocence gone
And a darkness has covered the earth
But His Spirit still dwells
He speaks it is well
And the hopeless still
Offered new birth
He will break the leash of death
It will have no sting
Let the pris'ner go free
Join the dance and sing

Chorus x2

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Opening Song

“Thy Strong Word”

Verse 1

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Verse 2

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing
breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Verse 3

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

Verse 4

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

Verse 5

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send

Fill our songs with alleluias,

Alleluias without end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

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Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

C **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Confession and Absolution

P Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

C **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.**

P And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.

C **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**

P For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **I am Yours; save me.**

P Jesus speaks, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples." The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Please be Seated

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."

P 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.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom 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. ²⁶ It 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. ²⁷ Then 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. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

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

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So 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**

The Apostles Creed

C 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.

Please Be Seated

Message Song

"Mighty Fortress"

Intro:

A Mighty Fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
A Mighty Fortress is our God
A Trusty shield and weapon

Verse 1

He won't abandon He won't deceive
He won't desert us He won't ever leave
He'll never forsake us He won't ever run
He'll never reject us the Faithful One

Pre-Chorus

Your love will remain
Your love will remain

Chorus 1

A Mighty Fortress is our God
A Tower of Strength never failing
The name of Jesus true and strong
No other power could ever save us
You are good You are good
Mighty Fortress Mighty Fortress

Verse 2

You won't abandon You won't deceive
You won't desert us You won't ever leave
You'll never forsake us You won't ever
run
You'll never reject us the Faithful One

(PreChorus)

(Chorus 1)

Bridge

Yesterday and today and forever
Your love will remain
Nothing has the power to sever Your love

You are good You are good
And Your mercy endures
You are good You are good

Chorus 2

A Mighty Fortress is our God
A Tower of Strength never failing
The name of Jesus true and strong
No other power could ever save us
You are good You are good Mighty
Fortress

(Same as Intro)

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Sermon

"The 2026 Lutheran"

(John 8:31–36)

To Be a Lutheran Is to Be a Christian!

- I. We Lutherans are the church as old as the creeds, the apostles, the prophets, Abraham, Noah, and Adam—the church of Jesus.
- II. We Lutherans sing, read, and confess in accordance with the Holy Scriptures.
- III. We Lutherans are set free from Satan, free from fear of death, free to love the Lord who loves us.
- IV. We Lutherans embrace the truth—the simple truth that our salvation is the work of Christ alone.
- V. We Lutherans confess the full body of doctrine, with all its parts working together.

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Kid's Church



Prayer of the Church

P Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

P And so we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, our refuge and strength, teach Your church not to fear but to trust Your unshakable promises, that faithful to Your Word, she might remain a present help for troubled hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Ever-living Lord, You have sent an eternal Gospel to be proclaimed to every nation and tribe and language and people. Raise up from among us faithful pastors, teachers, and missionaries who will proclaim the crucified and risen Christ as the only hope of sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Spirit, our Comforter, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, protect all citizens of the world from danger and disaster and make Your holy people agents of peace who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, truth incarnate, You ask Your people to abide in Your Word. Make us crave the nourishment of Scripture and build in us healthy habits and disciplines that put Your Holy Word central in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. We lift up the sick and suffering among us, **[including]**. Grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Sending Song

"This Is Amazing Grace"

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin
And darkness
Whose love is mighty and so
Much stronger
The King of Glory the King above
all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth
with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe
and wonder
The King of Glory the King above
all kings

Chorus

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Whoa Jesus I sing for all that You've
done for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into
order
Who makes the orphan a son and
daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth
and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its
brilliance
The King of Glory the King above
all kings

Chorus

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered

the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered
the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered
the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy oh

Chorus

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Closing Sentences

- P** If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- C** **For freedom Christ has set us free.**
- P** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- C** **For freedom Christ has set us free.**
- P** Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- C** **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

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**

Silent Prayer: Holy Father, as You freed the Israelites from Pharaoh's bondage, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to set us free from all our enemies, most especially sin, death, and the devil. What a joy to be a Christian! Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

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REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES: (A card of encouragement is always welcomed)

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY TIM (Together In Mission)

†Supporting: Danelle Putnam Schumann & husband Carlos Schumann, Apartada
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L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY ADOPT A STUDENT: Mr. Derek Arrington Campus
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ST. JOHN'S TIM (Together in Mission):

Rev. Carl & Chenhsi Hanson with Emma, Andrea, and Lydia serving in Seoul
South Korea as Pastor at International Lutheran Church. 148 Hannam-daero, Yongsan-
gu, Seoul, South Korea 04417

****ST. JOHN'S ADOPT-A-STUDENT:**

Mr. Blake Brockman (wife Hannah, son, Judah) Campus Post Office Box, 801
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Mr. Tristan Jones (and wife Carolyn and son Micah) 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO
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MY FRIEND'S CLOSET THRIFT STORE TIM (Together in Mission)

Deaconess Intern Anika Slayton, serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany, c/o The
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. OR
Mission Central 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034. Include Slayton-Germany in
the memo line.

Deaconess Tirzah Krey, serving in Latin America & Caribbean, Tirzah.krey@lcms.org,
facebook.com/groups/TirzahTales, c/o The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O.Box
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Zach & Christy Yoder serving in Nigeria with Wycliffe Bible translators.

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Sid Kemmis, Lay Minister 309-236-5061
Michelle Rothschadl, Parish Assistant & Director
of Celebration Worship 815-275-0397
Chris Winter, Ministry Assistant.....815-291-6994
Lisa Lobdell, Organist 815-275-5165
Ruth Maedge, Choir Director 815-238-1595
Sharon Thompson, Accompanist 815-493-8347
Joy Shaw, Handbell Director 573-987-8421

STAY CONNECTED

www.stjohnslena.org

Facebook: St Johns Lena

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am

Sunday at 9:15 am – Education Hour

Sunday at 10:30 am

**Aconstic – 4th Sunday 10:30 service*

BIBLE EDUCATION

Sunday at 9:15 am

Adults w/ the Pastor – Luke



Pre-School/Kindergarten
Jr. High & High School
WDS and BLAST
Women In the Word

1st and 3rd Monday's at 3:00 & 6:00 pm

Bible Journaling – Mark

Tuesday's 10:00 am

Stitching Blessings – Mark

Wednesday at 9:30 am

Women's Bible Study – Luke

Friday at 6:30 am

Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Fellowship H.

***See Church Calendar & Newsletter for
additional studies and gatherings!***

COMMUNITY

Church Van: If you live in Lena and would like a ride to the 10:30 am service, please call the church office.

My Friends Closet: Visit our thrift store for heavenly deals! 511 W Lena St, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-4527](tel:8153694527)

Adult Day Care: Visit our "Friendship Center" to care for your loved ones. 311 N Lake Rd, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-2690](tel:8153692690)

SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –October 24/25

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Tom Bannon	Dave Thompson	Rob Cobine
GREETERS	Tom/ Marquita Bannon	Eric/ Lindsay Bader	Rob/ Laura Cobine
USHERS	Jim Cox	Mike Rothschadl	Steve Levan
ACOLYTES	Usher	Charlie Kent	Tate Tessendorf
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Barb Harbach/ Evan Zier	Hudson Winter/ Carsten Wade/ Sam Cobine
ALTAR GUILD	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK – October 31/ November 1

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Craig Kroeger/ Mike Rothschadl/ Steve Stich	Rob Cobine/ Kevin Keltner/ Mark Mau
GREETERS	Don/ Angelia Bamberg	Dave/ Fawn Nolan	Chad/ Chris Winter
USHERS	Ken Lutz	Dale Calow	Nick Cobine
ACOLYTES	Usher	Blaine Drake/ Evelyn Tessendorf	Max Winter/ Addie Solverson
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Gary Erickson/ Jeff Jones	Ron Conway/ Steve Levan
ALTAR GUILD	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles