

Immanuel Lutheran Church Augsburg
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Pastor Timothy J. Landskroener
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October, 2020

Dearly Beloved,

God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ *Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *Though* the mountains shake with its swelling. (Psalm 46:1-3)

Those are strong words upon which we can take our stand as we live as God's people in a world which increasingly opposes God and His Word. For though the devil and the world rage against God's will and Word, and threaten God's people in the process, God Himself is in charge and He is in control, even when it seems He's not. He is our refuge and strength and He will sustain His holy people and deliver them from all danger and harm and from every evil.

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate the festival of the Reformation (the actual date is October 31), the anniversary of Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses. Now this is not a festival in which we celebrate the events of our Lord's life, such as Christmas (His birth), Epiphany (His revelation to the Gentiles), Lent (His passion and death), Easter (His resurrection), and Ascension. It doesn't celebrate a Biblical event such as Pentecost. And it is most certainly not a celebration of Martin Luther and *his* life, or a Lutheran Independence Day of sorts.. Rather, Reformation Day is a festival of the Gospel. For it was through His servant Martin Luther that God brought the Gospel, that we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone, back into the light of day, and restored its place as the central teaching of the Church.

But Luther did not enter into the Reformation lightly or willingly. Listen to Luther's own words:

Oh, with how great an effort and exertion, also with proof from Holy Scripture, did I barely succeed in justifying before my own conscience that I, a lone man, dared rise against the pope, consider him the Antichrist, the bishops his apostles, the schools of higher learning his houses of ill fame! How often my heart struggled, rebuked me, and threw up to me their one and strongest argument: You alone are wise? Can it be that all the others are erring and have been erring for so long a time? What if you are erring and leading into error so many people, all of whom will be eternally damned? Such questions continued until Christ strengthened and settled me by His own certain Word so that my heart no longer struggles but confronts these arguments of the papists as a rock-bound shore [confronts] the waves and laughs at their threatening and storming. (Plass, "What Luther Says", 3756)

It was the Word and promises of God, that is, Christ Himself, which gave Luther the confidence to continue the work which had begun. Indeed, Luther felt the earth quake all around him as he was declared a heretic and an outlaw. His life was on the line. Yet, strengthened by God's Word, he boldly proclaimed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fullness and power.

So the next time you sing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," remember Psalm 46, the Scripture upon which it is based and learn the entire Psalm by heart. Give thanks to God for restoring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Church. Indeed, "God is our refuge and strength" because He has saved us from sin, death, the devil, and hell. With His mighty arm He delivers us out of our wandering in a barren land and into the promised land of our eternal rest, which abounds with milk and honey. God grant you such strength, comfort, and peace as you trust and treasure His Word evermore.

Have a blessed Reformation Day!

Pastor Landskroener

Reminder – If you or someone in your household has been sick or not feeling well, please refrain from attending our worship service. We understand, this is out of love for one another.

For a Pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Landskroener

A DAILY, 15-MINUTE, VERSE-BY-VERSE BIBLE STUDY... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. Pastor Weedon will be leading a study this week on Matthew 10 and 11: Not Peace, But a Sword; Rewards; Messengers from John the Baptist; Woe to Unrepentant Cities; and more. You can listen on-demand at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Council Meeting is Oct. 7th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Voters Meeting is Oct. 11th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

The GRIT Run at Camp CILCA is live and in-person on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 10am. This grueling, rugged, inclined, trail run is a 5K that will truly challenge you. Sign up at cilca.org/homecoming. Adults run for \$30. 18 and under are \$10.

Ladies of the congregation are encouraged help spread God's word by taking part in the **LWML Mite Offering** today. Following are the LWML CID Mission Grants for 2020-2021.

1. Student Aid for Church Workers \$30, 000
2. Operation Mercy in Danville \$10,000
3. Danville "Food for the Children" \$10,000
4. Lg. Print Braille Bibles/Devotions (Effingham) \$10,000
5. MOST Filters for Clean Drinking Water \$5,000
6. Bringing Christ's Light, Braille Workers, Peoria \$5,000
7. Soldiers of the Cross \$3,000
8. Train up a Child Teen Camp, Alaska (partially funded) \$5,750

Bulletins are printed on Wednesday evenings. Contact me if you would like to have something placed in the bulletin. You can send emails to Storbeck@augsburchurch.com or Church email augsburg@augsburchurch.com call @ 349-6152, call or text 367-3355, hand me a note. Must receive bulletin note by 4:00 pm Wednesday afternoon to make in the bulletin for Sunday morning. Thank you.

Augsburg is collecting Christian materials, bibles, Portals of Prayer, Sunday School and VBS materials, Lutheran Witness, books, etc., to be given to the mission in Butler to distribute worldwide. Please put them on the table in the middle of the basement.

Trimming Stamps for Mites -- Trim each stamp leaving paper measuring 1/8 of an inch or less around the stamp. Be careful not to trim too close to the stamp. No corners or edges should be cut. The stamps must be 100% complete. If there is a group of stamps trim around the whole group.

New Portals of Prayer – Available in Narthex

Augsburg Church

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	5	6	7 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Council Meeting	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 7:00pm Voters Meeting	12	13	14 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	19	20	21 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	22 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	23	24
25 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	26	27	28 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 (B) Madison Lotz (B) Ruth Summann	6	7	8	9	10 (B) Aleia Beckman
11	12 (B) Denise Wolf	13 (B) Pam Parrish	14 (A) Eric & Cathy Dothager 00	15	16 (B) Linda Rhodes	17 (A) Matthew & Sarah Sasse 10 (B) Amy Schaal (B) Teresa Barnick
18 (A) Lee & Fran Schaal 58	19	20	21	22 (B) Abigail Rogers	23 (A) Joe & Rachel Schaal 04 (A) John & Ruth Ann Moyer 71 (B) Grace Kruenegel (B) Rachel Koonce	24 (B) Garrett Austin
25 (B) Danny McCaslin	26 (B) Dennis Schukar (B) Kenny Dothager	27	28	29 (B) Abigail Wolf	30 (B) Dennis Lange	31

