



REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 25, 2026

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
E-mail: office@memluth.org
717-532-4614

Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Pastor's office hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith!
We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and
Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors
coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may
help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!*

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *"Surely the Lord Is In This Place"* - Robert Lau
Senior Choir

PRELUDE *"A Mighty Fortress"* Nelybel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.**
Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Please remain standing or stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"* ELW 836

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord.
For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast"

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 46

READ RESPONSIVELY

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the
earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Alleluia. (John 8:31-32)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Russell Rockwell

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"* **ELW 729**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of the called and sent, revive deeply in us the desire to follow you closely as your disciples. Help us, we pray, to drop our nets and abide with you. Touch our hearts, enlighten our minds, and stir our spirit to share the fruits of our faith with all people. Give us the strength to carry our cross and walk humbly in Your grace. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the harvest, with a heart full of gratitude, we pray for our farmers and farm workers during this harvest season. When they feel tired or overwhelmed, remind them that you are the source of strength and provision. Fill their minds with peace through the unknowns of weather and markets. God, we thank you for the land we steward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 OF THE PEACE

Please greet those around you.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

SENIOR CHOIR OFFERTORY "In the Singing"

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

ELW 884

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

PREFACE FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love. You wrote your law not only onto stone tablets but into the very life of your holy people. Through Moses you summoned your people to love you with all their heart, all their soul, and all their might. When your Son, walking in the way of the law and the prophets, came to live among us, loving you with all his heart and soul and mind and strength, he showed us how to love our neighbors as ourselves. When his neighbors did not love him, and raised him up in shame on the cross, you raised him in the glory of the resurrection. You, O Lord our God, are holy, and you are one. And so, we remember and celebrate your covenant with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as we join the unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

My Lord and my God

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **My Lord and my God**

Embracing God, you invite us to love you by loving our neighbors. Open wide every heart to the way of your commandments. Make your church a living body of your gospel, written into one shared life. Fill your children with the zeal of the prophets. Show your people how to love their neighbors not only in word but in action. Pour your transform-ing Spirit upon any whose most difficult struggle is learning to love themselves. Reveal yourself in the face of friend and stranger, until that day when your world shall see you face to face; when, by the fullness of your grace, we come to share in your lasting glory, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

COMMUNION HYMN "Jesu, Jesu fill us with Your Love" Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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 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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW 504

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE "Postlude in G"

Blackburn

Info about today's guest preacher: Russ Rockwell grew up attending worship at Memorial. In 4th grade, the idea came to Russ of becoming a Lutheran pastor, as he sat in the balcony watching Rev. Turnbach lead worship. In 1988, Russ married Brenda Tice, whom Memorial hired as its first Director of Christian Education. In 1991, Russ was ordained at Memorial, and then took his first call to a 2-pt. parish in northwest ND, where he served for 5 years.

Russ loved serving his two churches in ND, but the call to Deaf ministry, a call he felt since 9th grade, took him to Minneapolis to serve his first Deaf church. Russ served the Deaf church in Mpls. for 5 years before accepting a call in 2001 to serve Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (WOLD) in Lancaster. Russ served WOLD for 25 years before retiring in August of this year. Of his 35 years as a pastor, 30 were in Deaf ministry, and 25 were at WOLD. Russ feels good about his contributions to Deaf ministry.



*In recognition of both
Pastors Godfred and Russ Rockwell,
a celebration with refreshments will be held
in Fellowship Hall today, Sunday, October 25
following the 10:00 am service.
Please join us!*

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KEEP IN PRAYER

Mary Kay Dagenhart

Doug & Pat Maun

Jeanne Naugle

Dorothy Railing

Trina Ruth

Wayne Widney

All Caregivers

STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Godfred Effisah

Organist & Pianist

Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir / Bell Choir

Director

Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator

Amy Piper

Preschool Director/Head Teacher

Emily Crider

Check out our church website using this QR Code!

