



REFORMATION

Sunday, October 25, 2020, 8:30 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

Explanation of the Week: *The Festival of Reformation is celebrated to commemorate Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. This event is considered to be the start of the Reformation. As we celebrate the Festival of the Reformation, we are directing our glorifying and praise to God. We are not glorifying Luther or the Lutheran Church or any branch of the Lutheran Church. Our purpose is to thank and praise God for directing His people back to the clear teachings of His Word, which proclaims His free grace handed to us through the work of Christ alone. The V.D.M.A. around the cross above stands for "Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum"—a Latin phrase commonly used by the early Lutherans, meaning "The Word of the Lord Stands Forever." This theme emphasized the Lutheran's trust and reliance upon the Word of God.*

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41). This order of service, known as the “Bugenhagen Order,” grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther’s pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996).



I. The Service of Preparation

(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~Prelude — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~Opening Prayer

(ELH p. 41)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ’s sake. Amen.

~ Hymn 250, vv. 1, 2 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need
That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.*

*2. With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God;
He holds the field forever.*

~Confession of Sin — Admitting our sinfulness to God

(ELH p. 41, 1)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~Kyrie Eleison – “Lord, Have Mercy”

(ELH p. 42)

C: ♪ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

~**Absolution** — *God’s declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, I; Mk 16:16, Jn 1:12)

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

~**Senior Choir “All Glory Be To Thee Most High”**

(Rachel Aarons)

*1. All glory be to Thee, Most High,
To Thee all adoration;
In grace and truth Thou drawest nigh
To offer us salvation;
Thou showest Thy good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
We praise Thy name forever.*

*2. O Jesus Christ, our God and Lord,
Son of the Heavenly Father,
O Thou who hast our peace restored,
The straying sheep dost gather,
Thou Lamb of God, to Thee on high
Out of the depths we sinners cry:
Have mercy on us, Jesus!*

*3. O Holy Ghost, Thou precious gift,
Thou Comforter unfailing,
From Satan’s snares our souls uplift,
And let Thy power, availing,
Avert our woes and calm our dread.
For us the Savior’s blood was shed;
We trust in Thee to save us.*

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 165 #132)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank You that by Your Word You have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of Your grace: We beseech You, mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false doctrine, and grant that we may not become ungrateful and despise and persecute Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it, and put all our trust in Your grace, through the merit of Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Yes, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers, when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt.

They broke that covenant of mine, although I was a husband to them, declares the Lord.

But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord.

I will put my law in their minds, and I will write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

No longer will each one teach his neighbor, or each one teach his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord, for I will forgive their guilt, and I will remember their sins no more.

~Holy Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:12-15 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been advancing forcefully and forceful people are seizing it. In fact, all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. If you are willing to receive it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

~Senior Choir “Now Thank We All Our God”

(William Allen Pasch)

*1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.*

*2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.*

*3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.*

~Apostles' Creed — Confession of faith

(ELH p. 46)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall 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.

~Chief Hymn 517, vv. 1, 4, 5 *If God Himself Be For Me*

*1. If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes confounded fly.
If Christ, the Head, befriend me,
If God be my support,
The mischief they intend me
Shall quickly come to naught.*

*4. My Jesus is my Splendor,
My soul's bright beaming Sun;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awful throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever,
As darkness by the light.*

*5. He canceled my offenses,
And saved my soul from death;
'Tis He who ever cleanses
Me from my sins through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
Bold, and undaunted aye.
In Him I am not fearful
Of God's great Judgment Day.*

~Sermon Text

Romans 8:31-34 What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us!

~Sermon Message

"God Is For Us"

- 1. Why can we say something so bold?*
- 2. Because in His Word God makes known to us His saving mercy in Christ.*

~Hymn 251, vv. 3, 4 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*3. And were the world with devils filled,
All watching to devour us,
Our souls to fear we need not yield,
They cannot overpower us.
Their dreaded prince no more
Can harm us as of yore;
His rage we can endure;
For lo! his doom is sure,
A word shall overthrow him.*

*4. Still must they leave God's Word its might,
For which no thanks they merit;
Still is He with us in the fight,
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And should they, in the strife,
Take kindred, goods, and life,
We freely let them go,
They profit not the foe;
With us remains the kingdom.*

~Special Prayers & Petitions

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 49; Mt 6:9-13)

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.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 59; Num 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Closing Hymn 589 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*

*1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.*

*2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy pow'r make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.*

*3. O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.*

~Closing Prayer

(ELH p. 59)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

~Postlude

(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: 1st Service: Cassie Johnson
Organist: 2nd Service: John Baumann
Monday Service: Kristin Matzke
Special Music: Senior Choir
Choir Director: Elisabeth Urtel*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE:

Sunday: 8:30am, 147/125; 10:45am, 65/55;

Monday: 30/25

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st Service: Peggy Harstad; Dean & Cathy Kluge;

2nd Service: Jim & Carolyn Gates

Offering Counters: Ron Younge, Jeff Younge

Altar Guild: Joni Bode, Elli Fisher

Weekly Financial Update:
Given Last Week: \$16,813.46 (includes text & on-line giving)
Fiscal Year To Date Deficit (as of 9/30/20): \$20,802.64

Philippians 4:19-20 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Catch Mt. Olive Worship Services Online at www.mtolivelutheran.org

OR

TV on local cable channels 181 (Spectrum) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

To give your offering online, go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link "**DONATE ONLINE**".

Or **TEXT 833-726-3742 along with the amount you wish to donate.** Or **Mail** your offering to the church office.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *October 25, 2020 – November 1, 2020*

Sunday, October 25	8:30AM 9:40AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Reformation Sunday Divine Service Congregational Forum NO BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service
Mon., Oct. 26	6:30PM 7:30PM	Divine Service Evangelism Committee Meeting
Tues., Oct. 27	6:30PM 7PM	Jesus Cares Ministry M.O.M.s Bible Study (Ulrich Home)
Wed, Oct. 28	8:05AM 9AM 4PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study Confirmation Classes
Thurs., Oct. 29	8:30AM 1PM	M.O.M.s Bible Study (Peace) M.O.M.s Bible Study (Mt Olive Social Hall)
Fri., October 30		
Sat, October 31		Reformation Day
Sunday, November 1	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Daylight Savings Time (Turn Back Your Clocks!) All Saint's Day Divine Service with HC SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with HC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory by Jim & Sandy Tessien in honor of their 55th Wedding Anniversary and Sandy's 75th birthday.

All church members are invited to attend a Congregational Forum **today at 9:40AM.**

Now that winter appears to be arriving, our second service on Sundays will be held at 10:45, in the sanctuary. In keeping with state regulations, worshipers are asked to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing. Everyone's patience and understanding are greatly appreciated!

LOOKING AHEAD: The next Senior Youth Group event will be Sunday, Nov. 8th!

We plan to have a bonfire at the home of Ben & Ashley Faugstad. All 7th-12th graders are invited!

Please remember to use our sign up system for attending the weekly worship services. This helps us make sure we're staying within the safety protocols in place during the pandemic. If you would prefer to call the office for this purpose, do so by **Noon on Fridays.** Thanks!

Sunday School parents, please remember to sign up if you plan to send your child to Sunday School this week, so that the teachers can be prepared. If attending in person is not possible right now, please make use of the digital Sunday School classes available on our church website. Go to "Serving", and then click on "Digital Sunday School" to watch a grade appropriate lesson presentation.

Attention Crafters! We are looking for people who like to sew, knit or crochet! With the falling temperatures, and winter approaching we are reminded of the things that keep us warm. Would you be interested in making hats for the chemo patients that utilize the Mayo health system? Please drop off your finished products in the church office or ASC room. When creating your works of art, please keep in mind the sensitivities of chemo patients (soft yarns/fabrics, smoke and pet free environments are best).

Hy-Vee Kash4Kids Do you shop at Hy-Vee? Save your receipts from Mankato Hilltop or Riverfront Hy-Vee. Receipts from either location earn cash for Mount Olive. Hy-Vee will donate \$1 to Mount Olive for every \$150 in receipts (dated September 1, 2020 or later) collected. Receipts can be dropped in the collection bin located in the Social Hall. Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits or gas station receipts are not eligible.

Box Tops For Education Box Tops is now making it even easier to earn cash for Mount Olive. Download the Box Tops for Education app on your phone. With just a few clicks, you can link to Mount Olive and scan your grocery receipts. The app automatically records Box Tops purchases from scanned receipts – no more clipping!

ELS & WELS Singles Facebook Group If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to socialize, make friends, or enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook group! Our group consists of over 300 members with ages ranging from 18-65+. We're an active group who loves sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal victories, and food. Our page is full of discussion posts and we typically have a weekly video chats on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles>

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVL Veterans Recognition Program

MVL will not be hosting our annual Veterans Recognition Program this November. We certainly thank God for our veterans and active-duty military and the service that they have given for our country. We pray that God would bless and keep you, and we look forward to reconnecting with you next year.

MVL International Student Housing

MVL is seeking housing for one of our international students. This young man is a sophomore and remained in the area over the summer. Host families are compensated for housing international students. If you are interested in serving as a host family for the school year, please contact the school office at 507-354-6851 or email Dr. Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org.

MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.

Bus Drivers Needed for MVL Routes

Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. With an increased enrollment and necessary distancing measures, we're urgently seeking MVL route drivers and substitute drivers for these great students. Full-time and part-time positions available with paid training! Interested individuals should contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387.