GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture Psalm 100:3

Reformation Sunday Polka Service!



October 25, 2026

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 the gospel, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*rise in body or spirit when indicated by **

PRAYER BELL AND WELCOME

The ringing of the bell calls us to enter the sanctuary and prepare our hearts for worship. The lighting of candles reminds us that Christ, the light of the world, is with us.

CALL TO WORSHIP:** ***It's Time to Praise (Pennsylvania Polka)

Lift up your voices, the worship begins, It's time to praise our Savior.
Death is defeated, our sins are forgiv'n. It's time to praise our Savior.
Thanksgiving, confession, we come as we are; we find a gracious welcome.
Everybody sing together and lift your voices to praise our Savior.

***GATHERING:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:** ***Ten Commandments Polka (It's a Small World)

(Chorus) **Ten Commandments God has giv'n, blessing those who follow them, warning all from breaking them, the Commandments Ten.**

1. **We should have no God but the Lord our God. Let us fear and love, always trust our God, more than anything else, more than anyone else, love the Lord our God.**
2. **We should not take God's holy name in vain.**
   Let us fear and love God and use God's name, Not to curse swear or lie, but in prayer, praise and thanks call upon God's name!
3. **Ev'ry week remember the Sab-bath day, keep it holy, love God in ev'ry way. Don't despise God's own Word, gladly hear it and learn from God's Holy Word.**

(Chorus)

4. **Honor parents, father and mother dear, Don't despise them, anger or cause them tears, Give to all over you honest love and respect, serve them & obey.**
5. **Do not kill or commit adultery, love your neighbor, don't hurt in any way. And in matters of sex, words and conduct are pure; love, respect your spouse.**
6. **Do not steal or covet your neighbor's things, do not get them in a dishonest way. Help your neighbor to keep and improve and protect property and work.**

(Chorus)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

***GREETING:**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE:** ***Sing Alleluia! (Beer Barrel Polka)

1. **Sing Alleluia! Come let us worship the Lord.**
   Sing Alleluia! Come lift your voice to the Lord!
   Join hearts together, worship and glorify God.
   Celebrate God's love together and sing Alleluia!

2. **Worship the Father, for all his gifts from above.**
   Worship the Savior, who gave his life out of love.
   Worship the Spirit, comfort and peace through it all.
   Let us worship God together and sing Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Almighty God, gracious Lord,
we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Fill us, your church, with all truth and peace. Where the church 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.

KIDS' TIME: *LIFT Middler Class Sing the Books of the Bible!*

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.**

PSALMODY: ***Do Lord (Too Fat Polka) – Psalm 27***

1. **You're my light and my salvation, I won't be afraid,**
   for you have been my aid, by you all things were made.
   Foes attack me, hassle me, but I will never fade.
   Strength from God fills my need. I won't be afraid!

(Chorus) **Oh, do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me.**
Do remember me. Do remember me.
Oh do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me.
Promise kept, don't forget, Lord, remember me.

2. **Though a host encamp against me I will never fear,**
   When the war is here you are always near.
   One thing I have asked of you that I will seek for sure,
   In God's house let me live confident, secure. ***(Chorus)***

(Bridge) **When I'm walking through the valley of death's shadow**
I will fear no evil.

3. **You will hide me in your shelter in the day of strife**
   Underneath your tent, up upon the height.
   Now my head is lifted up above the stormy fight
   Shouts of joy I will sing to the Lord my light. ***(Chorus)***

READING: Romans 3:19-28

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.

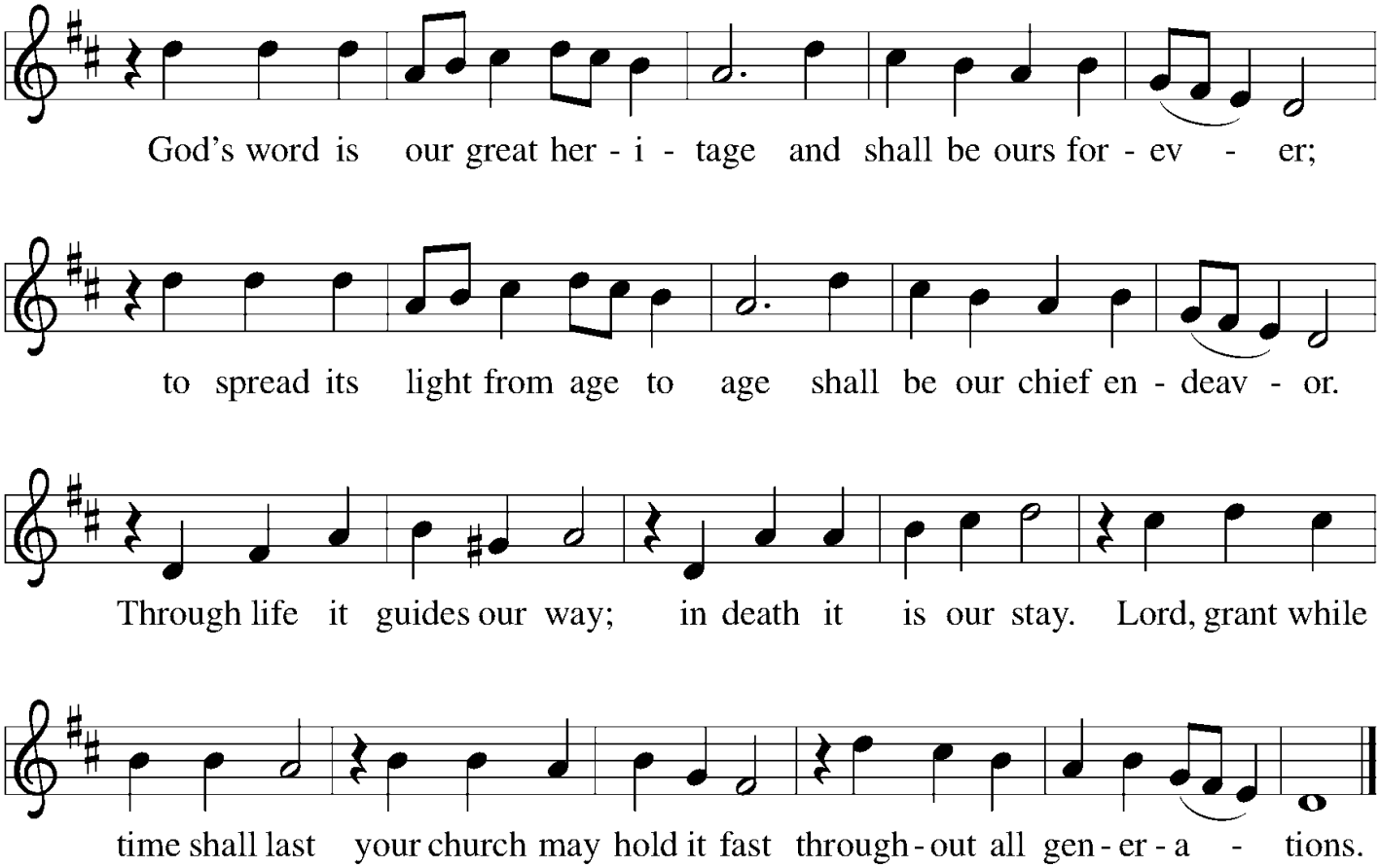
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed
and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through
the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all
have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they 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.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



***GOSPEL READING: John 8:31-36**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**



[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'?"
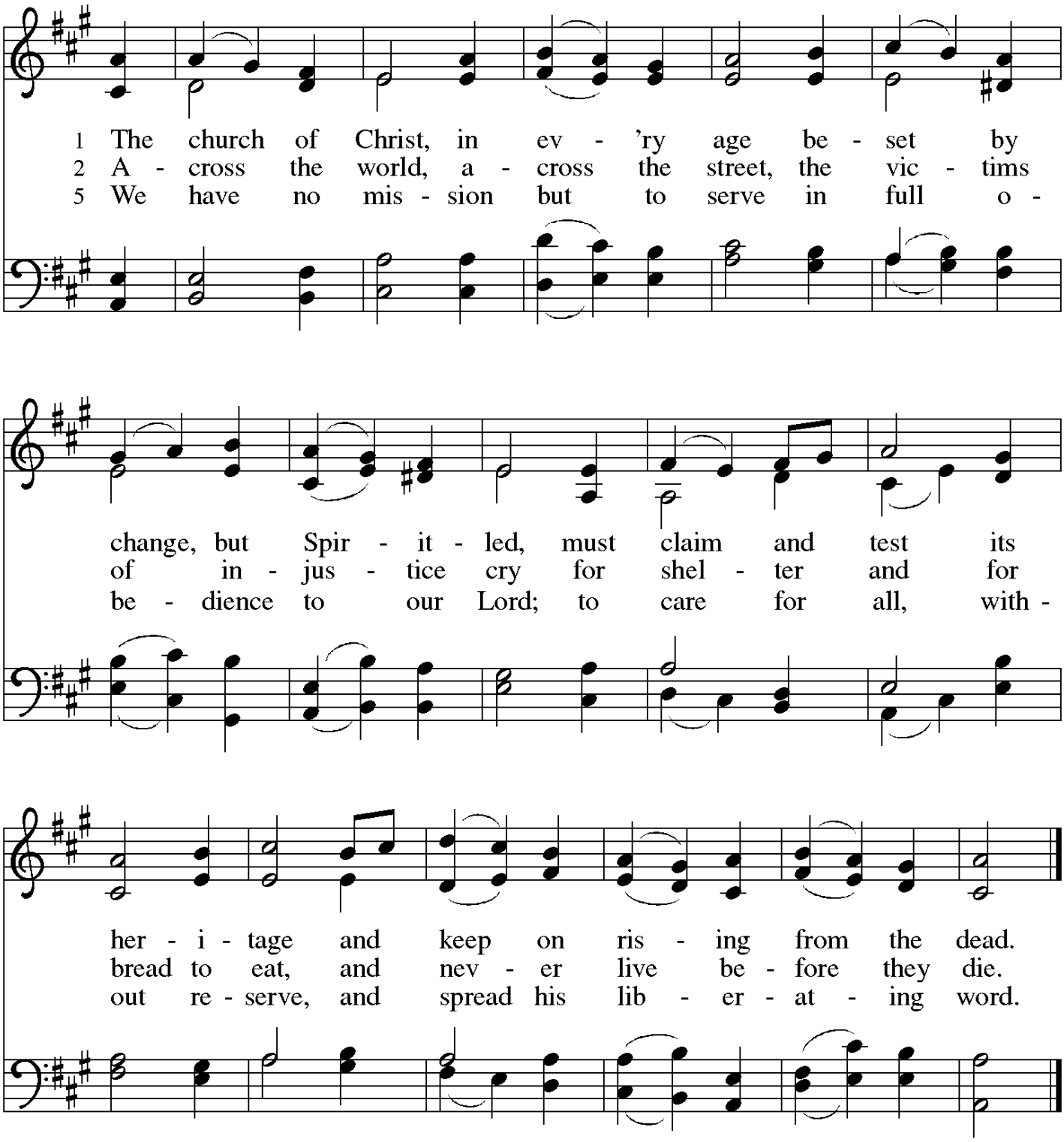
[34] Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who
commits sin is a slave to sin. [35] The slave does not have a permanent
place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36] So if the Son makes
you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: *Ecclesia Semper Reformanda* Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

HYMN OF THE DAY:** ***The Church of Christ in Every Age (verses 1, 2, and 5)

729 Red Hymnal



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
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***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Response:* God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

OFFERING AND CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Children are invited to come forward to get a pail to collect change and bills for our mission of the month, which is the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust.

To give online, scan here.

Thank you so much for your support of our shared ministry!

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Apostles' Creed Waltz (Du, Du Liegst Mir im Herzen)*

1. **Do you know God created you and all that exists?**
   God has given and still preserves all your body and soul. *(repeat verse)*
   God provides food and clothing, all we need day to day,
   and protects us in danger. We'll thank Him, serve and obey.

***(Refrain)* Yah, Yah, Yah, Yah, this is most certainly true.**
Yah, Yah, Yah, Yah, this is most certainly true.

2. **Do you know of the Savior? True God, true man is He.**
   At great cost he redeemed us, from sin and death set us free.
   Jesus' paid with his precious blood, his suffering and death.
   We are his in his kingdom, serving him in righteousness. *(Refrain)*

3. **Do you know of the Spirit helping us to believe?**
   We are called through the Gospel. Spirit gifts we have received.
   Spirit gathers, enlightens, sanctifies the whole church,
   Keeping Christians united, saints both in heaven and earth. *(Refrain)*

***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray… **Amen.**

***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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table.*

COMMUNION SONG: ***Lamb of God, Lamb of God (Edelweiss)***

Lamb of God, Lamb of God. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Grant us peace. Hear our prayer. Christ have mercy upon us.
Peace in our hearts and our homes and church. Peace among the nations.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God. Lord, have mercy upon us.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound **779 Red Hymnal**

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Holy Communion Polka (In Heaven There Is No Beer) – based on Luther's Small Catechism

1. **Communion is sacred sign, Christ comes in bread and wine.**
   We eat and drink this food, as instituted by Christ for our good.

2. **Remission of sins assured, the blessing in the Word,**
   "Given and shed for you", there new life and salvation's promised, too.

3. **A person is well prepared who trusts God's holy Word**
   with simple belief that's true; And will not doubt the gift is meant "for you."

4. **In heaven there is much wine and feasting all the time.**
   Communion makes us one, the foretaste of the feast that is to come.

I Am. (St. Johns Gospel Waltz) – (In München Steht Ein Hofbrauhaus)

1. **I am the bread of life to eat; My Lord, My God!**
   The hungry will not hungry be. My Lord, My God!
   My flesh, my blood, the gift of God; My Lord, My God!

   (Chorus) **The Word of God became flesh and lived,**
   God's glory, grace and truth to give.
   Believe in Jesus, the Son of God, that you may have life in His name.

2. **I am the shepherd of the sheep. My Lord, My God!**
   I lay my life down for my sheep. My Lord, My God!
   Abundant life that they may keep. My Lord, My God! *(Chorus)*

3. **I am the resurrection life, My Lord, My God!**
   All who believe will never die. My Lord, My God!
   Eternal life to them I give. My Lord, My God! *(Chorus)*

TABLE BLESSING
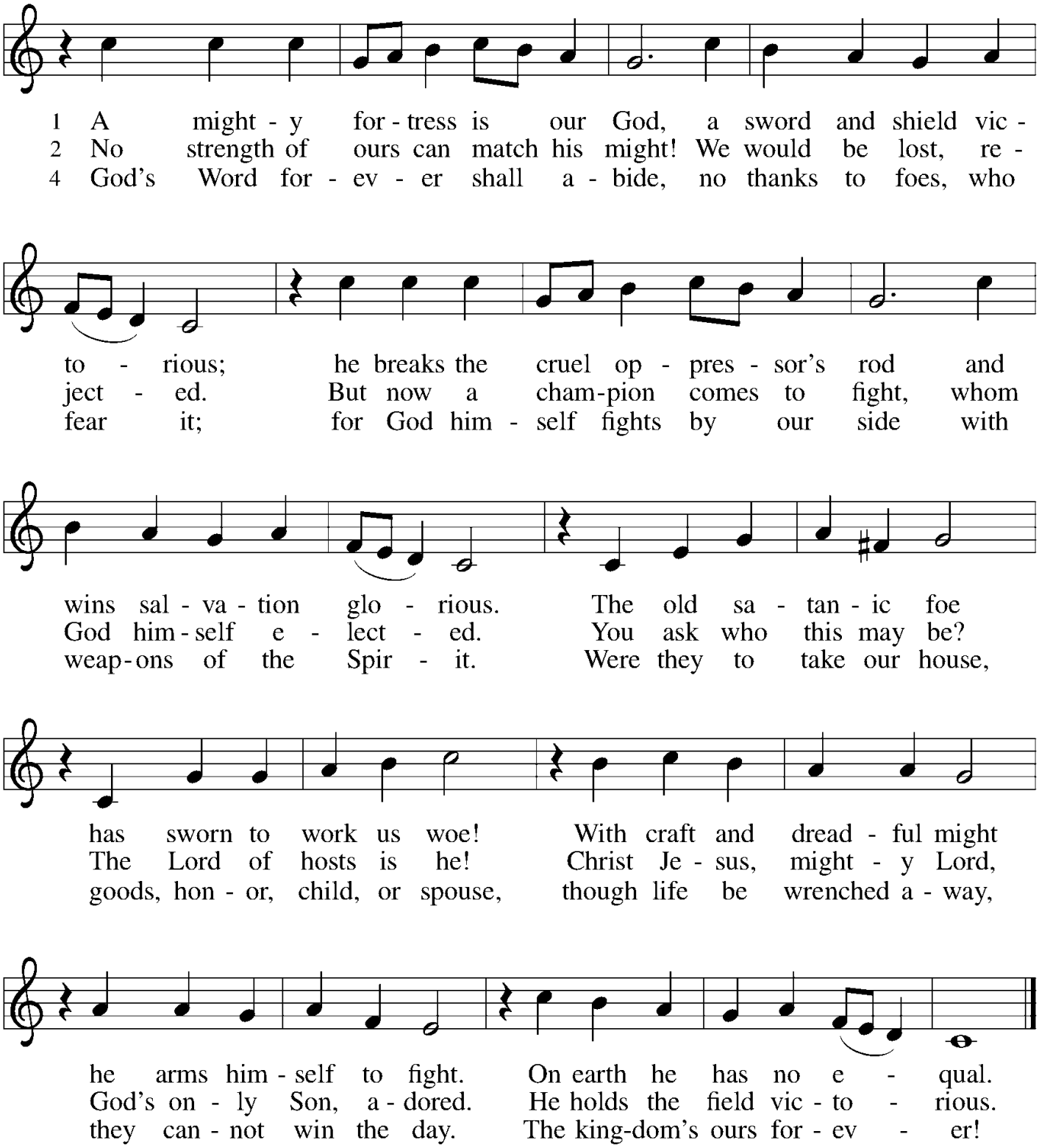
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray… **Amen.**

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

SENDING SONG:** ***A Mighty Fortress (verses 1, 2, and 4) **504 Red Hymnal**

Kids of all ages are invited to come forward to play percussion.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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***DISMISSAL:** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: *Great Hymns of Faith Medley (Happy Wanderer)*

1. **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.**
   I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

   ***(Chorus)* Hymns of faith. Hymns of love. Hymns of praise. Alleluia! Alleluia!**
   Hymns of hope. Hymns of grace. Our hearts and voices raise.

2. **My God how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright,**
   How beautiful thy mercy seat in depths of burning light. *(Chorus)*

3. **O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.**
   Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. *(Chorus)*

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
MUSICIANS: Brooke Joyce, Rolf Svanoe, Jim Buzza, Jeff Krambeer, Laura Barlament, Pam Torresdal, Ray Torresdal, Dan England, Reg Laursen, Melanie Folkerts, Edith Searles
ASSISTING MINISTER: Linnea Nicol
READER: James Barth
USHERS: Dave Siefken, Kirk Johnson
GREETER: Jan Siefken
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Keegan Joyce, Kerry Johnson
ALTAR GUILD: Marie Freerking, Jan Siefken
AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Ethan Friedrich
FELLOWSHIP: Marilyn Rue, Kerry Johnson, Edith Searles, Brian, Sandhya, and Gautam Caton, Donna Bahr

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Good Shepherd will host a pre-planning for end-of-life seminar tomorrow, October 26th at 6:15 pm. It will be led by Pastor Kristen and it includes information about the role of funerals in faith communities, funeral planning, and how to work with Good Shepherd and Pastor Kristen to plan for your own funeral when that time comes or the funeral of a loved one now. No preregistration is needed.



Create Luminaries for All Saints Sunday in Remembrance of Your Loved Ones Who Have Died - Luminary Bags are available in the Gathering Space for you to decorate at home. **On Wednesday, October 28,** at the **LIFT Halloween/All Saints/Reformation Party,** there also will be a time for decorating luminary bags. On **All Saints Sunday, November 1,** lighted with a battery operated votive light, the luminaries will be placed in the altar area.

This Week at Good Shepherd

Today, Sunday, October 25th: *Reformation Sunday*
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Green Flock

Monday, October 26th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
12:15 PM: Church Staff Meeting
3:15 PM: Piano Lessons
6:15 PM: Funeral Planning Seminar with Pastor Kristen
6:30 PM: AL/ANON; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 27th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
9:30 AM: Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library — all are welcome
6:15 PM: Piano Lessons
7:00 PM: WELCA Circle Meeting

Wednesday, October 28th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
3:30 PM: Men's Coffee Ministry; Lefse Lodge Kafe
5:30 PM: Supper for all; Fellowship Hall – Breakfast for dinner, provided by Orange Flock
6:00 PM: LIFT (Learning In Faith Together) Programming
-Reformation / Halloween / All Saints Pumpkin and Costume Party
7:00 PM: Choir Practice
7:45 PM: Band Practice

Thursday, October 29th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
3:15 PM: Piano Lessons

Friday, October 30th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM*
11:00 AM: Carrie Solberg funeral and luncheon

Sunday, November 1st: *All Saints Sunday*
9:30 AM: Worship, Sanctuary; with Holy Communion
Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Blue Flock
11:30 AM: Facilities and Grounds Meeting



Carrie Solberg's funeral will be this Friday, October 30 at 11 AM at Good Shepherd. View her obituary by scanning the code.

We will be serving a luncheon after the service. Sign-up sheets are available for cookies and bars as well as help in the kitchen.

From Donna Bahr: *Thank you to all my friends here in Good Shepherd Church for the many cards and kind words at the time of my brother, Tom Haugen's death. It meant a great deal to me.*

"**Seeds, Soil, and Stewardship**" is the theme for our Good Shepherd's fall 2026 Stewardship campaign to support the ongoing work of the church in 2027.

We invite you to be part of this campaign by submitting your Statement of Intent to pledge to the church by **November 22nd, Stewardship Sunday**. On Stewardship Sunday, we will present our pledges during the worship service to show our commitment to our church, to its missions, and to each other.

There are many ways to pledge. You may mail your Statement of Intent to the church office, you may drop it off at the church office or drop it in the offering plate during worship, or you may complete an online intent by going to **goodshepherddecorah.org/intent** or by scanning the QR code.

In Christ, *The Good Shepherd Stewardship Committee*

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Richard Ylvisaker
- Kristine Wilkie
- Tommy Lowe
- Doyle Gorden
- Paige Murphy
- Betty Ann Danielson
- Karl Knudson
- Marv Slind
- Valerie and Rick, *friends of Sara and Steve Hopkins*
- David Ramsey
- Jake Hiner
- Robin Darland
- Philip Swanson
- Marilyn Anderson
- Mic Martin
- Dick Schmidt, *Brian Larsen-Schmidt's dad*
- Barbara Nasby, *best friend of Stephanie Hoff*
- Bob Wilson
- Linda and Jim Morgan, *Jane Borelli's sister and brother-in-law*
- Joan Searles
- Naomi Craft
- Barbara, *mother of Christy Vrtis*
- Anthony McCabe
- Mickey Slind
- Jon Wendling
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- LaVerne Ramsey

Those who grieve:

- The family and friends of Carrie Solberg, who died on October 16
- Connie Buresh and family, upon the death of her sister-in-law Julie Friedrich
- Brian Larsen-Schmidt and family, upon the death of his father Dick Schmidt
- Pastor Kristen and family, upon the death of her uncle John Henningson

To have a prayer request added to or removed from the Prayer List, please email Tristan at office@goodshepherddecorah.org, call (563) 382-3963, scan the QR code, or fill out a card in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

On Oct 28 LIFT all ages are invited to a Halloween / Reformation / All Saints Extravaganza!

-BYOP! We will carve or paint pumpkins. Please bring a pumpkin if possible or sign up in the Gathering Space if you need one. Bringing Carving supplies would also be helpful!

-Dress in Costume! (No gore please!)

We will have prizes for most creative, funniest, historical/religious, etc.

-Decorate Luminary Bags for All Saints Sunday.

- We'll play a fun game or two. It will be fun! Invite a friend or two!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
701 Iowa Ave. Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – just follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

- **All are welcome at Good Shepherd.** God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.
- In keeping with our welcome, **Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation**, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. **We are an *AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation*** - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.
- In keeping with our commitment to steward God's Good Earth, Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero + Energy use.
- **Our RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT** was approved by the congregation on February 6th, 2022. Find the full statement at **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** or by scanning the code.
- **ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION**, the bread is all non-gluten. Wine is dark, grape juice light.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
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pastorkristen@goodshepherddecorah.org

Brooke Joyce; *Music Director*
music@goodshepherddecorah.org

Tristan Occhipinti; *Office and Building Manager*
tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org

Mike Sammons; *Custodian*