



*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church  
Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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[www.newlife-wels.org](http://www.newlife-wels.org)

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**Reformation Sunday (Observed)  
October 27, 2024**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

*Before Service Prayer:* Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank You for preserving Your holy Church against the very forces of hell. For the gift of the blessed gospel we praise Your name. For the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection from the dead, and life eternal in Christ, we thank You, loving Father. Help us to treasure the rich heritage handed down from our fathers in the faith. Continue to raise up faithful pastors and teachers among us in the spirit of Martin Luther, so that we can carry on Your saving work to the end of time. All glory to Your name! Amen.

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Theme of the Day **LIVE LIKE YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER --LIVE A LIFE OF COURAGEOUS WITNESS**

Jesus repeatedly told His followers that living as His disciples would bring hardship. Living life according to God's Law is going to make one appear odd in the eyes of the world, perhaps even evil. Sharing a message of mankind's sin and God's gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven, we don't worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death.

Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of courageous witness.

Welcome by the Pastor

Opening Hymn: CW 877 “Reformation Song”

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Opening Sentences Psalm 41:13; 79:9, 13; 125:1–2

P: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

**C: from everlasting to everlasting!**

P: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name’s sake!

**C: We Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.**

P: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**C: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

Confession and Absolution Psalm 130 (CW93 305)

P: Beloved in the Lord, as together we make our confession this day, we use words of a confessional hymn text based on Psalm 130, written by Martin Luther more than five hundred years ago in 1523. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution. We speak the words of the stanzas penned by the great reformer, based on the penitential psalm.

**C: From depths of woe I cry to You; Lord, hear me, I implore You. Bend down Your gracious ear to me; My prayer let come before You. If You kept record of my sin And held against me what I've been, How could I stand before You?**

P: Your love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression. The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression. Before You none can boasting stand, But all must fear Your strict demand And live alone by mercy.

**C: Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in my own merit; It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit. That He is merciful and just--This is my comfort and my trust. His help I wait with patience.**

P: God has promised His forgiveness of sins to those who repentantly confess their sins, imploring His grace and mercy for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord!



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the  
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure and bold - ly strive for  
3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish, and keep them that they



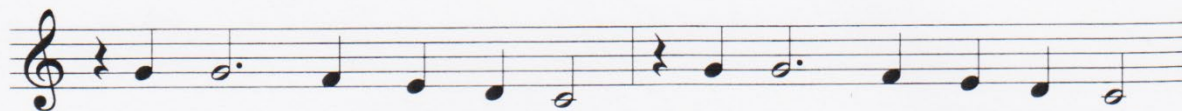
foe de - stroy you, for Sa - tan has de - signed your fall.  
heav'n - ly trea - sure. Be stead - fast in the Sav - ior's might.  
nev - er per - ish whom you have pur - chased with your blood.



Wield God's Word, a weap - on glo - rious; a - gainst each foe you'll  
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all  
Let new life to us be giv - en that we may look to



be vic - to - rious, for God will set you o'er them all.  
harm will hide you. By faith you'll con - quer in the fight.  
you in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell, here is Im - man - u - el!  
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!  
Your Spir - it on us pour that we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,  
Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done,  
hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free,



and we as con - qu'rors hold the field.  
the crown of glo - ry will be won.  
sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through the breaching of Your servants, the blessed Reformers, You caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of Your holy name; through Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Reformation Sequence      **Part 1**

P: One of the most famous documents of the Reformation Era is the set of the Ninety-Five Theses posted on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. In this set of ninety-five statements that Dr. Luther wished to have debated was a challenge to accepted practices in the church of his time that Luther felt were at odds with the biblical witness and therefore were not true. His introduction to the set of statements he had written is highlighted by two words: “love” and “truth.” We now read what Luther wrote as the introduction to his now famous Ninety-Five Theses.

**C: “Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be debated at Wittenberg, under presidency of the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and of Sacred Theology, and the Lecturer on Ordinary on the same at that place. For that reason, he requests that those who cannot be present and debate orally with us may do so by letter.”**

P: The challenges to Luther that resulted from his posting of the Ninety-Five Theses remained a constant factor throughout his life. A few years before his death, he wrote the words to the stirring hymn “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word.” Both the text and the tune are attributed to the great reformer and serve as our closing hymn today.

First Lesson: Daniel 3:16-28 – In response to an evil command offered by a pagan king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived lives of fearless witness.

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup> The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

<sup>25</sup> He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

<sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup> and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

<sup>28</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants! They trusted in Him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Reformation Sequence

**Part 2**

P: A major focus of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses was his concerns about the marketing of indulgences or letters of pardon for sins committed that were sold by traveling salesmen sent out by the church to raise funds for cathedral construction and other church projects. This money-raising strategy turned the forgiveness God gives freely through Jesus Christ into a commodity that could be purchased for the right price. Indulgences were readily available to wealthy people but not to the masses of common people—the kind of people that Luther knew well and preached to week by week. In Theses 36 and 37, he rightly asserts that God's forgiveness is equally available to all who repent.

**C: "Every truly repentant Christian has plenary [full] remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon. Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has a part in all the benefits of Christ and the church, given him by God, even without letters of pardon."**

P: Luther's love for the truth and his desire to bring it to light led to dark times for those who saw the light of the Gospel in the writings of the great reformer. In the second stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Luther prays that God would defend and protect the church and its people. His prayer in his day is our prayer today as well.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:32

P: Alleluia. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Alleluia!

*Stand*

Gospel: **Mark 13:5-11** – Jesus encourages and empowers us that we might be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of Me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup> Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Sit*

Hymn of the Day: **CW 864** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (CW93 201)

The Sermon

From the Creed: (The Third Article and Luther's Explanation)

**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.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.**

**But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last day He will raise me and all the dead; And He will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



*The Prayer of the Church / Luther's Version of the Lord's Prayer*

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ, our Lord, has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Your will be done. Lord, in

Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, reformers and renewers, with Your servant Martin Luther, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

**Joyful, joyful we adore You, Holy, holy, holy Lord!**

**Heav'n and earth, yes, all creation Joy and praise to You afford.**

**Sing we all hosanna, hosanna Unto Christ, Your only Son.**

**In Your own name He is coming. Our salvation He has won! (CW 93 169)**

The Words of Institution (spoken by the Pastor)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Agnus Dei

**You are giving and forgiving, Lamb of God for sinners slain.**

**All the world's sin You have taken And in heaven is Your reign.**

**Mercy show us, mercy give us; Hear us from Your throne above.**

**Grant Your peace to us poor sinners, Peace for this world in Your love.**

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices "close communion." We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

Distribution Hymn: **CW 861** "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head" (CW93 536)

The Song of Simeon

**All Your works with joy surround You, And we tell what You have done:  
Let each one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy.  
We depart with shouts of gladness. Allelu, alleluia!**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Reformation Sequence      **Part 3**

P: In the final two of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther gave an indication that he was well aware of the pathway that Christians would be taking as they followed the truth of the Gospel. No matter how contentious and challenging the world might be in a given era, the gracious guidance of Christ would be sufficient to lead His faithful flock to the joys of everlasting glory. Let's read together Theses 94 and 95.

**C: "Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22)."**

P: In Thesis 62, Luther shared the heart of his message in a most straightforward way, as he writes, "The true treasure of the Church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God." The closing stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" is a prayer for peace and unity to the Holy Spirit. With the psalmist we say to our loving Lord, "I will praise You with an upright heart. . . . I will keep Your statutes." (119:7a, 8a)

A Reformation Benediction (From Luther's writings)

P: Let the Word of God be ever in your heart, on your lips, and in your ears. It always awakens new understanding, pleasure and devotion and purifies the heart and thoughts. When people cling to the Word in this way, our Lord and Savior and the entire heavenly host smile. This is most certainly true!

**C: Amen.**

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn:    **CW 862** "Lord, keep Us Steadfast In Your Word" (CW93 203)

The Announcements

## Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

*Cleaning this Week: Berg / Bolzman*

**Today—Reformation Communion Service at 9:30 AM**

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class in the New Life Cafe at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

**Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM**

**Next Sunday—**(Sunday School and Preschool Kids Sing, warm up at 9:15 AM)

**Steward the Truth as the Greatest Good** Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

### FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers October 2024 through January 2025.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school is learning a new song called, "Bless the Lord, O My Soul," which will be sung on November 3. The Sunday school story for today is "David Sins and Repents."

### ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, adult Bible class will cover John 14:1-14, "Jesus is the Way to the Father," and John 14:15-31, "Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit." Adult Bible Class begins at 10:45 AM in the New Life Café and ends at 11:45 AM.

### ADOPT-A-SAILOR

New Life will once again host 28 Naval Recruits from Great Lakes Naval Station on Thanksgiving Day. There are several sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board downstairs which you can use to indicate your participation in this annual event.

### STEWARDSHIP ON "BEAUTIFUL TRUTH" IN NOVEMBER

Ever since the fall into sin, the concept of truth has been up for grabs. Our first parents believed the tempter's deceit and, in the aftermath, asserted their own truth in vain self-defense. Pilate, when invited to consider the truth of God, questioned whether truth existed at all. Paul testified to the Gentile world's denial of truth as they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for mere images.

Human beings today are no different. Fine print hides the truth. Political leaders stretch the truth. Individuals deceive themselves and call it truth. We follow the same pattern, pursuing a semblance of truth when convenient and reshaping it altogether when we think it necessary. Truth remains confused.

Into this mess of ugly comes biblical truth.

A series focused on truth could go in many directions—from an in-depth look at the nature of scriptural truth (certain, real, objective, eternal, etc.) to a study of how God communicates his truth (natural and revealed). Yet above all else, *biblical truth is CHRISTIAN truth*. It is truth centered in Jesus Christ. It is truth revealed through Jesus Christ. It's not merely a set of assertions or propositions to grasp with our minds, but a person to know with our hearts.

And as we come to know Jesus, we recognize that Christian truth is truly *beautiful*—for ourselves and for others. This series explores the beauty of Christian truth, along with the importance of deeply grasping it for ourselves and communicating it to others, especially the next generation. The series follows this approach:

1. Steward the Truth as the Greatest Good: God’s truth is genuinely good—the *greatest* good. Believe it! (November 3, 2024)
2. Steward the Truth as Shared Humanity: Christian truth speaks to all people across time and distance. Share it! (November 10, 2024)
3. Steward the Truth as Freedom from Deception: The deception of sin hurts and enslaves. Christ’s truth brings freedom and life. Declare it! (November 17, 2024)

