

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

October 25, 2020 Reformation Sunday



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required throughout the worship service.**

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewisownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)

October 25, 2020 Reformation Sunday

Introduction to the day

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.

(*Stand)

PRELUDE: *Prelude & Fugue in E Minor* J.S. Bach
Variations on A Mighty Fortress is Our God Robert Powell

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P Welcome this day to the house of our God.
C **We gather in peace and in love.**
P Welcome this day to the worship of our Creator.
C **We worship in hope and with grace.**
P Welcome this day to our community of faith,
C **We meet together as sisters and brothers in Christ.**

*GREETING

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

*CALL TO PRAYER *Hear Our Prayer*

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God,

C **gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF OUR LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

P We are honored that from among us, Meryl McKenna, has completed preparation for and been commissioned to serve as a Lay pastoral Associate in the Montana Synod. We hold you dear as our own partner in the Gospel and will call upon you often to serve us in our congregation.

C **We welcome you in this role, we affirm you as a servant of God among us, and we pray that God will bless you in your faith and in your service to the Lord.**

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles

While [the apostles] were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

A reading from First Peter

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

A reading from St. Matthew

[Jesus said,] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

P You have been recognized by the Montana Synod to serve your church. As you come among us, we too ask you, “Will you seek to serve the Lord as a fitting ambassador, representing the Gospel and the Church of Christ according to the gifts and inspiration give you by the same Lord? Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving to the people among whom you will live and work? Will you continue to seek God’s Word of Life in study and prayer, trust God’s care for your wellbeing, and strive to grow in love for the Lord, the world, and our people here in Lewistown?

Response: I will and I ask God’s grace, wisdom, and peace in all I am and do as I serve God.

P May the same Lord and God give you all strength and compassion and faith in your service to the church and to us as a Lay Pastoral Associate.

And I ask of you, the members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church, will you also accept the service of this servant of God when called upon by our congregation? Will you support, respect, and acknowledge her in her commitment to serve us, receive through her the message of salvation, respect her in her gifts, honor her for her work’s sake, and help her as a caring leader among us, in all things striving to live in peace and unity in Christ?

C We will, and we ask God to grant us the grace, wisdom, and holy, and loving ways so to do.

P We hereby fully acknowledge you in your commitment to serve the Lord as a Lay Pastoral Associate. Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Presentation of Certificate of Recognition

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

C Thanks be to God.

***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.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³They 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’?”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Meryl Mckenna, LPA

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Lord Jesus, Christ Be Present Now*

J.S. Bach

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
C **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.**

P 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.
C **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Soli Deo Gloria* (vs 1 & 4)

1 *O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
you are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

4 *All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
through word and witness, in bread and wine;
incarnate love song of boundless grace,
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
your steadfast kindness with human face:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*Soli Deo Gloria means “To God alone be the glory!”

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG

*O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.*

MUSICAL OFFERING DURING COMMUNION

Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness

J.S. Bach

***BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MINISTRY OF ZION

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *If You but Trust in God to Guide You*

J.S. Bach

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Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com

Meryl McKenna, a Lay Pastoral Associate, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Serving Us:
Pr. Lynne Ogren
Organist: Brian Priest
Ushers:
9:30 – Kathy Trask; 11:00 – Foss Wilson
Lector: 9:30 – Pat Fredrickson 11:00 – Laurie Bentley
Communion Assistants:
9:30 – Denise Goodwyn, Dale & Gail Kurns
11:00 – Laurie Bentley, Lloyd McKenna
Disciples: All the Baptized
Website: www.zionlewistownelca.com
Contact us: 538-5082 zionelca@midrivers.com

Welcome! Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Michelle Hecht, Maxine Troth, Wendy Pfau, Dianne Kaldor (Meryl McKenna's sister)

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau, Russ Hodge, Marv Mathison

Social Concern for October: The Zion Scholarship Fund administered by the Trust Committee is the Social Concern for October. This fund was established approximately 25 years ago as a memorial for one of our members by his family. Students who are active members of Zion and who are pursuing a Bachelor's Degree or attending an accredited institution of higher learning (e.g. Trade School) are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Individuals and Zion Lutheran Church Women have financially contributed to it over the years. Since the cost of higher education has greatly outpaced inflation, financial support for students is more critical now than ever. If you would like to contribute, please make your check to Zion and note "Trust Scholarship" on the memo line.

Today

10:15am Learning Time for Pre-K thru 1st grade in the fellowship hall

Week of 10/26 – 11/1/2020

Mon	7:00pm	Council meeting via Zoom
Tue	10:00am	Staff meeting
Wed	Noon	Men over lunch at the Elk's
	3:30pm	BLAST (Elementary learning grades 2-6)
	3:45pm	Confirmation
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sun	9:30am	All Saints Worship Service
	11:00am	All Saints Worship Service

ZLCW is planning a mini bazaar in December which will feature wreaths, lefse and a quilt raffle. Sign-up sheets for making lefse, gathering greens, making wreaths and selling the items in the church parking lot on December 5th are on the narthex table. **Pre-orders for lefse and wreaths will be necessary, those sheets are available.**

Ministry Opportunities – Volunteers are need to serve as lectors, communion assistants and ushers at 9:30 and 11am worship services. If you would like to serve, please fill out a bright yellow half sheet on the narthex table.

Job Opening: Zion Lutheran is seeking a person to manage the front office. This position requires competent computer skills including experience with social media, a pleasant demeanor for personal and phone interaction, and good organization skills. This position is 20 hours/week, Mon - Thurs. Compensation may be negotiable depending on experience. Resume and references are required with application. A background check will be done upon hiring. Applications will be received through November 2, 2020.

Serving on Staff:
Secretary: Lana Papp
Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz
Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson
Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker