

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Reformation Day Observed

October 29, 2023

AS WE GATHER

On this day when we observe and celebrate the Reformation, our Readings point us to remember the struggles and eventual insights of Martin Luther. God used these struggles and insights of one man in Germany to reshape the Church and let the true Gospel resound all over the world. Luther struggled as a young monk and professor because he had been taught that he, by his works of righteousness, might possibly then qualify to be loved by God. This teaching caused him nearly to despair entirely. But then he read Romans 3:23–24: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Struck by God’s Word here, Luther recognized that it is Christ’s work of righteousness - His dying and rising for sinners like Luther - that saves. Today is a celebration of what Christ has done for sinners like Luther and us.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Thy Strong Word” (LSB 578 - 6 verses)

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;

For created light we thank Thee,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,

Broke the light of Thy salvation,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

At Thy speaking it was done.

While Thine ordered seasons run.

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia without end!

Dark as night and deep as death,

Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright with Thine own holiness,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
From the cross forever beameth
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Fill our songs with alleluias,

Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
May the light which Thou dost send
Alleluias without end!

(please stand)

God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Mortals, angels, now and ever

To Thee laud and honor be.
Praise be sung eternally.
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Praise the holy Trinity!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: By works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight.

People: God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Pastor: Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

People: The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Pastor: As You reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,

People: reshape us in this generation, LORD, to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to Your first loving us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

People: and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession. *{A time of silence.}*

Pastor: God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.

People: Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.

Pastor: "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

Pastor: I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,

People: and shall not be put to shame.

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times;

People: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

People: let the humble hear and be glad.

Pastor: Come, O children, listen to me;

People: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Pastor: The LORD redeems the life of His servants;

People: none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,

People: and shall not be put to shame.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for ours on the cross that we now stand righteous before You by faith. Grant us to trust not in our own righteous actions but always in Jesus alone, that we may live now and forever in the peace of God, which surpasses human understanding, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please sit)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 14:6-7

*(In a vision, John sees an angel who declares to all peoples and nations,
"Fear God and give Him glory.")*

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 3:19-28

("We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.")

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

(please stand)

(Jesus declares that to believe in Him is to be truly free.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who

practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” - (LSB 657 - 4 verses)

A mighty fortress is our God,
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
The old satanic foe
With craft and dreadful might
On earth he has no equal.

A sword and shield victorious;
And wins salvation glorious.
Has sworn to work us woe.
He arms himself to fight.

No strength of ours can match his might.
But now a champion comes to fight,
You ask who this may be?
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
He holds the field victorious.

We would be lost, rejected.
Whom God Himself elected.
The Lord of hosts is He,
God's only Son, adored.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
Let this world's tyrant rage;
His might is doomed to fail;
One little word subdues him.

All threat'ning to devour us,
They cannot overpower us.
In battle we'll engage.
God's judgment must prevail!

God's Word forever shall abide,
For God Himself fights by our side
Were they to take our house,
Though life be wrenched away,
The Kingdom's ours forever!

No thanks to foes, who fear it;
With weapons of the Spirit.
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
They cannot win the day.

MESSAGE: "Right in Jesus"

Romans 3:19-28

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen**

OFFERING

(please be seated)

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose perfect righteousness is given to us freely through faith in Him. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: You, O Lord, freely give us what we could never attain for ourselves - a right relationship with You through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. We thank You for

giving us the body of Christ to eat and the blood of Christ to drink, Your gift of grace that forgives our sins and joins us together as the Body of Christ.

People: For all this it is our duty and delight to thank and praise, serve and obey You. Amen.

THE 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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,	And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: "O Lord, We Praise Thee" (LSB 617 – 3 verses)

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,	In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish	Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!	May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,	And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:	O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given,
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
O Lord, have mercy!
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
Peace with God once more is made:

Life to win for us in heaven.
May this feast thereof remind us!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
All our debt Thou hast paid;
O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor
And live together here in love and union
O Lord, have mercy!
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Days of peace and unity:

That we follow Christ our Savior
Nor despise this blest Communion!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
O Lord, have mercy!

HYMN: "In Christ Alone" CCLI

In Christ alone my hope is found
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
What heights of love what depths of peace
My Comforter my All in All

He is my light my strength my song
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
This gift of love and righteousness
Till on that cross as Jesus died
For every sin on Him was laid

Fullness of God in helpless babe
Scorned by the ones He came to save
The wrath of God was satisfied
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
And as He stands in victory
For I am His and He is mine

Light of the world by darkness slain
Up from the grave He rose again
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
From life's first cry to final breath
No power of hell no scheme of man
Till He returns or calls me home

This is the power of Christ in me
Jesus commands my destiny
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

HYMN “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (LSB 563 – 6 verses)

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,	My beauty are, my glorious dress; With joy shall I lift up my head.
Bold shall I stand in that great day, Fully absolved through these I am	Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay; From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Pleads for the captives’ liberty,	Which at the mercy seat of God Was also shed in love for me.
Lord, I believe, were sinners more Thou hast for all a ransom paid,	Than sands upon the ocean shore, For all a full atonement made.
When from the dust of death I rise This then shall be my only plea:	To claim my mansion in the skies, Jesus hath lived and died for me.
Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, For me, and all Thy hands have made,	Whose boundless mercy hath for me, An everlasting ransom paid.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. You alone, O Lord, are righteous in all Your ways. We thank and praise You for the gift of Christ’s perfect righteousness given to us in this Holy Sacrament. What we could never do for ourselves, You have done for us in Christ. Send us from this Table with renewed hearts, ready to serve our neighbors with the love You have first shown us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” (LSB 655 – 3 verses)

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son

Curb those who by deceit or sword
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
Defend Your holy Church that we

For You are Lord of lords alone;
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Support us in our final strife

Send peace and unity on earth;
And lead us out of death to life.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing –

Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

*Prayers for **Lucky Engelman's** healing after a hip replacement and surgery to clean out infection*

***Debra Beard** requests prayers for **Jenny Heth's** healing following a double mastectomy.*

*Prayers for **Suzie Rogers and her family** as they mourn the loss of **Mark "Buck" Rogers***

*Prayers for **Mark Giardinelli** as he starts training with the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** ministry.*

*Prayers for the **MAF Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children.***

Prayers for Rolf Schulz and wife, Linda Schulz

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer and

*Family friend **Linda Young** dealing with ALS*

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness**

Sally Gutierrez Beltran asks for prayer for her husband **Felix** for salvation, deliverance from alcohol and restoration of their marriage

For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

OCTOBER ALTAR FLOWERS

October 3rd – Linda Dickey – in honor of Bill's birthday

October 8th – Russell & Margaret Leachman – in honor of Benton's birthday

October 8th – Pam Fields – in memory of Ed Fields

October 15th – Giardinelli Family – in honor of Operation Christmas Child

October 22nd – Joyce & Janis Meier – in memory of their mother Alama Meier

October 22nd – Mario & Eve Betancourt – celebrating 21 years of marriage

October 29th – Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - Pastor will continue with *The Gospel According to John. Town Hall Meeting Sunday Nov 5th* following worship service to discuss the 2024 Budget, nominate members for the 2024 Lay Ministry Board and receive update from our Call Committee.

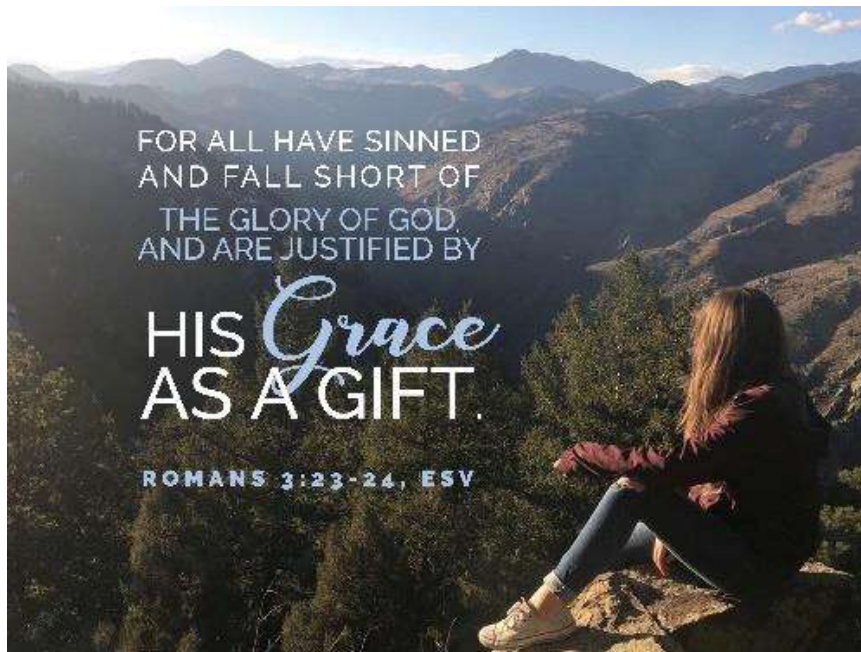
Voters Meeting Sunday Nov. 19th following worship service to vote on the 2024 Budget and Lay Ministry Board nominations.

Time & Talent Inventories Please Remember to turn in your Time and Talent Inventory by Reformation Sunday. Complete by Email or print out (or pick up a paper copy at church) and return to Church office.

Upcoming Events – Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.

- **TODAY – Oct. 29th Trunk or Treat from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.** Please sign up to bring candy and be a part of the fun! The kids are always so cute and thankful!
- **TODAY – Oct 29th – Hill Country Daily Bread Ministry Thanksgiving** food drive is finishing this Sunday! Please check the list for items you can contribute!
- Nov. 4th - **Messiah's Adult Game Day** at 2:00 pm at the home of Hal & Lindy Eschenko!
- Nov. 5th - Thank you for the great turnout at last Sunday's Multigenerational Tie Dye Event! We had so many attend that we are currently going to cancel the Tie Dye event on November 5th. Thanks to Thrivent for providing our lunch!
- Nov. 17th - **Ladies Day Out Lunch at Altstadt Brewery in Fredericksburg** at 12:30 pm the same day as Fredericksburg Trade Days nearby. Everyone is invited to join for lunch at the big hall for German food and listen to the band!! RSVP to Lindy Eschenko 979-229-7760 or email or sign up at church!

Issues, Etc.- Paths To Lutheranism Series ... *Issues, Etc.* is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to stories of guests who have come to Lutheranism from Islam, Mormonism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more. You'll find the series at issuesetc.org/pathstolutheranisms.



FOR ALL HAVE SINNED
AND FALL SHORT OF
THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY

HIS *Grace*
AS A GIFT.

ROMANS 3:23-24, ESV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – October 29, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Sue Parker
Treats: Lindy Eschenko
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Rutledge Family
Reader: Kathy Rottman
Ushers: Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb
Greeters: Larry & Kathy Rottman

Serving us Next Sunday – November 5, 2023

Elders: Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee: Shirley Moore
Treats: Margaret Leachman
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Maurice Doublett
Ushers: Eric Sagebiel – Larry Rottman – Russ Leachman – Harold Moore
Greeters: **OPEN**

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 80 Sunday School: 20

September 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$39,564.20	Building Fund	\$1,925.00
Renovation Fund	\$150.00	Family Life Center	\$1,750.00