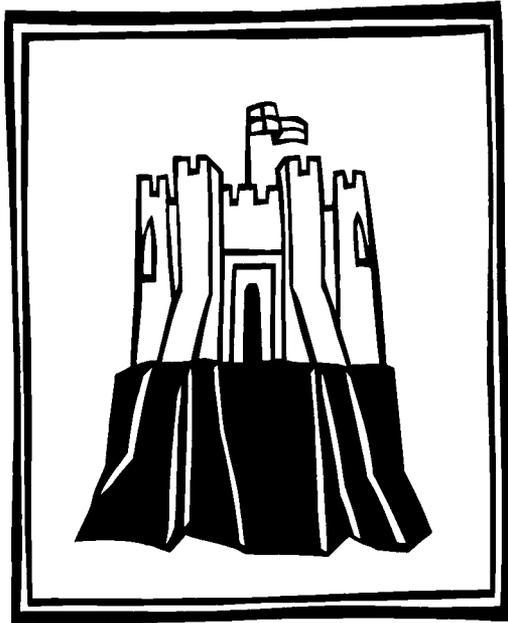


October 25, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday



1300 St. Francis Road
Santa Rosa, California 95409

www.blc-bcc.com

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

AND BETHLEHEM CHILDREN'S CENTER

1300 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa, California 95409

bhc@sonic.net

Bill Wessner, Pastor

Cell: (707) 782-8703

539-5252 (Office)

Debbie Knudtson, Parish Nurse

Cell: (707) 548-0543

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Worship Notes

WELCOME to the fellowship of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We gather to give praise and thanks to the One who has given us Christ Jesus, and through him, all things. Our goal is to rejoice in the presence of the Lord before we begin a new week, to support one another in prayer and to challenge one another to live as people of God in our homes, offices, shops, factories, schools and playgrounds. We believe the Christian life is the most rewarding, demanding and fulfilling life possible ... Please join us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Gathered to worship,
Equipped by the Holy Spirit,
Strengthened through community,
Sent in peace to serve the Lord.

CHILDREN are welcome to join their parents in worship. A separate Children's Sermon available online and within this service.

ONLINE WORSHIP:

Please join us for worship on our YouTube channel "Pastor Bill Bethlehem Santa Rosa" <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5xTmtCjUddP81wRiTd2C8w> or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BLCSantaRosa Please feel free to share with friends, remember to like, write a comment, friend or subscribe. All connections available through our website: bhc-bcc.com

REFORMATION SUNDAY:

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.

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace Tune”

Praise Band

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Praise Band

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:13*

People: **And also with you.**

THE KYRIE

Dakota Road

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

Last time

1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you

health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;

for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

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 promises to “forget”.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Following the reading...

Assistant: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 46

Assistant: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

Assistant: though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Assistant: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**People: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

Assistant: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**People: Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

Assistant: behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

**People: “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

Assistant: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

PSALM PRAYER

Reader: Lord God, our refuge and strength, when raging waters rise up against your holy city, watch over it and keep it safe. Make us still in your presence, and bring an end to war and violence, that all people may dwell in safety along the river that flows in the city of God; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen. -ELW

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Following the reading...

Assistant: Word of God. Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Halle, Halle, Halle” **Sundays & Seasons**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

Following the reading...

Pastor: Word of God. Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Bill Wessner

“New Covenant New Church New Law New Thinking New...”

*Silence for meditation and reflection
Please stand for the singing of the hymn*

HYMN OF THE DAY “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” Praise Band

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

We pray today for loved ones and friends who are ill and recovering, especially Margaret Warrick, Don Hux, Vivian Farland, Dorothy Gullixson, Sharon Boschen, Gina Thompson, Mike Turner, Janet Wolf, Brianne Konanz, Sue Barnard, Linda Wilkening, Tom Ziegler, Steve Sturgeon, Donald Schaap, Wyatt Hughes Graham, Judy & Paul Sengstock, Martin Curtis, Judy Warner, Elaine Gutsch, Liz Halburg, Angie Salado, Richard Doran, JoAnn Lockhard, Darci Raphael, Greg Talmadge, Jesse Halderman, and Wendy Younger.

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

After each portion of the prayers:

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

The minister and congregation share the peace of the risen Christ, saying these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

Stewardship of Our Lives

Please consider giving by mail, call the office and we will send envelopes or set up offerings electronically, email our Financial Secretary, Susan Jenkins at RVWhine@sbcglobal.net. (Subject line: BLC Giving).

OFFERTORY

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW #679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

OFFERING PRAYER

**People: Generous God,
our offerings are returned to you
in recognition that we have been freely blessed
with unmerited gifts;
receive them now
so that we may serve our neighbors,
showing and telling of your grace, hope, and justice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. -*Women's Thank Offering***

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray as our Lord 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.

SENDING

CLOSING HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

Praise Band

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**People: Therefore, we will not fear,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the LORD;
Be still and know God!
exalted among the nations,
exalted in the earth.”

**People: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Make Me An Instrument”

Praise Band



ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Preaching.....Pastor Bill Wessner
Reader Nick Keane
TrumpetJason Kracht
Praise Band..... George Schweizer, Melissa Preston
Dan Thomson, Richard Graalfs, Carolyn Cole-Schweizer
Pr. Brian Claasen, Janet Bertoli & Peggy Bimbi
Ushers.....Cal & Marie Eriksen and Jason & Kara Kracht

Special thanks to our Praise Band and to all who help with our worship!

Musical Reference:

- “Amazing Grace Tune” Text: John Newton, Music: W. Walker
- “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” ELW #504
- “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” ELW #860
- “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW #843
- “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW #618
- “Make Me An Instrument” Dakota Road

