



**NORTHWESTERN
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If the Son sets you free,
**you will be free
indeed."**

John 8:36



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, October 30, 2022 10:00 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Theme of the day: What a treasure we have in the Reformation! The bright light of the “new covenant” with God that comes by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ penetrated the darkness of false doctrine to give freedom to the oppressed heart. As sons and daughters of the Reformation, may we remain in the truth of that saving Gospel.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of “HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE.” This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God’s inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 557:1-4,7 “Dear Christians, One and All”

♪ **Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, with exultation springing,
and, with united heart and voice and holy rapture singing,
proclaim the wonders God has done,
how his right arm the vict’ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**Fast bound in Satan’s chains I lay;
death brooded darkly o’er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; in sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; life had become a living hell,
so firmly sin possessed me.**

**My own good works availed me naught,
no merit they attaining;
my will against God’s judgment fought,
no hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
left only death to be my share
and hell to be my sentence.**

**But God beheld my wretched state
before the world’s foundation,
and, mindful of his mercies great, he planned for my salvation.
A Father’s heart he turned to me,
sought my redemption fervently;
he gave his dearest treasure.**

Please stand for last verse:

**To me he spoke, “Hold fast to me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine,
and evermore you shall be mine; the foe shall not divide us.**

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

M: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,” he willed
the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
(Martin Luther, the first of the 95 Theses)

C: Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

(Psalm 51:1-2)

M: Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally condemned, together with their teachers. *(Thesis 32)*

C: Those who rely on the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” *(Galatians 3:10)*

M: Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters. *(Thesis 36)*

C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who pardons all your guilt, who heals all your diseases. He does not treat us as our sins deserve. He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds. As distant as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our rebellious acts from us.

(Psalm 103)

M: Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church. This is given to him by God, even without indulgence letters. *(Thesis 37)*

C: But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *(Romans 3:21-24)*

M: It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the one selling indulgences, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security. *(Thesis 52)*

C: Even if we or an angel from heaven would preach any gospel other than the one we preached to you—a curse on him!

(Galatians 1:8)

M: The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God. *(Thesis 62)*

C: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God. *(Romans 5:1-2)*

M: 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. *(Theses 94 & 95)*

C: Rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:13 & 5:10,11)

M: For this forgiveness, grace and peace — let us praise the Lord!

♪ **Song: All Glory Be to God Alone** (CW, #936:1,2,5)

**All glory be to God alone, forevermore the highest One,
who did our sinful race befriend
and grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may his good will
all hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

**We praise you, God, and you we bless;
we worship you in humbleness.
From day to day we glorify the everlasting God on high.
Of your great glory do we sing,
and to your throne our thanks we bring.**

**You only are the Holy One; o'er all things you are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify you and the Spirit, Lord most high;
with him you evermore shall be one in the Father's majesty.**

M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

- ³¹Yes, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
- ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers,
when I took them by the hand
and led them out of the land of Egypt.
They broke that covenant of mine,
although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.
- ³³But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, declares the LORD.
I will put my law in their minds,
and I will write it on their hearts.
I will be their God, and they will be my people.
- ³⁴No longer will each one teach his neighbor,
or each one teach his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,”
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD,
for I will forgive their guilt,
and I will remember their sins no more.

HYMN: # 863:1,2 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

♪ A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev’ry need that has us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.
You ask, “Who is this?” Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty Lord, and there’s no other God;
he holds the field forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among
the nations. I will be exalted on the earth. Alleluia! (*Psalms 46:10*)

C: “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
(John 8:31,32)

SECOND LESSON: Galatians 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. ²Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³I testify again to every man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obligated to do the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law are completely separated from Christ. You have fallen from grace.

⁵Indeed, through the Spirit, we by faith are eagerly waiting for the sure hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters.

HYMN: # 864:3,4 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

♪ **Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He’s judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will — Hate, steal, hurt, or kill —
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom’s ours forever!**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: John 8:31-36

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. ³²You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³“We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

CONFESSION of FAITH (Formula of Concord, Article III)

It is unanimously confessed in our churches, in accordance with God’s Word, that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved alone through faith in Christ.

We unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness neither according to his divine nature alone nor according to his human nature alone. But it is the entire Christ who is our Righteousness according to both natures. In his obedience alone, which as God and man he offered to the Father even to his death, he merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God is this: God forgives our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of ours preceding, present, or following. He presents and credits to us the righteousness of Christ’s obedience. Because of this righteousness, we are received into grace by God and regarded as righteous.

We believe, teach, and confess that faith alone is the means and instrument through which we lay hold of Christ. So in Christ we lay hold of that righteousness that benefits us before God, for whose sake this faith is credited to us for righteousness.

We believe, teach, and confess that this faith is not a bare knowledge of Christ’s history, but it is God’s gift. By this gift we come to the right knowledge of Christ as our Redeemer in the Word of the Gospel. And we trust in him that for the sake of his obedience alone we have – by grace – the forgiveness of sins and are regarded as holy and righteous before God the Father and are eternally saved.

This article about justification by faith is the chief article in all Christian doctrine. Without this teaching no poor conscience can have any firm consolation or truly know the riches of Christ’s grace. Amen.

HYMN: # 865 “O Lord, Take Pity Once You’ve Seen”

**♪ O Lord, take pity once you’ve seen what’s leaving us so shaken:
your saints are few and far between —
we feel we’ve been forsaken.
So many call your Word untrue, refusing to believe in you —
they have us far outnumbered.**

**May God root out all those who teach religion that is twisted,
who say with bold, defiant speech:
“We cannot be resisted. For we alone have right and might;
our views are welcomed with delight.
To whom must we now answer?”**

**Therefore God says: “I won’t delay!
My people’s hopes are waning.
Their sighs disclose their great dismay;
I’ve heard their sad complaining.
My healing Word will work as planned,
will bring relief, will make them stand,
will strengthen and uphold them.”**

**Dear Lord, the godless gather round
the guides whose teachings suit them.
Within your Church let there be found
the courage to refute them.
Preserve you Word and keep it pure,
and thus we shall remain secure
from evils that surround us!**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

C: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.

M: Here we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children here on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

C: Thy kingdom come.

M: We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

C: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

M: We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will, in life and in death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

C: Give us this day our daily bread.

M: We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for our needs.

C: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

M: We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

M: We pray here that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: And finally we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul, now and forever.

C: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

M: All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts, Amen, trusting without any doubts that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

CLOSING BLESSING

M: 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: # 640 “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

♪ **God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Rose Marie Hillberg, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, and Rylan Downs.

TIME CHANGE: Don’t forget to fall back for next Sunday, November 6.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday **ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Thursday **Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.**

Elders

ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Sunday **Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.**



Martin Luther's Seal (bottom of left-hand banner):

While a professor at Wittenberg University, Luther designed this seal. The following was written to his friend, Herr Spangler, town clerk in Nuremberg, Germany:

July 8, 1530

Grace and peace in Christ!

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend!

Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black, and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color, to put in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the hearts, he will be justified. Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the hearts its natural color and does not ruin nature ... that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith in the Savior.

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace as the world gives. Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels.

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest.

And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

