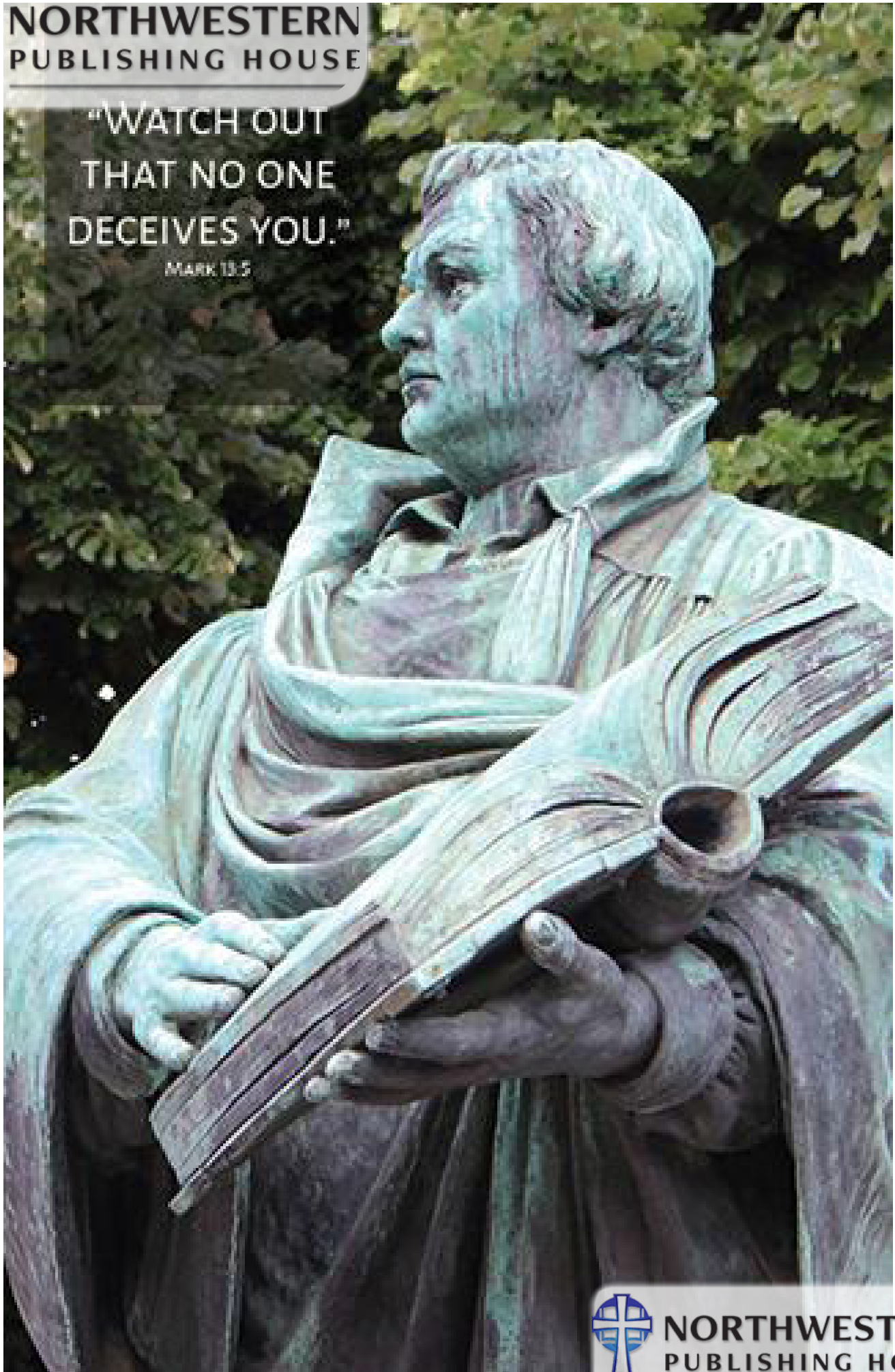




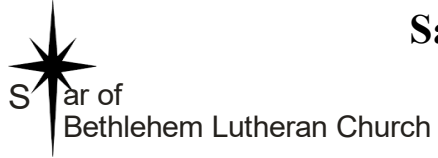
**NORTHWESTERN  
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**"WATCH OUT  
THAT NO ONE  
DECEIVES YOU."**

MARK 13:5



**NORTHWESTERN  
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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, October 27, 2024 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: Revelation 14:6,7**

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky. He had the everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. <sup>7</sup>He said with a loud voice:

**Fear God and give him glory,  
because the hour of his judgment has come.  
Worship him who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and the  
springs of water.**

## **HYMN: # 864:1,2 “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 ancient evil foe now means to work us woe;  
deep guile and awful 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 this may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,  
the Lord of hosts his name, from age to age the same,  
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! (*Psalm 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)*

## **GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Jesus began by telling them, “Be careful that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

<sup>7</sup>“Whenever you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled. Such things must happen, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup>In fact, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

**There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup>But be on your guard! People will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand in the presence of rulers and kings for my sake as a witness to them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. <sup>11</sup>Whenever they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand what you should say. Say whatever is given to you in that hour, because you will not be the ones speaking; instead it will be the Holy Spirit.**

**HYMN: # 863:3,4 “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 take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,  
though all may be gone, our victory is won;  
the kingdom’s ours forever!**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY: Daniel 3:16-28**

**<sup>16</sup>Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you about this matter. <sup>17</sup>Since our God, whom we serve, does exist, he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. <sup>18</sup>But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up.”**

**<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. He said to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup>He ordered some men, who were soldiers from his army, to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in order to throw them into the blazing fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men were bound in their coats, their pants, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were thrown into the middle of the blazing fiery furnace.**

<sup>22</sup>Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace was extremely hot, those men who carried Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego were killed by the intense heat of the fire. <sup>23</sup>But these three men, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who had been tied up, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and immediately stood up. He said to his advisors, "Didn't we throw three men, who had been tied up, into the middle of the fire?"

They answered the king, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

<sup>25</sup>He said, "Look! I see four men, who are untied and walking around in the middle of the fire, unharmed. What is more, the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

<sup>26</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery furnace. He said, "Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!" Then Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego came out from the middle of the furnace. <sup>27</sup>The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the royal advisors gathered together and looked at these men. The fire had no power over their bodies. Not a hair on their head was singed, their robes were not damaged, and the smell of fire had not stuck to them.

<sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted in God and ignored the king's command. They gave up their bodies and did not pay homage or worship any god except their God.

### **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: # 866 “If God Had Not Been on Our Side”**

*(alternate melody)*

♪ **If God had not been on our side and had not come to aid us,  
our foes with all their pow'r and pride  
would surely have dismayed us,  
for we, his flock, would have to fear  
the devil's wolves, both far and near,  
who rise in might against us.**

**Their furious wrath, did God permit,  
would surely have consumed us  
and as a deep and yawning pit with life and limb entombed us.  
A hellish storm would o'er us roll  
from Satan, who desires our soul  
and seeks to overwhelm us.**

**Blest be the Lord, who foiled their threat  
that they could not devour us.  
Our souls, like birds, escaped their net;  
they could not overpower us.  
The snare is broken—we are free!  
Our helper and our strength is he  
who made the earth and heavens.**

**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."

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.

**HYMN: # 862 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**

♪ **Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would seek to overthrow your Son  
and to destroy what he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your Christendom that we  
may sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb & brother Jim, Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, Marlene Washburn, Terry Oberg’s siblings Linda and Carp, Kathryn Pereira, Helen Cummings, Phil Schaaf, Joe Wilkinson, and Phil & Ann Swan.

**TIME CHANGE:** Don’t forget to fall back for next Sunday,  
November 3rd.

### **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 :***

*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.

