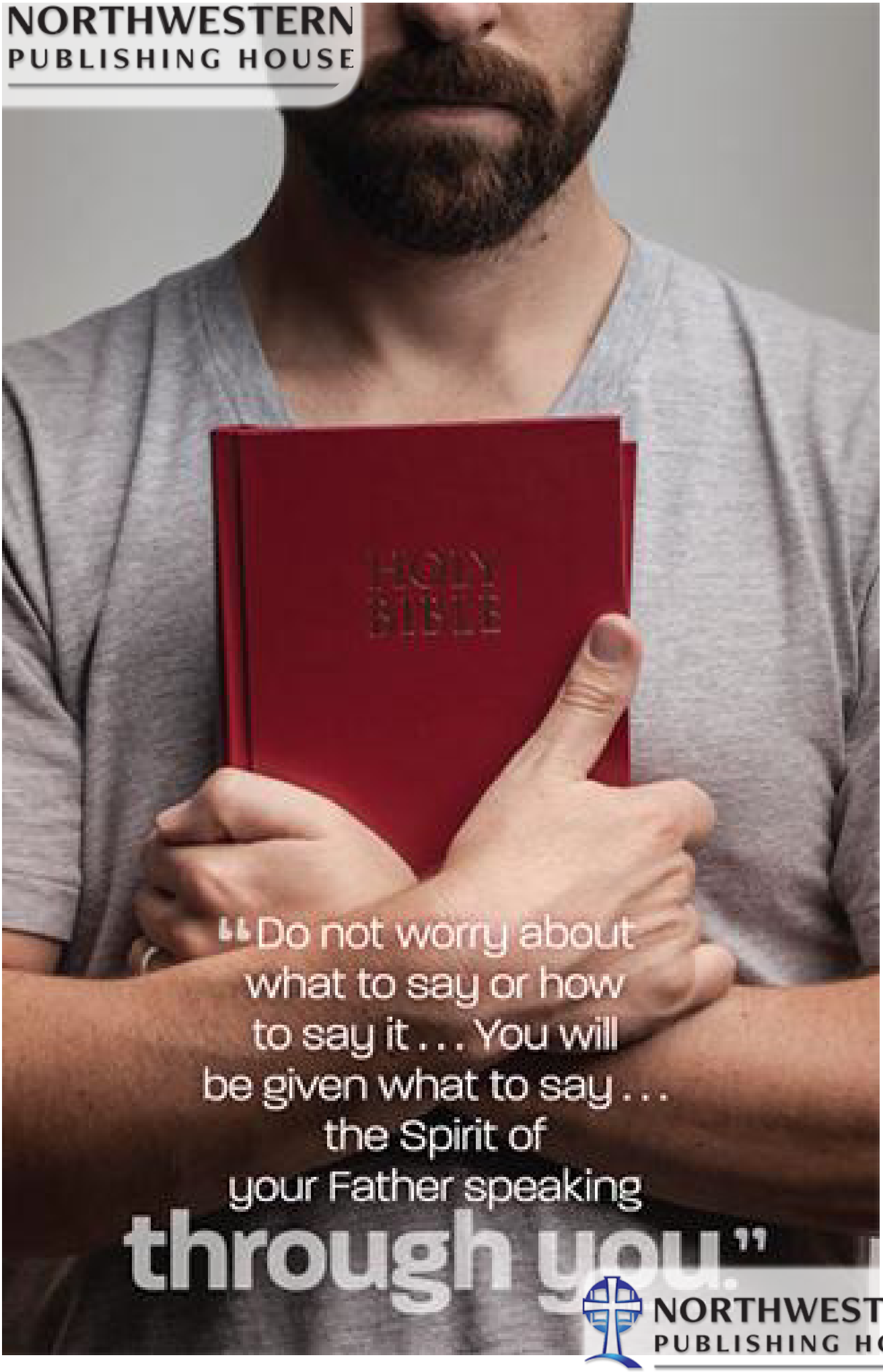
NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE



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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 25, 2026 10:00 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Theme of the day: Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church emphasizes the true Church's unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. Jesus promised to pour out his Spirit on the Church that we might be God's mouthpiece even before kings. Today the Church prays that the Lord give us the strength to be faithful and the peace of knowing our lives are secure in his hands.

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: # 870 **"O Church, Arise"**

♫ **O Church, arise and put your armor on;**
hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is love,
reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war — to love the captive soul,
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole
we will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which he died —
an inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet,
for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this vict'ry march continues till the day
ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.

Please stand for last verse:

So Spirit come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize
of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of his grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day
when with Christ we stand in glory.

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, #936:1,5)

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.

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: Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

[10]Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. [11]Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

[12]They then went and asked the king about the decree. "Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?"

The king answered, "Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked."

[16]Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." [17]A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel's situation. [18]Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

[19]At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. [20]As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

[21]Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! [22]My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

[23]Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

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! *(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)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 3:19-28

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. [20]For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

[21]But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. [22]This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, [23]because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [24]and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. [26]He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

[27]What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. [28]For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

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 overpow'r us.
The prince of darkness still may scowl fierce as he will,
his raging harms 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 should they take our life, goods, honor, child, and wife,
though all of these be gone, our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

MESSAGE OF THE DAY: Matthew 10:16-23

16"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. 17Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. 18You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. 20In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.
21"Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. 22You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. 23And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

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: # 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.

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: # 868 **"By Faith"**

♫ **By faith we see the hand of God**
in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts,
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in ev'ry corner of the earth
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith this mountain shall be moved
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name.
We will stand as children of the promise;
we will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by the Lyons.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: little Elias, Dennis Douglas, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, Kathie Stillwater, Louise Perry, Phil Schaaf, and Ilene Trevarrow.

TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to fall back for next Sunday, November 1st.

THIS WEEK

Today	**Joint Reformation service, North Hollywood**
Tuesday	**ESL, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**
Thursday	**Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.**
	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.

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