

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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October 25, 2026 - Reformation Sunday



Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Cross.

We pray our worship today blesses your life.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

“How Firm a Foundation”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Mark Coldiron

WELCOME

Rev. James Townsend

OPENING HYMN

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710 (stand)

GATHERING

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

**C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way
of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jacquie Haney

First Reading ... Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

PSALM 46

(read responsively)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;**

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading ... Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets,

²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... John 8:31-36

(Please rise for the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation

P Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.

The holy gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Pastor Jim Townsend

APOSTLES’ CREED

P Let us express our faith as found in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

After each petition the Pastor will say: Hear us, O God.

*Response: **Your mercy is great.***

P As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation.

Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day as we look for new ways to share your good news.

Hear us, O God.

P We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air.

Hear us, O God.

P We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

P We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering in body, mind, or spirit. May your blessings rest upon those on our prayer list and those we name before you aloud or silently... Hear us, O God.

P We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. May this congregation continue to be a welcoming place for them and may we share our resources of time and talent in our community. Hear us, O God.

P With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. We wait for the day when we will all be joined in your heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

P Trusting in your boundless grace, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

COMMUNION

(Stand)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us
your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to
life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and
on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your
presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the
body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning
with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its
creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God.

C Amen.

P Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

C 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING *Bring your offering with you as you take Communion. As you return to your seat, place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table at the back of the Sanctuary. At that time, you may also light a candle at the table of votives in honor or memory of someone, or for any need.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of creation,

C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(The Usher will direct you forward. Should you wish to have us bring Communion to you, let the usher know and remain seated. Pastor has bread and Reader has the tray with the outer circle of cups being wine and inner circles, grape juice. A gluten-free option is available. Each person take a cup, then put the empty cup into the last tray.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Mark Coldiron

Arr. Ron Mallory

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love, hope and grace bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW 697

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C **Thanks be to God.**
P May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us share the peace of the Lord with each other as we leave today.
+++++

WE LEAVE TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Douglas Whiteaker, Council President 916-606-8976
Kevin Brown, Church Secretary 916-628-6382
Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880
Church Email: sacchurchofthecross@gmail.com

NOTES & EVENTS:

TODAY – Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall following the Service.

Sunday, November 1 – Special Congregational Meeting after Service regarding hiring an Interim Lay Minister.

Saturday, November 14 – Memorial Service for Judy Kaylor & Tina Kaylor Anger, former members. 1:00pm

Sunday, November 15 – WELCA Meeting after Service to discuss Holiday events. All Women invited - bring snacks to share.

Sunday, November 22 – Thankoffering Service – Women lead the Service. Guest Pastor, Rev. Katy Grindberg. Pot luck lunch following.

SAVE THE DATE
December 5 and 6 – Holiday “A B C” Sale, Artisans, Baked Goods & Café.
Fundraiser for WELCA. Watch for details soon!

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Patricia Coldiron's brother, Ralph Carter, who is in a rest home and has been in isolation for 3 weeks with C. diff.

The Kaylor family on the death of Tina Kaylor Anger, daughter of Judy Kaylor and mother of Melissa, who passed away September 30.

Sue Fossum's family, especially brother Mike, whose wife Deb has passed away. Also, other sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice and her husband Mark. And for Sue, whose horse Reno who was a long time companion, has died.

Charlotte Csontos-Diab, daughter of former Pastor Virginia Ward, who had a mastectomy for her aggressive breast cancer. She is on radiation now but after a compression fracture of her spine, they are praying it's not from metastasis.

Jacque Haney whose half-brother passed away on June 26. Hannah Haney, 36 yrs. old, Jacque's sister, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Prayers requested for her surgery, and quick healing, and for her 3 children. Paul Santos, Jacque Haney's brother-in-law hoping to receive a kidney transplant. Also, Erin Sullivan, Jacque's friend, prayers for continued healing after beating breast cancer.

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, who passed away recently. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat. And Blair Bagley, Julie Andrews' friend who's recovering from Chiari 1 brain surgery.

May Drobný, who is back home from the rehab facility after suffering another fall.

Chuck Hines, who had surgery on both feet and is living with his sister temporarily. He's receiving home health care and physical therapy and is making good progress.

Deanna Ransom who broke her hip. She is at a rehab facility and would like phone calls.

Mark Coldiron home and recovered from surgery but still has a blood clot in his left leg and Patricia who has been diagnosed with severe left convex scoliosis (curvature of the spine to the left), and still recovering from various traffic accident injuries.

Nelly Quiban, grandma of Heaven and Hunter, and of Harmony and Holden (Douglas Whiteaker's children) who has been diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer.

Friends of Chuck Hines; Elaine Hussey who is now under Hospice care; friends and family of Kenneth Kohler who died in February, Chuck's college roommate Bob Russell whose wife Kathie passed away in June, and Ken Smith with various permanent injuries.

Julie Nemes' friend Danica and her husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's. Joolz Gaines, a dear friend, who was recently diagnosed with advanced cancer and is going through additional testing. Also, her friend Gail Patrice with complications from a broken neck from a fall.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, and is facing bladder surgery. Also, Hans, Jackie's husband who has Parkinson's.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN SERVICE

Here is a sample:

- 1) St. John's Program for Real Change – Preparing & serving dinners at Women's & Children's Shelter
- 2) Fortunate Feast – Christmas Event for Families in need
- 3) LSS of Northern California's program for Youth who have aged out of the Foster Care system
- 4) River City Community Services – Food closet
- 5) Habitat for Humanity
- 6) Rock Point Navajo Reservation - Providing school supplies, Christmas gifts for children and more
- 7) "Run to Feed the Hungry" Care Station – supporting Sacramento Food Bank
- 8) Blue Star Moms – Sending "care" packages to our troops

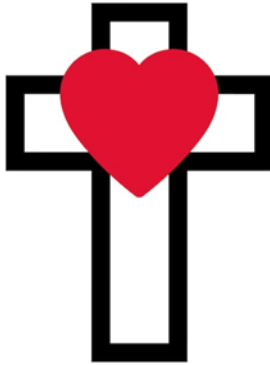
Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial**
- A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon
- 2) Women's AA

**Come Join Us in Our Service
to Our Community**

Worship For All Ages - Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pet Friendly – Bring your Dog, Cat, or other Friends
WE ARE AN OPEN and DIVERSE ASSEMBLY
ALL ARE WELCOME !!



MISSION STATEMENT

**Lutheran Church of the Cross
is a welcoming, worshipping people of God.
Through faith in Jesus Christ,
we praise the God of Creation,
Love, and Forgiveness;
encourage Spiritual Growth;
and respond to the Holy Spirit's call to
Compassionate Service in
our Community and World.**