Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



Pastor John Henry

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:
We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. ***Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.***
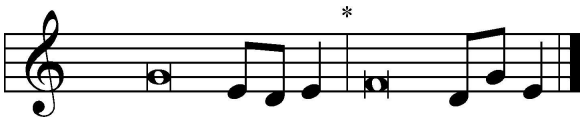
Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God's Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him.

Opening Hymn *Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear* **908**

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P ... in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Entrance Psalm *Psalm 119:46*



*46I will also speak of your testimonies be- | fore kings**
and shall not be | put to shame,

Gloria Patri *LSB pg. 186*

C ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;***
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Kyrie *LSB pg. 186*

C ***Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB pgs. 186-189*

P *Glory be to God on high:*

C ***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.***
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And with thy spirit.***

P *Let us pray.*

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ***Amen.***

SJL Students sing *Children of the Heavenly Father* *Zion only*
Be Still and Know
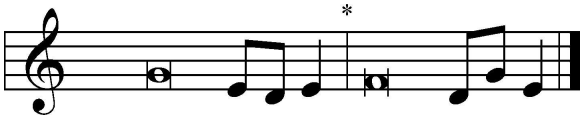
First Lesson *Nehemiah 8:4–12*

4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the
purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah,
and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum,
Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 And Ezra opened
the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as
he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,
and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they
bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah,
Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to
understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read
from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that
the people understood the reading.
9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the
Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the
LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard
the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and
drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this
day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your
strength." 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this
day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and
drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had
understood the words that were declared to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 46*



1 *God is our ref- | uge and strength,* *
a very present help in | trouble.
2 *Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,* *
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,
3 *though its waters | roar and foam,* *
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.
4 *There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,* *
the holy habitation of the | Most High.

*[5]God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;**
God will help her when | morning dawns.
*[6]The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;**
he utters his voice, the | earth melts.
*[7]The LORD of hosts is | with us;**
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

*[8]Come, behold the works | of the LORD,**
how he has brought desolations | on the earth.
*[9]He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;**
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots | with fire.
*[10]"Be still, 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 | fortress.

Second Lesson *Ephesians 2:1–10*

[1]And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2]in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— [3]among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [4]But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5]even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— [6]and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7]so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8]For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9]not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10]For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB pg. 190*

C ***Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Holy Gospel *John 8:31–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter

C ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

31So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

Sermon Hymn *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* **656**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Prayers

Offering

Announcements

Offertory *LSB pgs. 192-193*

C ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

The Preface

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And with thy spirit.***

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

P *Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*

C ***It is good and right so to do.***

P *It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:*

Sanctus *LSB pg. 195*

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;***
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Consecration

Pax Domini

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C ***Amen.***

Agnus Dei *LSB pg. 198*

C ***O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.***
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Communion Hymns

Salvation unto Us Has Come	**555**
By Grace I'm Saved	**566**
Amazing Grace	**744**

Nunc Dimittis *LSB pgs. 199-200*

C ***Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,***
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Thanksgiving & Benediction

P *O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.*

C ***And his mercy endureth forever.***

P *Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C ***Amen.***

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And with thy spirit.***

P *Bless we the Lord.*

C ***Thanks be to God.***

P *The Lord bless you and keep you.*
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ✢ you peace.

C ***Amen, amen, amen.***

Closing Hymn *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* **655**

Acknowledgments
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You can sponsor the bulletins ($10 per congregation) or online broadcast ($25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

Our condolences to the family of Chuck Dobson, whose funeral service was this past Friday at Zion. May God bring you comfort, strength and peace during this difficult time.



The Eve Circle and Stewardship Committee will once again have a Rustic Inn Cafe pie fundraiser. Orders will be taken during the month of October. Order sheets will be available after services in the Narthex. Frozen pies will then be delivered November 21st. Plan now for your holiday desserts.10 popular pies available - Contact Linda Becker 507-236-1316 or Leslie Crissinger 507-236-1354 if you have any questions.

The annual **Harvest Dinner** will be on Sunday, November 1st, 10:30-1:00. We invite you to join us for turkey commercials, assorted salads, and homemade pie and desserts. The meal is offered free-will with a suggested donation of $12 for adults and $6 for children under 12. Take-outs available upon request.

Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School, Martin Luther High School
All Schools and places of learning



St James
Baptism Birthdays: Oakley Manzke, Deb Rabbe, Brooke Mortenson, Kay Vogt
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion
Baptism Birthdays: Lydia Murphy
Student: Anna Crismore
Serving our Country: Kory Brown, Jesse Peterson, Lili Bulfer
Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Marsha Peterson, Duane Behrens, Bob Traetow
Homebound: Norma Patsche, Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

A Guide for Daily Devotions

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. One these days, pray the Collect of the Day each day, and reread the Lessons as follows: Monday, First Lesson; Tuesday, Second Lesson; Wednesday, Gospel Lesson. You may also want to pray or sing one of the hymns from the previous Sunday.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, follow this plan to prepare for the coming Sunday.

Each day, pray:
Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On Thursday, read *Zechariah 3:1-5*
On Friday, read *Revelation 7:9-17*
On Saturday, read *Matthew 5:1-12*

You may also want to pray or sing the Hymn of the Day for the coming Sunday:

Hymn: 676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

The installation service for Rev. John Bennett to serve as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Truman, MN will be on Sunday afternoon, November 8th at 3:00pm. Rev. Bennett has accepted this second call to St. Paul's as the result of the newly formed Dual Parish Agreement between his present congregation, St. John's Lutheran-Willow Creek and St. Paul's Lutheran-Truman.

MLHS Faith, Fire & Fellowship dinner is on Saturday, November 21st. Please sign up before November 1st, to help them plan for the meal. RSVP sheets are available in the office and at the back table at both churches. There is NO COST to attend. More information is available on the flyer and in the MLHS announcement box on pg 10.

The **Gala Event** is being held November 13, 2026, at the Fairmont Event Center (Torge's) and is only weeks away! The 50's Theme, food, games, fabulous desserts and the live and silent auctions will guarantee a fun-filled night beginning at 5:00pm. The menu will be sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, sliced candied carrots, family style house salad and dinner rolls. And special soft drinks at bar of Cherry Cola & Root Beer. There have already been wonderful items donated for the Gala and will continue accepting donations until October 30th. Tickets ($50 each) will be on sale in the church/school hallway before and after church services on Saturday night and Sunday morning, in the church office, Dee's Floral located in Downtown Plaza, Fairmont or by contacting Nancy Ritter (507-236-0373). There is an option to buy a whole table (seating for 8) for $350 (would be a savings of $50. For more general information, contact Nancy Ritter.

German Dinner at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1200 N. North Ave, Fairmont) Sunday, Oct. 25th 11:45 am -1 pm. Serving: Homemade Schweine Schnitzel (breaded pork cutlet), German Potato Salad, Sweet & Sour Cabbage/Cole Slaw, Rolls, German Chocolate/Chocolate Cake, and Beverages. Cost: Adults $10, kids 6-12 $5, and 5 and under are free. Takeouts available! All proceeds go to Parochial Education Ministries.

Fall Festival Luncheon and Bake Sale will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church basement, 1200 N. North Ave., Fairmont, on Saturday, November 7th, from 11am-1pm. Chicken and Stuffing Squares, Cranberry Relish, Glazed Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Pies, and Coffee will be served. Cost: $10. Takeouts available. Come for the bake sale too! This event is sponsored by the Women of Immanuel-LWML. Everyone is invited.

MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
SJL & Zion are full association members

The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School **October Delegate Meeting** will be held TODAY, Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Music Room. All delegates, pastors and interested persons are welcome to attend.

Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is excited to announce our **Faith, Fire & Fellowship Dinner** on **Saturday, November 21st**! This special friend-raising event will celebrate and affirm the blessings and impact of the MLHS ministry. Guests will enjoy an evening of fellowship, inspiration, and gratitude as we highlight the value of Christian education and the work God is accomplishing through Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School. We are currently seeking **corporate sponsors** to help offset event expenses. We are grateful to **Profinium**, which has already committed as a **$1,000 sponsor**. We are also looking for volunteers willing to **smoke specialty meats** and assist with meal preparation. If you enjoy cooking, serving, or helping behind the scenes, we would love to have you involved. All MLHS families, alumni, supporters, and friends are warmly invited to attend. **There is no cost to attend**, but **RSVPs are required by November 1st** to help us plan for the meal. If you would like to sponsor the event, volunteer, or reserve your place for this exciting evening, please contact the school office. **Join us for an evening of faith, fire, fellowship, and thanksgiving as we celebrate the ministry of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School!**

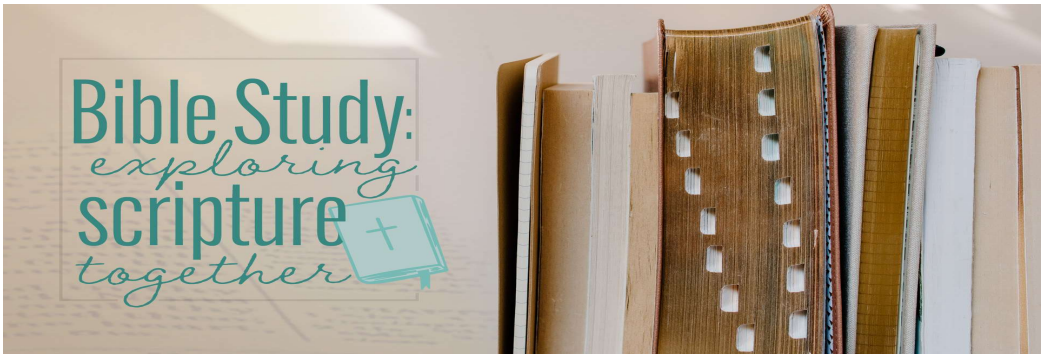
The Martin Luther Drama students are presenting two plays on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. A matinee will be presented on Friday at 12:15 p.m. also. **"Macbeth Mixed Up"** is a one-act spoof on Macbeth. **"The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase"** is a is a hilarious farce of pettiness, slander, and greed that is sure to entertain. Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for students and may be purchased at the door.

This is Most Certainly Brew Coffee is available in the MLHS office and at www.thisismostcertainlybrew.com. It is an ongoing enterprise of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School.



SJL School Wreath and Christmas Wrap/Gifts Fundraisers are ending Monday. If you haven't ordered yet please contact your favorite SJL student; Amanda Morris (507-230-3388); or Haley Schock (507-848-5151). Funds raised go to classroom resources, school events/field trips, enrichment projects, etc. Thank you for supporting our school!

KISS THE PIG committee is looking for contact information (phone, physical or email) of SJL Alumni. Please call the office with your family/friends information.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class:

- Zion bible class uses topics from the Lutheran Witness magazine.
- SJL uses the "That the World May Know" video series. Our next video is "Shaped in the Desert: Discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves Him and the lessons we can begin to live out in our lives today."

Friday Morning Bible Study: 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL. All are welcome to join in studying the Gospel of John.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY

Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 11 am

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"Relief" You don't have to earn God's favor. It is the relief waiting to find us before we even knew we had a problem. Romans 3:23-24

SERVING THIS WEEK

		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	**10-25**	Diana Mosloski	Oakley Manzke
	11-1	Dan & Lynn Petrowiak	Edison Schuder
ZION	**10-25**	Russ & Kelsey Wood	Addison Meyeraan
	11-1	David & Alysha Nelson	Jakob Wirth
SJL Ushers: Garrett Schock, Mark Grefe, Doug Quinn, Cam Dressen			
Elders: Lon (Z), Larry (SJ)		**SJL AG:** Sherri Roforth, Cindi Tomlinson	

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: **Oct 25 – Nov 1, 2026**
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: **Mon - Fri, 8:15 AM - Noon**
Office phone: 436-5289 **Pastor phone:** 219-713-1604
Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com **Website:** sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

Sunday	**Reformation Sunday**	
	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**
	MLHS Delegate Meeting	**(ML) 1:00 PM**
Wednesday	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
	BOCE Meeting	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Thursday	Eve Circle	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Friday	Joint Morning Bible Study	**(SJ) 8:00 AM**
Sunday	**All Saints Day**	
	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**
	Harvest Dinner	**(SJ) 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; sjlnorthop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			**Oct 18, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	92 (54)	SJL School	$500.00
Home	$4,550.00	MLHS	$65.00
Loose Plate	$47.00		

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Oct 18, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	91 (69)	Missions	$100.00
Home	$5,150.00	Online	$600.00
Loose Plate	$373.00	LCEF Interest	$1,104.08
Tuition	$700.00	Memorial	$100.00
MLHS	$150.00		
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 459,480.97 Projected Shortfall: ($15,118.80)			