



Messiah Messenger

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ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

It's September – a delightful time of year! Students are back to school and the weather is idyllic. Gardens, trees, farmstands, and grocery store shelves across our Garden State are bursting with produce. At Messiah, Sunday worship is back to its 10:30am start time, preceded by adult education at 9:00am. The choir is singing again, monthly Table Talks on the Princeton University campus have resumed, and the Holy Spirit is bearing its good fruit among us!

This Sunday, September 7, we'll begin our worship with an invigorating hymn to usher into this new season of activity and growth: *Arise, My Soul, Arise*, set to a Finnish folk tune (LBW 516). Both the words and the music lift our spirits to praise God and serve our neighbors with renewed joy and gratitude. We have so much for which to be thankful. God has blessed us beyond measure, both materially and spiritually, with good food, clean water, warm and dry homes, loving friends and family, and a vibrant, faithful church community. Best of all, He has reconciled us to himself in Jesus Christ, taken on Himself our crushing burden of sin and guilt, set us free to cherish one another, and given us the assurance of everlasting life with Him. That's enough to put a spring in the step of even the most careworn, and enables us to live in hope even in a fallen world.

“Arise” is God's command, time and again, to the discouraged prophet Jeremiah, and that command is for us too. “For,” according to Romans 15:4, “whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Life can be difficult, but it is not dreadful. Let us then bear one another's burdens, so that together we may arise and “with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:6).

Pastor Erhardt

The symbol in the upper left corner expresses by means of candle and messianic rose the worship of the Messiah and the Truth of Christ.

The cross signifies His central deed and the five crosses in the rose the sacred wounds.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel Lesson
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 07, 2025	Jeremiah 18: 1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Philemon 1:1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 14, 2025	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalm 14	1 Timothy 1: 12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 21, 2025	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalm 79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sep 28, 2025	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 05, 2025	Lamentations 3:19-26	Psalm 137	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 12, 2025	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 66:1-12	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 19, 2025	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalm 119:97-104	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 26, 2025	Joel 2:23-32	Psalm 65	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14



REFORMATION DAY

A sinner is justified by grace alone (sola gratia) through faith alone (sola fide) for the sake of Christ alone (solus Christus), a truth revealed to us in Scripture alone (sola Scriptura).

Each year, as October draws to a close, Lutheran churches throughout the world mark a date that has become synonymous with the rediscovery of the Gospel: On October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and professor of theology in Wittenberg, published his Ninety-Five Theses against the abuse of indulgences. Though intended as an invitation to academic debate, Luther's words—posted on the eve of All Saints' Day—soon echoed far beyond Saxony. They became the spark for a movement that would bring the Church back to its foundation in Christ and His Word.

In one of his theses, Luther wrote, "The true treasure of the Church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God." (Thesis 62). This was not simply a scholarly argument; it was a confession of faith. The Gospel of Jesus Christ—justification by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone—was at the heart of the Reformation and remains the center of Lutheran faith and life today.



At first, October 31 passed with little notice. Luther himself never commemorated the date, for his concern was never to start a movement, but to correct abuses. Yet, as the Reformation spread and its central confession of the Gospel was clarified in the Augsburg Confession (1530) and the Book of Concord (1580), Lutherans began to set aside days to remember God's mighty work. By 1617, the centennial of the Theses, many churches in Saxony and beyond celebrated October 31 with sermons, choirs, and festivals. In the centuries that followed, especially as Lutheran territories faced renewed threats from Rome or Calvinism, Reformation Day became a rallying point for confessing Christ faithfully.

When German immigrants brought their faith to America, they brought the Reformation observance with them. In the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, established in 1847, Reformation Day was cherished as both a remembrance of the past and a call to remain steadfast in the present. As the LCMS fathers well knew, the Reformation was not a closed chapter of history but an ongoing reality wherever the Gospel is preached and believed. The theologian Hermann Sasse emphasized, "The Reformation is not a piece of the past to be celebrated as a museum piece. It is a living reality as long as the Gospel remains the one treasure of the Church."

Today, congregations of the LCMS mark Reformation Day with special services and festivals of thanksgiving. The liturgical color is red, signifying the work of the Holy Spirit and the blood of those who bore witness to the Gospel even to death. Choirs often sing majestic settings of Luther's hymns, while trumpets and organ lead the congregation in *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*—a hymn Luther himself called his "Hymn of Comfort."

Luther's contemporaries understood the Reformation not as a novelty but as a return to the one, true Gospel. Philip Melancthon, Luther's colleague and the chief author of the Augsburg Confession, wrote: "The article of justification is the chief article of the entire Christian doctrine. Without it, the poor conscience can have no true, certain consolation." (Apology IV). This is why the Lutheran Confessions continually point the Church back to Christ alone as Savior and Redeemer.

Modern Lutheran scholars affirm this same truth. Dr. Charles Arand of Concordia Seminary notes: "The Reformation was not about Luther but about Christ. It was not about novelty but about recovering the heart of the faith: Christ given for you." That note of Christ-centeredness is vital,



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for Reformation Day is not about denominational pride or human achievement. It is about the eternal Gospel that continues to set us sinners free.

Five centuries later, the dangers that confronted the Church in Luther’s day have not disappeared. The temptation to trust in human works, institutions, or passing philosophies remains strong. The world still offers indulgences of a different kind—self-made paths to salvation and self-chosen truths. Yet the call of Reformation Day is the same now as it was in 1517: to cling to the Word of God, to Christ crucified and risen, and to the promise that sinners are declared righteous by faith alone.

Luther himself once warned: “The Gospel is the one most powerful means by which God’s kingdom is advanced. If that is taken away, nothing will remain.” (WA 30/III:341). With that in mind, we continue to hold October 31 as a yearly reminder of what is most essential.

As the Church gathers this October 31, vested in red and singing hymns of faith and freedom, we confess the Gospel with joy: Christ Jesus, crucified and risen, is our righteousness. Reformation Day is not simply a festival of history but of the present and the future. It is the Church’s living confession that the Son has set us free—and we are free indeed.

◆ Soli Deo Gloria ◆

- Miranda Hempel

2025 NJ MARCH FOR LIFE

Thursday, Sept. 25

at the NJ State House Annex in Trenton

11am Rally, 12 (noon) March

Meet at Messiah at **10am** to take the bus to Trenton together.

We should be back in Princeton between 1:30 and 2:30pm. Messiah will cover the bus fare.

Hold the Date!

PARTNERS IN MISSION

REFORMATION SERVICE

4:00 pm, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025

Holy Trinity in Lawrenceville

2730 Princeton Pike,
Lawrenceville, N.J.

#whywemarch #njmarchforlife

keep marching for life!

Text NJMAR

NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE

love & hope

life: why we march

NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE
September 25, 2025

11:00 a.m. - Rally
12:00 p.m. - March for Life

125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

scan the code!
FIND OUT MORE AT:
NJ.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

Hosted by:
MARCH FOR LIFE **New Jersey Right to Life**

Wahrhaftige Bildnis des Ehrwürdigen Herrn / Doctoris Martini Lutheri / eines Aleris im XXIen Jar.



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			7:30 pm Choir	6:30 pm Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talk		4:00 pm Annual Barbecue and Scavenger Hunt
7 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	8	9	10	11	12	13
		7:15 pm Executive Board	7:30 pm Choir			
14 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	15	16	17	18	19	20
			7:30 pm Choir	7:30 pm Community Book Group		9 am Men's Forum
21 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	22	23	24	25	26	27
			7:30 pm Choir	2025 NJ March for Life Meet at Messiah at 10 am		
28 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	29	30				

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 pm Choir	2	3	4
5 Stewardship Sunday 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	6	7	8 7:30 pm Choir	9 6:30 pm Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talk	10	11
12 Pledge Sunday 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament 1:30 pm Campus Tour	13 Columbus Day	14	15 7:30 pm Choir	16 7:30 pm Community Book Group	17	18 9 am Men's Forum
19 9 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament	20	21	22 7:30 pm Choir	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Word & Sacrament 4:00 pm Reformation Service Holy Trinity, Lawrenceville	27	28	29 7:30 pm Choir	30	31	