

# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

*You have a place here!*

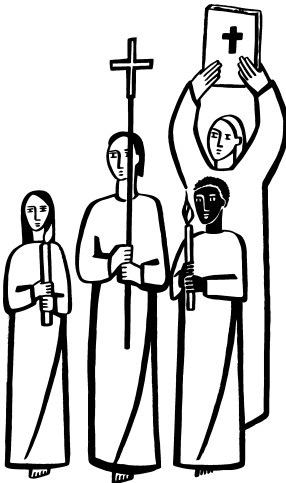
*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.  
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,  
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

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## REFORMATION SUNDAY

9:00 am Sunday, October 26, 2025

*Pastor Dave Johnson*



### TODAY'S REFLECTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**ACOLYTE AND GREETER**

**DACE MOLLICK  
DARTAGNEN MOLLICK**

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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling  
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

*"A Mighty Fortress" page 9*

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for Reflection*

Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

## ▲ *Prayer of the Day*

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. Amen.**

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

### ▼ *God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)*

*The First Reading is from Jeremiah 31:31-34*

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. 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. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### ▼ *God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)*

*Psalms 46*

The God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.  
**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah**

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

**He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.**

### ▼ *God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)*

*The Second Reading is from Romans 3:19-28*

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

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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; 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. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

*The Holy Gospel according to John 8:31-36*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ **Confirmand's Faith Statement**

Dace and Dartagnen Mollick

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*"Children Of The Heavenly Father", page 10*

▼ **Affirmation of Baptism**

I present Dace and Dartagnen Mollick  
who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for brothers, Dace and Dartagnen, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,  
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

I ask you both to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,  
reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

***Confirmand response: I renounce them.***

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

***Confirmand response: I renounce them.***

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***Confirmand response: I renounce them.***

Do you believe in God the Father?

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***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.***

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

***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.***

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

***Confirmand response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.***

People of God, do you promise to support these brothers  
and pray for them in his life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit  
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Dace and Dartagnen the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with our brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

### ▲ *Prayers of the Church*

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Thank you, dear Father, for all who love your Church. Thank you for raising up prophets, apostles, martyrs, theologians, and ordinary saints who treasure your holy Word and love your Church, even when she stumbles and sins. Thank you for Jesus, who makes the Church his Bride, and who even now makes her lovely with holiness, charity, and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your Church. Make it your holy habitation. Keep it steadfast in your Word. Strengthen it in the face of temptation and defend it from evil. Purify it from sin and error, and bestow on it your saving peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously protect and guide the people of this congregation, O Lord, our Help and our Redeemer. Gladden our hearts by filling them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Use us to nourish, instruct, and invite our neighbors into your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the refuge and strength of Christians when they are persecuted for confessing Jesus as Lord. Cause the enemies of the Gospel to repent of their sinfulness, turn to you, and live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Exalt yourself among the nations, and speak your holy word to your world, especially to the leaders of our country. Give them wisdom and a teachable spirit. Grant them the desire to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the work of faithful theologians who clarify doctrine, correct misunderstandings, and teach the faithful. Use them to educate seminarians and missionaries who will eagerly proclaim the Gospel: your Son, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to forgive sins and open your Kingdom to all who will receive him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift before you the needs of all whose lives are shaken and troubled by suffering, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Be in their midst and let them not be overthrown. Say to them, 'be still, and know that I am God.' Restore them to health and hope, that they may proclaim the awesome things you have done. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy Lord, we give you thanks for the lives of our beloved dead whom you have redeemed through the precious blood of your dear Son. Grant that we may humbly follow in their footsteps, boldly trust in your promises, faithfully proclaim your Word; and cheerfully serve in your Name. Bring us, through the merits of Jesus, into your Kingdom, where with all the redeemed, we shall glorify you in the unity of your most holy Spirit forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## **THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### ▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

October—December Mission Designation ~ **Adopt-A-Family/Senior**

### ▼ **Offering Prayer**

Lord of the harvest,  
**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**  
**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,**  
**but on you, who richly provides for us.**

**Multiply what we have gathered**  
**to bless all who are suffering and in need,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**      **See Bulletin Insert**

### ▼ **The Lord's Prayer**

**See Bulletin Insert**

▼ **Invitation and Distribution of Communion**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

**See Bulletin Insert**

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.  
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"Shine, Jesus, Shine" page 11*

▼ **Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.*

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Children of the Heavenly Father

*Truggare kan ingen vara*



*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*

- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

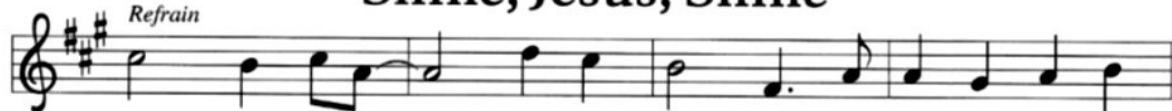
Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

# Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

*Refrain*

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### Pastor Dave Johnson

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## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

**[norwaybethany.org](http://norwaybethany.org):** Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

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## MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

## BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

|                  |                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video                                                    |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room<br>9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom                                           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM                                                                                |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room<br>11:00 am Crossroad's Bible Study For ALL in Conference Room |

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