



Northern Great Lakes Synod Online Reformation Worship A Service of the Word

WELCOME

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Welcome to this worship experience. Given that the Church and how we do things is all being reformed, it makes sense that we would offer an online Worship experience to observe the Reformation that happened 500 years ago and the reformation that is happening in our time. In this Synod Wide worship, multiple participants from every corner of the NGLS will lead the worship. Our newest pastors will offer a word of introduction as to who they are and where they are serving. Thank you to all those who participated, musicians and readers, prayers and singers. I hope you find their efforts meaningful.

PRELUDE: Lucas Wickstrom – “A Mighty Fortress” on organ

GREETING Pastor Matthew Deames

Hello. My name is Pastor Matthew Deames and I have been called by our Synod Council to serve the work of Christ as interim pastor at St. James, Rudyard. Welcome to this worship as we gather online.

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Deacon Elect Lori Ward, Synod Missioner

Hello. My name is Deacon Lori Ward and I have been called to serve the work of Christ through our Synod’s Lifelong Faith Formation initiative and as coordinator for Licensed Lay Minister evaluations.

Let us pray,

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy global church. Fill it with all truth and peace.

Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING— Jeremiah 31:31-34

Pastor Kelly Ylitalo of Mission United, Pelkie

Hello. My name is Pastor Kelly Ylitalo and I have been called to serve the work of Christ alongside the people of Mission United in Pelkie, MI.

A reading from Jeremiah...

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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 by seminarians Vicar Katy Tomlanovich of Our Savior’s, Marinette and Vicar Karoline Schwantes of Ascension, Minocqua.**

¹God 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;**

³though 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.**

⁵God 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.**

⁷The 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;**

⁹behold 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.”**

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING— **Romans 3:19-28** **Pastor Sue Johnson, All Saints, Wakefield**

Hello. My name is Pastor Sue Johnson and I have been called by our Synod Council as interim pastor to serve the work of Christ alongside the people of All Saints, Wakefield and Sharon, Bessemer.

A reading from Romans...

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law,

for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

GOSPEL— John 8:31-36 **Pastor Alex Ross of Bethany, Republic**

Hello. My name is Pastor Alex Ross and I have been called to serve the work of Christ alongside the people of Bethany, Republic.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
³³They 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’?”

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

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Bishop Katherine Finegan**

HYMN OF THE DAY – Amazing Grace

1st verse – Pastor Soren Schmidt of Holy Trinity, Chassell and Synod Council member

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now, I see.

2nd verse – Musicians from Zion, Marinette

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

3rd verse – Musicians from Immanuel, Rhineland

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4th verse – Musicians from Bethany, Escanaba

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5th verse – Curtis and Teresa Laakso, from Bethany, Republic

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Nicene Creed— During Leader Check-in

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION –

Hello. My name is **Chuck Thomas** and I am the Synod Vice-President. Leading our prayers today are members of the Synod Council from each conference of our Northern Great Lakes Synod. Let us pray...

Separated in our residences but united by God's promises of restoration, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Marcie Kaven, member of Bethany, Escanaba

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Barb Rice, member of Bethany, Norway and Synod Council member

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. We remember those impacted by wildfires in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Arizona. We lift up those who have suffered loss because of hurricane Laura, flooding in the Sudan, and all those in need of care and protection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Kyra Beck member of Bethany, Escanaba

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking. Be with those who are incarcerated, those in bondage of any kind, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Larry Pagel member of Messiah, Marquette and Synod Treasurer

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant your healing touch to those who are ill especially those we name in our hearts before you. (silence) Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Melissa Salminen member of Trinity, Ishpeming and student at Wartburg Seminary

During this pandemic wilderness time, we ask for a clear sense of your presence. Guide our decisions, quiet our anxiety, give us patience in these days of irregular rhythms. Help us be gentle with each other and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Stu Guenther member of Ascension, Minocqua

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church and all that it is becoming. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor Mark Laatsch serving Emmanuel, Menominee

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER – Led in prayer by the IGO conference

Pastor Kay Richter serving First, Ewen- Trinity, Trout Creek – Our Savior's, Paynesville and Synod Secretary.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

IGO Zoom

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST – **by Zoom with all participants Walking Together**

Peace be with you.

OFFERING – **powerpoint slide**

Equipping the Saints Fund and Lutheran Disaster Relief

OFFERING PRAYER **Pastor Sherry Van Lishout, Associate Pastor at Ascension, Minocqua**

Hello. My name is Pastor Sherry Van Lishout and I have been called as Associate Minister to serve the work of Christ alongside the people of Ascension, Minocqua.

Let us pray,

God of creation, reformation, renewal, and new things,

We thank you for the gift you give us in each other. We thank you for pastors and licensed lay ministers who have risen to new challenges. We thank you for the gift of your church who proclaims the hope of Christ and reminds us that we are not alone and this too shall pass. Gather us together in the spirit, in the Spirit of the living Christ, until that time when we can gather together in person again, when we will lift our voices in song and prayer, giving thanks to you, the one who makes all things new, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN “How Firm a Foundation” With powerpoint of pictures from around the Synod

BLESSING Pastor Tim Vadis of Trinity, Rhinelander

Hello. My name is Pastor Tim Vadis and I serve alongside the people of Trinity, Rhinelander

Receive the benediction

The Almighty God, The Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL Pastor Grant Van Lishout of Marywood Spirituality Center

Hello. My name is Pastor Grant Van Lishout and I have been called by our Synod council to serve the work of Christ alongside all of you, the Northern Great Lakes Synod through the resources of Marywood Spirituality Center.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!