



**Service of Worship
Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

PASTORAL STAFF:

Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

CHURCH EDUCATOR:

Susan Moseley

MUSIC STAFF

Paul Fleckenstein, Organist/Director of Music
Merideth Hite Estevez, Director, Faith Formation through Music
and Arts, Teaching Artist in Residence
Soloist/Section Leaders: Sharon Babcock, Elizabeth Holmes
Christian Sanders, Travis Lucas

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.

This Morning at Westminster

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Coffee and Tea in Classroom 6

Deacon Team of the Month

Cathy Lang, Lola Miller, Carol Neff, Ann Shaddock, Jerry Spilecki, Pam White, Debbie Wise

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Children and youth participating in today’s worship service rehearse in Sanctuary

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. 180° Youth and Sing-to-Praise choir breakfast in Classroom 6

9:45 – 11:15 a.m. Nursery for babies and toddlers

10:00 – 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Today’s service is a creative, interactive celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Children, kindergarten – 6th grade, will remain in worship with their families.

❖ **Godly Care** – Children ages 2 – 4 begin in worship with their families. During the first hymn, a parent will walk with them to the **Preschool Suite** where they are greeted by the morning coordinator and escorted into **Classroom A**.

11:00 a.m. Fall Festival – Fun for all ages! Community Hall

Later Today

This afternoon Stewardship Home Gatherings Members’ Homes

6:00 p.m. Clean But Not Straight – NA Club Room

8:00 p.m. AA Club Room

New to Westminster?

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Hymnals are located on a shelf under the pew in front of you, or at the ends of the pew. Please join us in singing!
- A red Friendship Pad at the end of the pew will be passed during the service. We hope you will sign it and let us know how we can welcome you with a follow-up contact.
- There will be an Ambassador at the back of the church at the end of worship, who would love to answer any questions you might have or give you more information about Westminster.
- For more information about our community of faith, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter from the home page of our website (www.wpc.org) or contact the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson at sniesenthompson@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 103.

Please join us for coffee or tea in Classroom 6 after the service.

Ask someone to show you the way!



Westminster is certified as an “Earth Care Congregation” by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This honor means that we have exhibited exceptional leadership in protecting God’s creation and being good stewards of earth’s resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in this country have earned this honored distinction.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Joyce Ruston in appreciation for all of the thoughts and prayers during her recovery.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com for available dates. The next available date is December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND PRAYER

Please remember in your prayers:

- ❖ **Recently hospitalized:** John Bowman, Paul Fleckenstein, and David McBride
- ❖ **Westminster's homebound** who can no longer attend worship with us, by sending a card, saying a prayer, or visiting. This week we ask you to remember Grace and Jack Barrington, Ed Hagopian, and Leucia Venable all at home, and Peggy Cartmell at Regal Heights.
- ❖ **Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by leaving a confidential message on 302-654-5848, ext. 335; or filling out a prayer request card (in the pew pocket) and placing it in the offering plate; or sending an email to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com.

Afghanistan and Iraq often seems far away, and we may neglect to realize that Americans, as well as Afghans, Iraqis and members of coalition forces continue to die. As Christians, we are called to pray for the spreading of peace and justice and an end to violence. If someone in your family is serving in the military, please let us know, so that we may include that person on our prayer list. Contact Cathy Lang: 302-654-5214 ext. 129, or cathylang@wpc.org.

This week we pray for

- This week we pray for Brian Gorman, grandson of Art and Barbara Gorman, serving in the United States military.
- Those suffering from Traumatic Stress Disorder, whose scars may be deep and long-lasting.

WORSHIP NOTES

All children who leave the sanctuary after Children's Time must have a completed yellow security label on their backs. If you do not find a security label in the pew pocket, you can obtain one in the Preschool Suite. This policy is for your child's protection. Thank you for your help.

Worship Resources – You can obtain large print hymnals and hearing devices from any usher. Worship bags for children ages 3-6 include a children's bulletin designed for them. Children's bulletins for ages 7-12 are also available from the ushers.

Are you wearing a nametag? Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, wearing a nametag provides others the opportunity to meet you, greet you by name, and for you to become more familiar with others at church. You will find nametags and markers in baskets at all major entrances.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website www.wpc.org and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE TOWER BELLS

Craig Checkel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the friendship folder, at the end of the pew, to the person next to you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 46

When change consumes us or chaos enfolds us, we will not fear.

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

Come, behold the works of the Lord!

**God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted among the earth.**

“Be still and know that I am God.”

**The Lord of Hosts is with us.
Let us worship the Lord!**

*HYMN NO. 275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

SOLA FIDE: BY FAITH ALONE

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.
And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”*

– Romans 5:1-2

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A prayer by Martin Luther

**Almighty God,
grant us the forgiveness of all our sins
that we – being full of grace, virtue and good works –
may become thy kingdom.
May we with heart, soul, mind, and strength,
inwardly and outwardly,
submit to thy commands and do thy will. Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel –
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

At the asterisk (), please stand as you are able*

RESPONSE #447

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

SOLA SCRIPTURA: BY SCRIPTURE ALONE

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105

SONG

“Books of the Bible Medley”
Sing-to-Praise Choir

Hidden within the hymn racks of the pews throughout the sanctuary are small square blocks, each with a book of the Bible written on the side. There may be one near you! As the children sing, listen for your book and when you hear it, hold it up high. The children will sing through each testament twice.

Luther: We don't earn our salvation by doing good works, but by what? How are we justified?

Faith!

Luther: And what is faith?

Trust in, and knowledge of, God's goodness and love!

Luther: Again...how are we justified?

Faith!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Greater Love Hath No Man”

John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are wash'd, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the Name of the Lord Jesus; Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. That ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath call'd you out of darkness into His marvelous light. I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

*DOXOLOGY (HYMN NO. 607)

**Praise God,
from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ,
all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God,
whom we adore. Amen.**

GOD'S OWN PEOPLE: A PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

– 1 Peter 2:9

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we boldly approach your throne of grace today with thanksgiving.

**We thank you that your Holy Spirit leads us as we discern your will.
We ask your continued blessing on the church on this Reformation Sunday –
the church, past and present, which has made mistakes and fallen short –
that our hearts be changed and healed
so as to shine brightly for all nations,
pointing to the reconciliation of the world in Christ Jesus,
as agents of your love.**

Thank you for your gift of grace –
the forgiveness and freedom we find in Jesus Christ.

**Comfort those who worry and suffer,
help us to trust you more and to have the courage to seek you,
and there find that it is you, O God,
who has been seeking us all along.**

We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN No. 320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WAREHAM

SEMPER REFORMANDA: REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING!

LITANY OF CELEBRATION



SENDING

We are people of Word and Sacrament, nourished by grace, sent by the Spirit, to follow the way of the cross. We go with gratitude,

Rejoicing in our past, thankful for our present, hopeful for our future.

We go with gratitude,

A reformed people, always being reformed according to the Word of God.

We go with gratitude,

To respond to God's gift of grace with faith and faithfulness.

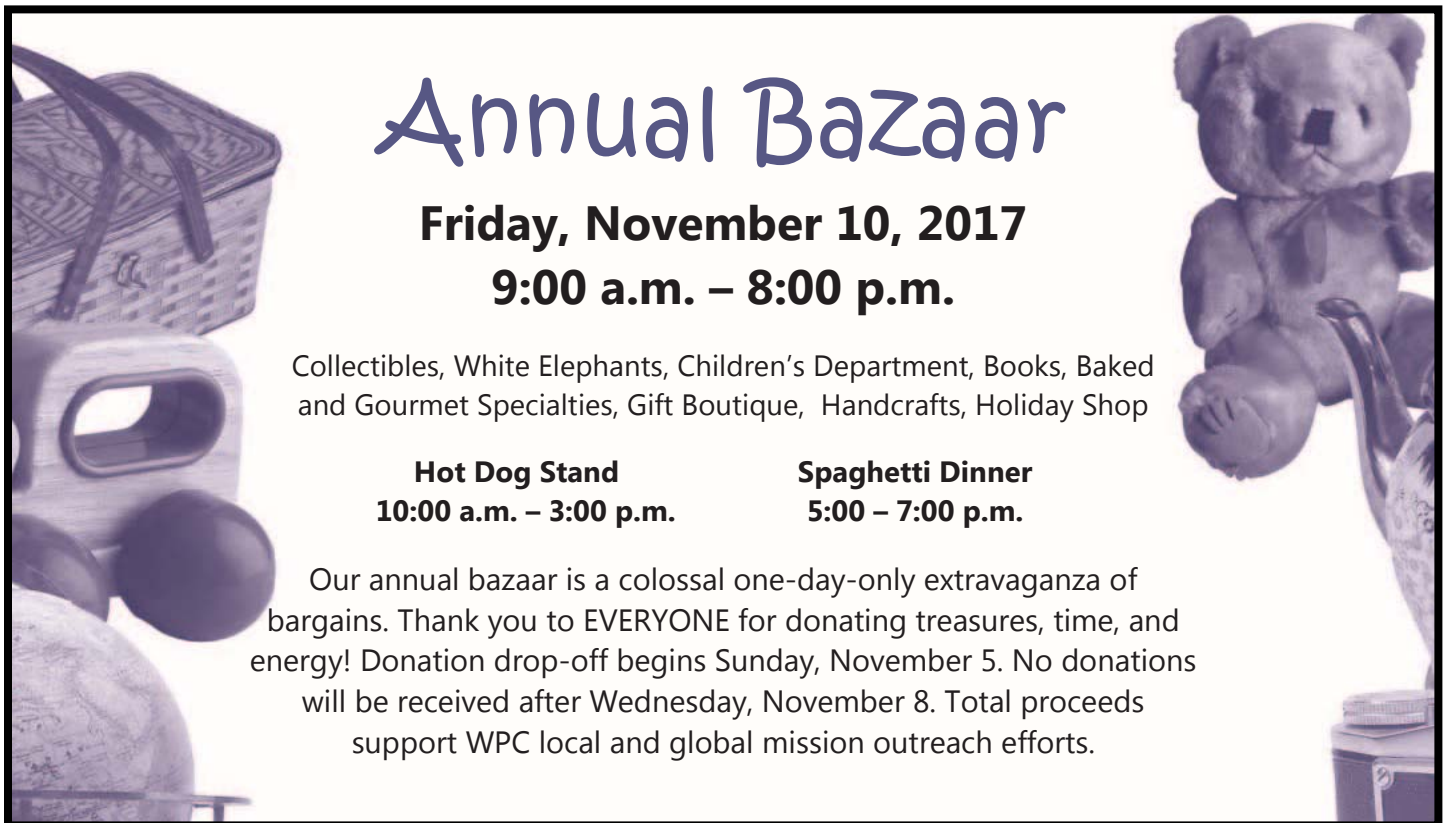
POSTLUDE

Chorale from Cantata 80, "Ein Feste Berg"

J.S. Bach

If you are visiting with us and wish to learn more about our church family, we invite you to meet today's ambassador, Suzie Hurlock, at the back of the center aisle following the service. She is happy to share information about our many programs for children, youth and adults.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FALL FESTIVAL (IN COMMUNITY HALL) FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. FOR HOT DOGS, CIDER, GAMES, PRIZES, FACE PAINTING AND TREATS! ALL AGES WELCOME!



Annual Bazaar

Friday, November 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Collectibles, White Elephants, Children's Department, Books, Baked and Gourmet Specialties, Gift Boutique, Handcrafts, Holiday Shop

Hot Dog Stand	Spaghetti Dinner
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Our annual bazaar is a colossal one-day-only extravaganza of bargains. Thank you to EVERYONE for donating treasures, time, and energy! Donation drop-off begins Sunday, November 5. No donations will be received after Wednesday, November 8. Total proceeds support WPC local and global mission outreach efforts.

Reform(ed)(ing): A Reformation Celebration

by Merideth Hite Estevez

The youth of Westminster are excited to share an interactive worship experience in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral. Luther's actions led to the tenuous and divisive conversations that paved the way for reformers like John Calvin and other fathers of Presbyterianism.

What I love most about history is the way we can see ourselves in its stories. Throughout my research around The Reformation, I often wondered: Did Luther understand what nailing his thoughts about the Roman Catholic Church on the door would mean? (Apparently, in his day, the door was a common space for announcements... like a bulletin board...or an early form of social media!) Is our culture *now* any more open to difficult conversations around reform?

Through this presentation with our youth, I wanted to explore how the spirit and ideals of a tumultuous time in God's church can and does inform our faith community now. We watch Luther (and some fictional by-standers) work through the implications of some radical ideas. They do so under three (of many) reformation themes— *Sola Fide* (By Faith Alone), *Sola Scriptura* (By Scripture Alone), and the *Priesthood of All Believers*. Three different actors play Luther to represent this last (and I believe, *key*) concept to The Reformation—that we have direct access to God without a human mediator, regardless of our monk's robe or priestly collar. Luther's one-hit-wonder "A Mighty Fortress" is weaved throughout the action, often played in groups of three musicians.

Luther was famous for his self-flagellation—that is, he always struggled with a sense of failure. He was known to have been heard screaming from his study (supposedly in response to this darkness), "I am BAPTIZED! I am BAPTIZED!" Imagine being so sure of your identity in Christ to use those words so confidently! What an incredible opportunity it's been to explore these topics with our youth— an age group wrestling with questions of identity. By the end, we were all in agreement with the Martin Luther of the play: the fact that we are justified through *faith* instead of *works*—"Golly... that's GOOD NEWS!"

I hope you enjoy the fruits of our labor and will join me in celebrating our denomination's call to be "Reformed and Always Reforming According to the Word of God!" Thank you to the entire staff of WPC for their support, especially Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, as well as Executive Presbyter, Rev. Jim Moseley, who assisted in the building of the set pieces.

In Christ,
Merideth

Participants:

Martin Luther 1: Lily Holmes
Martin Luther 2: Kristian Tolbert
Martin Luther 3: Sophia Malatesta
Newscaster 1: Lili Gerstenschlager
Newscaster 2: Liz Thomas
Newscaster 3: Alexa Psaros
Newscaster 4: Chloe Steiner
Men Selling Indulgences: Reuben Busick-White and Ava Pfaff
Present Day Person: Luke Mathé
Litany of Celebration Readers: Chris Hickey, Tommy Neilson, Josh Cox
Stage Ninjas: Owen Thomas and Drew Holmes
Sound Effects: Aiden McCulloch

Luminary Youth Orchestra:

Violin: Kristian Tolbert and Lily Holmes
Viola: Sophia Malatesta
Cello: Evelyn Saathoff and Drew Holmes
Percussion: Aiden McCulloch