



# CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

*"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."*

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Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**October 31, 2021**

## Reformation Sunday/Consecration Sunday

**Prayer Before Worship:** I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*(Luther's Morning Prayer)*

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us in person or online today,  
we are glad to have you with us.*

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠

### Call to Worship

*(adapted from Psalm 46)*

"Be still and know that I am God".

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

"Be still and know that I am."

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

"Be still and know."

**Therefore we will not fear for the Lord of hosts is with us.**

"Be still."

(a moment of silence)

**\*Opening Hymn:**

**“Built on a Rock”**

**ELW #652**

**vv. 1&3**

1. **Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.**
  
3. **Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.**

**\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

Marked with the cross of Christ in baptism, we gather to worship in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(All may make the sign of the cross ✝ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

**“For by Grace You Have Been Saved”**

**ELW #598**

**vv. 1**

**1. For by grace you have been saved  
and even faith is not your own,  
it's the gift of God for you  
and not the works that you have done.  
Don't let anybody boast,  
for this is God's great gift. Amen.**

### **Blessing of Quilts & School Kits**

Recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ, we give thanks for the variety of gifts that made these quilts and school kits possible: the donations of material gifts as well as the gift of time and talent to sew and put the quilts & school kits together. Now we offer the fruits of our labors to you, O Lord.

**We dedicate these quilts & kits to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each is sent, making it more than just a piece of material or a collection of items—but making each one we have created an expression of your love. We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.**

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **\*Greeting**

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**

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.**

## **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.**

### **Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold 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.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### **Epistle Reading: Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>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.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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**\*Gospel: John 8:31-36**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>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'?"

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

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Kids Sermon**

**Angie Hinze**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Sheryl**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

**"Now Thank We All Our God"**

**ELW #840  
vv. 1&2**

**1. Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

**2. Oh, may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,**

**and keep us all in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm  
in this world and the next.**

**\*Profession of Faith:** (Luther's Explanation to the Second Article of the Creed)

With the whole church, let us profess our faith.

**I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.**

**At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil—not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and ruled eternally. This is most certainly true.**

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*

Lord, in your mercy....**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**“Come Now and Follow”**

**Choir**

*Trumpet – Mike Koch*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feed the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 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.**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Come. Come to enjoy what we could not earn, and what the world cannot take from us.

#### **Distribution of Communion:**

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

**All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.**

*(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.*

*WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.*

*Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

**The congregation is invited to place their pledge cards for the coming year in the offering plates at the front of the church as you come forward to receive the gift of Christ's body and blood through the sacrament of Holy Communion.**

#### **Distribution Music**

**Rhonda Boettcher**

#### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

#### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

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. Amen.

**Sending Hymn:**

**“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

**ELW #504  
vv. 1,2&4**

**1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.**

**The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**

**2. No strength of ours can match his might!**

**We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**

**4. God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.**

**Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!**

## \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Be generous and compassionate as God has been with us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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## ✚In Our Thoughts and Prayers✚

**Prayers for healing:** **Kathy Johnson** (back & leg issues), **Jennifer & Isla** (Covid—Pastor Chris & Pastor Sheryl's daughter & granddaughter), **Bill & Mary Jo Huelle**, **Wally Randall** (Covid), **Maeve Singer** (Medical Issues—Nick & Lindsey Singer's 6 month old daughter), **Alice Braaten** (rehab), **Kathy Rahrs** (recovering from back surgery—Val Rahrs' mother), **Patty** (Health Reasons—Lonnie Miller's sister), **Marj Nikont** (rehab), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson's cousin's husband), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker's great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

**Prayers of comfort and peace:** For the family and friends of **Ray Blomenkamp** (Neal Blomenkamp's father)

**Prayers for:** **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker's granddaughter & husband).



Joan Smith, 10/31; Bailey Nikont, 11/3; Marsha Bueide, 11/3; Max Schlothauer, 11/4;  
Larry Blehm, 11/4; Jeff Van Patten, 11/6; Martha Wegelin, 11/6

*If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.*

## Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)

## YOUR GIVING ONLINE



Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: [www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



Please note: if you have been using the Give+ app for your donations, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app after Sept. 30th to make any future donations in this manner.

## NOVEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Baking Supplies

**BACKPACKS:** Granola Bars

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT:**



Our mission project for November is our **“THANKOFFERINGS.”** Every day throughout the year, we have many things to be thankful for. Traditionally, each day, women would drop some spare change into a sugar cup or jar as they gave thanks for their blessings. Then at the end of the year, they would donate their Thankoffering for various ministry or mission projects.

Following this tradition, November has been set aside to collect the Thankofferings from the women and men in our congregation. We ask for you to put your Thankofferings in an envelope and then the offering plates on any November Sunday.

Our Thankofferings support our partnership with Women of the ELCA through Katie's Fund. Katherina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. These funds help honor her life by supporting global connections, leadership development, and living theology.



### **JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (chicken & noodles/veggies/dessert) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.



### **EPIC on Sunday, November 7th**

Movie Night at Hinze's! Come for dinner at 5 pm and then stay to watch a movie! Please come and join us all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders!



### **Christmas Treat Bags for December 19th!**

We need donations of candy and treats for the traditional treat bags for our children after the Christmas program in December! If you would like to pick up a bag of candy to go into the treat bags, you can bring it to church and leave it in Angie's office. Shirlye Schuldies will coordinate with all her other "elves" to make the bags for the children. Thank You!

### **Memorial Dedications on November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us on November 14<sup>th</sup> as we dedicate memorials given in honor of Larry Janecek and Lillian Blehm. Larry's memorial moneys were instrumental in moving the organ from the balcony to the sanctuary floor so that organ music could once again fill our sanctuary, and Lillian's memorial moneys made it possible for us to upgrade our media and sound system so that we had the equipment needed to provide high-quality livestreaming of our worship services. We give thanks for the generosity of these families for their memorial gifts and pray these gifts would be used to God's glory and to further his kingdom for many years to come.

## Hymn Sing, November 13th & 14th

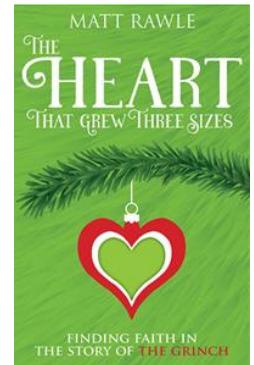
During worship on the weekend of November 13th & 14th, we will be having a hymn sing. In other words, you are invited to share with us a favorite hymn or 2 either by emailing the church office or filling out the form in the bulletin and placing it in the offering plate by November 7th. Those hymns most requested will then be used during worship on November 14th. So, give us your favorite hymns and the join us on November 14th for worship.



## NEW Pastor's Tuesday Evening Study starting Nov. 16th

### **The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes: Finding Faith in the story of the Grinch.**

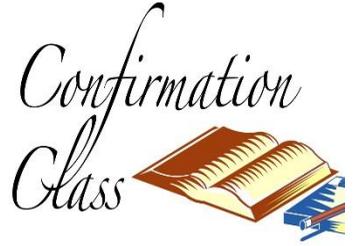
We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Pastor Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? Join Pastors Chris and Sheryl as we look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. This 4-week study will meet at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> (*we will skip Thanksgiving week*) and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. If interested, sign up on the sheet outside the office and let us know if you need us to order you a study book or plan on downloading a copy to your e-reader.



What is Laundry Love? Laundry Love is a ministry that offers free use of washers, dryers, detergent, and dryer sheets to individuals and families who are hard-pressed to cover the cost of basic necessities by partnering with a local laundromat and churches. We would be partnering with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in **our** community (our commitment would be 2 to 3 hours every third month). The Social Ministry Committee has provided us with \$200 seed money to get us started but first we need people willing to get this ministry off the ground. If interested or if you have questions, please talk to one of the pastors.

## Confirmation Classes

Classes will convene each Wednesday evening from **6–7 p.m.**  
Please refer to the letter you received last month from Pastor  
Chris for details. Parents are asked to be involved in the  
confirmation program. Dinner will be provided. For any questions  
or concerns, please see Pastor Chris.



### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

**This Sunday – October 31**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub  
**LAY READER:** Kathy Randall  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen  
**POWERPOINT:** Jack Martin  
**ACOLYTE:** Micaela Hess  
**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette  
Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie  
Walsh  
**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**Next Sunday – November 7**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey  
**LAY READER:** Chris Jensen  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr  
**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn  
**ACOLYTE:** Jacey Cochran  
**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler  
**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, October 31**  
**Reformation/Consecration**  
**Sunday/Quilt Blessing**  
10 a.m. – Worship

**Tuesday, November 2**  
8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary  
12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary  
1 p.m. – Quilting  
7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

**Wednesday, November 3**  
12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon  
5:30 p.m. – JAM  
6 p.m. – Confirmation  
7 p.m. – Choir Practice

**Saturday, November 6**  
5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, November 7**  
**All Saints Sunday**  
10 a.m. – Worship  
5 p.m. – EPIC Movie Night @ Hinze's  
**Daylight Savings Ends**

## OCTOBER 31, 2021 REFORMATION SUNDAY



*The grace of God through faith sets us free.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 8:31-36</b>	<b>The truth will set you free</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Revelation 21:1-6a</b>	<b>A new heaven and earth</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:31-34</b>	<b>A new covenant</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 3:19-28</b>	<b>Righteousness through faith</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Isaiah 61:1-7</b>	<b>The good news of victory</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 10:34-43</b>	<b>Gentiles hear the good news</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 46</b>	<b>God is our protection</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 11:32-44</b>	<b>Jesus raises Lazarus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."*  
John 8:36 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, may faith in you give us peace and joy, and move us to love and serve others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of the gift of faith that we may be strengthened to love you and our neighbor each and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who frees you from the power of sin bless you with everlasting joy.



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

## OCTOBER 31, 2021 HYMN OF THE WEEK



*Rise, Shine, You People*

### WEEKLY MILLESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Sin is about broken relationships with others and with God. What does sin mean to you?
- God in Christ only saves and frees sinners. Is this a surprising message for you? Explain.
- How does confessing one's sinfulness bring joy?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 3:19-28.

Luther was not the only reformer shaped by Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans became a signature book of the New Testament to reform the church's practice away from a message that suggested that our eternal life with Christ was dependent upon our actions. Through Christ's work—not ours—we are redeemed. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was "strangely moved" by hearing Luther's commentary on Romans. Wesley saw in this letter that being justified by Christ through faith meant that followers of Jesus were more than people set free from sin. Salvation was the restoration of the human ability to hear God's image in the world. Luther called this being a "little Christ" to one's neighbor. We have all fallen short; redemption is a gift of God received through faith. By the grace of God through faith, we are God's people participating in the work of Christ in the world. We are now the ones reconciling all that is God's back to God. We are made right with God through faith in Christ that we may be the hands, feet, and voice of God's healing work in the world. Where have you witnessed God's healing work in the world?  
*Pray:* Awesome God, help us to believe and give thanks every day that our relationship to you is a gift of your undeserved kindness through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### SERVICE

We have been born anew to a living faith that sends us out into the world on behalf of God's love through Christ. How can you be part of Christ's ongoing work of healing lives today? What might you do this week to extend Christ's love to someone?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Before the Reformation, the Bible was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. It was not accessible to the common person. An important part of the Reformation was to translate the word of God in the Bible to a language people understood. Luther translated the Bible into German. Other reformers translated the Bible into other languages. In appreciation for the fact that the Bible can now be read around the world in many different languages, including your own, take time this week to read and highlight some of your favorite Bible passages.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)