

October 21-27, 2020

Sharing good news from  
Reformation Lutheran Church



Peace and Joy in Every Day.  
—Isaiah 55:12

# The Weekly Word

*Scripture Readings for Sunday, October 25, 2020*

**Reformation Sunday**

*All Readings Have Been Included in this week's Weekly Word*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✚ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

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.



*“You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and the hills before  
you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”*

*—Isaiah 55:12*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

### 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.

### PSALM: 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 upon 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.

 **Be STILL** AND **KNOW** that I am **GOD** 



## ■ SECOND 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 HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN: John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup>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.”

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: 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.**

*(continued next page)*



*Prayers of Intercession ( continued)*

- P: 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, especially (*names*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- P: Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- P: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill, (*names*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- P: In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- P: 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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- P: 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.**



**SUNDAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

October 25th	8:30	11:00
Ushers	Judith Amdal	Mary Armbrister
Assisting Minister	George Duda	Diane Stallings
Lector	George Duda	Mary Armbrister



Funeral Services for our Sister in Christ, Rita Evitts, will take place on **Wednesday, October 21st, at 2:00 p.m.** at Peninsula Funeral Home Chapel, 1144 Warwick Boulevard.

Limited seating is available. Masks and social distancing will be required. For those who may not have seen it, Rita's obituary has been included on the last page of this newsletter.



**WE'RE BACK!**  
**JOIN US FOR**  
**TABLE TALK**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 21st AT**  
**6:30pm ON ZOOM!**



**Peninsula Pastoral Counseling  
Center Annual Banquet and  
Benefit Auction**

**Friday, October 30th at 6:30pm  
via ZOOM**

**REGISTRATION ENDS THIS  
FRIDAY! Call 757-873-2273**

**Zoom Meeting ID: [https://  
zoom.us/j/97703711697](https://zoom.us/j/97703711697)**

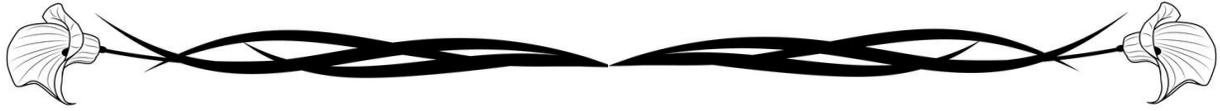
**zoom WITH US THIS  
SUNDAY AT 10AM**

**CALL (415) 762-9988 or (646) 568-7788 AND follow  
the verbal instructions. Enter the meeting ID  
followed by the # key, then the participant ID. If you  
do not know your participant ID, simply press the #  
key. Please join us!**

## **Nothing like that brisk autumn air! Come enjoy it!**



We're the Property Ministry Team and have we got a deal for you! You can enjoy the great outdoors while helping us mow, trim, and weed to keep our Reformation property looking great. BEST OF ALL, there are perks! No mask required; all the fresh air you can breathe; abundant wildlife sightings; and the knowledge that you're helping our Reformation Family. **Please let George Duda or John Race know if you'd like to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime offer!**



## RITA R. EVITTS

January 11, 1940—October 13, 2020

Our beloved mother, Rita R. Evitts, 80, passed away on October 13, 2020, with her family by her side.

She was born in Heilbronn, Germany during a very turbulent time in the world. Rita met her future husband, an American GI in Germany, 20 years later.

They married and were eventually stationed back in the United States. Once here, she embraced her new life and quickly took action to acquire her U.S. citizenship. Rita was proud of her status as an American citizen and cherished her ability to vote, but never lost her ties to her homeland. As an Army wife, she traveled the world with her husband and family, making her home wherever the Army took her.

She was an avid bowler and participated in leagues wherever she was. In fact, she continued to bowl until she was no longer able. Rita was an active member of the Tidewater German American Society and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post #368. She made many lifelong friends through her associations. Rita loved to dance, travel, and socialize with friends and family. Rita was a long-time member of Reformation Lutheran Church.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband of 42 years, Master Sergeant Grafton F. Evitts, U.S. Army (Ret). She is survived by her daughters, Carolyn Gillroy (Patrick) and Heidi Olson (John); eight grandchildren Denise, Meghan, Alex, Audrey, Patrick, Shelby, John, and Erin; and four great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind numerous loving friends.

The family would like to express a special thanks to her caregiver and hospice nurses. Memorial donations may be made in Rita's memory to the ALS Association ([www.donate.als.org](http://www.donate.als.org)).