

Central Lutheran Church

**Reformation Sunday
Confirmation of Jane Bierwagen
October 29, 2023**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor
Harold Knight, PhD, Music Director
Rachel Brown, Administrative Assistant**

Central Lutheran Church, ELCA

1000 Easton Rd., Dallas, Texas

God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.

Please turn off your cell phone.

This service is being livestreamed to our neighbors near and far on Facebook.

Most of the sanctuary- including all leaders and worshippers- is on camera.

BELL PEAL (10:30 am)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL MEDITATION on A Mighty Fortress by Johann Pachebel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In

✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

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
 your 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!

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister

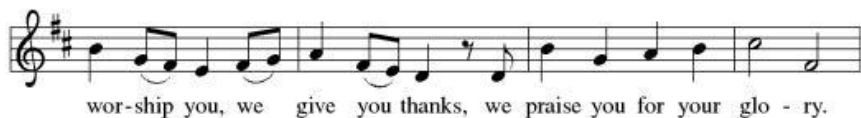


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

LESSON: Romans 3:19-28

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.

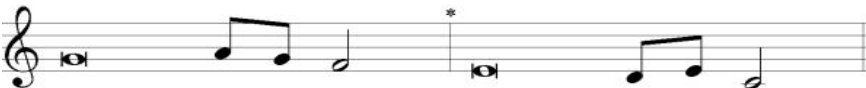
²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 46

Sung responsively.



¹God is our ref- | uge 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 cit- | y 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 up- | on 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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Veronika



P The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Veronika

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

P ... And so today the journey continues as we gather to affirm your baptism, confirm your faith, and pray again, that God will bless you with the Holy Spirit. We ask you now to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all his empty promises?

C I renounce them.

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

C I renounce them.

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

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. on the third day he rose again. he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father. and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Jane the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 514

O Word of God Incarnate



- 1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
- 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diancance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Please sit or kneel for prayer.

The response to each spoken petition is:

P Lord, in your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Ruth** Steiner, and **Rich** Pounds.

The prayers conclude:

P ...through your son Jesus Christ, our Lord

C Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus. Please offer a symbol of reconciliation to one another.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

THE OFFERING

*We give thanks for what God has first given us. Our ministry to the people of East Dallas is supported by your offering. An offering plate is available in the narthex after worship. You may also use our online giving through **Vanco, PayPal, or Givelify** (available in the App Store) or continue to mail your offerings to our office.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Built on a Rock*

Sung by the choir

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.

Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is not dwelling— high in the heav'ns his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n above deigns to abide with us in love, making our bodies his temple.

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.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing; hither we come to praise his name, faith in our Savior confessing. Jesus to us his Spirit sent, making with us his covenant, granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, many may come to hear your Word, who here this promise is bringing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen."

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed...

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

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

As you come forward for the Sacrament, please sanitize your hands with the sanitizer found on the first pew. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. You may kneel or stand. The host will be dipped in the chalice and placed in your hand. If you prefer to receive only the host, please tell the ministers. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please fold your arms in front of your chest. At this time there is no consecrated grape juice.

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Follow the guidance of the ushers if you decide to walk up to the Altar to receive the Sacraments.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Meditative organ music is played as the congregation receives the Holy Communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 517

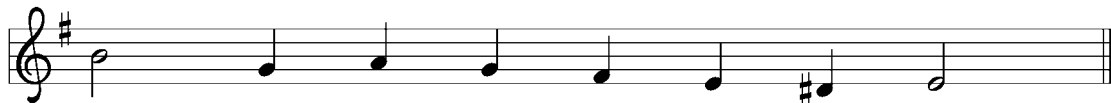
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Entrance Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress*

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

Hymn of the Day: *O Word of God Incarnate*

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

Musical Offering: *Built on a Rock*

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.

Music: Knut Nystedt

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Sending Hymn: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Central Lutheran Church	
	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	
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Music Director: Harold Knight, PhD harchie74@gmail.com	www.CentralLutheran.org
Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown 214-327-2222 central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com	www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors, we are glad to have you with us and invite you to come again!

Pr. Veronika's Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm; other days/times by appointment.

Serving in Worship today: Ushers: Anne Monson & David Hopson, and Lector: Ed Wolfgang

Ushers & Lectors needed: Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

What is Confirmation? Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that helps the baptized through Word and Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission. Confirmation ministry is an opportunity for congregations to renew the vision of living by grace, grounded in baptism. This vision is especially important for ministry with young Christians, but it has lifelong implications. Through identity with the baptized community, we grow in mission, discipleship, and our vocations in daily life.

Reformation Fair: We are hosting a Reformation Fair **today right after worship**. Come learn about the Protestant Reformation and life in 16th Century Germany. We will have brats and hot dogs, a bouncy castle, and plenty of opportunities for fun and fellowship.

Sunday School & Lunch: We are having once-a-month "Sunday School" for all ages. Join us for a lunch and discussion of the Bible and our Lutheran heritage after worship. Our next meeting will be **next Sunday, November 5, after worship**. Come join the fellowship and ministry together!

Caring & Sharing: We will not have Caring & Sharing next Sunday. It has been moved to the second Sunday of the month. In November, it will be on **Sunday, November 12 at 9am**.

Offering Envelopes: If you'd like to continue receiving offering envelopes, please let the church office know by calling the office (214-327-2222), or sending an email (central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com).

Note: This year we are doing envelopes a little differently. Instead of ordering envelopes that are dated for every week, we will have DIY envelopes that can be used at any time. This reduces waste so we can be better stewards of God's creation.

Fresh Flowers: Fresh flowers and potted plants invite us to reflect on the beauty and mystery of God's creation. In order to help this connection, we are going to stop using plastic flowers on the Altar and other places on the church property. You may contact the church office if you would like to offer fresh flowers or live plants for the Altar.



Scan this QR code (or go to linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or donate online.

Our Prayer List: Please submit your prayer requests to the church office via email (central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com) or via phone (214-327-2222).

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT	
<p>For healing Ruth & Eddie Steiner</p> <p>Charlotte Breedlove Irisz Gonda Pr. Rich Pounds Dennis Bush Tracee Bond Selena Dybdahl</p>	<p>Relationship Sister & Brother-in-law of Susan Wrobbel and Judy Koble Neighbor of Harold Jones Friend of Pastor Veronika Former Pastor of Central Friend of Colby Jones Friend of Charlotte Danielson Sister of Mary Glenn</p>
<p>Church Members Lydia Landfair Don Smith Mario Montejo Kris McDowell Patsy Schoen Lionel Schoen Yuvonne Muirhead</p>	<p>Newlyweds Joni and Andrew Frost</p> <p>Newly Confirmed Jane Bierwagen</p>

