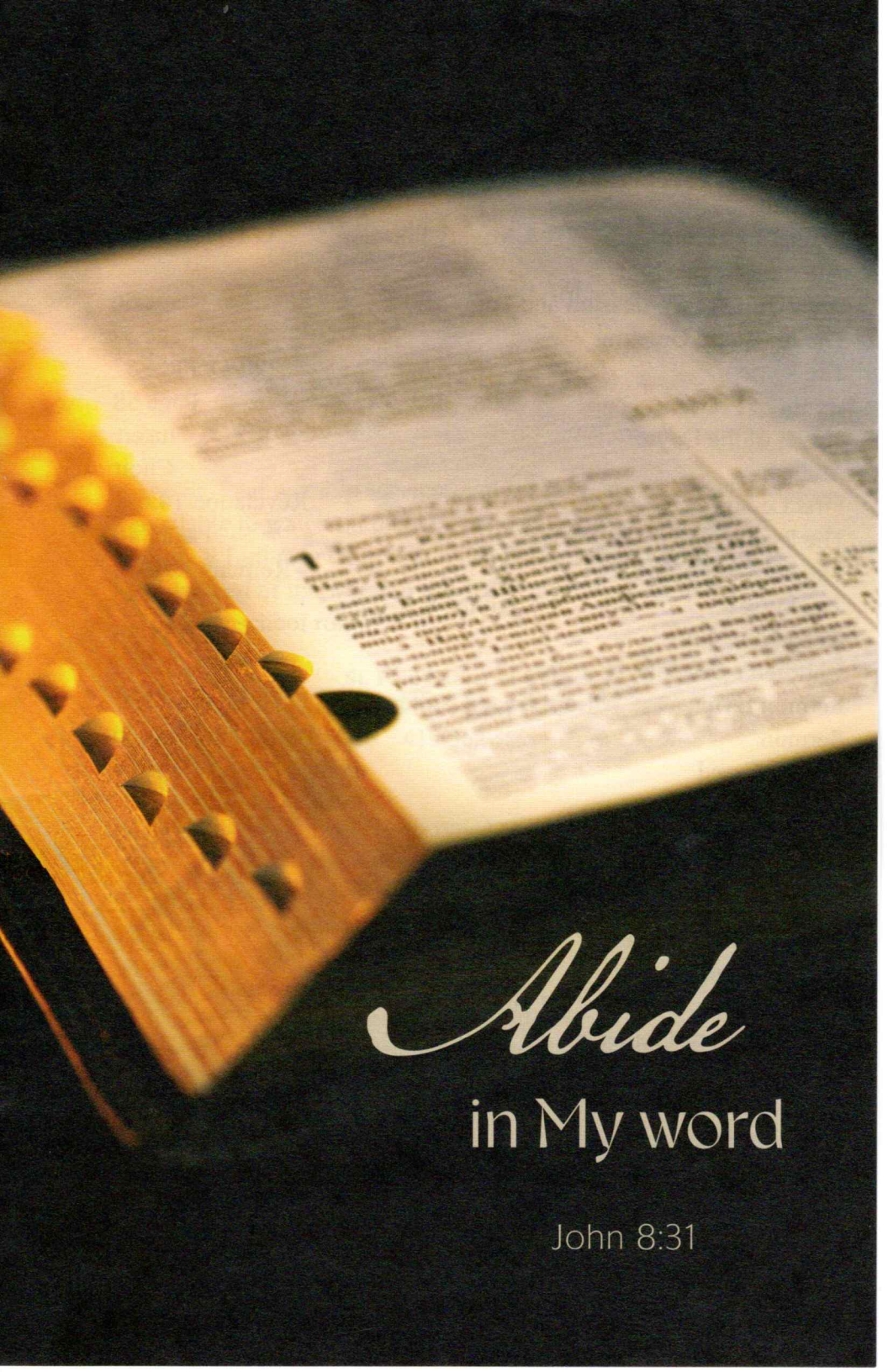

Abide
in My word
John 8:31

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran church (NALC)

Reformation Sunday **October 25, 2026**

Prelude		Bell Choir
Gathering Hymn	"A Mighty Fortress"	**G Hymn #229**
Announcements		
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The Kyrie		Page 57
Hymn of Praise		Page 58
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Anthem		Choir
First Lesson		Revelation 14:6-7
The Psalm		Psalm 46
The Second Lesson		Romans 3:19-28
The Verse	"Alleluia"	Page 62
Gospel Lesson		John 8:31-36
Children's Sermon		
Sermon Hymn	"Lord Keep Us Steadfast…"	**G Hymn #230**
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Benediction		
Closing Hymn	"The Church's One Foundation"	**G Hymn 369**
Postlude		

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Edna Armstrong, John Barnhart, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Paul and Betty Ebbeskotte by their family.

We welcome and thank Pastor Paul Larson for leading our worship this morning.

Thank you to Pastor Andrea and the congregation for the prayers, cards and concern during my recent surgery. Also thank you to God Squad for the gift card and John and Linda Pfleiderer for the visit.

Rachel Webber

WOC checked with the BackPack program again to see if they have a need for a holiday fill. One of the things that Second harvest cannot supply is Cream of Mushroom soup in the standard size can. And getting a large quantity through one of their other sources is sometimes hit and miss as to getting it. Kathy is grateful for our continued support and indicated 600 cans should be a good amount. Just over a month into the school year and they are averaging 535 bags a week going to local students!

Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes are in the vestibules. Bring them to the church by November 15.

Dart ball practices are October 26 and November 2 at 7 P.M. The first game will be Nov. 9 at home with Windfall CCC.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
October 18, 2026

Benevolence	240.00
Current	3,582.85
Feed Crawford County	185.00
Filling Home	20.00
God Squad	370.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	40.00
Missionary	90.00
NALC Seminary	155.00
NALC Disaster Relief	245.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	90.00
Special Projects	180.00
Women of the Church	25.00
Total	$5,222.85

Attendance 106

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornadoes and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesday & Wednesdays 9:00 AM-Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM
	Choir practice 8:30 AM
	Worship/Communion 10 AM
Monday	Dartball Practice 7 PM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM
	Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.sulphur.com or St. Paul Lutheran church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in The high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd., Sulphur Springs, Ohio
419-562-5858

Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Lay Assistants, Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaullutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: stpaullutheran@embarqspace.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Be Free in Jesus Christ

What is freedom? Is it the right to do as we please or the right to be responsible? Surely the latter, because the exercise of responsibility brings true freedom.

This is what our redemption in Jesus Christ is all about. Paul writes in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." Later, he adds, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). And from Peter: "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God" (1 Peter 2:16). We have been freed from sin to become the servants of God. As such, we have true freedom.

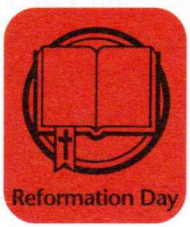
Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32). Doing God's will is a freedom that only God's children understand and enjoy.

To be free from sin and able to do good instead of evil is enough to raise shouts of joy that resound all the way to heaven.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for setting me free from sin. Give me joy in Your service. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: The Reformation was all about abiding in the Word of our Lord. Martin Luther did just that during his rediscovery of the Gospel, which resides plainly in the Lord's words of forgiveness. This forgiveness has been won for us by Jesus' death on the cross and delivered to us in His words. His words come to us with the water of Baptism to bring the power of His presence. Because of His Word, wherever we go, we know that Jesus is there. Wherever Jesus is, we also have truth and freedom.

Scripture: ESV®
Cover verse: John 8:31
Cover image: © Shutterstock.com
October 25, 2026
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26104

The Word of God



Reformation Sunday *October 25, 2026*

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of your Word, and bestow upon the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

6I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Psalm 46*

1God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present | help in trouble.
2Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*
and though the mountains be toppled
into the depths | of the sea;
3Though its waters | rage and foam,*
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.
4The LORD of | hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
5There is a river whose streams make glad the ci- | ty of God,*
the holy habitation of | the Most High.

[6]**God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;***
God shall help her at the | break of day.
[7]The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;*
God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.
[8]**The LORD of | hosts is with us;***
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
[9]Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*
what awesome things he has | done on earth.
[10]**It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;***
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the | shields with fire.
[11]"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted | in the earth."
[12]**The LORD of | hosts is with us;***
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20]For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. [21]But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — [22]the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26]It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. [27]Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28]For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

[31]Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33]They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" [34]Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36]So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Reformation Sunday after Pentecost **October 25, 2026**

For the Church's Mission

Lord Jesus, strengthen, sustain and guide your bride, the Church, to proclaim your love and demonstrate the power of your Holy Spirit. Make her bold and courageous in the face of ridicule and persecution in the world. We give you thanks for the life of Martin Luther, Reformer, teacher, saint and sinner; and all he contributed to the faith of generations that followed. Lord in your mercy…

C. Hear our prayer.

For Faithful Stewardship

Gracious Father, grant that the Holy Spirit would give us clarity of vision and a firm sense of your mission. And through our faithful participation in God's mission, the kingdom of heaven may be extended through us and through the gifts we bring. Lord in your mercy…

C. Hear our prayer.

For Bearing One Another's Burdens

God of compassion and concern, in your great love you have given us to one another, to live together in families, communities, and congregations. By your great grace and power, move us to have concern for one another, and in bearing each other's burdens we would fulfill the law of Christ. Lord in your mercy…

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Who are Ill

Jesus pointed his disciples to the Truth of his life and identity so that they would be free. We pray for all those who do not know Christ that they would hear and respond to the Truth. We also pray for all who are ill that they would know God's love in the midst of their illness and that the healing strength of your mercy may be theirs. Lord in your mercy…

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Revelation 7:[2-8] 9-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

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* The Book of Common Prayer verse numbers for this psalm are different from the numbering in the ESV.