



October reminds Lutherans of the Reformation, the return to the purity of God's Word. We imagine Luther pounding his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door at Wittenberg and admire his courage. October 31, Halloween to the culture of today, would be just another day except for the importance of what began as a return to God's Word. Praise God we know of the Reformation today which points to GRACE.

Our heritage in The Lutheran Church is a great blessing with its emphasis on the truth and purity of God's Word, the central focus on Christ and His work of salvation done by grace for us in fulfilling the will of the Father. All of Scripture points to Christ who was promised long ago and who has come and become human and lived and died and rose again from the dead overcoming sin, death, and power of the devil. The entire purpose of the Reformation, in the view of Luther, was to proclaim the good news of God's pure grace who redeemed us through Christ's life, suffering, death and resurrection.

The blessings of the Word and Sacraments administered according to Christ's institution gives us the continual forgiveness, comfort, and strength we need in a world and culture so opposed to the Gospel of Christ. Even in this election year, a year of coronavirus, a year of great unrest and upheaval in our country, we still are encouraged, comforted and strengthened in our vocations and lives through the sure and certain promises of God through Christ our Savior.

God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us and always strengthens our faith through the faithful preaching of the Word and the proper administration of the Sacraments as Christ has given them. In His Word and Sacraments, we receive the very blessings of the cross of Christ, receiving Christ Himself for our good, for forgiveness of sins and renewal and the encouragement to continue in our vocations and lives in this world of sorrow and trouble.

As we continue to proclaim God's Word, as has been given to us down through the years, we look to God's mercy through Christ for guidance as we face the world opposed to Christianity and the wonderful message of redemption in Christ. We are reminded by the celebration of the Reformation at the end of October of what was at stake when the Gospel was being slowly eroded and of the precious nature of God's pure Word and of the importance of maintaining God's Word. In truthfully proclaiming the Gospel, we are confessing our belief in Christ as our only Savior who has given His all for our redemption. In defending the truth of God's Word, we announce to the world around us that we will not abandon any truth of God's Word for any reason because we truly believe that the Scripture's sole, central purpose is to deliver Christ to us for our salvation, but also to those who do not yet know Him, that they too would know Christ.

As your pastor, I encourage you to vote this November because God Himself has ordained government (Rom. 13) for our good for the protection of Christ's church on earth so the Gospel would flourish and others would hear the wonderful message of Christ. Pray for our leaders that they would govern in such a way that the Church could continue in sharing the Good News of Christ as Savior to a world that needs so desperately to hear of Him who died for all (John 3:16).

Finally, trust Christ in all things who has promised that He is with us to the end of the age and that He will return again in glory to judge the living and the dead. The hymn writer reminds us of the great central truth of Scripture which is the most important message we proclaim because our salvation has come to us in Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

*Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our One Redeemer.*

TLH 377 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" stanza 1

In Christ, Pastor Ahrendt