Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

October 2026

THE HOLY WORK OF RECONCILATION & RENEWAL

https://www.livinglutheran.org/theology-beliefs/the-holy-work-of-reconciliation-and-renewal/

Series editor's note: *The 2026 theme for "Deeper understandings" is faithful witness in challenging times. This year, various authors will explore what it means for the ELCA, and each of us as Lutherans, to face the headwinds of societal fracture, loneliness and political contention, and to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ that forgives, frees and transforms not only us individually but the whole world. We hope you will be encouraged and empowered to plant your feet firmly on the rock of our faith and speak joyfully and hopefully about the power of the gospel to foster peace and justice in a world desperately in need of both.*

—Kristin Johnston Largen, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, on behalf of the ELCA's seminaries

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19).

Before I became a college president, I was a lawyer and a politician.

Nearly 30 years have passed since I began my career working for a judge in the federal district court in Pierre, S.D., yet I still have vivid memories of certain witnesses and their testimony in both criminal and civil cases. I recall moments of intense emotion in the courtroom, especially in criminal cases: the anxiety of victims, the remorse of defendants and, at times, the frustration of prosecutors and defense attorneys.

I ran for Congress a few years later. Though this was over 20 years ago, I distinctly remember standing in the dusty office of a grain elevator in north-central South Dakota, talking with the manager about market prices and agriculture policies. I could sense his initial skepticism of me, and I recall feeling some initial discomfort with him, but before long, we connected. I was grateful for his time and insights, and he seemed impressed that I had shown up, listened and asked questions.

Over the past nine years, I've had the privilege of leading Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D. It's been an extraordinary time in higher education. Demographic shifts, the COVID-19 pandemic, policy changes, technology and artificial intelligence have all been disruptive. Yet I feel truly blessed to be in a professional setting that surrounds young people with care and opportunity as we witness their growth and discernment. We've navigated a lot of change together.

In addition to the chapel in the heart of Augustana's campus, we established an interfaith reflection room in the student union in 2014. A few years ago, we built a new residence hall next to the beautiful campus green, which included a space that administrators thought would be better suited for the interfaith room. During the winter break, the room was moved from the student union to the new residence hall, which did not go over well with some students. They expressed their anger and dismay on social media, the local newspaper decided to cover the issue, the university was in reaction mode, and hurt feelings were felt all around.

Moving the interfaith room had included some prior consultation and communication, so we might have held firm. But I thought it important to convene a broader meeting among student leaders, faculty advisers and administrators to discuss what had happened, why, and how we might move forward. As the meeting started, emotions were running high. I began by apologizing to the students on behalf of the university for moving the interfaith room during the break. Then two recent graduates offered helpful historical context about why the room was originally located in the student union.

Over the course of the meeting, everyone listened respectfully, asked good and challenging questions, offered diverse perspectives, and deepened their understanding of the situation. We all learned from this honest interaction. After the meeting, the administration made the decision to move the interfaith room back to the student union. (I came to know well one of the student leaders who attended the meeting. He graduated last spring, and his parents traveled from Nepal to celebrate him.)

The document "Rooted and Open: The Common Calling of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities" states: "The essential relationality of Lutheran theology believes that individuals flourish only as they are embedded in larger communities, families, civic spaces and ecosystems that are also empowered to flourish. Cherishing and protecting healthy communities go hand-in-hand with cherishing and protecting the well-being of individuals." The anecdote of the interfaith room highlights the importance of history, spaces, agency and communication in cherishing and protecting both communities and individuals.

When I reflect on my career and my leadership journey, I recognize clearly the importance of building context and relationships in serving other people—as individuals, communities or organizations. This always begins with listening and learning; it also requires both showing up and convening gatherings with care and attention. The purpose: so we can share stories, experiences and perspectives that facilitate mutual respect and flourishing. The challenge: a social environment in which people are prone to judge quickly and harshly as well as a political culture marked by outrage and distrust.

Bearing witness requires a daily recommitment to overcoming that challenge, which can be very difficult. It requires discipline, courage and emotional energy. But if we remain curious, ask good questions, and make time to form new relationships and repair damaged ones, we honor God. And when, as servant leaders in our families, communities, churches and workplaces, we convene meaningful gatherings and lean into society's tensions with humility rather than seek to avoid or perpetuate conflict, we do the hard work God calls us to do—the holy work of reconciliation and renewal.

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin is president of Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D., and a former member of the U.S. Congress.

DATES TO REMEMBER

CROP Walk: October 4th

Articles Due for November Tidings: October 16th

Trick or Trunk: October 31st

Annual Cookie Walk and Craft Event: November 17th & 18th (Page 7)

Reformation Sunday: October 25th (Page 6)

Noisy Bucket Offering: October 25th

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continues to work through the process of seeking a new pastor. For now, updates will be shared in the church bulletin as they become available. When we reach the stage of interviewing candidates, we will have more frequent updates to share, so please continue to check the bulletin regularly for the latest information.

Men's Night Out

We will meet for dinner and fellowship on **Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 pm**

Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, October 14th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

The Pregnancy Center

The center has a specific need for size 4 and 5 diapers. Please place your donation in the basket in the Gathering Area.

Men's Breakfast

We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on… **Thursday, October 8th at 8:30am.**
Hope to see you there!

Worship Opportunities

As the summer comes to an end and things start up for the fall, beginning with the outdoor worship service on September 13th and our Fall Kickoff Picnic, **please take time to consider all of the worship opportunities available to you at Peace Lutheran Church.**

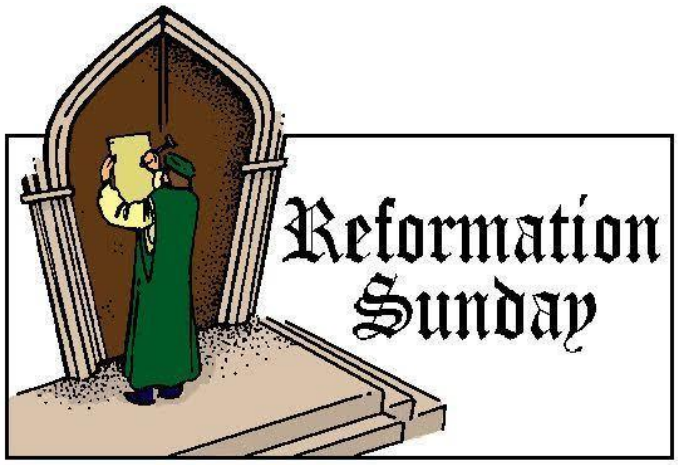
Each week it takes dozens of God's people working together to make worship happen. **You can be part of the ministry of worship** as an acolyte, the Altar Guild, Singing in the Choir, Providing flowers for the Altar, Lay Ministry, Lecturing, the Sound Booth, providing special music during the worship service, ushering, or maybe a worship assistant. All members are welcome to assist in the position(s) they choose to volunteer for. **Interested but unsure of procedures?….training is available for all ministries.** Please let the office know where your talents lay and we will point you in the right direction.

Other opportunities for you at Peace is to be a part of one of our many teams. Maybe you would like to be part of the church council. Our teams include: The Audit Team, The Caring Team, The Communications Team, The Community Action Team, The Executive Team, The Giving/Finance/Stewardship Team, The Growing in Faith Team, The Mutual Ministry Team, The Nominating Team, The Property Team, The Technology and Personnel Team, and the Worship and Music Team. Maybe you would like to help teach Sunday school classes for either the children or an Adult class. Please let the office know and you will be pointed in the correct direction.

Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of April, we are collecting **Stove Top Stuffing**. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of the Helping Hands Ministry bulletin board to place donations. Thank you for your support!

Reformation Sunday – October 25, 2026



Your worship team is planning to celebrate Reformation Sunday with a German-themed potluck.

We are also combining this with Pastor Appreciation Sunday! Brats and fixings will be provided.

It's going to be a really fun party!!

So wear red and think about a favorite dish to share and it does not have to be German!

Why Red?

- It matches the official liturgical color used on the altar and clergy vestments for the day.
- It represents the energy of the Holy Spirit guiding the church.
- It honors the courage of reformers and Christian martyrs.

Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to attend our Bible study started in September! **We meet monthly on the second Saturday at 10:30 am.**

We are currently studying the Women of the Old Testament.

Our meetings are informal with casual discussions. We usually meet for one hour. Contact Sandy Hassen with any questions.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT EVENT

The annual cookie walk/craft show will be held on Friday, November 13 from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, November 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. We are again asking our members to provide baked goods for the event.

Starting Sunday, October 4, **volunteer Sign-up sheets** will be available for:

1) Baked items (cookies, bread, pies, candy, etc.)
2) Workers to help during the event

Cookie containers will also be available in the gathering area on Sundays starting October 4th. Cookies can be stored or frozen in the containers.

If any of you are crafters and would like to donate your creations for our craft show, they would be greatly appreciated!

We will again have several great raffle items available.

Of the total sales at this event, 10% will be donated to a local charity; the remaining 90% will go into our Capital Fund to be used for much needed projects at Peace. Thank you for creating, baking and shopping! All that you do benefits our community and our congregation.

At our spring vendor show, several vendors expressed interest in participating in the Cookie Walk show. Therefore, 7 outside vendors have been invited to participate this year.

Baptism!

On Sunday, September 27th, we celebrated Miekaela's baptism!

Writing to your sponsored Compassion child

Did you know you can send more than a message? You can send Photos, Drawings, Coloring pages, Printable activities, Paper crafts.

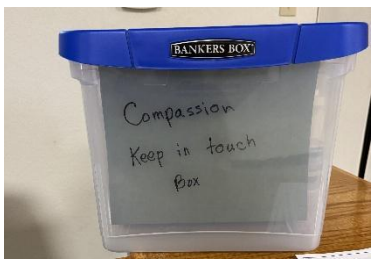
Before we dive into all the creative extras you can send, here's something important: The words you write will always be the greatest gift.

Postcards
Heading off on a holiday? Pick up a postcard to tuck into your next letter when you get home to show your sponsored child your adventures.

Photos and Photo Collages
Kids love seeing what their sponsor looks like and getting a glimpse into everyday life on the other side of the world. Share photos of yourself, your family, your pets or a recent adventure.

Drawings and Coloring Pages
One person suggested outlining your hand and then asking your child to send back an outline of his/her hand!
Illustrated Bible Verses
Printable Paper Crafts and Activities
Creative Paper Extras

If it fits in an envelope and lies flat, it's worth considering! Paper dolls, bookmarks, word searches, calendars, printable puzzles and other paper surprises can add a little extra fun to your sponsored child's day. As long as it will scan, it's good to go.
Please follow these simple guidelines to help your sponsored child receive everything quickly and easily.



Paper items should between **3 x 5" and 8 ½ x 11"**.
You can mail up to **six sheets of paper** at a time for each child.
Write your sponsor ID and your sponsored child's name and ID on each paper item.
Include a **written note** with the items you send.

To make this easier I have put together a box with ideas and items you can send. It's at the welcome desk. Help yourself!

Follow Peace Lutheran Now on Instagram!

Find and follow using this QR code or search @peacecharlottemi.

When buying ink from Staples for you or your family please consider using Peace's phone number when checking out. Your purchase of ink can apply to Peace's Rewards program. The office uses the rewards dollars for supplies for our church.

Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing

They turn these tabs in to cash to help support the House. The House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical treatment.

This is a simple way to help support the House, just pull those tabs off the cans and **place them in the container at church** and Dar will see that they get over to Ronald McDonald House.

Worship Ministry
October 2026

Date	Sunday 10/4	Sunday 10/11	Sunday 10/18	Sunday 10/25
Altar Guild	Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
Audio/ Visual	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert	Scott and Connie Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	The Lumbert's	The Lumbert's	The Lumbert's	Reformation Sunday Potluck
Flowers	The Lumbert's	Dian Leckrone	Mike and Carissa Hueter	Brenda Morris
Lector	Lorene Crigier	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Lorene Crigier
Pastor	Pastor Frank Rothfus	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Kristin Fawcett	Pastor Dave Augenstein
Ushers	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**	**Volunteer Needed**
Worship Assistant	Bruce Hassen	Bruce Hassen	Bruce Hassen	Bruce Hassen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 2:00 pm CROP WALK @ Bennett Park Pastor Frank Rothfus	5	6 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	7 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast@Eaton Place 1:00 pm SOP Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 am Golf Outing at Meadowbrook Golf Course	10
11 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Pastor Dave Augenstein	12	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 6:00 pm AA Meeting	15 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 Articles for the Newsletter	17
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School Pastor Kristin Fawcett	19	20 7:00 pm G/F/S Team Meeting	21 11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	22 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24

25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship w/ Noisy Offering 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School Pastor Dave Augenstein	26	27 6:00 pm Men's Night Out @ The Eaton Place	28 1:00 am Personnel/IT Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	29 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 Trick or Trunk

Church Calendar – October 2026

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon gore.kristin88@gmail.com

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Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.

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