

First Reading: Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then I 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."

Epistle: 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 stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in

Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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.

²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Holy Gospel: John 8:31–36

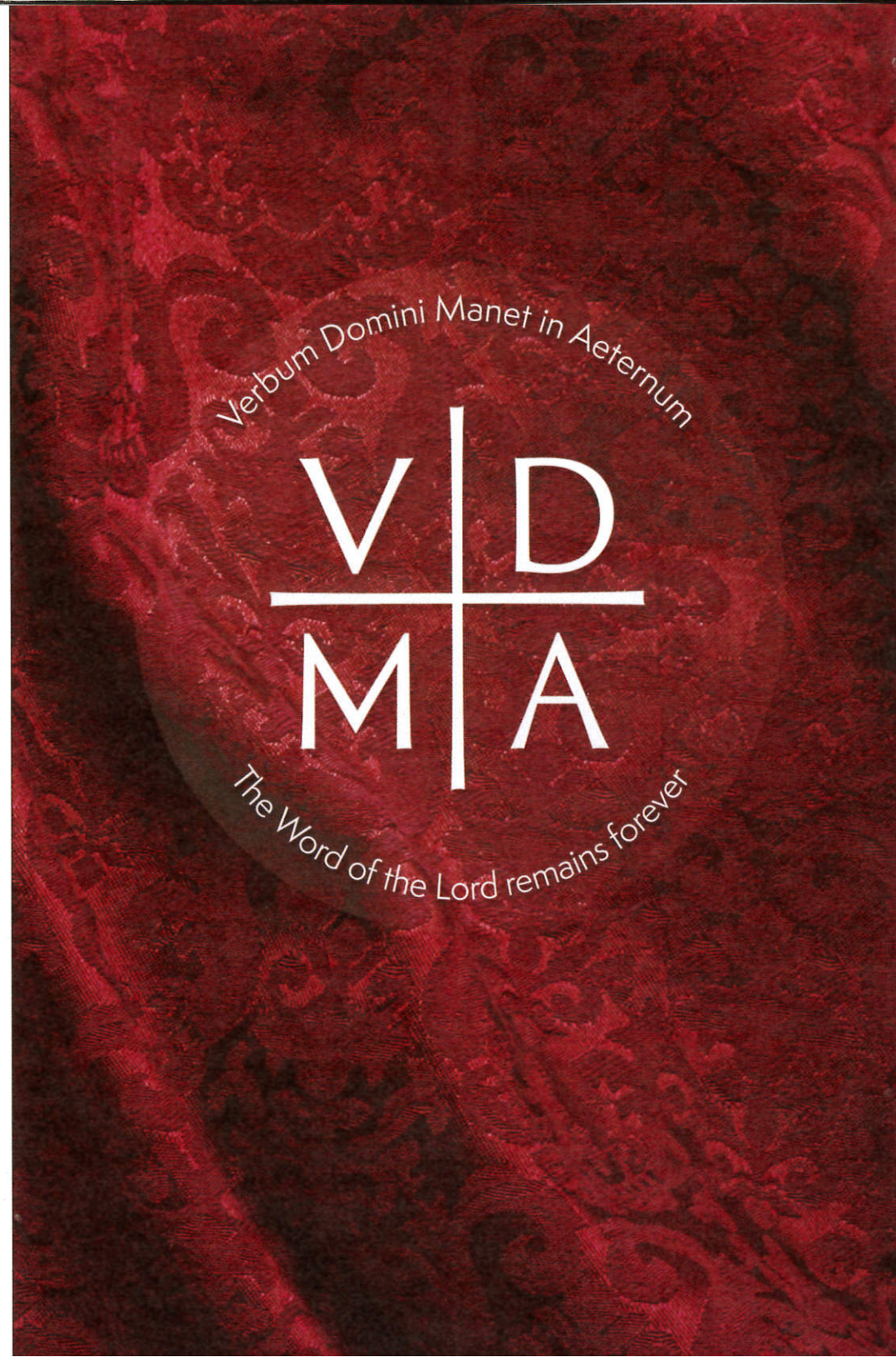
³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."



About the Cover: VDMA, a popular insignia of the Reformation, is an acronym for *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum*, which is Latin for "the Word of the Lord remains forever" (see Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25). Amid strife and trouble from all directions, the reformers held that the Word would remain. Nothing can quash God's Word. St. Peter directly applied the words of Isaiah to the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection. Nothing in this world can take Jesus away from us. Even if everything else is gone, the Word will always remain. The Reformation is a call to confidence, consolation, and courage in nothing other than the Word of the Lord. "The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever" (1 Peter 1:24–25).



St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

October 29, 2023

Reformation Day (observed)

Divine Service Setting One (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)

Hymn of Invocation 793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Invocation and Versicles (p. 151)

Entrance Hymn 582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

The Kyrie (p. 152)

Hymn of Praise: *This Is the Feast* (p. 155)

Salutation and Collect (p. 156)

P Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.** *(sung)*

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual

Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!

**Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,
consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
that this is God, our God forever and ever.**

Alleluia and Verse (Common, p. 156)

Hymn of the Day 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Sermon

Nicene Creed (p. 158)

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P ...one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (p. 159)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the Sacrament at St. John's.)

Distribution Hymns

865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

831 "How Shall They Hear," Who Have Not Heard

Post-Communion Cantic: *Thank the Lord* (p. 164)

Hymn to Depart 658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

Rev. Roger B. James is Assistant to the Secretary General of the International Lutheran Council. Prior to this he was a missionary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (2012-2020) serving in Asia with his wife Amy. Before entering missions, Rev. James served twenty years a parish pastor. The Jameses have been blessed with four children (all married) and an increasing number of grandchildren.



The International Lutheran Council is a world-wide association of over 50 confessional Lutheran church bodies, committed to Holy Scriptures as the inspired and infallible Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions as the true exposition of those Scriptures. The ILC strives to strengthen Lutheran churches in their proclamation of the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in holding fast to the whole counsel of God given in the Bible.

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INTERNATIONAL Lutheran Council

We are a growing worldwide association of established confessional Lutheran church bodies that proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of an unconditional commitment to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and infallible Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as the true and faithful exposition of the Word of God.



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Mercy Assistance

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ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Carl Freeman

Organist: Gail Tutt

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Ascended Lord, who as Word came to dwell among us, that we might know the love of the Father, lead us ever deeper into the Scriptures—under the blessed guidance of the Holy Spirit—that we learn again and again of the freedom from sin and the Law that Your Gospel has brought us, and that we increase more and more in the life lived to Your Glory through willing service to our fellowman; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday—Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to have daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—8 Adult Bible Class—10 Worship—56

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday	\$3,200.00
Weekly income needed per 2023 Budget	\$4,212.60
Dollar for Missions for September	\$ 93.00

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
		Mission Sunday
	11:30 pm	Potluck Dinner
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Confirmation class
Thursday	6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Elders' meeting

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

JOHN 8:36 – "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel — but he also called himself "the apostle of good works." For only by being set free by the Gospel can we do good works. Jesus has set us free: His blood covers over our sins, and now we stand before God as His beloved children, invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

THANK YOU REVEREND JAMES for sharing the work of ILC with us this morning and bringing us the Word of God during our worship service. We thank our Heavenly Father for your ministry and pray that many will hear the saving message of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for our salvation.

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

MISSION SUNDAY 2023— Mission Sunday is celebrated today along with Reformation Sunday.

Join us after worship for a potluck dinner. Pulled pork, buns and drinks are furnished by Evangelism/Stewardship Board along with many sides and desserts.

A free-will offering is begin taken for the work of ILC. Place your gifts in the plate in the Narthex on the small table.

ALL SAINTS DAY—Crosses will again be hung in the sanctuary on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 5. If you have people to be added this year, please sign the paper on the table by the coat room. A listing of those already having crosses is also there.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS—We are asking the congregation to bring pantry items for the baskets (ex: cereal, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, soups, crackers, cookies, fruit juice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruits/vegetables, peanut butter, snack items, canned meats, etc.). Place them in the box in front of the Office no later than November 19th. A Thrivent Action Plan has been obtained to provide fresh items for the baskets.

2024 Wall Calendars—Hillcrest Home would be very happy to receive your extra 2024 wall calendars to hang in their patients' rooms. Please place them in the tray on the table by the coat room. Thank you!

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: A Dollar for Missions gathers many small gifts – one dollar at a time! – to add up to a big impact for the spread of the saving Gospel of Christ. The current Dollars for Missions Project is to raise \$20k for stipends to pastors to begin visiting four new prisons or jails in 2024.

ALTAR FLOWERS—The **2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms**. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray for sustenance of the Sacrament of the Altar*, that God would grant faith unto eternal life.

ST JOHN'S—Mrs. Carmen Sette—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Carmen and Steve and ask Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Betty Firch	Wanda Rahn
Paula Chapa	Arlyn Helke	Drew Schillinger
Jim Dahl	Lynne Johnson	Marilyn Woods
Jessica Johnson	Aaron Raschke	Carolyn Werner

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (2022/2023 Adopted seminary student)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St. John Laborer for Christ)

Bruce & Debbie Bley (sister & brother-in-law of Cathy Schillinger)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Mike Erdman (nephew of Bob Erdman)

Shandel Loenser (wife of Gabe Loenser)

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Jim DeFauw (son of Joyce DeFauw)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Reformation Day

31 October 2023 (observed 29 October 2023)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

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

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, sustain Your Church. Deliver her from error and preserve in her the proclamation of Your Gospel, that it would resound to every nation, tribe, people and language and that all may fear and give You glory. Bless especially the work of the International Lutheran Council in their labors to encourage, strengthen, and promote confessional Lutheran theology and practice which is Christ-centered and founded on the divine Word alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all ministers of Your Word. Help them rightly to preach Your Law so that all are held accountable to You without excuse and joyfully proclaim Your Gospel, that all would know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, look with compassion on all who are blind to the bondage of their sin. Open their eyes by the words of Jesus, and grant them the true freedom of sonship and a permanent place in Your household. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, make us truly Your disciples. Keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, give us courage in the face of affliction, wisdom to recognize the world's lies, and strength to resist temptation and sin. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve husbands and wives in faithfulness and love. Encourage parents for their godly task so that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord and Your Holy Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all civil authorities, especially our president; Congress; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Protect them from the temptations that beset their offices, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve with integrity. Bring peace to the nations, restrain warmongers and violent people. Guard and protect our service members in body and soul, and empower them to serve with honor and integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we thank You for the gracious healing that you have provided to be near to Nancy and Kim. Continue to hear all who cry to You for healing of body and soul, especially Elizabeth, Bruce, Debbie, Paula, Jim, Jim, Don, Michael, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Shandel, Jodi, Marilyn, Wanda, Aaron, Laurie, Drew, Carolyn, Paul, Carolyn, and Marilyn. Grant them release from their afflictions according to Your will. Sustain their hope in the full and final healing that awaits them at the day of Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly King, remember Steve and Carmen Sette. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all who come to the altar to partake of Christ's own body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Grant them repentant hearts that seek to amend their lives, and by Your Spirit align them with Your will and purpose. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home to see our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Presentation of the Offering

Dear Lord Jesus, accept our offering and use it to preach the Gospel where we in person cannot go. With hearts united we ask You to bless the labors of Your Gospel ambassadors wherever they serve and open new opportunities that those in darkness may know the light of Christ's forgiveness and salvation. Give to missionaries, pastors, teachers, and all Your people zeal and courage to confess Your name before men; and to the people among whom they labor and witness give ears that hear, opening souls to repent and believe. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.