

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

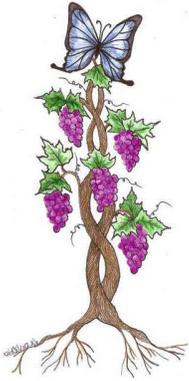
October 27, 2019

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



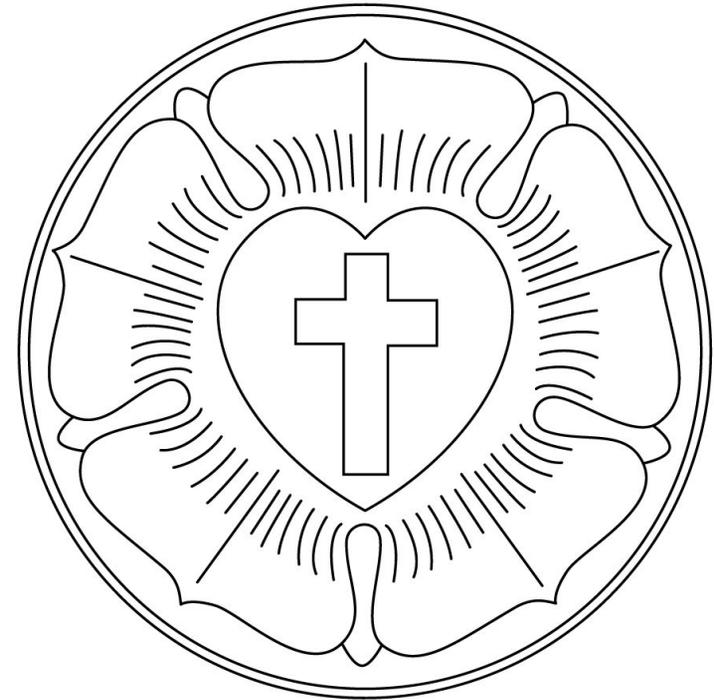
Reformation Sunday

If you were on a big ship in the middle of the ocean, and you fell overboard, what do you think the captain of the ship would do? Would she tell you to start swimming and point in the direction of land? Do you think the captain, seeing that you were drowning in the ocean, might say something to you like: "I'll throw you the life ring but only if you can prove to me that you're really worth saving? Or "If you can climb halfway up the side of the ship, then I'll pull you the rest of the way up." Do you think captain would make you try to work your way up the side of the ship when she can see that you're almost drowning? Of course not! She would rescue you, right? The captain, or one of the crew, would probably throw you a life preserver or something that you could hang onto to keep you afloat. Once you had a good hold on that flotation device, they would pull you back onto the ship and save you from drowning. Let me read you a verse from the Bible that is found in the book of Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— not because of works, lest anyone should boast." Like that person drowning in the ocean, God rescues us, not because of anything that we do, but simply because God loves us.

Today is Reformation Sunday. On this day, we remember how Martin Luther and other Christians of his time, wanted to change the way the church taught people about God's love. At that time, the church was telling people that they had to work their way into heaven. Some people even thought they could pay their way into heaven! Luther knew that this was not what the Bible said. He knew that all of us are sinners and we need to be saved by Jesus. So, Luther reformed, or changed the church for the better, by telling people what the Bible said. The printing press was invented around the same time, so lots of Bibles could be printed and people could read the Bible for themselves. We are saved by grace, just because God loves us. It's nothing that we can brag about. It is simply a wonderful gift. Let's bow our heads and thank God for this gift.

Thank you God, for sending Jesus to be our life preserver and for your gift of amazing grace. Amen.

*adapted from Ruth Gilmore



Luther Rose

- The **black cross** reminds us we are saved from sin because Jesus died on the cross.
- The **red heart** reminds us we live because Jesus shed his blood for us, our faith in him has saved us.
- The **white rose** reminds us that our faith gives us joy, comfort, and peace, white is to remind us this is peace like the angels enjoy.
- The **blue background** reminds us of the sky and the hope that we will one day meet Jesus in heaven.
- The **gold circle** is precious, it reminds us of heaven's endless joy. A circle is an endless shape.

Family Table Prayer for October: For football, pumpkins, and cooler weather
For hay rides and leaves that fall
Lord, we thank you for this family table, and for food that feeds us all. Amen.

October Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.