**Preparation for Worship:** Open our hearts to your Word, O Lord, and renew our faith by your truth. May we worship with grateful spirits and follow Christ with courage, humility and joy. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able* ***Bold*** *Items read in unison*

## GATHERING We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: **I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.** (Psalm 121:1-2)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *A Mighty Fortress* . . . . . Red **#141**

Communion Exhortation

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response: (sung, #522, v.1) **Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured— There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.)**

## WORD We seek guidance from God's Word

Revelation 14:1-7 New Testament

Psalm 46 Responsive Reading

* Matthew 22:34-46 * Gospel

* Confession of Faith (Apostles' Creed): **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Children's Sermon

Hymn – *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* . . . . . Red **#299**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 Epistle

Sermon – *A Disciple Proclaims the Gospel* . . . . . Pastor Barry Nelson

## MEAL The Table of Our Lord

Hymn – *Break Thou the Bread of Life* . . . . . Red **#257**

* Lord's Prayer: **Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

## SENDING We go out to live in & share God's Word

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Table Prayer: (same melody as Doxology) **Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we; May strengthened for Thy service be. Amen.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**A Letter from Christ**

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."

**Welcome!** Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God's Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him. Please be sure to introduce yourself and sign our guest register as you leave.

**Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – October 18, 2026**

***First Am:*** General—$1580.75. Benevolence—$30. ND Fence Project—$1000. Noisy Offering for OCC Supplies—$104.04. Sunday School—$29. Budget per Sun—$2068.


**Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches**

**Pastor Barry Nelson**

**First American Lutheran Church**
300 S. Carpenter  PO Box 459
Tripp, SD 57376
Parish office/Parsonage: 935-6941
Parish Email: firsthope@santel.net

**Hope Lutheran Church**
200 S. Wilson  PO Box 127
Delmont, SD 57330
Pastor Barry: 612-868-0789
Parish Website: www.FAHope.org

# Today's Readings

October 25, 2026 Reformation Sunday

## New Testament Revelation 14:1-7

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. 3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. 5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. 6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

## Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way**
**and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**
3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
**the holy place where the Most High dwells.**
5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
**6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;**
**he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**
7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
**8 Come and see what the LORD has done,**
**the desolations he has brought on the earth.**
9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
**10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."**
11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. C:* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." 41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."' 45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

** Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. * C:* ***Praise to You, O Christ.***

## Sermon Text: Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Lessons – November 1, 2026 New Testament – Revelation 5:6-14 Psalm 149
Epistle – 1 John 3:1-3 Gospel – Matthew 23:1-12

## This Week in the Parish - October 25 – November 1

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|---|---|---|
| TODAY! | 6:30 pm | Community Youth Group at First American |
| MONDAY | Newsletter Deadline! | |
| SUNDAY | All Saints Sunday | |
| | 9:00 am | First American Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 am | Hope Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | First American Sunday School |
| | 10:45 am | Hope Worship Service with Holy Communion |

Prayer in our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off will be in italics.

**Health Needs of our Members:** Maurice Bueber. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Robert Kurtz. Sue Neumeister. Glendora Zeitner.
**Health Needs:** Joan Falor (mother of Barb Dozark). Paula Gruesing (niece of Russ Dozark). *Elaine Jones* (mother of Melissa Schmidt). *Melody McKittrick* (Tripp-Delmont teacher). Nicole Rude (niece of Tammy Ziegler). Colin Strombeck (Tripp community). Bobbi Toole (sister of Lila Fechner).
**Sympathy:** Prayers of comfort for the family & friends of *Elmer Bietz* (First Am), Herman Fink (Delmont), *Lorene Jerke* (Hope), Pastor Greg Way (former Tripp resident & Friedens Reformed pastor).
**Birthdays:** 29 Jazayah Tegethoff. 31 James Bueber, Willmer Herr.
**AFLC Churches:** Word of Truth Lutheran, Kopperl, TX; Maranatha Free Lutheran, Ulen, MN; Good Shepherd Free Lutheran, Madison, SD.
**Mission:** Our organist & pianists

**Luther and the Bible**

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony. While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German.

This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another. Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

# 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

"A Disciple Proclaims the Gospel" October 25, 2026

### 1. With Courage

### 2. With Care

### 3. With Conviction

## “Pinky Day”



Thank you for joining us as we celebrate Pinky Huether’s 60 years playing the organ at First American & for her years of filling in at Hope as well.

Pinky started piano lessons at eight or nine years old from Mrs. Goodell. She followed in her sister, Cheryl’s footsteps, when at the ripe old age of 14 years, she was asked by her parents, Heine & Rosie Prien, to try her hand at playing the organ for church. A few organ lessons from Judy Mikuska Konrad and a 60 year commitment began. At the birth of each of her four daughters, Pinky took a little time off but other than that, she’s been on the organ bench.

### The comfort of our middle-C God

During college, while living in a boarding house, author Lloyd Douglas befriended a retiree. The man, a homebound former music teacher, shared a morning ritual with Douglas, who would walk down to the man’s floor, open his door and ask, “What’s the good news?”

Every day the man responded by tapping a tuning fork against his wheelchair and saying, “That’s middle C. It was middle C yesterday. It will be middle C tomorrow. It will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, that is middle C!”

If middle C’s pitch value isn’t exactly 261.63 Hz, then your piano needs to be tuned. How comforting that dependability is for musicians — and their listeners.

Like middle C, God is steadfast and reliable. In this fast-paced world, praise God for the good news he declares to us: “I the LORD do not change” (Malachi 3:6).

“I am strongly persuaded that after theology there is no art that can be placed on a level with music; for besides theology music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of the heart.”
– Martin Luther

### Music and the riddles of life

The author of the 49th psalm developed a wise practice as he contemplated the problems he faced. "I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp" (Psalm 49:4 ), he wrote. He found encouragement to meet life's difficulties by getting involved with music.



Good music does indeed help our mind and spirit. Whether we play an instrument or sing or simply listen to the harmonies and rhythms of a piano or organ, a band or an orchestra, a soloist or a choir, we may often find "the wild beasts" within us being tamed or at least put under control. Good music imparts inspiration and grace to the fretful spirit. Think about this: if music is so beneficial for the human spirit, shouldn't those of us who are musically talented use our voice or musical instrument to aid others in worshiping God? This is a challenge to you who have been given the gift of a good voice or playing a musical instrument to join the music program of the church



**Pinky & the Men’s Choir – 2003**