Nevember 1, 2026
Reformation

Abiding Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church

8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Everyone is welcome to join us after the service for a potluck.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END –

IT'S TIME TO STAY STEADFAST

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready. "The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Jesus told his followers, "You will be hated by everyone because of me" (Matthew 10:22). So, the time between Christ's first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example: Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do just that, both political and religious leaders wanted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes our unfailing reliance on the Word of God. We give unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith.

HYMN: NOT WHAT MY HANDS HAVE DONE 572

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS
We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
Amen.

1008 Gloria (Amer) - NETTLETON
1 Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those he loves so well.
On the earth let all his people speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty Father, heaven's King;
hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.

2 Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated— for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father with the Spirit, Three in One!
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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING **DANIEL 6:10–12,16–23**

[10]Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
[11]Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.
[12]So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

[16]So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

[17]A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. [18]Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

[19]At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. [20]When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

[21]Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! [22]My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

[23]The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46D: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD **Psalter pg 238**

SECOND READING **ROMANS 3:19–28**

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20]Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

[21]But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22]This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [25]God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— [26]he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

[27]Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. [28]For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

GOSPEL **MATTHEW 10:16–23**

[16]"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. [17]Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. [18]On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. [19]But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, [20]for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

[21]"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. [22]You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. [23]When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN: REFORMATION SONG 877

SERMON on ROMANS 3:19–28

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will 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.

Offering *(At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Almighty and eternal God, when the set time had come, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and endure the just punishment for our sins. You raised him from death in glorious splendor and for his sake, you richly and daily forgive sins.
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

When the set time had come, you poured out your Spirit on your people and called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation to all the world.
The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

When the set time had come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure teaching of the Scriptures. You granted power and success to the proclamation of the gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

When the set time had come, you made our fathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. Guided by your Spirit, they joined hands and hearts under a shared confession and with a determined resolve to work together in the ministry. You have blessed their sons and daughters and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son.
Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Let this be the time when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our church's past.
May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us or forsake us.

Let this be a time to imitate the kind-hearted souls in our church who served the sick, helped the disabled, cared for the abandoned, and comforted the dying. Provide occasions to serve them and times to pray for them. [We pray especially today for… *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Keep all your children in your powerful and gracious care.
As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Let this be a time when we recommit ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. And give us faith to take up again the trumpet none can silence or mistake and grant us courage to proclaim once more for all the world to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast!
May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

Let this time and all our times be used to give thanks for your grace in Christ and to praise you for calling us into your mission to save.
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love and establish the work of our hands. Amen.

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.

Be seated

HYMN: YOUR WORKS, NOT MINE, O CHRIST 560

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

HYMN: HIS ROBES FOR MINE 568