

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Service Bulletin

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25th Anniversary Celebration of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

**REFORMATION DAY 2024**

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### OPENING

*The liturgy begins at the baptismal font. Everyone faces the font.*

### TRINITARIAN GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

### THANKSGIVING

We gather around the font remembering that in baptism we have been incorporated into the one Body of Christ. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

*Water is poured into the font during this prayer.*

"Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." **Amen.**

Let us confess our faith together...

Do you believe in God the Father?

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**We believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's 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 the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

*Congregation is seated.*

## WELCOME

Today we mark the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking ecumenical statement, the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. It signifies a major consensus between Lutherans and Catholics on a doctrine that divided the church in the 16th century.

Today the Joint Declaration continues to challenge us, asking Catholics and Lutherans, as well as those who have associated with it – Methodists, Anglicans, and Reformed – what is the message of justification for the world today?

How do we embody its truth in all spiritual and ecclesial practices and in works of justice? The JDDJ pushes us to ask questions about the nature of the church and communion. We rejoice in the achievements made and in the further questions posed.

Now, together, let us listen to the Word of God, pray, and give thanks.

## WORD

### **First Reading – Romans 3:21-28**

(A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.)

Paul writes: "But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift,

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous, and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.”

Word of God! Word of life!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

### **GOSPEL – John 15:1-5**

(A reading from the Gospel according to John.)

Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

Word of God! Word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

### **READING**

We now hear two excerpts from the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification and the Annex to the Official Common Statement:

The doctrine of justification is that measure or touchstone for the Christian faith. No teaching may contradict this criterion. In this sense, the doctrine of justification is an “indispensable criterion that constantly serves to orient all the teaching and practice of our churches to Christ” (JD 18).

As such, it has its truth and specific meaning within the overall context of the Church's fundamental Trinitarian confession of faith.

We "share the goal of confessing Christ in all things, who alone is to be trusted above all things as the one Mediator (1 Tim 2:5- 6) through whom God in the Holy Spirit gives himself and pours out his renewing gifts" (JD 18).

Our consensus in basic truths of the doctrine of justification must come to influence the life and teachings of our churches. Here it must prove itself. In this respect, there are still questions of varying importance which need further clarification. These include, among other topics, the relationship between the Word of God and church doctrine, as well as ecclesiology, ecclesial authority, church unity, ministry, the sacraments, and the relation between justification and social ethics. We are convinced that the consensus we have reached offers a solid basis for this clarification. (JD 43)

Our prayer continues as the light of Christ moves among us. We proclaim Christ who calls us to witness to God's reconciling and resurrecting love as we walk and pray and work together.

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER – ELW pg. 112

#### OFFERATORY PRAYER

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BLESSING

God be gracious to us and bless us! **Amen!**

O God, make your face shine upon us, make your ways be known upon the earth, your saving power among all peoples. **Amen!**

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (+), bless us and all creation. Keep us in your way together in hope. **Amen!**

#### SENDING

Go in peace in common witness and service! Thanks be to God.

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leader	Lauren Aldred
Lector	Rev. Peter Zimmer

## OSLC Calendar of Events:

- Oct 27th - 9:45 AM – Traditional worship service  
-11:00 AM – Explore worship - art  
-5:00-8:00 PM – 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Group
- Nov 3rd -9:45 AM – Traditional worship service – All Saint's Sunday (all are welcome to participate in honoring the saints in our lives)  
-5:00-8:00 PM – 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Group
- Nov 10th -10:00 AM- Online worship service only –  
Lutheran Church of the Cross (Victoria), No in-person worship service

**Youth Group** is in search of certain activity items. If you have the following and would like to donate, please let us know!

- 1 pair of women's size 9 warm winter boots
- Mittens/gloves, scarves and hats
- 2 pairs of women's size 9 figure skates
- 1 pair of women's size 10 figure skates
- 1 pair of women's size 11 figure skates, or men's size 9 figure skates

## Offering / Giving

**Thank you to those who so generously give of their time, talents and gifts. We provide several options for you to contribute. If you require a charitable tax receipt for your donation,** please contact the church office at [oslcospika@gmail.com](mailto:oslcospika@gmail.com) or 250-564-4336 to provide your name, address and email in order to register with us, so we may issue a charitable tax receipt and an envelope number. Tax receipts are issued by February of each year for the previous year.

Giving may be made in the following ways:

- Electronic transfer to [oslcdonation@gmail.com](mailto:oslcdonation@gmail.com) Please provide your envelope number and the purpose of the donation (e.g. general offering, etc.). We require your contact details in order to issue a tax receipt.
- Cheque: Mailed or placed in church mailbox or donated during Sunday worship service. Please provide: envelope number, if you have one; purpose of donation.
- Cash: Please only provide cash during Sunday morning worship service or during office hours. Place in envelope with details in order to receive tax receipt.
- OSLC website: Canada Helps: [Donate Now - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Prince George \(canadahelps.org\)](http://canadahelps.org) – **Canada Helps will issue a tax receipt directly to you**

Thank you for making a difference in many people's lives through your ongoing financial support and participation in the mission of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.