



Lime Creek Lutheran Church | Lake Mills, Iowa | D. Moldstad, 2018

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS GOD HAS DONE

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1918–2018

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS GOD HAS DONE

ELS Centennial Anniversary

ELS Circuit 1 Reformation Rally | October 28, 2018

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven FL

This month the Evangelical Lutheran Synod observes the centennial of its reorganization. Although the synod was reorganized in June 1918, the date of October 14 bears special significance because of its importance to the Norwegian Synod.

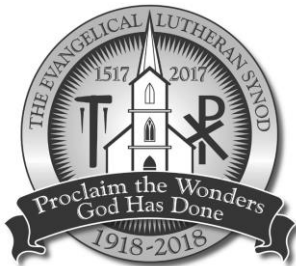
The Norwegian Synod was organized in 1853. Six years later, the synod's first joint undertaking was the establishment of a professorship for the training of pastors. The position officially began on October 14. This date became known as "Founders' Day" and had such importance to the Norwegian Synod that it became the dedication date of many buildings for congregations and synodical institutions.

In 1918, the synod was reorganized as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to "continue in the old doctrine and practice." Since then, the synod has observed the dual anniversaries of 1853 and 1918. For many years after the synod's reorganization, the mid-October date continued to be observed as a public declaration that the ELS is the rightful successor to the teachings of the Norwegian Synod which held to the two fundamental principles of the Reformation: that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that salvation is received by grace alone.

During this centennial year, the ELS follows this tradition by observing "Founders' Day" as a special opportunity to thank and praise God for one hundred years of His wonders and blessings. He has richly and daily provided for us. He has purchased and won us from all sin through His Son. He has sanctified and kept us in the one truth faith. May grateful hearts overflow with thanks and praise.

From U.V. Koren to Bjug Harstad to today, we
continue to

Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done.



THE DIVINE SERVICE — RITE ONE

(pp. 41–49, 57–59 in *The Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

*This order of service, known as the "Bugenhagen Order," grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther's pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996). With the exception of the first hymn by Martin Luther and the responsive hymn, the rest of the hymns are by Scandinavian authors.*

ORGAN PRESERVICE MUSIC

HANDBELL CHOIR

Canon – Pachelbel

1. THE OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

2. THE ENTRANCE HYMN #378:1,5 | *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

**1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won.
Right dearly it hath cost Him!**

**5. He spoke to His beloved Son: "'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown, And bring to man salvation.
From sin and sorrow set him free; Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever."**

3. THE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission 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 everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

4. THE KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

**♩ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.
O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.**

5. THE ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

6. THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory to God in the Highest*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

C: ♪ **And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!**

7. THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

8. THE COLLECT

P: Lord, we beseech You to keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness; that through Your protection it may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

9. RESPONSIVE HYMN:

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, arranged by David Angerman 2013

1. (Choir) In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. (Women) **In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe.**
(Men) **This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save**

(Choir) 'Til on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

3. (Choir) There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. **(All) No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me**
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

10. THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

NKJV 1982 *Jeremiah 6:13–16*

“Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”

11. THE PSALMODY HYMN

#56 / *Ye Lands, to the Lord*

Text: Ulrik V. Koren, 1826–1910; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.

1. Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise!
Glory be to God!
Oh, serve Him with joy, in His presence now rejoice;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

2. Not we, but the Lord is our Maker, our God;
Glory be to God!
His people we are, and the sheep led by His rod;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

3. Oh, enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise;
Glory be to God!
To bless Him and thank Him, our voices we will raise;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

4. For good is the Lord, and His mercy is sure;
Glory be to God!
To all generations His truth shall still endure;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

12. THE EPISTLE LESSON

NIV 1978 *Ephesians 1:3-13*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

13. CHOIR ANTHEM

O Sing to the Lord a New Song!

Lloyd Larson, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. 2018

14. THE HOLY GOSPEL

NKJV 1982 *St. John 14:1-6*

Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

C: ♪ **God be praised for His glad tidings.**

15. CHILDREN'S CHOIR: #37 / *We All Believe in One True God*
Text: T. Clausnitzer, 1619-1684

16. THE CHIEF HYMN #252:1,2,5 / *I Walk in Danger All the Way*
Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938, alt.
(Pulpit side / Organ side)

1. I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.

*4. I walk with angels all the way; They shield me and befriend me.
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense, All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may, I walk with angels all the way.*

2. I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay; I pass through trials all the way.

*5. I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.*

3. Death doth pursue me all the way; Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day, And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity for aye. Death doth pursue me all the way.

*6. My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.*

17. THE EXORDIUM & HYMN

100 years and 4 ½ months ago today on June 14, 1918, Pastor Bjug Harstad joined a group of almost 200 Lutherans gathered at Lime Creek Lutheran Church. They were all that remained of a once mighty synod, the Norwegian Synod, which had now been abandoned.

Pastor Harstad lamented the loss: “We are, as it were, clustering around the old building site which is storm swept and waste. A destructive hurricane has swept away the dear old mansion, even taking with it most of them that dwelt there. Discouraged, looking around, we discover only the bare ground with wreckage and dangerous crossroads. Yet let us not be too much alarmed nor discouraged. Worse things have repeatedly happened to the church before this, without its being destroyed.”

Tragic things had taken place. For the sake of external unity with other Scandinavian Lutherans, the larger part of the Norwegian Synod had agreed to a compromise on the doctrine of election. The impression was given that a person could believe, teach, and confess that a sinner plays some part in his conversion. But if salvation depends in any way on the sinner, all certainty is lost. To the contrary, said Pastor Harstad, “our happiness and salvation we will build solely upon the call of God, when He by visible and undeceiving means chose and rescued us from the power of Satan and our flesh, and adopted us as His disciples and children.”

The old institutions might have been gone, but the remnant at Lime Creek still had the powerful, unchanging Word. God’s Word does not return to Him void. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this Word of grace creates faith in the hearts of sinners and keeps them in the faith. The assembly at Lime Creek resolved to go forward on the old paths of God’s Word, the same paths we are blessed to walk today. With grateful hearts, we now rise to sing:

250 A Mighty Fortress & #583 | God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861-1925.

**A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means us deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.**

18. THE SERMON TEXT & THEME *Ephesians 1:3-14 (See page 6)*
Our Synod possesses every spiritual blessing in Christ

1. Election
2. Objective Justification
3. Means of Grace
4. God's word as source of faith and life

19. THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all the heathen and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful. Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those

who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping these Your congregations which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those, who there commune with You, peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

20. THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with you all. Amen.

21. THE OFFERING

22. THE COLLECT

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your great mercy You have given us Your holy and blessed Word, by which You also among us gather Your Christian Church. We humbly entreat You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we receive Your Word with thankful hearts, and live according to it, and ever increase in Christian faith, and hope, and love, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

23. THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give ✠ you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

24. THE CLOSING HYMN

#596 / *Praise to Thee and Adoration*

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. composite.

**1. Praise to Thee and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Thine own creation, Didst partake of flesh and blood.
Teach me that I never may From Thy fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Thy steps are leading.**

**2. Let me never, Lord, forsake Thee, E'en though bitter pain and strife
On my way shall overtake me; But may I through all my life
Walk in fervent love to Thee, In all woes for comfort flee
To Thy birth, Thy death and passion; Till I see Thy full salvation.**

25. THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

26. POST-SERVICE ORGAN SELECTIONS: *Elisabeth Urtel*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

<i>Liturgist</i>	Rev. Charles Keeler
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Steve Petersen
<i>Lectors</i>	Rev. Matthew Luttman Rev. Jonathan Madson Rev. Randy VanMehren
<i>Exordium</i>	Rev. Michael Dale
<i>Organist</i>	Elisabeth Urtel
<i>Instrumentalists</i>	Rev. Andy Burmeister, Trumpet Andrea Freimuth, French horn Dave Wiesenauer, Tenor Sax Pat Wiesenauer, Clarinet Mark Wold, Trombone Rebecca Wold, Clarinet
<i>Choir & Handbell Director:</i>	Pam Prange

<i>School Choir Director</i>	Adam Pavelchik
<i>School Choir Accompanist</i>	Mandy Pavelchik, piano
<i>Ushers</i>,,,,,,,,,.....	Rev. Chris Dale Rev. Mark Faugstad Rev. Kurtis Freimuth Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch Rev. Alex Ring
<i>Octoberfest Coordinator</i>	Dottie Lundquist

CONGREGATIONS

Christ Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie
 Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach
 Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee
 Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeland
 Peace Lutheran Church, Lakeland
 New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples

OCTOBERFEST MEAL

A special Octoberfest / Reformation / Centennial meal follows this service. Many thanks to Dottie Lundquist and many others from Resurrection Lutheran Church for coordinating the festivities and to the other congregations of the circuit for various contributions of food and effort. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

OFFERING

The offering today will first reimburse the expenses incurred by the congregations of our circuit for this event and then will go to support the 100th anniversary thank offering of our synod.

FALL MISSION RALLY

Please, let’s gather again on Saturday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in South Lakeland FL for the Fall Women’s Mission Rally.

PROCLAIM THE WONDERS GOD HAS DONE!