

## Only New Songs this Reformation Sunday

# The Christian Connection

On October 31st, Christians around the world will celebrate the 503rd year after Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses which is considered the start of the Reformation. Congregations across the world will celebrate by singing hymns like *A Mighty Fortress* (Ambassador Hymnal #141) and *Salvation unto Us Has Come* (AH410). Both of these excellent hymns date back to the time of the Reformation which means they are nearly 500 years old!

Have you ever wondered why we sing old hymns? After all, the scriptures say, “Sing to him a new song.” (Psalm 33:3)

It would seem that Psalm 33 implies there is an old song. What is it?

Perhaps the old song it implies is Exodus 15, the Song of Moses. The Song of Moses is a beautiful song sung by Moses and all the people of Israel when they were saved from slavery in Egypt. This salvation, which the LORD worked out for His people was a historic salvation in two senses. 1) This sort of miraculous rescue was unprecedented. Never had so many people (2 million!) been delivered from slavery *en mass* in such a clear work of God. 2) Also, it is a historical salvation as a distinction from ultimate salvation. Historical salvations in the scriptures are important. Not only do they preserve the line from Adam through Abraham until Jesus would come, but it also hints at and prefigures the ultimate salvation that was to come through Jesus. However, a historic salvation it is just that, a shadow of the ultimate salvation to come.

In the Psalms, the people sing a new song referencing God’s rescue of Israel from exile in Babylon. However, this is also a historic salvation which also prefigures the ultimate salvation in Christ. It is the second verse of a new song.

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The purpose of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is to worship God in a Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry, evangelizing, discipling, nurturing and equipping people for the spiritual well-being of every life.

**Pastor Schultz**



## **4th Quarter Congregational Meeting Update:**

*ORLC had a congregational meeting on 10/25/2020. Here are some of the highlights. Full minutes are available upon request.*

Pastor's report encouraged the congregation to consider what areas of the community the congregation can serve together, asking the question, "Where can we get our hands dirty?"

The Deacon's report presented two families for new membership to ORLC. The Deacons also encouraged the congregation to strive to give 10% of the congregation's offerings as a tithe to ministries of the Word and ministries of Mercy, both inside the AFLC and locally.

The Deaconesses have been gathering for weekly prayer meetings at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.

The Treasurer's report showed 8.2% of ORLC's general giving has been given as benevolence. The congregation is in a good financial position though utility expenses will be over budget due to ORCS being out of session.

WMF met in September and decided to suspend meetings until January 2nd. On January 2nd, WMF will meet to evaluate the situation to determine what is next for WMF.

ORCS remains out of session. Director Erin Selvig and the Church Council are targeting a re-open in Mid to Late winter. The hope is to have a healthy return of students this school year and ORCS is well positioned to be able to weather this setback.

The congregation passed an amendment that changes the requirement for trustees. Formerly, the constitution read the Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of three men. It now will read, "three members." This amendment was first read and approved in the 4th quarter Congregational meeting in 2019. This was the final reading and approval of the amendment.

The congregation unanimously approved the Matthew and Katie Steele Family (Wyatt and Noah) and Bob and Tomoe Dunning to be accepted into membership of ORLC.

The congregation passed a motion to receive the Lord's Supper each week.

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A new song which believers join in singing is found in Revelation 5:8-9. *“And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.””* (Revelation 5:9–10, ESV) And also, *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*” (Revelation 5:12, ESV)

A new song is not so much an entirely different song. It is the same song which began in Genesis which is sung to its completion. It is a song that no longer only prefigures the ultimate salvation of the LORD but announces and proclaims that Salvation has come by God’s free grace and favor. The New Song declares the victory of Jesus Christ over sin, death, and the devil and the establishment of His kingdom, which remains forever.

So, whether the song is from 1446 BC, such as the *Song of Moses*; from the 16th Century, like *A Mighty Fortress*; or written yesterday, when the song points us to the righteousness of God revealed through faith in Jesus, we truly are singing the New Song.

-Pastor Nicholas Schultz

### **Important Dates to Remember**

11/1-All Saints Day (Daylight Savings Time Ends)

11/3-USA Election Day

11/8-Confirmation Sunday; Danelle Hall and Esme Douthit

November Vespers Service-11/11; No Vespers on 11/25

11/26-Thanksgiving Service @ 10 AM

11/29-First Sunday in Advent

Advent Vespers Services-December Wednesday evenings @ 6:45 PM through 12/23

12/24 Christmas Eve Service @ 5 PM

12/24-1/5-Christmastide

1/6-Epiphany

1/10-Baptism of Our Lord

1/24-Transfiguration Sunday

Vespers resumes bi-monthly in January

Upcoming Sunday School Days-11/8, 11/22, 12/13, 1/10, & 1/24



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## Welcome New Members!



Matt, Katie, Wyatt, and Noah Steele



Bob and Tomoe Dunning

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**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
**11611 NE 140th St. Kirkland, WA 98034**

*Keeping in touch with the ORLC family!*