

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10) - July 12, 2026

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

- Romans 8:16-17 -

Every October we remember and celebrate the Lutheran Reformation. We acknowledge and celebrate Martin Luther’s key insight that we are “Liberated by God’s grace!” These words go to the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the basis of the Lutheran Reformation – Christians gain salvation only by the grace of God. We call this justification by faith alone.

In studying the origins of our Lutheran heritage, it is clear that faith and love are both divinely essential in the Christian life, but faith alone justifies. Once we have been justified by faith, we enter the active life in works of love toward our neighbor and our faith communities.

We read in Romans that as children of God, we are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.” This clearly reveals that we are to be in community with one another. It is through the fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ that we can grow together in faith and love.

When we actively participate in our community of faith, we gain so much more collectively. We were made to be in fellowship with other Christians! As we plan and enjoy these summer months, let us remember the words in Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.” Being part of an active community of faith is the Church here on earth.

As we celebrate the Reformation, let us remember that Luther declared the Holy Spirit, “Has a unique community in the world, which is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit reveals and proclaims, through which he illuminates and inflames hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.”

Take a moment to let this all sink in. What a heritage of faith we share and that we are all children of God! How awesome is that? Amen.