

2015 NL2 WK 7 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150
15-10-25 Reformation Sunday

God's beloved people, grace and peace to you in the name of our crucified and risen Savior,
Jesus Christ.....Amen.....

A lot of Lutheran churches around the world are celebrating Reformation Sunday today. When we remember Martin Luther and the events and ministry of his life back in the 1500s in Germany that forever changed the face of Christianity in the world.

But the reformation isn't just what happened 500 years ago, the church is ALWAYS in reformation... always in renewal. The church of God is always being re-formed – because God's word is active. God works on you and in you and through you. God is always forming and re-forming his presence among his people.

God has re-formed this church today as God does each Sunday... God has gathered us here and gathered others in many places across the world for worship. Because of God's work, you are made new every time you encounter God's word of forgiveness, taking away your sins of the week and filling that place in your heart with grace. You are made new when you encounter God in scripture or preaching or singing or in a piece of bread... Or as a friend of mine says, "In word, water, wheat, and wine." (Nadia BW)

Text Today

1. God re-forming his relationship among the people - David to KING David,
2. but there was so much leading up to this
 - a. Very far from the Exodus
 - b. Tired of the Judges – Samson, Gideon, Deborah and others
 - c. Give us a King!
 - d. God relents but warns – tax, take, and (torture), BUT... finally...
 - e. Saul = dud; God took away his favor
 - f. WHICH he fixed by promising David he would not!
3. So 20 chapters after being anointed.... We get to our lesson and David
4. After wars and fighting as a leader for Saul....
5. The people from NORTH and SOUTH come to him and make him king
6. The people knew he was the one who had brought Israel in and out; ruler; shepherd
7. Military, political, religious
8. As Religious leader – David moved the Ark = God's presence and word – Commandments = God's Top 10!! – people were worshiping and praising God's Word and presence with all their might.
9. David proclaimed them "people of the Word" – they had good moments, bad moments, and better moments, just like we do.

We are people of the Word – people of the reformation – people being formed and re-formed by the Word of God. And like the people of David, we are people who do worship – we come here to be active, not to be passively acted upon. Worship is participatory, not a spectator sport. So we come to be re-formed, and God has re-formed his church here today. We do not say that we come TO church, we say that we come to BE church. Or even better... we come AND go to BE the church. [*...as the church*]

As a kid I learned a song, "I am the church, you are church, we are the church together..." And, "The Church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a... something, something, the church is the people."

There is a dangerous attitude that has developed in Christian circles these days. People talk about church shopping... like they're looking for a new dress, or a head of lettuce, or an insurance company. And they ask, "What do you have to give me? How will I be fed at this place?" And while churches have various activities and ministries that they provide, it becomes troublesome for us when we approach a place with a consumer attitude, only wanting to know "what is in it for me."

A missional attitude, on the other hand, is what God has modeled for us and what God calls us to share. God calls us through the gospel – through the news of forgiveness and grace to be in mission with him. The missional attitude is one that comes to worship expecting to engage in the ritual. The missional Christian is one who asks how they can serve God and neighbor because God has given them life in Jesus, and really.... What else is there?? What better life could there be??

The missional Christian asks how they can help and support instead of getting caught up in frustration and complaining.

The missional Christian spreads hope and vision instead of dissent and negativity.

The missional Christian forgives instead of judges; sees possibilities or allows for them instead of spreading skepticism.

The missional Christian seeks to serve instead of being served. The missional Christian is a giver, not a taker; a helper, not a hindrance!.....

Maybe the hardest part of all of this is that we are never just a missional Christian or a consumer Christian. We are both at the same time, and God loves and forgives all of it. But in my pettiness, I would rather consider myself to be in the right all the time and therefore have God smite my detractors in judgement..... But my God loves you, too!!

That's the beauty and scandal of God's grace. God loves!! And God does it because he wants to, and there's nothing you can do about it. God loves you, and God loves your enemy. God loves the winners of wars, AND God loves the losers.

Our God in Jesus is one who loves the last, the lost, and the least – ones whom I would prefer to avoid, truth be told. The northern Israelites AND the southern Israelites for David. And yet God is there, forming and re-forming, week after week, day after day. God forms and re-forms you! To BE the church inside these walls and outside.

Remember about a month ago we had green bulletin inserts and we wrote down ways that we serve in the world? We had 193 responses in 106 different areas. 18 of you said that you pray for others on a regular basis!! Fantastic!!! And may I ask us all,... that we all pray every day for each other, for this church that God gathers here and sends out each week, and for all other concerns we might have?

And then as people of the word. As people called by God and formed by God, let us ask together, "What is God calling us to do through the gospel, the good news of Jesus? How is God calling me to be Jesus for my neighbor?" How is God calling us to action in this world? There is plenty to be involved with – better laws that protect rights while at the same time keeping us safe. // Or health, housing, and humus (food) advocacy? And what if we became better and better at encouraging people in ways to serve and use their gifts for mission?

How is God tugging at your heart today? Re-forming you, renewing your heart and passion? Because the word of the God's love and grace not only saves us, but sends us. To what is the gospel calling you?..... Amen.....