NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

OCTOBER 25, 2026
+ REFORMATION SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE — Fughetta on "Praise Be to Almighty God"
J.S. Bach
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

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CHORAL INTROIT — Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Hymnal Selection 345, based on an African-American Spiritual
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP — Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
God speaks, and the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord!
God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
Be still, and know that the Lord is God!
God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 464 — A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

* PASSING OF THE PEACE
The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES — Eric Pfeiffelman, Reader
Old Testament Reading — Jeremiah 23:16-29
New Testament Reading — Romans 3:19-28
* Gospel Reading — John 8:31-36
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN — Acacia Gin

CHORAL ANTHEM — Concertato on "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"
Hymnal Selection 19, arr. John Ferguson
Stephon Owens, Trumpet
Carol Olfelt, Trumpet
Anna Wargaski, French Horn
Erik Ward, French Horn

MESSAGE — Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG — Great Are You, Lord
David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan
Led by Andrew Berg, Acacia Gin,
Anders Johnson, Samantha Johnson, and Brian Ward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Invitation to Generosity
The Trustees will come around at this time to receive physical offerings.
Giving online at any time is also an option at www.npcovenant.org/give.
Offertory — There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Hymnal Selection 71, arr. James Pethel
Sam Parnin, Organ

* Doxology 48

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 579 — The Church's One Foundation

* BENEDICTION

For all that God can do within us,
for all that God can do without us,
thanks be to God!

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
for all in whom Christ lives beside us,
thanks be to God!

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for where the Spirit wants to send us,
thanks be to God!

The blessing of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
be with you and on your way together, now and forever.
Amen.

POSTLUDE — Variations on "St. Anne"
Edward Broughton,
based on Hymnal Selection 422

Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.
In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors, there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen in the box's drawer for your use.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 464



WORDS: Based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, tr. Fredrick H. Hedge, 1805-1890
MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
EIN' FESTE BURG

THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Traditional

Great Are You, Lord

Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, and David Leonard

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Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Little Way Creative (Admin. by Integrity Music)



CCLI # 6460220


29
33
All the earth will shout Your praise; Our hearts will cry; these
37
1.
bones will sing "Great are You Lord."
42
It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we
46
pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise to You
50
on - ly. It's your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we
54
pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise to You
58
on - ly Great are You, Lord.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



579 The Church's One Foundation



WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

7.6.7.6.D.
AURELIA

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online! We're glad you're here.

If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at copastors@npcovenant.org to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

If giving digitally is more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.

Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant church plant that meets here, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

Members and friends are invited to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community. They meet at 10 am each week, and this coming Saturday, you can join them at the intersection of Bernard and Catalpa. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

It's time to fall back! Next Sunday, November 1, Daylight Saving Time ends. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before the end of the day on Saturday, October 31, so you'll be on time for church.

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect a benevolence offering at the end of the service, and this church has been extremely generous with those gifts—thank you! But perhaps you've wondered what happens to those dollars. Overall, they go to help support and offer relief for a lot of people, but here is a very recent example of just how that money is being used:

1. With the support of the Deacons, we have decided to increase both the number of Aldi gift cards we give out each month and the value of those gift cards. Rather than give out 26 gift cards for $20 each, we will have 30 gift cards for $30 each available on the third Tuesday of each month. We will do this for a few months, and reevaluate as we go.

2. The hygiene closet, established by the Board of Community Concern, has been very popular. Thanks to all of you who have placed items there. We encourage you to keep doing so! And, to keep up with demand, we will be using roughly $200/month from the benevolence fund to purchase additional items for that closet.

From the Board of Community Concern: Our personal hygiene cabinet has been very well-utilized so far, which speaks to the great need in our community. It is a blessing to be able to help meet some of the needs of our neighbors.

Below is a list of what seem to be the most sought-after items. However, any personal hygiene items and basic household cleaning supplies are welcome.

The next time you are at Costco, Jewel, Target, or the like, please think about picking up something and adding it to the hygiene closet just inside the south doors. Thank you for loving our neighbors in this tangible way!

- Baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Dish soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent pods
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

The next meeting of the North Park Readers will be this coming Tuesday, October 27. We will be reading *There Is No Place for Us* by Brian Goldstone. The book discusses America's homeless problem, following five Atlanta families as they struggle to remain housed in a gentrifying city. We will meet at Karen Darelius's house at 7 pm. Contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com with questions.

Night of the Walking Taco Returns! Every year on Halloween night, we set up a couple of canopies on the corner of Christiana at Berwyn and hand out hot cocoa and walking tacos to (un)suspecting trick-or-treaters between 5 and 7:30 pm. It's a hoot 'n' a howl! If you're able to help with setup, serving, or cleanup, please reach out to Pastor Jeff.

As a special bonus treat this year, our organist, Sam Parnin, is going to perform creepy cool music on the organ in three half-hour sets while the Night of the Walking Taco is taking place. Come hear this spooktacular half-hour recital at 5, 6, or 7 pm on Halloween night!

Merry Market at Covenant Living of Northbrook: The Holly Fair has a new name, but it's still the same, great event! You're invited to this annual sale on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Covenant Living of Northbrook (2625 Techny Road, Northbrook). Available at the sale will be a large variety of handmade craft items of wood, fabric, and pottery, as well as antiques, jewelry, home goods, and bakery items.

Have you been wondering about membership at North Park Covenant Church and what it might mean? Do you have questions about the church and/or the Covenant denomination? Would you like to learn more without an obligation to join the church? We'd love to have you join us at our next New Member Class, which will be offered on Saturday, November 14, from 9 am to 1 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be included! Please let Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff know of your interest, and we'll add your name to the list and be in touch!

Please Consider Donating Blood on November 21: We will hold a blood drive through Versiti donation center on Saturday, November 21, from 10 am to 2 pm. You may sign up here, and share the information with a neighbor and friend! We hope you'll take part in this important community event.

It's a Little Town of Bethlehem year! Mark your calendars for December 6, from 4 to 6 pm. This Christmas, everyone is invited to experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem. North Park Covenant Church will be transformed into the streets and markets of Jesus' birth, complete with costumed vendors, musicians, and townspeople. Members of our congregation will dress in costume and take on the roles of various local characters, each pointing the way to the manger where they hear that a very special child has been born.

We need lots and lots of help! Committees are being organized, and there is a spot for everyone, whether you're interested in advertising, recruiting, costumes, props for shops, or set design. You may receive a call from someone on the recruiting team, asking for you to help. If you don't get that call but are interested in jumping on board, please contact Lisa Applequist or Pastor Libby. We need people with all kinds of gifts and all kinds of time to give! Also, be sure to invite your neighbors and friends and family, and spread the word!

Lectionary texts for Sunday, November 1:

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

A few people in our church are Biking for Congo! If you'd like to join the team, please click here. Our team members are Wally Ebner, Fabio Muniz, Joline Paska, Carol Schlensker, and Sue Vandervoort. However you participate, we're glad to be Biking for Congo with you!

Are you looking for a way to serve at NPCC? We always welcome people who are willing to hang out with the littlest in our community or help serve refreshments after the worship service! Please click here to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

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for your prayers

- **Community prayer:** those in our community who are struggling with their physical health; for those living with illness, injury, or chronic pain; we pray for strength, healing, and compassionate care
- **Paula Schuetz**, recuperating after surgery on her ankle on October 12
- Janice Finney's uncle **Walt Leeman**, diagnosed with bone cancer and on hospice care, and her aunt **Joyce Leeman**, as she walks this journey with him
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin **Joanie Mykesell**, who fell and broke three ribs
- **Diane Haglund**, whose back surgery has been postponed to a date still to be determined
- **the family of John Hunter**, longtime member of NPCC, who passed away at the age of 89 on October 2 after a time on hospice care
- Marti Hindaileh requests prayer for a dear friend's mother, **Missy Baker**, who is battling breast cancer and currently in intensive care in grave condition
- **Ann Marie Strom**, now on a new infusion medication to help with severe pain
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care

At Church This Week

The calendar is available at www.npcovenant.org/calendar and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, October 26

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, October 27

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, October 28

10 am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
6 pm	Gather Dinner (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
	Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7 pm	Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, October 29

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, October 30

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

Saturday, October 31

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
5 pm	Night of the Walking Taco (Corner of Christiana and Berwyn)
5, 6, & 7 pm	Halloween Spooktacular Organ Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints' Sunday

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Art Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
	Tabletop Sundays for High Schoolers (Attic Youth Room)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

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James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Welcome Statement

We welcome all people to begin or deepen their relationship with Christ through worship and study. We invite all believers to fully participate in the life and ministry of our church as members, leaders, and lay staff. We celebrate the gifts and presence of diverse Christians among us—whether those differences be race, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or socioeconomic status. We are blessed by our diversity and are unified in Christ.