



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas

October 2026

We glorify God by receiving the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and sharing that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

The church always needs reformation

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

The month of October immediately brings to my mind Reformation Day, October 31, the date in 1517 when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther both nailed to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (a community bulletin board of a sort) and mailed to Albert of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz (whom we today might call his “ecclesiastical supervisor”), the *Ninety-Five Theses* for an academic *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*. The timing of the event is loosely connected to All Hallow’s Eve, what we today call “Halloween”, insofar as that particular Eve of All Saints came before an All Saints’ Day when a larger-than-usual crowd was expected at the Church, due to a showing of a special collection of relics and the availability of indulgences for coming to see them.

The Lutheran Hymnal (1941) and its associated Lectionary series appointed as the Old Testament Reading for Reformation Day 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 (confer 2 Kings 18:1-8), about Levites’ cleansing the house of the Lord under King Hezekiah (see, for example, *The Lutheran Liturgy*, p.439). In the mid-2000s, while I was serving as Assistant Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church in Elgin, Texas, I preached on that text on two different Reformation Days. I apparently mis-remember also preaching on either 2 Chronicles 24:1-14 (confer 2 Kings 12:1-16), the earlier repairs to the temple under King Joash, or on 2 Chronicles 34:8-21 (confer 2 Kings 22:3-20), the later rediscovery of the Book of the Law under King Josiah, both of which passages are arguably also applicable to Reformation Day.

More than something like Pilgrim’s recent roof replacement or our annual Spring Cleaning, the rediscovery of the Book of the Law is perhaps more like the restoration of the Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake to its proper place by the Holy Spirit working through Luther in the years after his Theses. However, after the house of the Lord was cleansed, King Hezekiah rededicated the temple and restored worship there, which ultimately led to the people’s presenting their offerings, although those events were outside the scope of the

Article continues on the following page.

appointed Old Testament Reading for Reformation Day. Still, we note that not reshaping but returning to the proper teaching and worship leads to a God-pleasing changing of hearts and minds and so to the response of thank offerings.

To be sure, the Lord Jesus also was a “reformer” of a sort, clarifying the Jews’ false teaching of His day (for example, the repeated “You have heard it said ... but I tell you” in the Sermon on the Mount of Matthew 5:21-38), but most-importantly He was the Savior, Who, by His death on the cross for the sins of the world, fulfilled all past proper prophecy and Who would be the center of all future faithful preaching. Yet, false teaching and practice that came after Jesus in some cases obscured the Gospel of free forgiveness in His Name, requiring further reformation.

Twentieth-century Reformation scholar Heiko A. Oberman’s 1966 book *Forerunners of the Reformation* lists fourteen people before Luther—among them Jan Hus (d.1415), Gabriel Biel (d.1495), and Johann von Staupitz (d.1524)—who in various ways anticipated the Reformation and together show continuity between the time before and after the Reformation.

Yet, Reformation did not stop with Luther. Some who followed Luther went too far, forming something new, and others were not willing to return far enough back. Those problems continue today. To Dutch pastor and poet Jodocus van Lodenstein (1620-1677) is often attributed the Latin saying *Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda est*, that is, “The reformed church always is in need of reformation” (see the bottom of the calendar at right). Later, Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968) popularized that saying, though non-Lutherans’ use of it should not keep us from also using it.

If not quite like under Kings Joash, Hezekiah, or Josiah, God’s Church on earth, made up of people who are at the same time justified saints but still sinners, constantly needs to check itself against God’s Word of Holy Scripture and the correct exposition of that Word in the Lutheran Confessions. Akin to roof repairs and Spring cleanings are this past Summer’s Synodical Convention’s actions regarding the temporal affairs of the Synod, but lacking were more-faithful confessions of such things as our Lord’s real, physical presence with His Body and Blood in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins through a firm statement on the practice of Closed Communion. Truly, the church always is in need of Reformation. May God grant such Reformation for the sake of His Son, our dear Lord, Jesus Christ! Amen!

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Jonah 2:2-9
Jer. 32-34
- 2 Ps. 114
Jer. 35-37
- 3 Ps. 115
Jer. 38-40
- 4 Ps. 116
Jer. 41-43
- 5 Ps. 117
Jer. 44-47
- 6 Ps. 118
Jer. 48-50
- 7 Ps. 119:1-8
Jer. 51-52
- 8 Ps. 119:9-16
Lam. 1-2
- 9 Ps. 119:17-24
Lam. 3-5
- 10 Ps. 119:25-32
Ezekiel 1-3
- 11 Ps. 119:33-40
Ezekiel 4-6
- 12 Ps. 119:41-48
Ezekiel 7-9
- 13 Ps. 119:49-56
Ezekiel 10-12
- 14 Ps. 119:57-64
Ezekiel 13-15
- 15 Ps. 119:65-72
Ezekiel 16-18
- 16 Ps. 119:73-80
Ezekiel 19-21
- 17 Ps. 119:81-88
Ezekiel 22-24
- 18 Ps. 119:89-96
Ezekiel 25-27
- 19 Ps. 119:97-104
Ezekiel 28-30
- 20 Ps. 119:105-112
Ezekiel 31-33
- 21 Ps. 119:113-120
Ezekiel 34-36
- 22 Ps. 119:121-128
Ezekiel 37-39
- 23 Ps. 119:129-136
Ezekiel 40-42
- 24 Ps. 119:137-144
Ezekiel 43-45
- 25 Ps. 119:145-152
Ezekiel 46-48
- 26 Ps. 119:153-160
Daniel 1-3
- 27 Ps. 119:161-168
Daniel 4-6
- 28 Ps. 119:169-176
Daniel 7-9
- 29 Ps. 120
Daniel 10-12
- 30 Ps. 121
Hosea 1-4
- 31 Jonah 2:2-9
Hosea 5-7

OCTOBER 2026



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October 2026

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org

903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours

Tuesday 5:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM-Noon
Saturday Noon-3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elder on Duty: Jeromy McMurray (Back-up: Carl Gardner)				1 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM DFW Study Group 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Taylor Stephens (B) M/M Walker (A)	2	3 (Willows Services are suspended) Third Quarter Reports due to Rita tomorrow
4 19 TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service "The 15-2 Folk" Gathering	5	6 4:00 PM Catechesis	7 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study Sarah Land (B)	8 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis Phoenix Wood (B)	9 Paul Uhles (B)	10
11 20 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	12 Sharon Clark (B)	13 4:00 PM Catechesis 6:00 PM Elders' Meeting	14 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	15 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	16	17
18 21 ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (G) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering	19 Elaine Navaille (B)	20 4:00 PM Catechesis Shannon Gage (B)	21 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study David LeBlanc (B)	22 7:40 AM Pastor leads KPD Devotion 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Circuit Meeting 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	23	24
25 REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED) (R) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Regular Quarterly Council Meeting Lindie Melendrez (B)	26	27 4:00 PM Catechesis Jaxon Walker (B)	28 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	29 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	30	31 REFORMATION DAY Daylight-Saving Time ends tomorrow morning ("Fall back" one hour)

Ecclesia reformata semper reformanda est. – Jodocus van Lodenstein (1674)

(The reformed church always needs to be reformed.)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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