



October 26, 2025 – Reformation (Observed)

AS WE GATHER

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 *Theses* to the door of the church in Wittenburg. The 95 *Theses* were just the beginning. This morning, as we observe and remember the reformation, we give thanks to God that through the reformation, the Biblical truth about the Gospel of Jesus Christ was restored. Throughout the service, there will be three brief “pauses” in the flow. In those times, we will recite words from the Augsburg Confession, Smalcald Articles, and Luther’s Small Catechism. These are three important documents that came out of the reformation. They lay out clearly what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. They use God’s Word as their foundation. The sections we will recite this morning will remind us of this fundamental truth: We are made righteous by grace through faith in Christ. Thanks be to God!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 657, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

AUGSBURG CONFESSION *The Augsburg Confession, Article IV*

Pastor: How are we made right before God?

People: **“Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works.**

Pastor: People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake.

People: **By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight.”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Here, at the beginning of our service, we take a step back. We acknowledge before God that we are sinners in need of Christ’s forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. We take a moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

People: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE *(Music in hymnal: LSB 261)*

All: *Refrain: The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.*

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted." Refrain

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Refrain

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain

SMALCALT ARTICLES *Smalcald Articles, The Second Part, Article I*

Pastor: "The first and chief article is this:

People: Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification.

Pastor: He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all.

People: All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works or merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood."

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 4:1–15*

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of

the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?" ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR "Grace Alone"

EPISTLE READING *Romans 3:19–28*

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Luke 18:9–17*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the eighteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." ¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him,

saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.
¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN *LSB 915, "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"*

SERMON *"Justified"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SMALL CATECHISM *The Apostle's Creed, The Second Article*

Pastor: What does the second article of the Creed about Jesus Christ mean?

People: **"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. He did this not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, so that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."**

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 605, "Father Welcomes"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into**

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

Pastor: We pray together:

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 576, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Service adapted from the Service of Prayer and Preaching, LSB 260-267. Quotes from the *Augsburg Confession*, *Smalcald Articles*, and *Luther's Small Catechism* all taken from *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, St. Louis, MO, Concordia Publishing House, 2005.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of October 26, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday

Family for the Week: Jo Hadley & Homebound Families
St. Andrew, Stockton

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson – health and healing)
Jason Ernest – (Emily Ernest's father – health and healing from surgery)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoye r[Wolf] – health and healing)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
Jacquelyn Zimmer – (friend of Edee Chambers – health and healing)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
 Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
 Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
 Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
 Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
 Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
 Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
 Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
 Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
 Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
 Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-In-Law – health & healing)
 Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
 Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
 Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
 June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	October 26th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	October 27th	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm
Wednesday	October 28th	Bible Study - 5:30 pm
Thursday	October 29th	Confirmation Class – 5:30 pm
Friday	October 30th	Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	November 1st	LWML Fall Gathering in Freistatt - 9:30 am Fall Back 1 hour
Sunday	November 2nd	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	November 3rd	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm No LWML

Birthdays: Nov. 2-Lora Wright

Anniversaries: Nov. 2-Bill & Sandra Whalen

October		
26-Bill & Joanne Michel		26-David Lampe
	November	
Greeters		Usher
02--Bill & Joanne Michel		02-Charlie Chambers
09-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer		09-Matt Miller
16-Cathy Munden & Teri Ediger		16-Bill Michel
23-Rob & Marlo Springer		23-David Lampe
		26-Charlie Chambers
30-Charlie & Edith Chambers		30-Doug Goodman



The **LWML Mite Box** is in the Narthex. Donations fund the mission grants that are approved at District and National Conventions.

The **LWML Fall Gathering** will be held on Saturday, November 1, beginning at 9:30 am in the gymnasium at Trinity School in Freistatt. Additional information is on the flyer in the Narthex. If you have any questions, ask Edith.

The ingathering for the **LWML Fall Gathering** is for the benefit of “For The Kids”, an association in Aurora to help foster/adoptive families. They would like to have new socks and underwear for children, any size, and toiletries for children. There is additional information in the Narthex along with a collection basket.

Confirmation: Confirmation class began on October 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm. Meetings are at Grace. Parents are welcome to attend.

Confirmation Volunteers: Studies show that children are more likely to stay in the faith if they have 5 adults (that are not their parents) who invest in them and their lives. Pastor Heitshusen is seeking to facilitate this sort of intergenerational connection. To do so, he is seeking volunteers to come and sit in on confirmation class. You would not need to come every week; he will put together a schedule to accommodate everyone's schedule. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Heitshusen.

We are collecting for “Dawggie Bags” food collection. The collection box is in the Narthex. If you have questions, please ask Pam Bowling.

Use Your Tax Dollars to Support Lutheran Education

Taxpayers to the state of Missouri—both individuals and businesses—have the unique opportunity to direct up to 50% of their state taxes to Lutheran Education. The tax credit program, MO Scholars, allows the Missouri District to scholarships for qualifying students attending LCMS schools throughout the state (including Freistaconvert tax dollars into tt!!). Reserving these tax credits is easy and can be completed online in a matter of minutes. Head to <https://mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars/> to learn more about MO Scholars and get the process started. Questions can be directed to Leah Sieveking at 314-590-6211 or leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org. Thank you for your participation in MO Scholars through the Missouri District!

A new year will be coming soon with new 2026 offering envelopes. If anyone would like envelopes for 2026 that doesn't currently have them, please let Linda Myers or Pastor know. Also, anyone that does not want envelopes, please let us know (a regular envelope with your name also works). For anyone that wishes to donate by credit card, information can be found on our web site <https://gracelutheranaurora.com/give.php>.