

Liberty Baptist Church

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A Word from Rev. Josh Bowman

October 2026

“Learning from the Past—Evangelizing in the Present”

Dear Church Family,

Each year, October 31 is known throughout our culture as Halloween. For many, it has become a day filled with costumes, candy, and celebration, and too often a day when darkness is treated lightly. But for the church, October 31 is more than Halloween. It is also Reformation Day—a day when we remember how God, in His providence, used faithful men and women to call the church back to the authority of His Word and the truth of the Gospel.

The Reformers stood boldly for Scripture alone and for the good news that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the Word of God alone, all for the glory of God alone. They believed that true faith is not merely confessed with the lips but lived out in everyday life. As we remember their faithfulness, we should look beyond a cultural holiday and consider how we can learn from the past while evangelizing in the present.

Remembering the Reformation

Reformation Day points to the events of October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther famously posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany. God used that moment to spark a great movement that called the church back to biblical truth: the final authority of God’s Word and the life-saving truth of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This was not merely a theological debate for classrooms and councils; it was a matter of life and death, because only the Word of God can reveal Christ, expose sin, and bring the hope of salvation.

The Courage of Lady Jane Grey

One powerful example of this Reformation courage is Lady Jane Grey. In 1553, after the death of King Edward VI, she was placed on the throne of England in an attempt to preserve Protestant leadership. Her reign lasted only nine days before Mary Tudor took the throne, and Jane was imprisoned in the Tower of London and pressured to abandon her Protestant faith.

Mary sent John de Feckenham, a Roman Catholic chaplain, to persuade Jane to convert. Yet this young woman, though only a teenager, stood firmly on the Scriptures. When challenged on justification, she confessed that salvation is not earned by works but received through faith in Christ. Good works do not contribute to our salvation; they flow from saving faith in the blood of Christ.

Lady Jane Grey would not recant. She was eventually put to death at the age of seventeen, yet even as she faced death, her confidence was not in herself, her position, or her works, but in Jesus Christ alone.

A Word from Rev. Josh Bowman

October 2026

“Learning from the Past— Evangelizing in the Present”

(continued)

Her courage reminds us that faith alone still matters, because the issue then—and the issue now—is whether sinners are made right with God by their own works or by the finished work of Christ received through faith.

Evangelizing in the Present

This October 31, we have a unique opportunity to turn a cultural holiday into a catalyst for truth. November will be Evangelism Month at our church, and we will begin by recognizing October 31 as not only Reformation Day but National Evangelism Day. Because the Gospel remains the power of God for salvation, we are asking each family to request Gospel tracts from the church office and hand them out along with candy to trick-or-treaters who come to your home.

In the weeks ahead, please watch the bulletin for instructions on how to request tracts and for more information about Evangelism Month. Pray for open doors, bold hearts, personal courage, and for the Holy Spirit to soften hearts in our town. As the Reformers stood boldly on the Word of God, let us stand faithfully in our own day by sharing the Gospel with love, urgency, and compassion.

May we learn from the past, stand faithfully in the present, and proclaim the Gospel that alone can save.

In evangelistic love,

Pastor-teacher, Rev. Josh Bowman



“A Warm Welcome to Dion Rizo Velarde”

Church family, the Lord has given us a special opportunity over the next few months. Dion Rizo Velarde, a young laborer with Campus Outreach Guadalajara, will be staying in our mission house until early January as he continues building partnerships for gospel work on university campuses in Mexico.

Dion’s testimony is a powerful picture of God’s grace breaking through spiritual darkness. As he writes in his written testimony that he shared with me, “I was Dead in trespasses... Jesus opened my heart so that I could receive His love.”

And the Lord has now called him to reach students in one of the least-reached regions of the Western Hemisphere—where less than 1% are evangelical believers and where nominal Catholicism and spiritism often keep people from hearing the gospel of grace.

How We Can Welcome Him

While Dion is with us, I want to encourage our church to welcome him with open arms. He will be worshiping with us regularly, meeting pastors and churches throughout our area, and seeking to build relationships that strengthen his ministry. Please take time to introduce yourself, invite him into conversation, and help him get to know believers and churches in our region.

His home church in Mexico is a Reformed Baptist Church, and he holds to many of the doctrines we cherish. You will find him humble, thoughtful, and deeply committed to the authority of Scripture and the work of discipleship.

How We Can Support Him

- Get to know Dion personally — ask him about his story, his calling, and the students he longs to reach.
- Share his testimony with others in our church and community. His story is a powerful evangelistic tool.
- Connect him with other Christians, pastors, and churches who may want to partner with him.
- Pray with him and for him as he seeks to raise support and strengthen gospel work in Guadalajara.
- Make sure his needs are met while he stays in our mission house. Let’s show him the love of Christ in practical ways.

A Personal Word From Pastor Josh Bowman

I’ve already enjoyed several rich conversations with Dion, and I plan to continue spending time with him as I learn more about his heart, his ministry, and how our church can partner with him. He is a young man who loves Christ, loves His church, and desires to be a laborer who keeps pursuing students with the gospel even when it’s uncomfortable.

Church family, let’s embrace this opportunity. Let’s encourage him, pray with him, and help him build the relationships he needs to carry the gospel into one of the most spiritually silent regions of the world.

I love each and every one of you so very much and I am certain we will receive Dion into our church family and shower him with love and acceptance.

To God be the Glory,

Rev. Josh Bowman

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

October

03

OCT

LADIES GATHERING

PLEASE BRING SOUP, BREAD, OR DESSERT TO SHARE | 1:00 PM

04

OCT

LORD'S SUPPER

WORSHIP SERVICE | 10:45 AM

05

OCT

FOOD PANTRY

VOLUNTEERS @ 11:15 AM | 12:00 PM

11

OCT

SS & MINISTRY LEADERS LUNCHEON

MEAL PROVIDED | 12:30 PM

12

OCT

PASTORS FELLOWSHIP

BRUNCH PROVIDED | 10:00 AM

18

OCT

PASTOR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT | 12:00 PM

23

OCT

FALL FESTIVAL

MEAL PROVIDED, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | 6:00 PM

25

OCT

REFORMATION SUNDAY

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON | 10:45 AM

27

OCT

HAVEN OF REST SERVICE

DUSTIN DAUGHERTY SPEAKING | 7:30 PM

LIBERTY NEWS

A Special Thank You

Thank you to everyone that provided food for our recent Homecoming Celebration as we celebrated 38 years. All the food was absolutely delicious and the fellowship was wonderful. Thank you to Ms. Lucy, Ms. Myrna, and their decorating team for all the beautiful decorations you provided for the Celebration. We are so blessed with such a loving and generous church family. We are looking forward to all the Lord has in store for Liberty Baptist this coming year. To God be the Glory.

Sunday School Teachers & Ministry Leaders Luncheon

Our quarterly Sunday School Teachers and Ministry Leaders Luncheon will be on Sunday, October 11th following the morning worship service. This is a wonderful time to get together and reflect on all the Lord has done this year. We are looking forward to having our missionary, Dion, join us as he shares his ministry and his heart for missions. Lunch will be provided.

Please contact the church office to sign up.

Pastor Appreciation

We will have a special luncheon on Sunday, October 18th for Pastor Appreciation Day. We greatly appreciate the faithful years that Pastor Josh and Mrs. Mary have served The Lord at Liberty. Please join us as we shower them with our love and appreciation. The main course will be provided, but we ask that you please bring a dessert to share. Please contact the church office to sign up.

Fall Festival

Join us for our annual Fall Festival on Friday, October 23rd from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will enjoy food, games, prizes, cake walk, a devotional, & Trunkin' & Treatin'. Please no scary or inappropriate costumes. We need several volunteers to run the games, help with food, bake some yummy goodies for the cake walk, and hand out candy at your trunk. This is a wonderful family fun filled night. Please contact the church office to sign up.

Way of the Master

Way of the Master Evangelism Training will begin on Sunday, November 1st during the Sunday School hour. Way of the Master is an 8-10 week course that equips believers how to effectively share the gospel with a lost and dying world. Please contact the church office to sign up or contact Bill Beverly with any additional questions.

Ladies Tea

Ladies, it's the most fabulous season! Fall is here. All the beautiful colors, cooler temperatures, and Tennessee football! As I was shopping for fall décor, I came upon this little saying:

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Into Jesus, He never leaves."

LIBERTY NEWS

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Well, I chuckled a little as I passed by, but I got to thinking about this little saying, at my age I really don't like the idea of falling at all! Putting this into perspective and if we look at this closely, "to fall into Jesus" is actually a wonderful thing. It shows our trust in Him, knowing He will always catch us. I thought of the verse from Psalm 37:23-24, which says, "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand." While a righteous person may stumble or fall into trials, they are never destroyed because God sustains them through it all. "Falling" into these trials does not equal final ruin! God is actively intervening! We are not promised to never have trial and tribulations, but God is with us every step of the way. "He never leaves", this is another analogy as I thought on the dead leaves falling from the trees. The Lord is with us ALWAYS; He will not leave us nor forsake us. "The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8 KJV God goes before us; He prepares the way and is there in every situation He is always with us, this is a permeant commitment from God and remember, He cannot lie. Ladies, this just makes me love the fall season even more, as we look for the leaves to fall, we need to be reminded and comforted that Jesus is with us always, and He will never leave us as Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5b tell us: "Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," Hebrews 13:5b As stumbling, falls, trial, and tribulations come into our lives, The One who gives us these seasons, created the trees, and tells the leaves it's time to fall is with us. Take comfort and fall into Jesus!

Mark your calendars now for our Ladies Gathering on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. We will come together for this special time of food, fellowship, and most importantly, time in God's Word. Please sign up to bring your favorite soup, bread, or a dessert to share! Come Join us!
In His Service, Jodi Leonard, Women's Ministry Leader

Veteran's Day Service

We will be recognizing all veterans during the morning worship service on Sunday, November 8th. If you or someone in your family has served in the Armed Forces, please submit their name and branch of service to the church office by Sunday, October 18th. This will make it possible for us to include them in a special honorary mention in the weekly bulletin. Thank you.

Sunday School Involvement

Are you involved in a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings? We would love to have you join us. We offer classes from nursery-adults. Please see Scott Pendergrass, Sunday School Director, for additional questions or stop by the information desk to see what classes we offer. Sunday School is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word in a smaller group setting. Prayerfully consider joining us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. You will be blessed.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100:1-3



Fall

FESTIVAL

Friday, October 23rd
6:00 p.m.

Food Games Prizes

Cake Walk

Trunkin' & Treatin'

Please no scary or inappropriate
costumes.

Liberty Baptist Church

112 Walnut Hill Road
Bristol, TN

liberty-online.org



October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Judy Thomas	2	3 Riley Smith
4	5	5	7	8 Dwayne Chafin	9	10 Krystal Cole
11	12	13 Diane Harr Pat Leonard	14 Chelsey Bowman	15 Myrna Darby Jeremiah Leonard	16 "Doc" Davis Jacob Leonard	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Kelli Johnson	26 Scott Pendergrass	27	28	29	30 David Bowman	31

Happy Birthday!
We love you!!

