



The Reporter

The Monthly Newsletter of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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April 2011

Our Mission

Through God's grace, we commit ourselves as disciples to heal hurts, to teach God's word, to discover God's joys, and share the light, love, and peace of Jesus Christ.



Reformation Lutheran Church

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www.reformation-lutheran.net

Kids, Inc.

Ph: (302) 422-9099

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm

Worship Services:

Sept. - May
8:30am & 11:00am
Memorial Day - Labor Day
10:00am

Christian Education:

Sept. - May
9:45am - 10:45am



An Invitation for You!

This column might not be for you. No offense. But it is for some very important people. This column is written for some folks who matter a great deal to this church and to our Lord. If you've been in church a lot recently, or if you've been coming to Bible studies and soup suppers this Lent, then this really isn't aimed at you. You're welcome to read it, but you can also move along, and I won't be upset in the least. Mind you, I'm not saying you're not important - far from it! - but I'm writing mainly to some other folks. But down towards the end, there's some stuff that might interest you.

OK. If you haven't been in worship much, or if you just haven't been thinking much about church and God-related things, thanks for sticking with the column this far. Because I'm writing for you. Maybe we haven't met, or only in passing. But this month, we are coming up on the most important week of the year. From Palm Sunday through Easter, Holy Week is the heart, soul, and center of what Christianity is all about. **I'd like to invite you to come and be a part of it all.** The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the best news you'll ever hear. The story of his Passion (suffering) will move you like nothing else. But it's not something you can experience from far away. So come and participate in Holy Week worship.

Maybe you've been far away. If so, you'll get no judgment from me. In fact, you're in good company! The apostle Peter followed at a distance, too. You can read the story in Matthew 26:36-75. When Jesus was arrested, Peter followed as he was taken away, but Matthew tells us he "followed at a distance" (26:58). He wanted to know what was going on. He wasn't writing Jesus off; he hadn't stopped believing in God. But he wanted to keep safely away. I think a lot of us can relate to Peter. The thing is, though, it doesn't work. Again according to Matthew, Peter ended up weeping bitterly (26:75). Following at a distance feels safe, but it's not. It's actually a place where we risk missing out on so much. When we're at a distance, our faith becomes much more fragile than we think. And as Peter found out, this can lead to heartbreak.

Again, if you've been at a distance, you'll get no judgment from me. Peter ended up being a pillar of the Christian church, after all! So I'm not about to write anybody off. And we all have reasons for where we've been. But I do write

Pastor's Message continues on Page 2



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Our Church Leaders:

Head of the Church: Jesus, the Christ

President: Neal Richard	265-2115
Vice-President: Chris Antonik	430-7616
Secretary: Susan Emory	422-3115
Treasurer: Lisa Mallard	422-2844

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Gary Johnson	398-4744
Kevin Oldland	752-7130
Lezlie Eustis	422-3742
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Jill Racz	645-0969
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The Reporter is published monthly, and mailed to all member households. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is the **Wednesday following the second Sunday** of each month. Please send, as early as possible, your articles, notices, photos, etc. to the editor, Kevin B. Oldland. **The Reporter** is assembled on the Monday of last full week of each month and mailed that week. A full color downloadable PDF version is posted on our website: www.reformation-lutheran.net.

Pastor's Message Continues

this out of concern. Faith needs to be fed. Christians need community. So I invite you: **come closer this Holy Week.** This isn't just Reformation's first Lent and Easter season with a new pastor. Holy Week is the time of new beginnings and fresh starts. It's a time when God's love reaches out to our deepest hurts and lifts up our heaviest burdens. The Savior who died for our sins rose again for people who hadn't just followed at a distance, but who had flat-out scattered and abandoned him. Jesus doesn't write anyone off. He wants you to come close, and not out of guilt or obligation. He wants you to draw near to feed the hungers of your heart, and to wash your soul with living water. He has come near to you so that you can drink deeply from his love for you. Won't you draw close?

You see, the truth is, even the stalwart who's in church every Sunday follows at a distance in some way. We could all stand to draw nearer to Christ. Nobody's superior, nobody's inferior, and nobody has anything to be ashamed of in a gathering of forgiven sinners. So are you holding God at a distance? Has it been a long time since you've come close to the Lord? **Holy Week is the time. Jesus will welcome you.** Because even when we're walking at a distance, he is never far away from you. Now is the time to respond. Come close to the God who loves you more than you could imagine. Palm Sunday is April 17th. We'll have the Seder meal and Maundy Thursday worship on April 21st (Seder at 6:00pm, service at 7:30pm), and Good Friday worship will be at 7:30pm on April 22nd. A short service of light will begin the Easter prayer vigil on Saturday night at 7:30pm, and Easter morning services will be at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 11:00am on April 24th. I look forward to worshipping the Savior together with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Evers

Keep Your Eyes Open for . . .

After Easter: a Tuesday evening Bible study on Ephesians for the first four Tuesdays in May. This New Testament letter provides challenge and encouragement for us as we live out the power of the resurrection in daily life.

During the Summer: a weeknight, "come when you can," Bible study on the Gospel of John! People come

and go on vacation through the summer, so this will be a chance to learn about one of the most powerful books of the Bible without having to commit to being there every week.

Lenten Soup Supper Mid-Week Bible Study: "Living the Life That Is A Gift."

The Lenten Soup Suppers continue through April 20th, beginning at 6:30pm for soup supper, followed by an interactive Bible study led by Pastor Evers based on the Apostles' Creed. Martin Luther's teaching on the Creed in his Small Catechism shows us the amazing gift of life, both physical and spiritual, that is given to us by God's grace. Come for food, fellowship, and growing in faith!



Saturday, April 23rd – The Vigil of Easter

We gather at 7:30pm for a Service of Light that will begin the Easter prayer vigil.

Sunday, April 24th – The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday



We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, at 6:30am, 8:30am and 11:00am. Plan to be a part of the Christian Community's celebrations this year of the events in Jesus' life and to celebrate His Resurrection for us.

Local Noontime Worship and Lunches During Lent

4/6 at Calvary UMC
4/13 at Avenue UMC

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The events of Holy Week are celebrated in the church with special services. Plan now to make your experience at Easter a more complete and fulfilled by attending these special services:

Thursday, April 21st – Maundy Thursday

We begin with a Seder Meal in the Social Hall at 6:00pm. Then, at 7:30pm we go to the nave to participate in the service of Word and Sacrament.

Friday, April 22nd – Good Friday

We gather at 7:30pm to contemplate the cross on which Jesus sacrificed for us.

Christian Education News

Celebrate God's blessings this spring with your church family in these learning opportunities.

• **Sunday School** (9:45am-10:45am) for ages 3 through Adult.
• **Adult Class:** On April 3rd and 10th Pastor Evers will lead the adult class in a two-week discussion on "How We Worship and Who We Are," a look at our Lutheran identity and liturgy.



• **Friday Morning Bible Class** (10:30am) April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and May 6th: Georgene Endy is facilitating discussions centering on "An Ordinary Day with Jesus: Experiencing the Reality of God in your Everyday Life."

• **Women's Devotional Group** (April 12th, 6:30pm) is led by Karen Oldland. The group discusses reflections from the "God Sightings" meditation book as well as the needs of participants.

• **Lenten Soup Suppers** (6:30pm Wednesdays during Lent) Pastor Evers is leading an interactive Bible Study on the Apostle's Creed: "Living the

Life that is a Gift.”

Lenten Mission Emphasis - Hunger: Participate with your Sunday School in these mission outreach opportunities during Lent:

- ELCA World Hunger - During Lent the Sunday School is receiving special offerings in our “red barn banks” for **God’s Global Barnyard**. Can we collect enough funds to purchase a chicken, a goat, or a cow for people in need around the world? (www.elca.org/good_gifts)



ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- Milford Food Pantry - We are collecting non-perishable food items on our “Can Tree Pantry” in the Sunday School narthex for needy neighbors in our community.

THANK YOU: We have received letters of appreciation from People’s Place, Home of the Brave, and Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for all who brought in gifts, filled shoe boxes for children in Haiti, or supported these programs with monetary gifts.

Easter Butterfly Release: Join us on Easter Sunday at 9:45am for a joyful Easter celebration! During Lent, our Sunday School children have been watching caterpillars enter chrysalises and emerge as butterflies. During the Sunday School hour on April 24th we will give thanks for the new life we have in Christ, our risen Savior, and release the butterflies. Please come and share this joyful event with us!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from June 20th-24th. VBS children will also participate in worship on Sunday, June 26th. Our theme this year is the “Shake it Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God’s Recipe.” Please mark your calendar and spread the word to your friends



and neighbors. We need leaders or assistants for preschoolers, music, science, and centers. See Karolyn Hayes if you are interested in helping with VBS.

SAVE THE DATES - Important Christian Education

dates for your calendar:

April 3rd - Christian Education/Vacation Bible School Meeting - noon (please bring a bag lunch)

April 24th - Easter Butterfly Release

May 8th - Blessing of the Quilts for high school seniors - 11:00am worship service

May 22nd - Sunday School Closing

June 5th - VBS Meeting after worship

June 12th - Pentecost and Confirmation

June 20th-24th - Vacation Bible School

June 26th - VBS kids participate in Worship

Christian Education Meeting: The Christian Education Committee will meet on Sunday, April 3rd after the 11:00am service. The agenda includes planning for Easter Butterfly Release, the Sunday School closing on May 22nd, Vacation Bible School, and a revamped Christian Ed program for the 2011-2012 school year. Please bring a bag lunch with you. All are welcome to join us.

Wanted: BODY BUILDERS

Purpose: To build up the Body of Christ in our congregation and community through Christian Education programs and activities.

Needed: Supporters and participants, trainees and trainers, spotters and heavy lifters

Qualifications: None (Will train as needed)

Commitment: Long term or short term . . . as you are able

Challenges: The Christian Education Committee is examining the needs of our congregation and defining areas of focus in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year. We are wrestling with complex questions as we attempt to build an effective Christian Education program:

- How can we build up the Body of Christ in the 21st Century when the traditional models of delivering Christian Education fall short of reaching all of God’s people?
- What needs in our faith family and community should our Christian Education program address? In what creative formats can we fill those needs?
- How can we effectively support God’s people from infancy and baptism, through confirmation, past high school, into adulthood, through all stages of parenting, into maturity, and through the joys

April News & Events continues on Page 6

Reformation's Email Prayer Chain

is a group of people who have agreed to set aside prayer time for specific people as requested. These people are not necessarily on the public worship prayer list and remain on the network list for one month. If you wish to include someone on the prayer list or if you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please e-mail Sharon Trotman, our church administrative assistant, at rlcsecr19963@aol.com or call her at the church office at 422-9117. If you wish to participate in the prayer chain, you may contact coordinator Trish Boyer at 2trish@comcast.net or phone her at 422-3483.

The following list is used for public worship on Sunday Mornings. If you would like to add someone or there is someone on the current list whose condition indicates that we could remove his or her name, please call the church office.

Jay Konesey	Joseph Ouge
Caleb Cresson	Gene Hebert
Wayne Rogers	Pauline Breitfeller
Bill Evans	Cheryl de Luca
Kerwin Boyer	Audrey Staats
Maggie Haggerty	Tito
Ruth Schaeffer	Ray
Steve Vansant	Paul Bretscher
Paul Oldland	Linda Gregory
Lois Perry	Carrie Campbell

Final Issue for Oldland as Editor

In October of 2006 I took the reins of editor for *The Reporter* from Trish Boyer. Having served as newsletter editor for my previous congregation in North Carolina for five years provided the experience necessary to take on the responsibility. When the nominating committee invited me to be elected to serve on the Congregation Council, I told them that if elected something would have to come off my plate in order to serve in that capacity. Additionally, if I am serving on Council, then someone else should have the opportunity to serve as the newsletter editor. It has been an honor to serve Reformation as editor of *The Reporter* these past four years and five months; and it is a greater honor that you, the congregation, have entrusted your faith in me to serve on Council. Linda Helm has graciously stepped forward to serve as editor of *The Reporter*. She will serve the congregation well and do a fine job, so please give her the same support you have provided me and thank her for accepting the responsibility.

In Christ,

Kevin Oldland

Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! - Nahum 1:15a



HAPPY BIRTHDAY			
2	Sherry Brown	23	Austin Snyder
7	John Gerhold	24	Brendan Cohee
8	Donald Hannah	24	Roy Wilson
8	Sheree Talbott	29	Kristin Varney
9	Gladys Ouge		
10	Joel Sullivan		
12	Kathy Hubbard	8	HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
12	Linda Webb		Mr. & Mrs. Jay Lewis
13	Sean Kilgore	8	Mr. & Mrs. James Talbott
14	Georgene Endy	10	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lewis
14	Lianne Hosmer	12	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Callahan
14	Mary Deeter	14	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Van Gorder
15	Michelle Bahder	21	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Capece
18	Christopher Pope-Wilson	28	Mr. & Mrs. John Orsini
20	Alex Towers		
22	Ashley Gannon		
22	Bev Greason		
22	Caitlin Burkett		
22	Nathan Fleming		
22	Paul Razzano		

**Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right . . .**

Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

and challenges of aging?

- How do we reach out to the “missing generation” of young adults and families who no longer participate in church and Sunday School regularly?
- How can we tap the talents of our members in ways that complement their callings and time commitments in other aspects of their lives?

What you can do:

- Pray, and then pray some more
- Reflect on the challenges our Christian Education program is facing. What possibilities do you see? Let someone know your thoughts and ideas in direct conversation or by e-mail: Pastor Evers (pr.evers.rlc@gmail.com), Neal Richard (nrichard1824@gmail.com), Bethel Crockett (bcrockettde@yahoo.com), or Karolyn Hayes (khayesus@yahoo.com).

Next Steps:

- Consider participating in our Christian Education Meeting on April 3rd after the 11:00am service (bring a bag lunch);
- Prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to be a **Body Builder** in his kingdom.

Youth Ministry News

The Youth are continuing to finalize plans for a ski trip to West Virginia in either January or February, 2012 on a three-day holiday weekend (MLK or President’s day). There will be a sign up sheet on the Youth bulletin board soon. Signing up now allow us to book early and get the weekend we want. In order to reduce the individual cost for this event, the Youth are having the first of several fundraising events; a Spaghetti Dinner on April 29th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The proceeds going directly into the Youth Ski Trip Fund. Our goal is of course to make it basically free for all. We do have other events coming up. In April on the Saturday before Easter, we will host the Easter Egg hunt starting at 2:00pm and it is open to kids of all ages.



Spaghetti Dinner



Movie Night is still the third Saturday of the month. Pizza is served at 6:30pm and the feature starts at 7:00pm with a short discussion afterwards. The

schedule is as follows:

- April – *Megamind*
- May – *Open Season*
- June – *Alpha and Omega*
- July – *A Christmas Carol*
- August – *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*

Please come out and join us at any activity and remember that we can use talents an time serving on our committee.

Gary Johnson, Chairperson

WELCA Schedule

Afternoon meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 1:00pm.

September – June luncheon meetings are held at 12 Noon.

2010-2011 Officers:

- President - Joan Van Gorder
- Vice President - Alice Daino
- Secretary - Connie Howell
- Treasurer - Dot Willis
- Devotions - Maggie Haggerty
- Program - Helene Reed



2011 Meeting Hostesses:

- Apr. 6th, 6:00pm - WELCA hosts Lenten Soup Supper Refreshments for meeting following - Pat Nilsson
- May 5th, Noon - Birthday Luncheon
- Jun. 2nd, Noon - Dottie Lofland, Covered Dish

WELCA invites you to bring your empty coffee cans with lids to the church office so they can be decorated and filled with cookies as gifts to our homebound members.

Our MISSION STATEMENT is:

“To Mobilze Women to Act Boldly on Their Faith in Jesus Christ.”

All ladies are invited to grow in faith with us at our WELCA meetings. Please join us!!

Women’s Devotional Group



The Women’s Devotional Group will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in April, the 12th at 6:30pm at the church parsonage. Currently, our discussions are centered around reflections from the “*God Sightings*” meditation book. Our group continues to expand and

you are invited to join us when you can. You are also welcomed and encouraged to bring a friend. If you have any questions, please contact *Karen Oldland* (302) 752-7130.



Senior Quilts



Please consider contributing toward the Christian Education Graduating High School Seniors Quilt Project. This continues an annual tradition for Reformation as an outreach to our graduating seniors. The materials for each quilt cost around \$50 per student and this year there are nine quilts. If you are interested in making a financial contribution, please annotate your check on the memo line by writing "QUILTS" and place in the offering plates or send to the church office.

Missionary Update

March 15, 2011

In The
Mailbag



Dear Friends at Reformation Lutheran Church:

It is one week from today that I will board a plane to return to the USA, having lived almost twenty-two years in Asia, of which fifteen years have been with ELCA, first as a short-term worker for four years then as a long-term worker for the remainder of the time. There are two more months until my re-entry benefits finish and I will be officially 'unemployed.' Yet today is also the day I finished an application to a new sending agency. I am excited to see what the next few months will bring as I go through the application process with the World Mission Prayer League (www.wmpl.org). The World Mission Prayer League is "a Lutheran community in the mission of God. They are committed to the power of Christian community, the essential ministry of prayer, the adventure of pursuing a simplified lifestyle . . . and the urgent challenge of sharing the wonderful news about Jesus in all the world."

Even though our partnership through the ELCA is ending, please continue to pray for China and the work of Evergreen, especially for the leadership development of our local staff and the local church leaders. We are

still working on finalizing the Visitation Team Training Material, but have been hampered by the illness of both local pastors who have been helping with the editing and teaching of the material this year. I also really hate to leave the Rehabilitation Project at this point, as we have just been asked by the local Public Health Department to develop a 'Stroke Rehabilitation Protocol.' This is a wonderful opportunity to have an impact on the community health system in an area of real need! Please pray that the project will continue to progress while I am gone.

Please also keep me in your prayers as I go through the application process with WMPL; that God will lead clearly as I seek to return to work in China in the next year. I am excited about the possibilities!

Please pray for the earthquake victims in Japan (and New Zealand). I have been watching the news from Japan via the internet and the destruction is unbelievable. The perhaps unrealistic fear of the fallout affecting China has led to text messages flying around, and all over China the stores are sold out of iodized salt because people hear that it's protective.

Thank you for your support over the years, and your prayers and friendship. From July until October, I will be available to visit your church and report on the last term's service. If you would like a visit, please let me know by email.

Blessings,
Judy Perry

Special Note: Discussions have begun regarding having Judy Perry visit the congregation in September; perhaps to have her speak at the worship services and holding a special Christian Education event during the Sunday School hour. Council, Christian Education, and Worship & Music will be coordinating this; so look for news in the future.

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here.
St. Augustine

Report from the Roadtrip

Gabby Johnson and I were given the opportunity to attend “*Roadtrip*: a Lutheran youth weekend” in Ocean City, Maryland sponsored by the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA. The event was hosted by the Clarion Hotel and offered a variety of activities. Some included small group sessions, which focused on our faith in everyday matters (i.e. school, with friends, etc.); worship and music with hip-hop styles and Agape a pastor/rapper; and nightly activities such as campfire and dances that allowed us to have fun in the company of other Christian teenagers. This was a wonderful experience and we hope to be able to go again with other youth from Reformation. We would also like to thank the congregation for sponsoring us so that we could enjoy this opportunity. We appreciate the continual guidance and prayer, for without you this would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Emily Marconi

