



# The Reporter

The Monthly Newsletter of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church  
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Organized February 5, 1956

Volume 54, Issue 8

August 2010

## 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

613 Lakeview Avenue  
Milford, Delaware 19963  
Ph: (302) 422-9117  
Fax: (302) 422-9184

Website:  
[www.reformation-lutheran.net](http://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  
9:00am

## Christian Education:

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



## I've Got a Job for You!

from Pastor Evers

Yes, you knew this would come: the pastor is talking to you, and then the conversation shifts to something that needs doing around the church. (Of course, a pastor usually phrases it much more nicely than that: "an opportunity to serve" or something like that!) You might not have expected that it would come to the whole church at once, via the Reporter! But yes, I have a job for you. It's something that needs doing; it's also an opportunity to serve!

I am extremely confident that you are qualified for this task. You might worry about the time commitment, but really, if all you have is a few minutes a day, it can be done. If you have more time to give it, though, that's great as well! Also, this is one of the most essential jobs in the church. I'm convinced that it has kept the whole Church going through some of its darkest times. So, I need you to do it. Your church needs you to do it.

The job I have for you? **Pray.** Pray for our congregation and its mission in Milford and the surrounding community. Pray for our synod, and for the whole of the Church. Pray for our bishop-elect, The Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane. Pray for me and my family, for your Church Council, and for all your fellow members. Pray for the ill and homebound. You see, the ministry of the Church is spiritual. It's soul work. Yes, it's also physical: feeding the hungry, building homes, providing clothing, fixing church property, and caring for the altar. But that physical part stems from spiritual motivation. And soul work needs God. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can really "do" spiritual things. The power of God is the wind that fills the church's sails. And prayer is how we call on the Spirit of God and align ourselves with the way his wind is blowing.

Now, I'm going to get more specific. That's a lot of stuff to pray for up above. So let's focus in, make it more manageable. In all seriousness, I have some serious prayer requests for all of you reading this. I believe that focused, intentional prayer can be incredibly powerful for the health and ministry of a church. So, here is what I am asking all of us to pray about in the coming weeks:

- + August 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: Pray for Sunday School teachers and leaders! Pray that God will call returning and new teachers for our Sunday School, and fill them with love for kids, passion for the Gospel, and a desire to show students the amazing goodness of Jesus.
- + August 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Pray for outreach. I'm still new enough at Reformation that I'm not going to make any big evangelism "pushes" until we get a sense together of how Reformation "does outreach" best. But prayer is the most powerful form

Pastor's Message continues on Page 2



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## Meet the New Bishop!



Bishop-Elect Wolfgang Herz-Lane will be holding a series of *"Mission Conversations"* to share his vision, hopes, and dreams for the DE-MD Synod ELCA; and to hear from pastors, lay leaders, and church members.

One of these events is planned in our area for **Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30pm** at Community Lutheran Church in Omar, DE near Frankford on Route 20. Pastor Evers is planning to attend and ALL who are able are encouraged to attend. Please refer to the back cover of The Reporter for a color map with directions to Community Lutheran Church from Route 113.

## Lay Assistant Minister Training



There will be a training session for anyone wishing to be a Lay Assistant Minister on Sunday, August 22nd after the service. Please let Mary K. Konesey know if you are interested. You can contact her by e-mail: mkonesey@comcast.net, or phone 422-2253 and leave a message.

## Women's Devotional Group

The Women's Devotional Group will attend the Bishop-Elect's "Mission Conversation" meeting at Community Lutheran Church at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 10th. A group is planning to meet in the church parking lot and carpool to the event. 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.



## Sunday Prayer List



When the prayer list originated for our Sunday worship, the names were removed from the list at the end of each month, and a new list was generated. If anyone wanted

to keep a name on for the upcoming month, they would let the church office know. The Worship & Music Committee would like to return to this format. Names will be entered on the list with a start date and one month later the name will be purged. Sharon re-types the list every month; therefore she will be aware of the

date started and when to remove the name. If anyone wants a name to continue for another month, they will need to let the church office know. The e-mail prayer chain works the same way. The prayer list has grown extensively and can become a burdensome reading for the Lay Assistant Ministers during the prayers. We may find that it is still long, but the church office will know that the list is current. Also, please keep in mind that anyone can verbally say a name during the worship when we have the pause inserted into that prayer concerns.

## Youth Ministries Events



For our August event, the Youth will be spending the day at the beach on **Saturday, August 14th**. We need adults to chaperone and chauffer the kids. Sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway

between the social hall and narthex. The *Movie Night* for August will be **Saturday, August 21st**. The feature this month is *Where the Wild Things Are*. Pizza is served at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7:00pm. There is a brief discussion following the viewing. Other *Movie Nights* at Reformation:

September 25<sup>th</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup>

Thanks so much,  
Gary Johnson

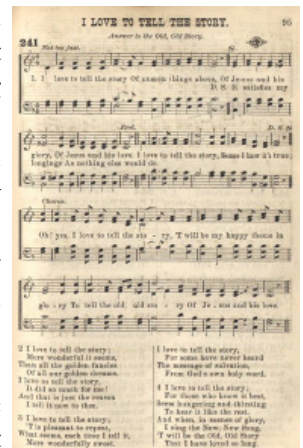


## Tell Me the Story!

### An Invitation from Pastor Evers

Everyone's got a story. And every church does, too. Knowing our story helps us know who God has called us to be and where he is calling us to go. That's true for people and churches, too. I want to invite you to join in an event to help all of us learn more about how the Holy Spirit has been at work in the history of Reformation Lutheran Church, and what that might mean for where he is calling us to go in the future!

"*Tell Me the Story*" is what I am calling this process. Here's how it will work: first, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, I'll be leading a Bible study after worship. The study will focus on how God called his people into mission. People like Abraham, Moses, and the first disciples were all met by God on the way, and sent



forward in new directions. If you can't make it to the Bible study, don't worry! You can still take part in one of the three "Story" events!

After the Bible study, I'll be facilitating three story-telling events. These will be the same event repeated at three different times, hopefully allowing as many people as possible to participate. During these times, members of Reformation will have the chance to share and to hear about this church's history and what it has meant to its members. We'll hear about high points and low points, challenges and victories. We'll have some creative (and perhaps even silly-seeming) exercises to describe the church today. These will be interactive times, and the success of this process depends on you, the people who have lived the story of Reformation! So come, help your new pastor and your fellow members know the story!

- "Tell Me the Story" Bible study: Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:00am service.
- "Tell Me the Story" events: Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm; Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am; and Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00am service.

Because we need to prepare for the events, please call the church office to let us know you plan to come! We may need to "cap" the size of the events to make sure everyone has a chance to share. (And we can always add more events!)

Come and tell me (and each other) the story of Reformation, so that we can better tell the story of Jesus Christ! Just show up for the Bible study, but please call the church office to sign up for one of the three events.

### Blessing of the Backpacks



### Blessing of the Backpacks

The Annual Backpack Blessing will be a part of our worship (9:00am) on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to bring backpacks, briefcases, lunch boxes and other school supplies to be used during the 2010/2011 school year. Students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, custodians, school nurses, cafeteria workers and all support staff will be offered special prayers and blessing for the coming school year.

*"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." Psalm 121:8*



### Annual Picnic in September

The Annual Church Picnic will be on Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service that day at 10:00am and the picnic will follow.

### Acolyte Training

There will be a chance for those wishing to serve as acolytes {any age from fourth grade and up (including adults)} to be trained this Fall. Neal Richard will provide the training. If you want to sign up as an acolyte before the yet to be determined date for training, please see Neal and he will gladly give a mini training session for you.



### Wednesday Teen Bible Study



### YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

The Youth Ministry continues to sponsor a Bible Study for those ages 14 - 18. It is held on every WEDNESDAY from 7:00pm - 8:00pm at the home of Neal Richard, 628 Beechwood Ave., Milford, DE. Light refreshments will be provided. If anyone has any questions or needs directions, please contact Neal Richard: (302) 265-2115, or by e-mail, NAR1824@comcast.net. Feel free to bring a friend.

### Knit & Pray Group

The Knit n' Pray group continues to meet on Tuesdays at 11:00am. You are welcome to join them or pick up a pattern for the various projects and work on your own as your schedule allows.



### Listen, God is Calling



*God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN*

The above prayer has ancient roots in the Eastern Church and expresses well what God may be saying to you and others in our congregation about how he wants us to utilize our musical gifts and talents. I invite you to pray for the Spirit's guidance with this question: "Lord, how would you have me join in the building of a new and glorious choir at Reformation, worthy of your blessing and honor? I will listen to what the Lord God is saying [Psalm 85:8], speak, for your servant is listening [1 Samuel 3:10b]." AMEN.

Are you called? If so, speak to Music Director Starr Fioca. The Choirs (Children's, Handbells, Adult) will resume regularly scheduled practices following a summer repose. Also, if you

would like to lend your musical talents to our Sunday worship services such as playing the prelude, offertory, or postlude, please speak with Star. You may also sign up on the closet door to the right in the Narthex where the robes are stored.

### Directory Update in Progress

#### Church Photo Directory



The Church Picture Directory will be updated to correct any errors and to add our new pastor and families. If you would like to submit a picture of your family, use the picture from the bulletin board in the hallway, or schedule Linda Helm to take your family portrait for the directory, please contact the church office (422-9117) as soon as possible.

### Fast Facts from ELCA World Hunger

The top 20 "too big to fail" companies on Wall Street received \$283 billion in bailout money from U.S. taxpayers - eleven times more than the entire G20 has delivered in new resources to the 2.7 billion residents of the 78 lowest-income countries. 99.86% of the additional resources committed by the G20 to the poorest countries in April 2009 will add to these countries' long-term debt burdens.



The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that 107,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. Over the course of a year, approximately twice that many experience homelessness. Only 8% of the general population can claim veteran status, but nearly 20% of the homeless population are veterans.

### 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



#### 2010 Meeting Hostesses:

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Noon - Gesine Abrutyn, Covered Dish  
6812 Williamsville Road  
Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - Joanne Walmsley, 600 Evans Drive  
Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - Joan VanGorder  
301 S. Dupont Boulevard  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Noon - Susan Romansky, Covered Dish  
118 W. Lucky Estates Drive

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

David Snyder	Helen Jenkins	Voshell Hutchins
Karen Klein	Bill Loderhose	Donna Thurston
Susie Bennett	Clay Semans	Linda Plummer
Jean Baker	Bea Strahle	Joe Ouge
Baby Mia	Carol Hammond	Bonnie Russell
Harry Benham	Madi Dodge	Karen Oldland
Kim Smith	Amy Anderson	Harry Morgan
Jackie Kates	Joan Fetterman	Dale Leyden
George Sharp	Sue Burkett	Vera Gregg
Heather Konesey	Leo Grove	Marybrook Brown
Marty Martell	Doris Bryant	Mary Belding
Bill Emory	Emily & Chris	Donna McAllister
Dorothy Z.	Charles Johnson	Vic Bayly
Marge Ressler	Peachie Wachter	Diane McCenney
John Collison	Maggie Haggerty	Robert Stout
Cathy Miller	Sonny Dorman	Elaine Polino
Kenney Heite	Alex Sammak	Gil Faber
Jo Lee Calloway	Sally Brown	Boots Flannigan
Ray Moxley	Joni	Esther Belliveau
Sam Brewer & Hank		

### Thoughts for the Month . . .

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing. - Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Faith is not simply a patience that passively suffers until the storm is past. Rather, it is a spirit that bears things - with resignations, yes, but above all, with blazing, serene hope. - Corazon Aquino  
God's way of answering the Christian's prayer for more patience, experience, hope and love often is to put him into the furnace of affliction. - Richard Cecil

## Renew: The Green VBS

The week of June 21-25 was a very hectic one as Kid's Inc and Reformation Lutheran Church joined "Head, Hands, and Heart" (one of the VBS songs) to celebrate all of God's creation and discover how and what we can do to care for it. This year's theme focused on only one Bible story - The Parable of the Sower. Each day a different aspect of the story was presented: Day 1: *Planting Seeds*, "A Sower went out to sow..."; Day 2: *Taking Root, Path & Birds*; Day 3: *Growing, Rocky Ground*; Day 4: *Facing Challenges, Thorns*; Day 5: *Living Together, Good Soil*. Each daily theme was explored through the lense of self, community, and world; our three activity sites.



We were very blessed to have special guests this year from the Farm Bureau, Univ. of Delaware extension service and our own congregation. Al Osterholm planted four new trees with the children (Taking Root), and Bill Farlow brought seeds and potato eyes and discussed what is needed in order for growth and a good yield to occur (Facing Challenges). As we learned that "God's Love is a Seed in Me" (song), we also learned that being planted in the good soil and bearing good fruit requires us to be good stewards of God's creation. One of the ways to do this is by recycling and being conscious of the ways in which we help or harm the earth. Another way we do this is by helping others around the world to make their land "good soil" that yields sufficient food to feed their people. Our mission offering this year is going Lutheran World Relief (see display on the Narthex kiosk) to assist countries suffering from drought in East Africa. We will help families in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan grow food, improve access to water, and protect their land and income for the future. Donations will continue to be accepted and can be placed in the "jar" in the Narthex. Donations may also be made online or sent to:

Lutheran World Relief  
East Africa Drought  
P.O. Box 17061  
Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

Finally, we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who worked so hard to provide a meaningful experience for our children:

- Thank you Pastor Evers, for jumping right in on your second week on the job. It was a great way for the children to get to know you.
- A special thanks to Mark Nauman for clearing out the area next to the Memorial Garden for our container garden.

- Thanks and kudos to Kate and Natalie Chirdon, Mikaela Hermstedt, and Sharon Trotman for their extra work on the spectacular decorations which added a special dimension to our theme.
- Thank you also to Mary Lu Wilson and the Kids' Inc staff for sharing their space and talents.
- An extra dose of thanks to Sharon Trotman who pulled double duty, both during VBS preparations and VBS activities, ordering, decorating, tallying and writing our daily newsletter.

And a special recognition to our VBS Staff:

- Director: Jill Racz
- Activity Site Leaders: Self - Joyce Nauman; Community - Karen Oldland; World - Karolyn Hayes; PreK - Becca Guyer and Alex Huey
- Snacks: Carole Warrington, Mary Currie
- Games: Jessup Bawek
- Shepherds and Helpers: Altogether, we had 56 staff and people who helped in some way to serve 103 children.

Our average daily attendance was 73. We received \$487.00 in offerings and an additional \$96.00 for the Mission Fund. There are photos from the week's activities on the back cover of The Reporter.

Karolyn Hayes, Chair - Christian Education Committee

## Time for Immigration Reform

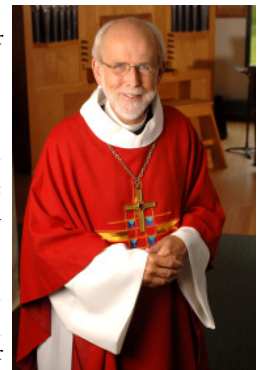
A pastoral letter from the Presiding Bishop, ELCA

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)*

*Sisters and brothers in Christ,*

The time has come for immigration reform in the United States. Yes, the issues are complex and not easily resolved. It is understandable that people are wary of engaging this politically and emotionally charged issue. Yet it would be tragic if we withdrew as people of faith and our voices fell silent. We have an opportunity for evangelical witness to our faith in God who is present in the stranger and calls us to extend hospitality. "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7 NRSV).

The biblical witness is clear. The distinctions that so often divide humankind are overcome in Christ. By grace through faith on account of Christ we are joined together in a radically inclusive community. "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for



all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26-28). Because God mercifully extends gracious hospitality in restoring us to community, we have a clear calling. That call is heard in God’s command to the people of Israel, “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt . . . Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house” (Deuteronomy 10:19; 26:11).

Most, but not all, Lutherans in the United States are the descendants of immigrants or are recent immigrants. Others are descendants of slaves brought to this country or people who lived here before the arrival of the first Europeans and Africans. Our personal histories and faith stories are of an immigrant people moving in search of freedom, opportunity and safety. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is being renewed by the faith and witness of new and recent immigrants. This year 23 of 41 new ELCA ministry starts will be in immigrant communities, and more than 100 African national ministries have begun in the past three years.

We cannot welcome people into the ELCA, however, without caring about their lives, their concerns and their experiences as newcomers in this country. For that reason the ELCA repeatedly has affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience, culminating in an affirmation by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly “that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are committed to work toward comprehensive [immigration] reform that balances respect for the law with the recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles.” Stating that “the nation’s immigration system is broken, and Congress and the administration must work together to find a just and humane solution while assuring orderly migration,” LIRS identifies four foundational values for immigration reform:

- *keeping families together*
- *maintaining basic human and worker rights*
- *helping our new neighbors come out of the shadows*
- *seeking a path to permanence for our new neighbors*

As you serve in your communities, I commend to you resources for study and action (*Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform* [2009] and other resources), the voices of immigrant families and believers, and the witness of the Scriptures. The concluding words of the *Message on Immigration* (1998) remind us “that all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, ‘For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come’ (Hebrews 13:14). As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us.”

In God’s grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop



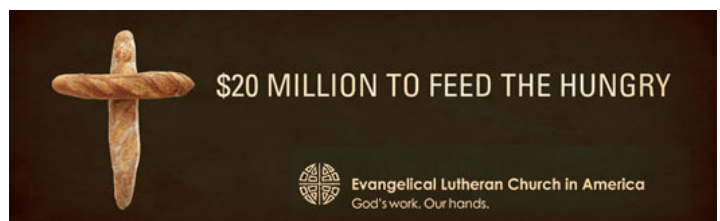
### Birthdays

1	Matthew Burkett	13
1	Marli Julian	13
1	Mike Vansant	14
2	Lisa Caccamise	14
2	Stephanie Fleming	17
4	Josh McDuff	17
4	Kelsey Smith	17
4	Kyle Moore	18
4	Maurice Little	19
5	Kathleen Snyder	20
5	Lisa Capece	21
6	Amy Wells	21
6	Cynthia Hamlin	22
6	William Case	22
6	Brian Bahder	25
7	Brian Bahder	26
8	Alex Hayes	26
8	Jennifer Hayward	27
9	Alexandra Mallard	28
9	Anne Pribble	30
9	Sandy McPherson	31
10	Carol Collins	
10	Emma Wadkins	16
10	Jaime Bahder	
11	Erin Fleming	26
11	Mary K. Konesey	
12	Joshua Scott	

13	Janet Cole
13	Wayne Cohee
14	Dylan Fox
14	Cathy Hofstee
17	Emelia Sohn
17	Nickolas Wright
17	Sydney Wright
18	Bonnie Russell
19	Suzette Madanat
20	Cassandra Dingess
21	Arlene Cooper
21	Jean Boyer
22	David Wilkerson
22	Kirby Fitzgerald
25	Greg Draper
26	Dean Warner
27	Levi Dodge
28	Savannah Case
30	Patricia Little
31	Kathi Crawley

### Anniversaries

16	Mr. & Mrs. John Greason
26	Rev. & Rev. Eric Evers





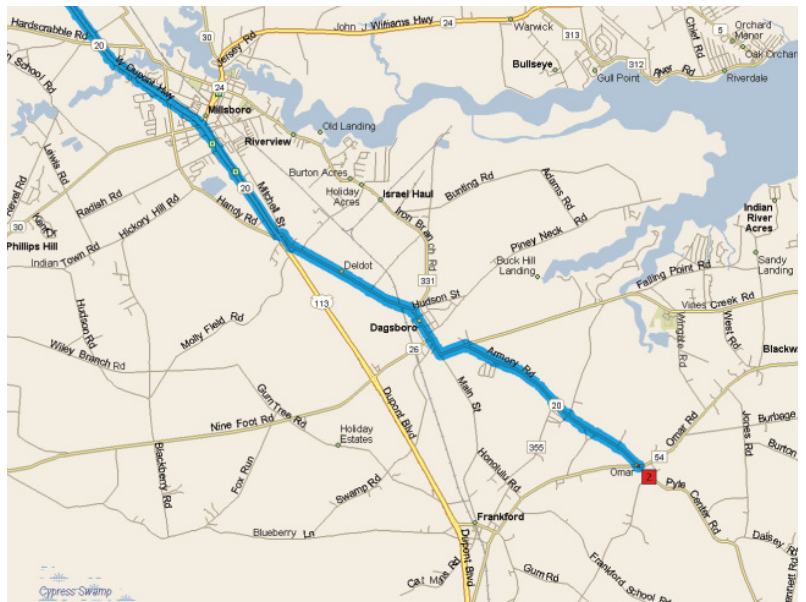
Photos from **Renew: The Green VBS** held at Reformation the week of June 21 - 25, 2010. Top right: Becca Guyer & Alex Huey with the Pre-K class and a special guest from the U of DE Farm Bureau. Top Left and Below: Al Osterholm helps the kids plant a new tree on the church grounds.



### Mission Conversation with the Bishop-Elect

Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30pm

Directions to Community Lutheran Church:  
 Take US 113 South and turn left onto DE 20 East (Dagsboro Rd.). Follow DE 20 East (Main St.) through Dagsboro (a left onto Vines Creek Rd./DE 26 East and then a right turn onto Amory Rd./DE 20 East as you are leaving Dagsboro) and continue on DE 20 East to the intersection of Omar Road. The church is on the right.




**Delaware-Maryland Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.