



# The Reporter

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

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July/August 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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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  
10:00am

## Christian Education

Sept-May

9:45am-10:45am



## Thriving Together

Friends of ours have been struggling with their young daughter's appetite, or rather, lack of one. To all outward appearances, she is happy, intelligent, engaged, and sociable. She just doesn't eat much, no matter how her parents try. Even though she is "hitting" her developmental milestones, because of her small size and low weight, doctors want to diagnose her as "failure to thrive." While they are definitely trying to help their little girl eat more, this label for their delightful child has not helped their level of anxiety or stress.

And it raises an important question: what does it mean to "thrive?" This is something I hope to explore with our church this coming fall and winter. What might it mean for Reformation Lutheran Church to truly thrive as a congregation? What would it look like for Reformation to live into its full, God-given potential? That's something that can mean many different things at many different churches. But there are some general characteristics that mark churches that are living as fully as they can in the grace of God. I'd like you to start imagining what they would look like at Reformation.

One is Bible study and learning. Thriving congregations have lots of people growing in faith by learning together, especially in Bible studies. From young kids in Sunday School to life-long saints gathered around coffee and Scripture, churches that dive into the Bible are active, life-filled churches. And right along with that is prayer. Thriving churches are praying churches, seeking the Holy Spirit's direction and power. Then comes worship. Style of music isn't the key; what matters is that people are engaged in praising God together and hearing his Word as a community.

Vibrant fellowship is another thing found in thriving churches. From after-worship social times to special church events, people are able to gather and enjoy time together as a church family. A related key is mutual care and support: in thriving churches, members know that they can find love, compassion, and help from each other in times of need. But thriving isn't just

*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

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

### Council Members:

Gary Johnson	398-4744
Kevin Oldland	752-7130
Lezlie Eustis	422-3742
Joan VanGorder	422-9589
Jill Racz	645-0969
Dharma Luiken	422-9005
Dale Leyden	856-6404

## Our Staff:

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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 **10th day of** each month. Please send, as early as possible, your articles, notices, photos, etc. to the editor, Linda Helm. 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](http://www.reformation-lutheran.net).

## Pastor's Message Continues

about what happens inside the church; thriving congregations also reach out in hands-on service to others. They share the story of Jesus and welcome newcomers warmly.

Finally, thriving congregations wisely use all of God's gifts. Members are actively involved in "doing." Ministry isn't the pastor's job, it's everyone's opportunity. People in thriving congregations also give generously not only of their time and talent, but of their treasures as well. And the church itself gives generously beyond its walls. Perhaps the most challenging part of this gift-using is that thriving congregations are willing to change in response to the needs and opportunities around them instead of being focused on "how we've always done it."

Quite a list, huh? Does it leave you intimidated? Excited? Do you see these qualities in Reformation? Do you say, "oh boy, we've got a long ways to go?" What is your vision of what our church would look like truly thriving? A bustling Sunday School? A new Director of Music welcomed by choir and congregation, leading us in song? The homeless and hungry being cared for? This is what I want all of us to pray about, think about, talk about, and dream about: what will it look like for Reformation Lutheran Church to thrive, to live into all of its God-given, Christ-shaped possibilities? And then, what will it take for us to get there?

These are big questions, and I look forward to spending time this fall and winter looking at them with the congregation. I believe it is God's desire for every church to thrive. He has given us the gifts, together, to do his work. The adventure is in discovering what that means, and stepping out in faith to see it happen. I look forward to the next parts of that journey together!

In Christ,  
Pastor Evers

Remember...



## September 11<sup>th</sup> Worship:

The ten-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks falls on a Sunday this fall. The regularly-assigned Gospel reading, Matthew 18:21-35, deals with questions of sin and forgiveness. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will remember the loss, the pain, and the heroism of 9/11; we will pray for peace, healing, and freedom from fear for all people; we will focus on the love of Christ. Plans are far from complete, but this will be a day of special worship on an anniversary of great significance for our nation and for all people who strive to walk in the way of Christ in a broken world.

## Summer Bible Study

The weekly informal summer Bible study on the Gospel of John is continuing. John's Gospel is one of the most symbolically, theologically, and spiritually rich books of the Bible, and its power will stretch and deepen our faith. We are meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:00 until 8:15. Since it's during the summer, this is a "come as you are, come when you can" group. You're invited to join us when you're able, and if you miss some weeks, don't worry, you'll be able to jump right back in. We'll go through the summer, except July 13 & 20.



## Gospel of John Bible Study

## WELCA Schedule

Afternoon meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00pm - June luncheon meeting held at noon.

### 2011-2012 Officers

President – Joan VanGorder  
Vice President – Gesine Abrutyn  
Secretary – Dot Willis  
Treasurer – Peggy Gallego  
Devotions – Maggie Haggerty  
Program - Helene Reed



### September Meeting

September 1, 2011 - Covered dish luncheon at noon at the home of Gesine Abrutyn.

*WELCA invites you to bring your empty coffee cups 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 Mobilize 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 Evening Devotional Group will not meet during the months of July and August. We will resume regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, September 13, at 6:30pm. We welcome everyone to join us for fellowship and to share devotional time together. If you have any questions, please call Karen Oldland at 752-7130.



## Reformation Lutheran Youth

Reformation Lutheran Youth Ministry welcomes all of you to join us for our summer events.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> we are again going to the Delaware State Fair. This is the first Saturday of fair week. We'll arrive when the gates open and return to the church around ten (final start and return times may change). Please sign up by the July 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. We will need chauffeurs for this road trip and the next one in August.

In August we are going to Jungle Jims Water Park in Rehoboth Beach. There are no set plans for this road trip. Details will be worked out at the July committee meeting. Please sign up by the July 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

We'll attend a Shorebirds game in September, and this trip is open to the congregation. If you are a baseball fan, please sign up by the August 14 deadline.

Don't forget about the ski trip to Timberline ski resort. We have chosen January 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 as the weekend. This will be a holiday weekend so kids shouldn't have to miss school. We will make sure your child does have school off on this weekend.

As you can see, we are going to be busy this summer, and we will also be working on plans for the next church season. You will find sign-up sheets hanging on the Youth Bulletin board. Please, if you can help, let me know. You can reach me at 302 398-4744 or at [boathead1@gmail.com](mailto:boathead1@gmail.com).

Respectfully Gary Johnson



## 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 email 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.

*Jay Konesey*

*Joseph Ouge*

*Bill Evans*

*Jean Scott*

*Donald Leyden*

*Pauline Breitfeller*

*Lori*

*Family of Tom Brown*

*Family of Megan Payne*

*Family of Pete Peterson*

*Brent Brian*

*Virginia Hollenbeck*

*the Shahan family*

*Eleanor Gregory*

*Jonathan LaCotti*

*Carol*

*Jean Baker*

*Rachel*

*Virginia Cooley*



Committed individuals to serve in leadership roles in our Christian Education Programs during the 2011-2012 school year. Many needs, exciting possibilities, great rewards. Must love Jesus and children. Will train as needed. For more information contact Pastor Evers ([pr.evers.rlc@gmail.com](mailto:pr.evers.rlc@gmail.com)) or Neal Richard ([nrichard1824@gmail.com](mailto:nrichard1824@gmail.com))

Our congregation is in need of a Christian Education Committee Chairperson, a Sunday School Superintendent, a Vacation Bible School Director, and individuals to oversee communications, special events, adult education programs, and family ministries. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you play a role in building up the body of Christ through Christian Education.

## July Birthdays

2 Madeline Haggerty  
3 Ginny Hannah  
3 T. J. Hosmer  
4 Clifton Mumford  
4 Justice Roberts  
7 Daniel Weimer  
7 Marshall Hobbs  
7 Susan Emory  
9 Rose Nailor  
9 Joan VanGorder  
9 Rachel Lucas  
10 Jane Towers  
11 Patrick O'Boyle  
12 Christine Lewis  
12 Jessica Jones  
12 Renate McKenzie  
12 Peggy Tlasek  
12 Madison Dodge  
16 Richard Johnson  
17 J. R. Griffin  
18 Kristen Johnson  
19 Hilary Emory  
19 Matthew Kimmey  
19 Pamela Gruwell  
23 Alexandra Fleming  
23 John Ferguson  
24 Phillip Carlino  
25 Pr. Paige Evers  
27 Drexel Siok  
27 Pearl Bock  
29 James Batchelor  
29 Seth Fleming  
30 Arlene Wilkerson  
31 Melanie Koch



## *JULY/AUGUST* *BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES*

### July Anniversaries

5 Mr. & Mrs. Donn Steele  
11 Mr. & Mrs. George Caccamise  
15 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Vansant  
24 Mr. & Mrs. David Snyder  
25 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Abrutyn

### August Anniversaries

16 Mr. & Mrs. John Greason  
26 Pastors Eric & Paige Evers  
28 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Antonik

### August Birthdays

1 Matthew Burkett  
1 Marli Julian  
2 Lisa Caccamise  
2 Stephanie Fleming  
4 Josh McDuff  
4 Kelsey Smith  
4 Maurice Little  
5 Kathy Snyder  
5 Lisa Capece  
6 Amy Wells

## August Birthdays Continued

6 Cynthia Hamlin  
6 William Case  
7 Brian Bahder  
7 Diane Massey  
8 Alex Hayes  
8 Jennifer Hayward  
9 Alexandra Mallard  
9 Anne Pribble  
9 Sandy McPherson  
10 Carol Collins  
10 Emma Wadkins  
10 Jaime Bahder  
11 Erin Fleming  
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 Kirby Fitzgerald  
25 Greg Draper

### Knit and Pray

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

**God's Work, Our Hands: Caring for God's  
Good Creation**

2011 Delaware Maryland Synod Report

*Submitted by Bethel Crockett and Kevin Oldland*

It was our privilege to serve as the lay voting delegates for Reformation at the 2011 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly held June 2-4 in Ocean City. We joined Pastor Evers and 350 Lutheran lay persons, clergy, youth, and visitors at the event. Pr. Paige Evers attended the Assembly as a member of the rostered clergy, and John Crockett attended as a visitor. The Assembly focused on stewardship: recognizing God as the Giver of our world, our time, our possessions, our money, our talents, our opportunities, our bodies – and recognizing our selves as stewards (not owners) of these gifts in the entirety of our lives.

Throughout the conference, Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane repeated his vision for our Synod:

*Every member a missionary;*

*Every pastor/rostered leader a mission director;*

*Every congregation a vital center of God's mission  
for the sake of the world!*

Highlights of the Assembly included:

- Worship experiences enriched by jazz musicians, praise bands, and contemporary liturgy; by the anthems of an African choir from Baltimore; and by the preaching of Bishop Herz-Lane and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, Director of the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit;
- Bible studies and workshops on stewardship led by Rev. Mark Allen Powell (Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH) and Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens (Gettysburg Seminary);
- Greetings and reports from representatives from Gettysburg Seminary, the ELCA office in Chicago, the Lutheran church in Tanzania, and the Lutheran church in Finland;

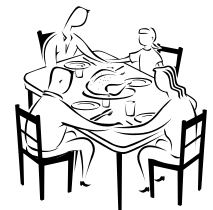
- Presentations on Stewardship Best Practices by five congregations in our Synod;
- The ordination of the Reverend JoAnna Marie Novak Patterson, Associate Pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Wilmington;
- The reception of two new congregations: Joy Reigns (Edgewater, MD) and Grace of God (Millsboro, DE);
- A very successful canned food drive to combat local hunger;
- The celebration of ministry milestones of clergy in our Synod including the 10th anniversary of the ordination of Pr. Paige Evers.

Concerns of the Assembly included:

- Budget difficulties and a decrease in giving during these trying economic times;
- Loss of congregations in our DE-MD Synod and in the ELCA since the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

***Family Devotion***

**Materials:** Ahh! At last! School has ended and summer is here. Our Sunday School program is also in recess until September. The Christian Education Committee is piloting devotional materials for families with children to assist parents with teaching their children about the Christian faith. Families with preschoolers have begun receiving subscriptions to “The Little Lutheran”, a magazine filled with art, stories, prayers, songs, and activities. Families of school age children can stop by the Sunday School office to pick up a copy of “Spark Family”, a new magazine alive with colorful images from the award-winning [Spark Story Bible](#) and engaging activities for the whole family! It is our hope that these resources will help families fit faith into everyday life in the summer and all year long.





## 2011 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

### Shake It Up Café R-E-C-I-P-E!

We've got the recipe!

- One: Be ready!
- Two: Give happily!
- Three: Believe with all of your heart!
- Four: Remember God loves you!
- Five: Celebrate forever!

Things were cookin' at Reformation this year during the 2011 VBS: the **Shake it Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe!** Our café was open June 20-24 from 8:45 a.m. until noon. Kids explored recipes for living out God's word with heaping helpings of Bible fun and celebrations of Biblical festivals. Our chefs served up awesome assemblies, creative crafts, stimulating science activities, yummy snacks, great music, and thoughtful reflections. We utilized space throughout the church, Sunday School, and parsonage. Our VBS culminated with VBS songs during Sunday morning worship on June 26.

We appreciate all who included VBS in their prayers and offerings. We thank our Chefs for sharing their time and talents during this week of outreach to children in our congregation and our community. We were blessed with the skills and talents of members of our congregation, our youth, our church staff, our Kids, Inc. staff, and parents of

some of our participants. Some VBS staff used vacation time from work to participate, others came as they were available, and many people wore more than one hat. Together --with God's grace -- we whipped up a recipe for success!

*Planning Team:* Karolyn Hayes, Sharon Trotman, Mary Lu Wilson, Bethel Crockett, Pastor Evers

*Decorations:* Melody Olsen, Maddie Bayly, Charlotte Bayly, Alice Daino, Paul Hayes, Jackie Bayly, Devin Trotman, Kevin Oldland

*VBS Daily Newsletter:* Linda Helm

*Babysitting:* Jeanne Coherd, Karen Oldland, Brielle Hermstedt, Jenny Rust

*Nursery/Pre-K:* Jody VandenDries, Margaret Frantz, Sydney Wright, Brock Huey

*Kindergarten:* Stephanie Short, Melyssa Ryan  
Jessop Bawek

*Grade 1:* Kevin Lonergan, Emily Marconi

*Grade 2:* Vicky Williams, Natasha Rexrode

*Grade 3:* Hilary Emory, Ashley Rust

*Grade 4:* Pam Ferguson, Jessie Coulter

*Grade 5&6:* Paige Evers, Kristen Johnson

*Music:* Georgene Endy, Lexi Daino, Suzette Madanat

*Discovery Center:* Joyce Nauman, Dakota Madanat, Will Nauman

*Crafts:* Natalie Chirdon, Elizabeth Finkle

*Snacks:* Carole Warrington, Mary Currie, Mikaela Hermstedt, Jessica Tims, Shanayde Trotman

*Technology:* Jessop Bawek

*Festival of the Booths:* Lucy Mehl

*Registration and Help-as-needed:* Susan Emory, David Williams, Gabby Johnson, Alex Huey, Matthew Oldland, John Crockett, Jenny Rust, Olivia Stafford, Jared Bawek, Brian Gilewski, Meghan Whitman, Nathaniel Kersey

**WE REALLY SHOOK IT  
UP!!!**

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GOD'S  
RECIPES**



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