



The Reporter

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

Volume 55, Issue 3

March 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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Millford, Delaware 19963
Ph: (302) 422-9117
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Website:
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



For The Love of Lent!

A Baltimore area church known for the catchy sayings on its sign once posted a message aimed clearly at "insiders." To promote their Wednesday soup suppers and services, the sign read: "Lutherans Love Lent! Come Suffer With Us!" I doubt it attracted many unchurched visitors. But anyone who knows the Lutheran church probably got a good laugh out of it.

Lutherans do, indeed, generally love Lent. I certainly do, and I am definitely looking forward to experiencing the soup suppers at Reformation for the first time! But Lent is about more than adding another Bible study or worship service to the week, and more than "suffering" by "giving something up" for a season. The forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter, patterned after Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, are a time of reflection, self-examination, instruction, and renewal. In the ancient Church, new converts went through extensive teaching during Lent, and were baptized at the great Vigil of Easter. The traditions of "burying" (not singing) the Alleluia, or of fasting, or of having a more penitential feel to worship did not evolve to pile on the guilt and make us feel badly about ourselves. They exist, rather, to set a specific double focus for our lives.

The first focus is obvious at Ash Wednesday: our human frailty, both physically (we are mortal) and spiritually (we are far from perfect). Again, this is not a call to "suffer and enjoy it!" It is, instead, basic honesty and reality. Acting like we're immortal and pretending we're more righteous than we really are will get us nowhere. And this focus is, as well, profoundly hopeful. We confess our brokenness in the confidence that God's grace is greater than our shortcomings. We examine our faults expecting that the power of Christ can, and will, do something to heal and strengthen us. And that brings us to the second focus of Lent: the love, grace, and mercy of God. On the Cross, Jesus bore all of our infirmities. He carried our sins, and died for our forgiveness. Most of us know this, but it's not always at the top of our awareness. So the somber mood of Lent can serve to silence some of the "background noise" and allow us to focus on the grace of Christ.

"Come suffer with us?" Well, not really. "Come focus with us" - on our deep need, and God's deeper goodness - is more like it. So by all means, let us dive

Pastor's Message continues on Page 2



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Are” - looking at our Lutheran identity through the lens of how we worship together every week. Lutherans really do have a powerful spiritual identity. Discovering how our liturgy “programs” that identity can provide a

And 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.”

Come on Wednesday nights, starting on March 16th, 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. We’ll look at the Bible passages and stories that are central to the promises we find in the Creed. Many Lutherans haven’t looked at the Catechism since they were confirmed, but there are amazing treasures to be found there! Come for food, fellowship, and growing in faith!



Christian Education News

WALK YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY with your fellow saints in Reformation’s Christian Education programs:

- Sunday School (9:45am-10:45am) for ages 3 through Adult. Discussions follow the Sunday morning lectionary.
- Friday Morning Bible Class (10:30am) is thriving and growing. We welcome new participants! March 4th: Pastor Evers will conclude his series on “Ten

Commandments: A Journeyman’s Guide to the Soul.” March 11th-April 15th: Georgene Endy will facilitate the group using John Ortberg’s “An Ordinary Day With Jesus: Experiencing the Reality of God in Your Everyday Life.”



- Women’s Devotional Group (second Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm) is led by Karen Oldland. The group discusses reflections from the “God Sightings” meditation book as well as the needs of participants.

YOU ARE INVITED to participate with the Sunday School in these special Lent events and activities:

- Lenten Intergenerational Event: Join us on Sunday, March 13th during the Sunday School hour for an Intergenerational Event focusing on prayer. Participants will create prayer boxes and bake pretzels. Families will receive devotional materials to use at home during Lent.
- Lenten Mission Emphasis - Hunger: The Sunday School’s mission emphasis during Lent will be Hunger. We will support the ELCA World Hunger appeal with special collections in our “red barn” banks. We will also collect non-perishable food items for the Milford Food Pantry (watch for the “Can Tree Pantry” in the Sunday School narthex). We encourage all members of Reformation to join us in our Lenten mission.
- Caterpillar Sunday: Sunday School children will again receive a caterpillar during Lent. Butterflies will be released on Easter Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Information on the caterpillars will be coming soon.

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”.



The Shake it Up Café is based on 2 Corinthians 5:17a: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation . . .” During VBS, children will be introduced to stories of Biblical festivals that link the

Old Testament, the New Testament, and our lives today. Anyone who is interested in helping with VBS is welcome to our planning meeting after church on April 3rd and a staff meeting on June 5th. Please see Karolyn Hayes if you have questions.



Help Wanted: The Christian Education is undergoing changes in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year.

For several years our congregation employed a staff person to support our Christian Education and family ministries. Now we are returning to the model described in our by-laws: a Christian Education Chairperson, a Sunday School Superintendent, an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, and a Vacation Bible School Director. We will be in need of coordinators for special events as well. During the month of March, a sub-committee will be working on updating the job descriptions for these positions. We will begin looking for individuals to fill these important roles. Please see Pastor Evers, Neal Richard, Bethel Crockett, or Karolyn Hayes if you would like to participate in the sub-committee or if you feel called to fill one of these roles. The sub-committee report will be an important agenda item at our April 3rd meeting after the 11:00am worship service. Please feel welcome to join us!

LOOKING AHEAD - Important Christian Education dates for your calendar:

- March 13th - Lent Intergeneration Event: Prayer
- March 16th - Christian Education hosts the Lenten Soup Supper - 6:30pm
- April 3rd - Christian Education/Vacation Bible School Meeting at 12 noon (please bring a bag lunch)
- April 24th - Easter Butterfly Release
- May 8th - Blessing of the quilts for high school seniors - 11:00am 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

Recycle Your Devotionals

There will be a box in the Narthex to put devotionals

that you have read and would like to share with others (i.e.-Guideposts, The Word in Season, etc.). They will be brought to the Transitional House for Victims of Abuse, which is run by Peoples Place in Milford.

Thank you.

Christian Service Committee

Worship & Music News

Additional Hymnals Needed

A current audit by the Worship & Music Committee has found that Reformation has just enough hymnals for the sanctuary and the choir, but no extras if chairs are set up in the narthex or in the aisles at the back. The Worship & Music Committee would like anyone wishing to honor, memorialize, or dedicate a hymnal to someone can give \$20 with a note as to the dedication and submit it to the church office. Worship & Music budget funds will then make up the difference if enough funds are not received to cover the number of hymnals to be purchased.

NEEDED: Acolytes and Nursery Workers!!



Acolytes

We have a few VERY dedicated acolytes at this time, but usually not enough to cover both services for an entire month without doing double or triple duty. You need not be a youth to do this job. Anyone wishing to fill this service to God can see *Neal Richard* for training.

Nursery workers are needed every week. We have several young children whose parents feel are not ready to be a part of worship and would benefit from a loving person(s) having a fun time working in the nursery. Please let Sharon know if you are willing to be a part of this service to God.

Mark These Dates on Your Calendars

- **Ash Wednesday - March 9, 2011**
- Soup Suppers - Wednesdays at 6:30 thru Lent starting March 16th
- Seder Meal and Holy Thursday Service - April 21st, 6:00pm meal; 7:30pm service with foot washing & communion
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 22nd, 7:30pm
- Sanctuary Cleaning - Saturday, April 23rd, 9:00am



March 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.

<i>Jay Konesey</i>	<i>Vera Gregg</i>
<i>Joseph Ouge</i>	<i>Bill Loderhose</i>
<i>Caleb Cresson</i>	<i>Gene Herbert</i>
<i>Alex</i>	<i>Michael Shirey</i>
<i>Becky Jo</i>	<i>Wayne Rogers</i>
<i>Pauline Breitfeller</i>	<i>Bill Evans</i>
<i>Cheryl de Luca</i>	<i>Ray</i>
<i>William Steenland</i>	<i>Dennis Dodak</i>
<i>John Ruppel</i>	<i>John Eustis</i>
<i>Hank Brewer</i>	<i>Sam Brewer</i>
<i>Ken Wheatley</i>	<i>Bob King</i>
<i>Kathy Hohout</i>	<i>Nancy Bennett</i>
<i>Amanda Parisi</i>	<i>Lynn Gough</i>
<i>The Bawek Family</i>	<i>Tara Hooven</i>
<i>Jenny Havel</i>	<i>Sammi Wagamon</i>
<i>Kerwin Boyer</i>	<i>Mike & Amy</i>
<i>Gene Herbert</i>	<i>Sam Fasano</i>

Directory Update

John Dickson 1650 NE Valley Rd., Apt. B10
Pullman, WA 99163

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to turn your clocks 1 hour FORWARD on Sunday, March 13th.



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Doris Adams | 23 Mark Nauman |
| 1 Steve Twilley | 23 Rex Batchelor |
| 3 Gwendolyn Hebert | 25 Mark A. Nauman |
| 4 Pastor Wes Hamlin | 27 Karen Orsini |
| 4 Carly Marconi | 28 Barbara Messick |
| 5 Chris Gannon | 29 Kathy Hamstead |
| 5 Shirley Gerhold | 29 Melissa Kehler |
| 6 Kandy Lucas | 29 Tim Wilson |
| 7 Connie Howell | 29 Ralph Willis |
| 8 Chris Sohn | 31 Gabriel Cote, Jr. |
| 8 Dakota Madanat | 31 Tammy Kehler |
| 8 Florence McGinniss | |
| 9 Dawn Guyer | |
| 10 Janet Lonergan | |
| 10 James Kehler | |
| 10 Shannon Wilson | |
| 11 Cameron Griffith | |
| 12 Alex Ingram | |
| 12 Mike Lewis | |
| 12 Timothy Dodge | |
| 13 Barbara Barker | |
| 14 Muriel Kuhlman | |
| 14 Nancy Burkett | |
| 16 Anne Dawson | |
| 17 Heather Fitzgerald | |
| 18 Rebekah Kent | |
| 20 Jill Racz | |
| 20 John Burkett | |
| 21 Jay Adams | |

Happy Anniversary

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 3 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Luiken |
| 9 Mr. & Mrs. James Kehler |
| 16 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Wright |
| 21 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Mumford |
| 23 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Haggerty |
| 23 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Ressler |
| 31 Mr. & Mrs. Jay Konesey |

- Easter Vigil service – April 23rd, 7:30pm; sign up to begin at 8:00pm thru Easter Sunday morning
- Easter Worship Schedule - April 24th; Sunrise Service 6:30am; Holy Communion 8:30am & 11:00am
- Change to one service only at 9:00am – May 29th
- Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday – June 12th
- Church Music Sunday – June 19th with Strawberry Social to follow

Youth Committee News

Hello everyone; I don't know about you, but I'm tired of winter.

The Youth are planning a ski trip to West Virginia in either January or February, 2012 on a three-day holiday weekend (MLK or President's day). So there will be a sign up sheet on the Youth bulletin board soon. Planning this will 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.



Spaghetti Dinner



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.

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:

- March – *Legend of the Guardians*
- 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.

Thanks!!

Gary Johnson, Chairperson

Volunteer Service & Donations Needed



Circle of Light is looking for the following donations to help out with the opening of the Cold Weather Shelter. If you have any of the items, please contact

Alice Daino at (302) 430-0935 or Connie Howell at (302) 422-7354.

Towels & Washcloths (do not have to be new, but should be clean); small jars of vaseline; chap stick/lip balm; combs; quart-size zip lock freezer bags (to hold toiletries & medicines); latex gloves; new or used sweat shirts and pants; trash bags; laundry baskets; men's and woman's socks; laundry products like those used in the laundermats.

They are also seeking volunteers to help for a week in March. The shelter will only be open if the temperature gets below 27 deg. F. Volunteer service entails serving a meal in the evening (could be soup and sandwiches) and a light breakfast in the morning, which could be just donuts and coffee. They also need a man and a woman to spend the night. This could be done in shifts like 5 to midnight and midnight till 7 or stay all night and do sleep shifts.

Your donations and help will be greatly appreciated.

A Lenten Retreat

"An Ecumenical Gathering"

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 9:30am to 3:30pm

The Potomac Lodge (upper camp) at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center, Jefferson, MD 2175

Retreat Leader: The Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Williamsen

Grace is a word that belongs to the church. It still carries good connotations. It has not been trivialized by popular usage. The words grace and faith launched the Reformation. In a very real sense grace has changed the world. Grace can change your life. As I look back on my many years in the ministry

I realize how important grace has been in my life: God's grace, my family's grace, and my friends' grace. Grace has kept me afloat when I felt like my boat was foundering. What the world needs now even more than love is grace. The world needs grace filled Christians. Can you imagine



what it would be like if we all lived grace filled lives? Can you imagine what grace filled families would be like? Can you imagine what a grace filled church would be like?

Forgiveness is grace in action. This one-day retreat will center on the themes of grace and forgiveness. They are gifts the world sorely needs. This Lent I invite you to live a grace filled life of forgiveness.

The retreat will include two brief lectures, worship, quiet time, and group time. I will also distribute six weeks of devotions centered around the theme of forgiveness to be used during Lent.

The Rev. Tom Williamsen is the Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Arnold, Maryland, and author of *Attending Parishioners' Spiritual Growth* and *Signs of Healthy Religion/Signs of Unhealthy Religion*. He has published dozens of songs including the musical narrative *Alive on the Vine*. He has been a retreat leader and speaker in The United States, Great Britain and Ireland.

Cost (including lunch): \$30 for individuals; \$45 for couples. To register send a \$10 non-refundable registration fee, along with the form below to: Mar-Lu-Ridge, 3200 Mar-Lu-Ridge Road, Jefferson, MD 21755

Questions and more information: Call LaVern at 1-301-662-3564 for more information.

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:

Mar. 3rd - Maggie Haggerty
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 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!!

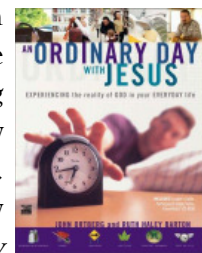
Women's Devotional Group



The Women's Devotional Group will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in March, the 8th 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.

Georgene Endy Gearing Up for Next John Ortberg Series

Following Pastor Ever's Bible study on Friday mornings at 10:30am, Georgene Endy will begin a new John Ortberg curriculum on March 11th. The Friday morning sessions will last one hour. Georgene will be facilitating the study of John Ortberg's “*An Ordinary Day With Jesus: Experiencing the Reality of God in Your Everyday Life.*” Please bring your Bible and see you in on Fridays!!



A Letter from the Council President

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I first want to thank each of you who were able to join us for the Annual meeting on January 30th. It was a long meeting, but a very productive meeting.

I just wanted to recap the three voting matters so that all are aware of what the outcomes were:

- The service schedule with regards to when we have Congregational Meeting(s) will **not** change;



there will be a service at 11:00am with the Congregational Meeting(s) to follow.

- There will be one service at **10:00am** on Sundays this summer, 2011, while the Worship & Music Committee looks at the potential and feasibility of potentially holding two services throughout the summer possibly beginning in 2012.
- The Congregation has approved the use of the Parsonage for meeting space for our church groups, while Council looks into the potential of utilizing the Parsonage as a housing unit to host a Vicar (pastoral intern) as well as looking into the potential of utilizing the Parsonage for a Social Service Agency to use as a housing unit. The Council has 6 months to complete this study and present a recommendation to the Congregation based on the results of the study.

So be aware that sometime in June, keep an eye out and an ear open for a Congregational Meeting to be called sometime in July. Again, thank you to all that were able to be there. We are looking forward to another wonderful year!

Peace Be With You All,

Neal Richard, Congregation Council President

Attention Thrivent Members: New Program Gives Thrivent Financial Members a Voice in Charitable Giving

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently launched Choice DollarsSM, a new component of its Thrivent ChoiceSM charitable grant program. Choice Dollars enables eligible Thrivent Financial members to help direct a portion of Thrivent Financial charitable funds to Lutheran organizations and congregations. Eligible members can choose to help direct funds to more than 18,000 separate organizations enrolled in the program by recommending how an amount of funds should be spent.

Eligibility for the program is based on a member's annual insurance premiums from qualifying products, contract values in qualifying products and/or volunteer leadership in various Thrivent Financial roles. Most eligible benefit members will be able to help direct between \$25 and \$100 annually, and some may be able

to help direct as much as \$500, based on their financial and volunteer involvement in the organization.

Choice Dollars, which will annually deliver tens-of-millions of dollars to worthy Lutheran organizations and congregations, is designed to increase the percentage of Thrivent members involved in helping to direct a portion of charitable funds.

Thrivent Financial members can help direct Choice Dollars designated to them at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice". Choice Dollars earned in 2010 must be designated by March 31, 2011.

"Our research indicated that many of our members are interested in the opportunity to serve their communities by helping decide how charitable funds are distributed," said Brad Hewitt, Thrivent Financial president and CEO. "Choice DollarsSM is designed to be a fast, fair and efficient means for our members to do this."

A separate component of Thrivent Choice, called Voting Events, offers all Thrivent members age 16 and older the opportunity to vote for a short list of up to 10 national Lutheran and non-Lutheran organizations to which they would like a portion of charitable grant funds distributed. Voting Events are held once or twice each year and funds are then distributed on the basis of the percentage of votes received by each organization during the voting period. Earlier this spring, Thrivent members voted in how to distribute \$1 million among 10 national charities.

In 2009, Thrivent Financial provided \$113 million to help congregations, communities and nonprofit organizations. Thrivent ChoiceSM is one of many ways that Thrivent Financial gives back.

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.

