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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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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Kids, Inc.

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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

Is Your Faith a Riot?

I am writing this article just before Holy Week begins, but I know it will be read after Easter Sunday. But now that May is here, Easter has not passed. Easter is not just a day, but a season, made up of seven Sundays. It has been called "a week of weeks," a festival that takes a full 49 days to celebrate. How can the resurrection of Jesus be observed in just one day? Indeed, it takes a lifetime to even begin to understand the beauty and power of this Gospel, that sin and death have been defeated and life eternal has been won for us now.

During this Easter season, we will have an opportunity to explore together how we can live out this good news. On the first four Tuesday evenings in May, at 7:00, I will be leading an interactive Bible study on the book of Ephesians. This is not the most frequently studied book in the New Testament; however, it is full of treasures. Eugene Peterson, one of the most gifted spiritual guides and theologians in the Christian church today, recently wrote a book entitled *Practicing Resurrection*, where he looks at Ephesians as a guide for growing into spiritual maturity. And for him, that means finding the resurrection life of Jesus more and more evident in one's own life.

The story of the Ephesian church is fascinating. It starts in Acts 19, when Paul discovers disciples of Jesus in the city there who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Once they are baptized into the name of Jesus (they had only been baptized in the manner of John the Baptist), the Holy Spirit is unleashed among them, and amazing things start to happen. Miracles occur. Pretenders try to cast out demons in Jesus' name, but without faith, and are soundly defeated, leading to mass confessions and conversions. This, in turn, creates resistance from the silversmiths who made idols of Artemis, who stir up crowds into an anti-Christian riot.

Pastor's message continues on page 2

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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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.

Pastor's Message Continues

Would our faith create mass demonstrations? Would our way of life, shaped by the death-destroying love of God, lead to protests? (And no, this isn't an invitation for us to go out and behave obnoxiously in the name of Jesus just to get "the world" mad at us!) Maybe our faith is too tame, then. (Recent sociological studies, by the way, have shown that the reason why so many teens drop out of church is that their churches do not challenge them with a faith worth giving their lives to. But that's another story for another time…) Maybe we should be living a resurrection riot!

For the seven Sundays of Easter, and for the first four Tuesdays in May, we will be seeking God's wisdom for how the resurrection of Jesus can shape our life. I encourage you to join us whenever you can; if you miss one Tuesday night study, you can come to another! And may the victory over sin and death won by Jesus fill you with joy and peace.

In Christ,
Pastor Evers

Pastors Are Coming! Pastors Are Coming!

On May 19th, Reformation Lutheran Church will be hosting one of three "Bishop's Leadership Days" in the DE-MD Synod. Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane and others will lead the activities of the day for pastors and rostered leaders of the DE-MD Synod. Similar gatherings will be happening in the Baltimore area and in western MD; in addition, another "Bishop's Leadership Days" event for all pastors and rostered leaders of the synod will be happening in Ocean City this October.

Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee, who will be providing food and refreshments on the 19th. Please keep this gathering in your prayers, that the pastors of our synod would be built up!

Special Thanks to Kevin Oldland

I'd like to thank Kevin on behalf of the whole congregation for his service as Editor of ***The Reporter*** over the last four years and five months. He has done an excellent job and has passed on the information that I need to make my transition to Editor. Thank you, Kevin! I know that the congregation will continue to benefit from your service and leadership skills. *Linda Helm*

Memorial Service for Audrey Staats

On Saturday, May 14th at 11:30 AM, we will gather to thank God for the life of our sister in Christ Audrey Staats, commend her to the hands of the Savior, and celebrate the great promise of the Resurrection. There will be a reception following the service, and we will need help with hospitality. Please contact the church office if you are able to assist

WELCA Schedule

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

May 5, Noon – Birthday Luncheon, Abbott's Grill
June 2nd, Noon – Dottie Lofland, Covered Dish

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

During May, the Women's Devotional Group will attend Pastor Evers' Tuesday evening Bible study on the book of Ephesians.

Christian Service Committee

The Christian Service Committee will be holding a meeting in the church after the 11:00am service on May 15th. All members, please try to attend. Anyone, interested in serving on this committee, is also welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please call me at 430-0935.
Alice Daino

Music Search Committee

Starr Fioca has announced her retirement effective July 31, 2011. While we are saddened by this news, we are thankful for her ministry with us and are happy for her as she looks ahead to the next steps in her journey. We will certainly celebrate her service here as the end of July draws near, so keep your eyes open for news about that!

Council has formed a search committee that will finalize job descriptions and fill this vital ministry role in our church. The committee is John Ferguson (chair), Theda Blackwelder, Susan Emory, Diane Massey, Sue Owens and Jill Racz. Please keep them, and their work, in your prayers daily, and know that they will be working diligently to find who God is calling to serve our congregation.

Dear Church Family,

It is such a blessing to know how much you love and support my trip to Romania. Since my family has joined Reformation Lutheran Church, I have mostly been here in Florida at Southeastern University. While at home I have enjoyed singing in the choir, serving, setting up the church, working at the Kids Inc. daycare, all of the services and Sunday school. RLC is so supportive and reaches out to people in the community, through Sunday school, Kids Inc. Daycare, and the variety of services.

Over these past two years God has really taught me a lot about him and taught me about myself. Even through my darkest and most challenging hours of life, I know people from Reformation were praying for me. God has such indescribable power. Through the work of his Holy Spirit, through the prayers of others, miraculous things happen. I believe God is going to really use this opportunity to go to Romania, not just so that I will influence those children, but more that they will change me. I will never forget the little boy whose shoes we had to duct tape back together at Winshape Camps this summer. He came to camp everyday dirty with basically no food to eat. I have no doubt that seeing the poverty over in Romania will be an unforgettable experience, that will change my life forever.

I believe our God is omnipresent. As I finish out the semester here in Florida, I know God is here with me, with everyone at home in Delaware, and with the children and families we will work with in Romania. There are hurting people who need to be loved everywhere around the world. I am so blessed to have you all as a congregation, and as I travel to Romania you will all be with me. Thank you for responding to God's tug at your heart to give. I cannot wait to tell you about the trip.

My plans are to document through video tape and picture taking, and then present everything we did over in Romania. I remember always thinking that I could never go on a mission's trip because I have no money, but God works through situations, jobs, and other people to supply our needs. Thank you for your help and support. Please continue to pray for our team. I love you all. Everyone at Reformation is my family, especially since we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Always remember: "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" Matthew 6:25

Sincerely,
Carly Marconi

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 is a sign up sheet on the Youth Bulletin Board. Signing up now allows us to book early and get the weekend we want.

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

May – **Open Season**
June – **Alpha and Omega**
July – **A Christmas Carol**
August – **The Sorcerer's Apprentice**

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 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.

Jay Konesey
Joseph Ouge
Bill Evans
Bruce Dodson
Earle Dodson
Maggie Haggerty
Margie & Richard Crockett
Ben
Jen
Dimitri
Delaney
Vera Gregg
Chris Peterson
Miho's family
Marjorie Ressler
Sammi Wagamon
Steve VanSant
Wayne Rogers
Jenna Cary
Carrie Campbell
Cheryl DeLuca
Ray
Pauline Breitfeller

Knit and Pray

The Knit and 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

3 Mary Currie
5 Connor Kilgore
7 Julie Caldwell
7 Nancy Warner
10 Cassandra Schreiber
10 Eleanor Loderhose
11 Becca Guyer
11 Kevin Hascup
13 Colin Nauman
15 Heather Snyder
16 Matthew Oldland
17 Kevin Gruwell
18 David Willis
19 Nicole Stokes
19 Zachary Emory
20 Maynard Gregory
21 Devon Schlegel
21 Kristen Evans
23 Drew Fox
23 Stephen Fox
24 Patricia Nilsson
25 Josephine Schaeffer
25 William Warner
25 Ashley Snyder
25 Helene Reed
27 Andrew Whitman
27 Kris Wilson
31 Jeanette Steele

Happy Anniversary

7 Mr. & Mrs. William Warner
11 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Oldland
12 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Martin, Jr.
15 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Steenland
20 Mr. & Mrs. Collins Batchelor
20 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mallard
30 Mr. & Mrs. Wes Smith
31 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McGinnis

The Adult Sunday School and High School classes would like to invite you to join them on May 8st and May 15th at 9:45 AM for a screening of the movie **FLYWHEEL**! The movie will be shown in two parts.

This is the first "must see" movie of a series produced by Sherwood Pictures, the moviemaking ministry of a Georgia church. It was written by church members the Kendrick Brothers and stars Alex Kendrick and many other members of the Sherwood Church.

> **The story of FLYWHEEL** is sure to inspire everyone… Jay Austin wants to sell used cars in the worst way ... and that's *exactly* how he does business at his dealership. Promising much more than he can ever deliver, he'll do whatever it takes to sell a car. His manipulative ways permeate all of his relationships—even his wife and son know they can't trust him.
>
> But as Jay works on restoring a classic convertible, he begins to see that God is working on restoring him as well. Coming face-to-face with the reality of how he truly conducts himself, Jay Austin begins the ride of his life as he commits to honoring God with his business, his relationships, and his life!

FLYWHEEL was created with the same faith-filled warmth and humor of their other two movies **FACING THE GIANTS** and **FIREPROOF**. The Adult Sunday School class will be hosting these two movies in the near future! Their newest movie **COURAGEOUS** is scheduled to hit the theaters nation-wide on September 30.

DON'T DELAY! NO RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED in the <u>RLC Private Screening Room</u> (Fellowship Hall). We'll have a seat and some popcorn waiting for you!

The Property Committee will have their **Spring Clean-Up** on Saturday, May 7th at 9:00am. If you are able and available, please come out to help. Many hands make light work!

Attention Baseball Fans:

Lutheran Night at the Blue Rocks! Join Lutherans

For a night of fun at the Blue Rocks and at the same time benefit KenCrest and Mosaic, Lutheran social ministries serving individuals with autism and other intellectual disabilities.

Date/time: Thursday, June 16, 20ll, 7:05 pm
Location: Frawley Stadium in Wilmington
Deadline for ticket purchase, Friday May 13th
Cost $10 (Proceeds over the normal cost are donated to KenCrest and Mosaic.)

Please contact Sharon in the church office to purchase tickets.

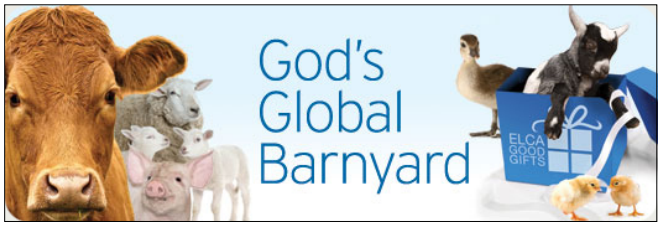
Christian Education

Calendar items for May

- May 8 – Blessing of the quilts for high school seniors - 11:00 a.m. service
- May 22 – Sunday School Closing – 9:45 a.m.
- Friday morning Bible Study – 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor Evers' Tuesday night class on Ephesians – 7:00 p.m.

This spring, celebrate God's blessings with your church family in these Christian Education opportunities.

- **Sunday School** (9:45-10:45 a.m.) for ages 3 through Adult. Sunday School concludes on May 22.
- **Friday Morning Bible Class** (10:30 a.m.):
  - May 6 and 13: Georgene Endy will facilitate discussions centering on "An Ordinary Day with Jesus: Experiencing the Reality of God in your Everyday Life".
  - May 20: Pastor Evers will conclude his series on "Ten Commandments: A Journeyman's Guide to the Soul" (rescheduled from March)
- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study with Pastor Evers:** The first four Tuesdays in May (3, 10, 17, & 24 at 7:00 p.m.), Pastor Evers will be leading a **Bible study** on the book of **Ephesians**. See his message in this issue.



Reformation Bought a Farm! Praise, oh praise, the LORD!

Thank you for supporting *"God's Global Barnyard"*, our Sunday School's Lenten mission project. We received offerings of over $1000 for this hunger initiative sponsored by the ELCA. Chicks, ducks, pigs, goats, sheep, and cows purchased through *God's Global Barnyard* provide families living in poverty worldwide with food, funds, and fertilizer — all for a better future. Our Sunday School children will be bringing Barnyard offerings to the altar during worship services on May 1.

During Lent, we also received offerings of non-perishable food items to help needy neighbors in our own community. Your gifts to the *Can Tree Pantry* in the Sunday School narthex have been delivered to the Milford Food Pantry for distribution. Thank you for your generosity and support of these Lenten mission projects.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

KIDS! Let's get cookin' at the **Shake it Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe!** Explore and experience recipes for living out God's word. The recipe at our café includes heaping helpings of Bible fun and celebrations of Biblical festivals. We'll be serving up creative crafts, science activities, yummy snacks, and great music. The café will be open from **June 20 -24 from 9 a.m. until noon**. Invite your friends and neighbors.

PARENTS! Registration forms are in the *Reporter*, Sunday Bulletins, and on the church website. Completed forms can be turned into the church office. *Don't forget*: *VBS kids will participate at 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 26.*

Calling all Chefs with a specialty for serving up God's Word to children! We need group leaders and assistants, babysitters and photographers, registrars and greeters. We need chefs to help with decorations, to collect craft materials, to gather donations, to shop for supplies, and to pray for our staff and children! *We are also receiving offerings for the purchase of tee-shirts, chef's hats, music CDs, and supplies*. Please complete the Volunteer Form or see Karolyn Hayes if you would like to join our VBS family. Thanks so much for your help, support, and prayers!

Sunday School Celebration: Parents, children, and church family – Please join us for our end-of-year Sunday School Celebration on May 22 at 9:45 a.m. The program includes singing, acknowledgements, attendance awards, and refreshments. *Many thanks* to our Bible Class facilitators and Sunday School teachers and attendance secretaries for their dedication and faithfulness in our Christian Education ministry this year: Becca Guyer, Karen and Kevin Oldland, Susie and Chris Antonik, Mary Currie, John and Bethel Crockett, Neal Richard, Pastor Evers, Karolyn Hayes, Dawn Guyer, Georgene Endy, Janet Lonergan, Kristin Schlegel, and Jill Racz.

SAVE THE DATES – Important Christian Education dates for your calendar:

June 5 – VBS Meeting after worship
June 12 – Pentecost and Confirmation
June 20-24 – Vacation Bible School
June 26 – VBS kids participate in Worship

Looking Ahead in Christian Ed: Sunday School is ending for the summer, but your Christian Education committee is already preparing for the new school year. We're exploring effective ways to support our faith family from infancy and baptism, through childhood and confirmation, during high school and adulthood, and throughout life's journey into the joys and challenges of aging. We are piloting new ideas, and we welcome feedback and suggestions.

- **Family Devotion Materials:** As a first step, we are providing parents with devotional materials to assist them with teaching their children about the Christian faith. Families with preschoolers will begin receiving subscriptions to "The Little Lutheran", magazines filled with art, stories, prayers, songs, and activities. Families of school age children will receive "Spark Family", a new magazine alive with colorful images from the award-winning *Spark Story Bible* and engaging activities for the whole family! We are looking for appropriate materials for families with teenagers. It is our hope that these resouces will help families fit faith into everyday life.
- **Parenting Groups:** The 21st century is bringing unique challenges to Christian families. We plan to begin Christian Parenting Groups to provide parents with support, resources, and friendships through good times and difficult times. Groups are planned for parents of Infants and Toddlers through parents of adult children. We're looking for facilitators and participants. If you are interested in facilitating or participating in a Christian Parenting Group, please see Bethel Crockett or any member of the Christian Education committee.
- **Christian Education in 2011-2012**: Many thanks to Karolyn Hayes for her leadership in all of our Christian Education ministries through the many transitions of the past 18 months! Karolyn is stepping down from her leadership position in Christian Education after VBS is over. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to discern new leadership in our Christian Education ministry. We are in need of a Christian Education Chairperson whose duties are to recruit and coordinate. We also need a Sunday School Superintendent and a new VBS Director.