As we all know, the Bahamas were severely impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Many agencies and organizations are working to help those affected. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Juno Beach and Nativity Lutheran in Palm Beach Gardens are partnering together as the Florida-side staging areas for collecting supplies for the Bahamas. These congregations have secured a way to transport supplies to Freeport, Bahamas.

Please give as generously as you can to our Disaster Relief Fund. These funds will be sent to Holy Spirit, where they will use the funds to purchase supplies in bulk and then ship them directly to Freeport. This is the most direct way we can make our funds useful to those who have lost everything. Items purchased will include water, wet wipes, baby diapers, baby food and formula, canned goods, trash bags, work gloves, and other needed items.

ARE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, SUFFERING? GRIEVING?
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF HOPE AND HEALING WITH GRIEF EXPERT, DR. ALAN WOLFELT.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019, 6-9PM AT VICTORY CHURCH

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes is making this event available at NO cost to anyone who wants to attend. RSVP 863-688-7679.

Food Barrel Donations
First Sunday of Each Month
For the benefit of Talbot House

I don't have time to worry about who doesn't like me.
I'm too busy loving the people who love me.
“Reformation, the Gift that Keeps on Giving.”

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17

When Luther read the above verse, he never anticipated the day would come when he would be excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. He never anticipated the fact that he would be considered a founder of another Christian denomination. And he certainly did not think that we would still be talking about his courageous faith five hundred and two years after the 95 Theses were delivered to the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

He hoped that “the Church” would read Romans 1 and see what he saw; the gospel, grace and faith. Alas, things didn’t happen the way he anticipated. Do they ever?

Luther recoiled at the title “Reformer.” In fact, Luther considered the Reformation to be “the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.” Reformation was not a fixed period of time with a beginning, middle and an end. Reformation is, if you will, “the Gift that Keeps on Giving.”

As the Pastor in this congregation, Reformation Lutheran Church, I see the spirit of reformation alive and well in the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. God has gifted the congregation with talented and committed disciples who are living out the legacy of our history as Christians.

Now, as we enter into Stewardship, it is important that we claim our identity and live out our faith as daughters and sons of a Reformation that is far from over. God has gifted us with the Gospel. Empowered by the Gospel, we give! We give of our time, our talent and our treasure. We do not give because it is our obligation or a burden but a joyful privilege. This is what the Reformation is all about.

Let us celebrate the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit at Reformation. Empowered by the Gospel and gifted by God let us respond by giving of our time, talent and treasure.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff
**SHARING GOD’S GIFTS WITH GOD**

*All Gifts Are From God, Through God, To God, And The Glory Is All God’s*

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

9 “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9: 6-15)

Reformation has been continually blessed over its many years of service. The church has been a good steward of its resources and today the church stands debt free, and with a balanced budget. We have responded to the call to expand our ministry within the community.

Stewardship is an integral part of our church life because it recognizes that everything we are and have comes from God. It involves a wise use of all the gifts God has given to us personally—our time, talent and material possessions and the gifts He has given us as a society. The Bible tells us that part of this recognition and use is that we must return to Him the first fruits of the gifts He has given us in recognition of our dependence on and gratitude to Him.

In addition to giving our time and talent, we must continue to serve in building His Kingdom by becoming disciples of Christ. God has been generous by giving us Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Most of us have heard many sermons regarding giving, tithing, financial support, etc. and the Bible clearly supports this emphasis. If you have been pledging, please continue. If not, please consider joining others in indicating your support on a Commitment Card. Being fiscally responsible and good stewards as a church only comes about if all of us individually do the same.

The annual Sharing Campaign will begin Sunday, October 13, 2019, and continue through Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Thanks Be To God!

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It’s Called "pre-sleep".
The Lunch Bunch welcomes all ladies of Reformation and their female friends. We meet on the third or fourth Thursday of each month. One of our ladies will be in charge of the group each month. We’ll be visiting places like Cheddar’s, Ling’s, Olive Garden, Smokey Bones, just to name a few. On September 26th, we were 11 strong and accompanied Marilyn Hodge to Palace Pizza on 98N. The only time we stopped talking was when our food came. It was great! Next month, Oct 24th, our hostess, Mary Gettig, is taking us to Fred’s Market Restaurant on Harden Blvd. Meet at the restaurant for lunch at 12:00. Let Mary know if you are going and if you need a ride, 816-7451.

On Jan. 1, 1988, The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and The Lutheran Church in America officially merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The ELCA is the largest Lutheran body in the United States.

We have some vacancies in December for flowers and in November and December for the Eternal Candle. Consider signing up to help beautify the sanctuary on Sunday. The flowers are $20 for each bouquet. You are welcome to take them after the service, give them to someone, or ask that they be taken to someone who is homebound or ill. The cost for the Eternal Candle is $5. Sign-up book is in the Narthex.

On Sunday, October 20th, following our 10:00 worship service, Sister Michelle Collins from the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA will be leading an “Interim Retreat.” It will be held in the Fellowship Hall following worship with lunch included. It will run from 11:30 am-3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you are on the council, a member, associate member or frequent attendee who happens to maintain membership up north. We need you!

But more than that, this will be a terrific way to contribute to the mission and vision of the church while, at the same time, prepare for the call process by identifying our gifts, our challenges, and our dreams. This works best when many people are in attendance.

Sister Michelle is a Lutheran Deaconess who I have had the privilege of knowing and working with for several years. I can tell you that we are extremely fortunate that she is available to lead this retreat. I can also tell you that I am excited to work with her to prepare this wonderful congregation for a wonderful future. But what I am REALLY excited about, is giving Sister Michelle an opportunity to see what I see regularly, a gifted, talented and dedicated congregation with a very bright future. In short, I am as happy for her as I am for us.

If you are asking the question: “Will I be missed if I don’t attend?” The answer is yes, yes, a thousand times yes!!! We need you.

Now I know that people have schedules that cannot change and I will speak to Sister Michelle about a potential questionnaire that can be distributed to those of you who cannot attend. I want to make sure everybody has an opportunity for their input.

Good people of Reformation, THIS IS GREAT NEWS. Please embrace this opportunity as a privilege and a gift. It is a privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor and each one of you is a gift to this congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff
Synopsis of Council Minutes

Treasurer report is written under Financial Update elsewhere in newsletter and not included in these minutes.
Complete copies of all Council Meeting Minutes are located in a binder on the mailbox in the office.

August 21, 2019

- Pastor Jeff reported that we may have lost 4 members, some of which may be related to the “sanctuary church” declaration of the ELCA.
- Additions to the Prayer List would ideally not be made on Sunday morning but called in to Pastor, Marilyn or office instead.
- Purpose of the retreat, lead by Sister Michelle from the Synod, held in October will be to set goals for upcoming call process.
- Thursday Bible Study is filling the conference room and may be moved to the Fellowship Hall.
- The year’s stewardship campaign will have a Time, Treasure and Talent format.
- Copier lease is coming to an end. We have received a quote from Milner that will save us about $7 per month plus a $750 rebate. Motion made to accept new contract. APPROVED.

TIDBITS – A LITTLE OF THIS AND A LITTLE OF THAT!!!

- Weekly Attendance since last newsletter: Sept 1, 56; Sept 8, 56; Sept 15, 57; Sept 22, 70.
- WANTED: 2 people to take photos of various events and activities around the church. At least one of the people needs to be a year-round resident. See Karen Hamilton for details.
- Pastor Jeff will be in the office Tuesday – Thursday. He is reachable via cell 941-920-1564.
- Committee Chairs: Begin thinking about your written annual reports. They will be due in early November. More details in the November newsletter.
- Please notify Karen Hamilton or Marilyn Hodge of any changes in address, land phone and/or cell numbers, or email addresses so Church Directory can be updated.
- New Member Class is tentatively scheduled for November. See Pastor Jeff if interested.
- Additional copies of the Monthly Newsletter are available on the credenza in the narthex.
- Pastor Jeff will be attending the Conference on Ministry from Oct 14-16.
- NOTE: The cost of the Word and Season devotional booklets has increased to $1.45.
- Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after service on Sunday, December 8. Plan to attend. We will vote on the 2020 Budget, elect four new 2020 Council Members and vote on other important issues.
- Sign up now to receive the newsletter in living color and before it is distributed at church by receiving it via email? Just send your email address to khamilton6309@gmail.com and you will receive the Crosswalk electronically in a .pdf format.
- Donations for the Bahamas to help rebuild from the destruction caused by Hurricane Dorian and be given through the Disaster Relief Change Jar or directly with you offering. Mark your envelope “Hurricane”.

Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant.
When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today.
If you need me, I'm a phone call away."

It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.
Vital Statistics

October Birthdays

10/03 ROBINSON, Carol
10/03 YAGER, Jeannie
10/04 HODGE, Marilyn
10/07 CHAPMAN, Pat
10/07 HOLAWAY, Mercedes
10/09 EDWARDS, Karen
10/09 YAGER, Dennis & Jeannie
10/11 ROY, Hilary
10/11 YAGER, Dennis & Jeannie
10/12 WASON, Sam
10/14 HODGE, Doug & Marilyn
10/19 REHKOPF, Margaret
10/20 WITT, Bill
10/22 GELISSEN, Nick
10/24 HOFFLAND, Sandy
10/29 GELISSEN, Janice

October Anniversaries

10/09 LITTS, Pam
10/09 ROY, Hilary
10/10 SMITH, Don
10/11 WASON, Sam
10/19 REHKOPF, Margaret
10/20 WITT, Bill
10/22 GELISSEN, Nick
10/24 HOFFLAND, Sandy
10/29 GELISSEN, Janice
10/22 CRUZ, Juan & Nayda
10/28 SENGBUSCH, Dennis & Barb

Recent Deaths

09/21 MOSHOLDER, Gene

This lovely hymn verse from “By Grace I’m Saved, Grace Free and Boundless” encapsulates the theme of our Reformation celebration:

By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

I’m not confused, I’m just well-mixed
ROBERT FROST

Financial Update

Financials as of August 31, 2019:

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<tr>
<td>Y-T-D Total Income</td>
<td>$106,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y-T-D Total Expenses</td>
<td>$103,145</td>
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Giving has been consistent this summer and we have been able to continue operating in the black. Don’t slack off in giving. It is important that we continue to give.
Feel free to contact me if you have questions on the church’s financials.
Karen Hamilton, Treasurer 853-9678

Who to Contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altar Ministry—summer</td>
<td>Doug Hodge</td>
<td>853-2989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancel Choir</td>
<td>Marvin Dalton</td>
<td>450-2063</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Care</td>
<td>Marilyn Hodge</td>
<td>853-2989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evangelism</td>
<td>Pastor Jeff</td>
<td>941-920-1564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>Bobbie Harney</td>
<td>330-240-9139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Sec’y</td>
<td>Karen Noyes</td>
<td>875-8574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>Karen Hamilton</td>
<td>853-9678</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Karen Hamilton</td>
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<td>Office</td>
<td>Karen Noyes</td>
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<td>Property</td>
<td>Doug Hodge</td>
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<td>Social</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Karen Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>Pastor Jeff</td>
<td>941-920-1564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education</td>
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Let’s Raise the Roof

On Sunday, Mar 31, we kicked-off our “Let’s Raise the Roof” campaign to raise $60,000 over the next four years to provide a large share of the money we will need to replace the roof over the Sanctuary and Office Wing. If each household gives $5 a week, we should have the $60,000 needed.

We have a slow start in raising the needed funds—Campaign-to-date we have a total of $4,501. This is about 50% of what we should have to be on target. Are you doing your share to help? The board is up. Karen N is laying shingles. Let’s keep her busy. Help put the roof on the building!

It’s beginning to look a lot like Guardian Ad Litem time! We will have Christmas wish list tags available at the end of October for the children in the Guardian Ad Litem program in Polk County. It’s a wonderful way to help make a lonely child’s Christmas brighter. Gifts can be returned any Sunday during November. Gift cards, cash donations and extra gifts not on the wish lists are very welcome too. Please remember, gifts MUST be new! And no wrapping is needed. If you wish, a gift bag is a nice touch, but it is not required. Please remember to return the tags with your gifts, so they can go to the right child.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On behalf of my family and I, thank you for the lovely celebration of my 25th anniversary of my ordination, reception, and the privilege of beyond measure simply to know during this time of transition. I want to spend my anniversary with ministry God is walking with us. I this congregation and I know that for Reformation.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Jeff
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>7:30 Prop Work Day</td>
<td>6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Food Barrel</td>
<td>10:00 Worship</td>
<td>6:00 Cub Scouts</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10:30 Adv. in Christ</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8:30 Prop Work Day 10:00 Evangelism</td>
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<td>6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10:00 Worship Coffee Hour</td>
<td>6:00 Cub Scouts</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10:30 Adv. in Christ</td>
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<td>6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>10:30 Adv. in Christ</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>10:00 Worship 11:30—3:30 Interim Retreat</td>
<td>6:00 Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>10:30 Adv. in Christ 12:00 Lunch Bunch</td>
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<td>6:30 Council 6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>10:00 Worship Pot Luck</td>
<td>6:00 Cub Scouts</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>Happy Halloween 10:30 Adv. in Christ</td>
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