

# CROSS WALK

February 2023

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOIS

Dear Reformation Nation,

As I write this message, I am preparing my parts of the 1/26 "End of THIS Life" seminar and 1/29 "Town Hall" meeting. What a study in contrast: pre-planning for individual endings and continuing to dream about our collective future!

February is going to be a busy month for Reformation. Most of our standing committees will be gathering to work on their ongoing responsibilities and special projects;

### ***"What is God up to here?"***

watch for sign-up opportunities to participate! The AARP Tax Aide clinic will be in full-swing in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays. I will be "ditching" you for a week to attend a Region 9 (multiple synods) First Call Theological Education retreat on stewardship and a classmate's ordination, both in North Carolina. In my absence, Pastor Roy Stackpole is scheduled to preside and preach on February 12. We are planning to "resurrect"

our pre-pandemic Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner (February 21). Ash Wednesday, of course, is the next day; we will have a service with disposition of ashes and distribution of communion at 4 p.m. (February 22).

Toward the end of the month, as we begin the solemn season of Lent, I invite you to give special attention to acts of love ("giving alms"), prayer (including The Lord's Prayer), and fasting. If a health concern makes it difficult for you to alter your eating habits, remember that you can also "fast" from other things, such as watching television, non-essential shopping, or cussing.

As always, I look forward to hearing YOUR answer to this question about our ministry together: "What is God up to HERE?"

+ Pastor Lois



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### **Special points of interest:**

- What is God up to here?
- Could you be an Assisting Minister?
- Why you, too, can sing in the choir
- What are the readings for February?
- Emphasize Time, Talent & Treasure Stewardship
- Learn about Anointing
- Be a "Fisher of People"

## Message from the President

*Happy February* to all! Here we are already into the second month of 2023 - the month of Love. I “love” this month - red is my favorite color and the theme of this month makes me happy! We should all try to do something this month to show someone that we really do care for them. It does not have to be anything big or expensive. For example, a hug is an unspoken gesture full of so many emotions from one person to

another. Think of all the beautiful scriptures in the Bible that refer to love. My mother’s favorite verse from the time she was a little girl was John 3:16 which begins with “For God so loved the world...”. My favorite chapter in the Bible is 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, the Book of Love, which was read at our wedding 52 years ago. Appreciate the love you have been given and extend this love to someone who needs it. Have a great

month, share your hugs, and do not eat too much chocolate ! (But I sure hope that I get some Reese’s Peanut Butter Hearts from my Sweetheart!!)

*Vickey*



## HELP WANTED: OFFICE VOLUNTEER



We already have an office volunteer on Tuesday mornings (usually Karen Wason, who focuses on drafting and publishing the Sunday bulletin).

We would ALSO like to have an office volunteer on Thursday mornings. It doesn’t need to be the same person every week, so please help if you can.

The office volunteer’s #1 responsibility on Thursday mornings would be to answer the phone and return voicemail messages so that Pastor Lois can better focus on receiving drop-in office visits and making member care calls.

What else the office volunteer would do will depend on their current abilities or what they want to learn. Possibilities include: being the “pew angel” (restocking envelopes and “connect cards” in the sanctuary), helping Pastor follow-up with new visitors, organizing the congregation’s paper and electronic files, collecting and combining committee reports for the annual report (November/December only), and helping committees update their written policies by reviewing and/or typing committee documents.

We will put a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please give it serious your consideration (or, if it is not for you, say a prayer that a few people will step forward).

## HELP WANTED: ASSISTING MINISTER

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Assisting Minister during worship is typically a layperson. This is the role that Reformation used to call the “worship assistant.”



Simply put, the Assisting Minister assists the Presiding Minister (usually Pastor Lois or, in her absence, the “pulpit supply” minister).

The Assisting Minister wears an alb (white robe) when the Presiding Minister does, but they do not wear a stole (unless they are a pastor or deacon instead of a layperson). If they can carry it, they may bring the ceremonial cross in and out of the sanctuary in lieu of a crucifer. If they can sing, they may lead the kyrie in lieu of a cantor. They sit next to Presiding Minister when the Presiding Minister sits near the organ, and they stand next to the Presiding Minister when the Presiding Minister stands at the altar. They offer some of the prayers, serve as a back-up reader, and help distribute communion.

Two people have expressed an interest in serving in this capacity. We want one or two more! Written instructions and a walk-through tutorial (in other words, practice) will be provided. To volunteer, please contact Pastor Lois.

## Tax-Aide **FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION**

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone. They understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of their team of IRS-certified volunteers they make it easy for you. AARP membership is not required.

Tax preparation in 2023 will be by **appointment only** — they will not be processing any walk-ins. You can schedule an appointment by stopping at the fellowship hall on either Monday (8-12) or Thursday (8-4) beginning Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information packets will be available for pick up when you schedule an appointment.

**All volunteers are trained and certified by AARP/IRS to prepare and e-file tax returns.**

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Approved council minutes can be found in a binder on the mailboxes in the office. If you are looking for a specific month in 2022 and can't find it, check with Becky Whipple, council secretary for 2022. A reminder: Copies always run a month behind, i.e. minutes from the January meeting will not be approved until the February meeting and then filed in the binder. Barbara Duncan, our new council secretary, will have information on 2023 minutes.

## CHOIR METAMORPHOSIS: BABY CHICK TO SLEEPING BEAR

Choir has hatched! After imagining the rebirth of our Chancel Choir here at Reformation, our dreams have become a reality. A core group of adventuresome people showed up for our first practice on January 15th, so choir's re-emergence is official! (God IS good all the time!) Choir already has started to contribute to worship services, making our Sunday music more multifaceted and meaningful.

Now for the most important part: choir enrollment still is open. You could be a singer in our joy-filled choir right now! This would transition you into a participatory role of music leadership in our congregation, and (additionally) you will experience the love of the people as we all worship God together. (Think how popular the re-emerging choir has become!) Practices are listed in the "Dates and Events" section of your Sunday worship bulletin, as well as on the Crosswalk newsletter calendar.



Before January, our choir was a theoretical egg filled with a baby chick waiting to be born. In mid-January, because God smiled on us once again, choir hatched! Next concept: a smaller church can have a larger choir if many people participate. Join us! You won't regret it. Choir is easy, free, and fun! You, as a congregant, now have a chance to participate in a new, fresh way.

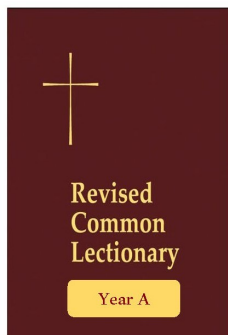
After Easter, choir becomes a kind-hearted, sleeping bear who goes into summer hibernation. The metamorphosis is complete. Our newborn, vigorous Chancel Choir chick ends up being a happy, sleeping mammal.

Only God can create a transformation like this!

Elise Knoll, Director of Music

## FEBRUARY LECTIONARY (SUNDAY READINGS)

**NOTE: verses in [brackets] may or may not be used**



DATE	FIRST	PSALM	SECOND	GOSPEL
2/5	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]	112:1-9 [10]	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]	Matthew 5:13-20
2/12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
2/19	Exodus 24:12-18	2 or 9	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-19
2/26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

## FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> - STUMP THE PASTOR (a/k/a Reformation Information)



Once a month (usually on the “first Sunday”), right after worship, we offer this brief (15 minutes or so) informal opportunity to chat with our pastor in the conference room.

Do you have a question about Christianity in general or Lutheranism in particular, including anything specific to this congregation? Or are you thinking about officially affiliating with the congregation (associate, seasonal, or full membership)? Then “Reformation Information” is for you!

If you are interested but not able to attend this month, feel free to contact Pastor Lois directly. She can be reached at 813-494-4052 (OK to text), [pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com), or by stopping-by during her designed office hours.



### Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in  
a faith community!*

**Prayer List:** *PLEASE let me know if you or a friend or loved one needs our prayers. Their name can be added to the weekly prayer list. REMINDER: Make certain that you have permission of the person you are adding to the list. There are folks who don't want prayer requests for them published. We must be respectful of their wishes. Also, help me keep the list current.*

*Marilyn Hodge, Congregational Care Chairperson, H 863-853-2989; C 973-945-2287*

“The Haywood Street Fresco” is a large-scale painting found inside a church building in Asheville, North Carolina. Pastor Lois referred to it during our Facebook devotion on January 25 because the painting is inspired by the Beatitudes (“Blessed are...” verses in Matthew 5) using images important to the Asheville community. What might we include in a “faith fresco” for our community?



## HELP WANTED: SYNOD ASSEMBLY “VOTING MEMBER”



The next assembly (convention) of the Florida-Bahamas Synod will be June 8 to June 10 at the Caribe Royale resort and convention center near Orlando. Reformation needs a “voting member” (not a delegate voting on behalf of the congregation, but a faithful member who will vote their own conscience).

Reformation will pay for the hotel room, and you are allowed to share it with a spouse or other guest (Pastor Lois will probably bring her husband again; last year, he relaxed in their room and outside by the pool while she was busy). You are generally responsible for your own meals, but there is a refrigerator and a microwave in each room, so bringing some food and drinks with you is certainly an option (Pastor Lois and her husband did that last year). Maybe you can get Pastor Lois and her husband to treat you and your guest to one meal at the resort? Maybe you can meet-up and share a meal with friends who belong to other ELCA congregations?

This year, we will be electing or re-electing our synod bishop. The full agenda has not been released, but typically includes opening and closing worship (great preaching, wonderful singing, and communion), recognition of ordination and congregation anniversaries, a keynote speaker, break-out sessions (workshops on various topics), video and spoken reports on synod and churchwide efforts, and (similar to a congregation’s annual meeting) voting on the proposed (synod) budget and (synod) council positions. Pastor Lois will arrive a day early for First Call Theological Education workshops.

If you are interested, please contact any congregational council member!

*“Love is the only thing we can carry with us where we go.”*

- Louisa May Alcott

Join these friends as they celebrate their birthday or anniversary in February:

02/15 HAINES, Dennis

02/14 TEDESCO, Shatawn

02/20 CORNELL, Dawn

02/27 GARNER, Wayne

02/07 RICHARDS, Jim & Lora

02/12 NELSON, Don & Beverly

02/28 SWEET, Larry & Jeannine





**Florida-Bahamas Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# What Does Your Synod Do?

Your congregation's mission support allows the Florida-Bahamas Synod to share the love of Jesus.

## Pastoral Care & Support

- Ongoing formation & support of pastors and conference deans
- Guidance & direction in the call process for pastors & ELCA deacons
- Presence at anniversaries, ordinations & installations of rostered ministers, synod parish deacon commissionings, pastor's last Sunday, memorial/funeral services
- Walk alongside our congregations and rostered leaders



## Disaster Relief

- Responds to disasters such as fire and hurricane to ensure the continuity of a congregation
- God's work, Our hands
- Congregation preparedness



## Advocacy & Social Justice

- Supports & funds local justice and mercy ministry agencies (e.g., Council of Churches, Lutheran Services of Florida, etc.)
- Sharing Christ's love for all our neighbors



## Leadership Development

- Equips and supports the formation of strong lay leaders through diakonia and Synod Parish Deacon programs
- Oversees the Candidacy and Assignment process – raising up new rostered ministers
- Trains, equips and sends interim pastors
- Offers youth and young adult leadership opportunities (e.g., campus ministry, National Youth Convention, Bishop's school, etc.)



## Visioning & Major Events

- Discerns a vision for the entire synod
- Has a leadership team with varied backgrounds to serve as decision makers
- Coordinates the annual synod-wide events like the Synod Assembly, Conference on Ministry, Boundaries Training for Rostered Ministers, etc.



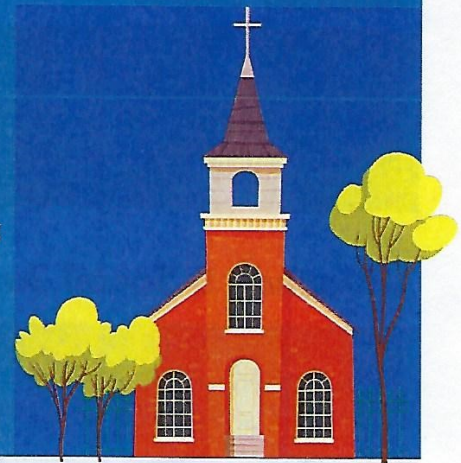
## Financial Support

- Assists churches with budgeting & accounting concerns
- Gives grants to support food ministry, technology, etc.
- Provides financial support to start new missions and redevelop struggling congregations



## Resource to Local Churches/Congregations

- Informs congregations on local church news, synod updates, the ELCA and worldwide church affairs
- Offers countless opportunities for training and formation to church members
- Works with new and dying congregations
- Accompanies congregations in ministry
- Provides pastoral, ministerial, administrative and strategic support
- Helps congregations stay relevant in their communities
- Provides resources for worship planning
- Accompanies congregations through the transition process
- Serves as a point of connection for the local church
- Offers congregational health and wellness support through the Listening Team, Post Call Retreats and other resources
- Participates in congregation conflict resolution
- Brings vitality and outreach ideas to help expand local church outreach
- Unites the work of congregations within their areas
- Serves as the 'public voice' for the congregations it serves
- Provides tools for stewardship, congregation growth, and governance



## Relationship Building

- Builds ecumenical and interfaith relationships
- Coordinates with other synods for calling pastors from around the country
- Strengthens the relationship between synod leaders and the churchwide office



## Ministry Support

- Supports and funds outdoor ministry and campus ministry
- Provides opportunities for youth through the camps and young adults in global mission to serve the church
- Works with new mission starts to formulate and implement an ELCA presence in new areas





For several months we have encouraged you to use AmazonSmile if you purchase items from Amazon. Amazon was giving charitable organizations 50 cents for each \$100 of eligible purchases. We have received word that Amazon will be winding down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023, because the program has not grown to create the impact that they had originally hoped.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, they will be providing us with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what we earned in 2022 through the program, and we will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. If you have been using AmazonSmile and have items you have planned to buy, now is the time to make your purchases to benefit Reformation.

**Medical Supplies:** *At the moment, there is a limited supply available to you if you need to borrow any equipment; walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, shower chairs, crutches. Give me a call and we can arrange for you to pick up. We do ask when you no longer need what you borrow that you return it so it is available for others. Also, equipment you are willing to donate is always much appreciated.*



Marilyn Hodge, Congregational Care Chairperson, H 863-853-2989; C 973-945-2287

## “LET’S DO LUNCH!!”

Thirteen ladies met at Abuelos Mexican Restaurant for Lunch Bunch on January 26<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed great food and conversation. What a way to spend a portion of your day!

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will meet at 12:30 and go someplace new — Harborside in Winter Haven. All ladies and their female friends are welcome. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the credenza in the narthex. Tentative plans for the next three months are: March, The Back Porch in Lake

Alfred; April, Harry’s, Lakeland; May, Garden Bistro @ Hollis Gardens. It’s good to take a break and meet with friends for good conversation. Look forward to seeing you for lunch.



Karen Hamilton, 863-853-9678



## LET'S INVEST IN AN OUTCOME!

As I say each month, ***"Giving to church is an investment in an outcome"***, not just paying the electric bill. Yes, we do need to pay the electric bill but by so doing we are able to provide worship both in-person and online, furnish services to our community, like packing lunches for the homeless, collecting school supplies, providing Christmas for foster kids, and above all, receiving the spiritual health and blessings we all need.

When the 2022 Spending Plan was approved, I projected that we would have a financial shortfall for the year of approximately \$52,000. Like all of us, Reformation has felt the increased costs of everything. I am happy to report that we ended 2022

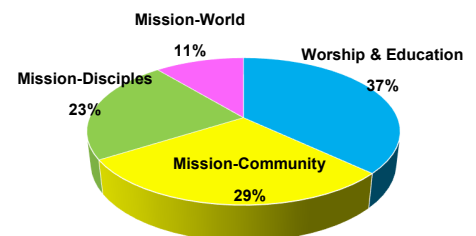
with a shortfall of \$10,670, thanks to generous giving and controlled spending.



Soon you will be hearing more about a "wish list" for those items that would be nice to have but not a necessity, i.e. hearing aid assistance sound system, a solution for the sun that shines brightly on Sunday mornings through the windows at the front of the church and into the eyes of the organist and some worshippers, depending on where they sit. The cost for these items on the wish list

are not included in the budget but can be covered by special donations or gifts.

At the annual congregational meeting in December, the 2023 Spending Plan was approved as proposed. Projected income for 2023 is \$133,521; projected expenses are \$191,832. Each donated dollar will go to support the following missions:



The 2022 Financials audit should be completed by the end of March. We are looking for three (3) voting members to be on the audit team. You do not need to be a financial whiz to audit the books. If you can balance your checkbook, you can be on the team. The audit usually takes

4-6 hours, less if no errors are found. You look at the treasurer's records as well as the financial secretary's records. Some of the information is CONFIDENTIAL. Contact Karen Hamilton or Vickey Zelazny if you would like to be on the audit team.

2022 Financial Statements will be emailed to you by February 4th.

Did you receive your **2022 Giving Statements**? If not, contact Barb Caballero at 215-421-4329

## TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

***We must continue to cultivate all three T's to continue growing as stewards of the abundance that God has given us as individuals and as a congregation!***

**TIME TIPS** - Even if health or other circumstances make it impossible for you to offer any "talent" to the congregation, you can certainly devote "time with God" in worship and through prayer!

- Worship with your congregation every possible Sunday. A Facebook video ("Live" or recorded) is available when in-person participation is not possible.
- Remember to "say grace" (pray before eating). Doing so when with a group or at a restaurant is also an effortless way to publicly express your faith.
- Get ready to spend "quality time" with God on Wednesdays during Lent! Put these 4 p.m. dates on your calendar now: February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

**TALENT TIPS** – Sometimes the only "talent for God" you need to offer is dependability or a willingness to try something new. Here are some options:

- Are you already volunteering for a non-profit other than Reformation? Keep doing it "for the greater glory of God" while wearing your "God's Work" shirt or other Christian swag.
- Regularly re-evaluate your participation options at Reformation by checking the sign-up clipboards and binders in the narthex (church lobby).
- Find one hour a week in your current schedule to "give up" for Lent, and replace it with something helpful to the church, such as serving as the office volunteer one Thursday morning.



**TREASURE TIPS** – Consider "thinking outside the box" in addition to continuing the "treasure to God" that you regularly provide. For example:

- Find one weekly purchasing habit to "give up" for Lent (such as one meal out or one basket of range balls) and use the funds to increase your offering or participate in an outreach project.
- Do you have an Amazon, hardware store, grocery, or gas station gift card that you will never use? Donate it to Reformation for committee purchases or for regifting to a family in need.
- Help the congregation be a better steward of the property in its care. For example, refer an HOA or other compatible organization that will make a donation in return for a place to meet.



# LUTHERANISM 101: ANOINTING

*“Are any among you sick?*

*They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.”*

*– James 5:14*

Last month, our “Lutheran 101” article discussed baptism. In addition to being baptized with water (three splashes or sprinkles, or a full emersion “dunking”) and words specified by Jesus in the Bible (“in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”), baptism in the Lutheran tradition typically involves the use of fragrant oil. The presiding minister uses this oil to mark or anoint the newly-baptized person with the sign of the cross.

In the Bible, fragrant oil is king to anoint them as being set-apart addition to baptism, anointing may be that they are “sealed by the Holy Spirit” (a recognized as a beloved child of God of Christ). This is usually done in person, such as thanking God for the their faith while using fragrant oil to

Those of us with Roman Catholic anointing as part of what is called “last unction” or “sacrament of the sick”). In not considered a sacrament (that communion) and it is not reserved for whether administered before surgery, private discussion about a worrisome health condition, or after confessing a sin that is troubling the recipient -- anointing can be a great source of spiritual comfort. As stated earlier in this article, it is used to remind someone that they a beloved child of God and accepted as a member of the Body of Christ.



poured-over a new prophet, priest, or by God. In the Lutheran tradition, in used as needed to remind someone churchy-phrase meaning they are and accepted as a member of the Body conjunction with saying a prayer for that vocation of someone actively living-out make a sign of the cross on their hands.

family or friends might be familiar with rites” (or, more accurately, “extreme the Lutheran tradition, such anointing is designation is reserved for baptism and people who are dying. However -- as part of a corporate healing service or

When you -- or someone you love -- is interested in being anointed, please contact Pastor Lois for assistance. She keeps a small container of fragrant oil with her hospital badge and prayer book in her purse so that she is ready whenever the need arises.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee provides ideas and help for coffee hours on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, September—May or June plus special events. This year I would like one special event a month instead of just a coffee hour. Join our committee to help plan these events. Watch the Dates & Events page in the weekly bulletin to see when our next meeting is or contact me. Karen Hamilton, c 863-399-0220

## WHAT ARE LENTEN OFFERINGS? WHERE DOES THAT MONEY GO?



The contributions you give in your Ash Wednesday and Lenten Offering envelopes do not go into the general fund. This money is currently designated to go to Grace Lutheran Church to help provide food for the **kidsPACK** program.

There are disadvantaged children all around us that go hungry every day. While subsidized school breakfast and lunch programs are in place during school hours, what happens at mealtime for these very same children evenings, weekends and over the summer months?

**kidsPACK** strives to bridge that gap by simply taking action.

Begun in Polk County in 2011, with a mission to help make sure that no child goes hungry, **kidsPACK** is a non-profit organization supported by local community leaders and volunteers. Today, the project in Polk County alone, feeds children in 70 different schools.

An everyday backpack is turned into a food transportation module stocked with nutritious, child-friendly and easy to prepare food for children to eat over the weekend and times when they are away from school. We pack non-perishable containerized items like ravioli, fruit cups, trail mix and portable snacks like granola bars and pop-tarts.

Grace Lutheran Church provides backpacks for 30 kids in Polk County at the approximate cost of \$600 per month. In order to support this worthwhile project, we assist by sending our Lenten Offerings to Grace to help purchase the food they need.

## PROVIDE A BAG LUNCH

On the third Sunday of each month we pack lunches for our homeless neighbors and their doggie companions, a “God’s Work, Our Hands” project started in 2021. Last month we had 3 new volunteers. Why don’t you plan to join us this month? It takes less than 30 minutes following worship. **With just a \$5 monthly donation from each household**, we are able to pack 20-25 lunches per month. We need donations of both dry and canned dog food (must have pull tab openings) as well as treats. We also collect travel size personal care items to be distributed as needed.



It takes just 8 people, either male or female, to help on February 19<sup>th</sup> following worship. The sign up sheet is on the credenza in the narthex.

## HELP WANTED: “FISHERS OF PEOPLE”

*“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people”*

*- Matthew 4:19b*

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,*

*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

*- Matthew 28:19 (“The Great Commission”)*

There are *\*several\** ways you can live-out your commission as a current-day disciple of Christ! We are NOT expecting you to baptize people (leave that for Pastor Lois) and we are NOT expecting you spread the Good News by knocking on doors or by using a bullhorn on a street corner; however, we DO need 3-6 people to participate in these simple ways:



- ✓ **Visitor Hospitality** (greet people when they arrive for worship, encourage first-time visitors to complete a connection card, introduce newcomers to our pastor, sit with a stranger and answer their questions, and help our pastor with visitor follow-up)
- ✓ **External Communication** (critique existing efforts, post and share pictures and other material on social media, identify other means of reaching select neighborhoods or special demographics, and help our pastor update and expand Reformation’s website)
- ✓ **Un(der)Churched Engagement** (invite repeat visitors to coffee hour and other congregation activities, provide church representation at community events, work with Reformation’s standing committees to capitalize on evangelizing aspects of their events, and help our pastor establish a connection with Florida Polytechnic University).

You can do this! Join our new “Commission Care” team. You need not attend Evangelism Committee meetings to contribute to its success; just become a “team player” by signing-up in the narthex or contacting Pastor Lois ([pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com)) to get involved!

## PREPARE FOR LENT!

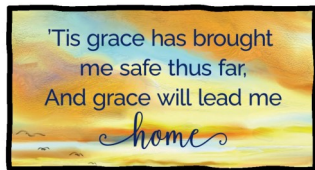
**Shrove Tuesday** is February 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent. We have brought back our annual Pancake Supper. From 4:30—6:00 pm, we will be serving all the pancakes you can eat along with the usual bacon, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. To-go meals will be available. There will be a free-will offering.

Sign-up sheets are on the credenza in the narthex. Please sign-up so we can plan on how many stacks of pancakes we should have. Karen Hamilton 853-9678



## Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023



7 - 11 A.M. "ASHES-TO-GO"

*(drive-through imposition of ashes on your forehead)*

4:00 P.M. WORSHIP

*(traditional ashes & communion service)*

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

460 Old Polk City Rd - Lakeland 33809

863-859-2264

[www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans](http://www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans)

## Lent Gatherings

*(weekly reflections on that familiar song!)*



Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

460 Old Polk City Rd - Lakeland 33809

863-859-2264

[www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans](http://www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans)

Pastor Lois has prepared the two flyers above, one for Ash Wednesday and one for the Lenten services. You can pick up one or more on the credenza to pass out to your friends and neighbors, inviting them to join us for the Lenten services.

## 2023 LENTEN PROJECT

Lent begins on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with Ash Wednesday and continues through Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, with Maundy Thursday. As you know, each Lenten season we do a project. This year we are again helping Talbot House. Watch for an eblast from Marilyn Hodge with details of the 2023 Lenten Project. You can bring your donations on Sundays or drop them off anytime the Pastor is at the church. This church is a giving church, so I am sure this project will be a big helping hand to the homeless. There will be baskets and tubs in the narthex for your donations.

God has given us great abundance in providing for us, so let us also be generous in giving to those who are in need. What happens when we give like we do? It makes our church a success. Yvonne Mueller is the chair for this project.

## FOOD BARREL SUNDAY

Do you shop BOGO's? What a wonderful way to share without increasing your grocery budget!! One for you — One for Talbot House. They also take the larger, institutional size items for use in their kitchen.

*"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in..." Matthew 25:35.* Talbot House Ministries was founded as a soup kitchen, and remains committed to feeding the hungry and food insecure every day of the year. They serve over 300 meals each day including breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Talbot House aims to provide nutritious and wholesome meals every single day. This is an important step in rebuilding lives, promoting the well-being of the mind and body. Twice a week they also offer food pantry services to the community.

We have designated the third Sunday of each month as "Food Barrel Sunday". Our goal is to fill the barrel in the narthex to overflowing. Doug Hodge and others pack up the items and deliver them to Talbot House on the next day where they are always graciously received by the Talbot House staff. Not going to be able to attend church on the third Sunday? Got so many "bargains" that you have no place to store them? You can bring them to the church anytime the pastor is there. Know that your generosity is greatly appreciated.

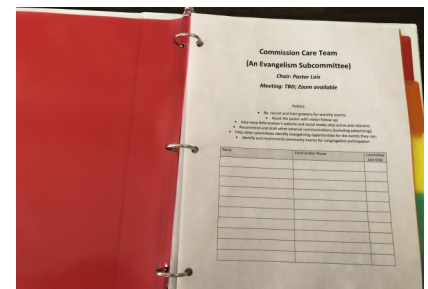


Check your calendar! Plan to stay after worship for coffee, goodies, and fellowship on February 12<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate Valentine's Day, and February 26<sup>th</sup>.

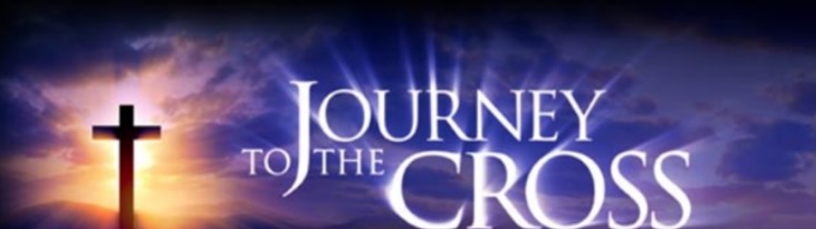
We're always looking for help serving and for providing the goodies. Can we count on you?

## COMMITTEE SIGN-UPS

Pastor Lois has drafted a notebook (binder) that contains sign-up sheets for our standing committees and a few key subcommittees. It is currently on the credenza. Please take a look at it and sign up for committees that hold your interest. Sign-ups for specific events will continue to be on the clip boards. Watch for any updated information.



# FEBRUARY 2023

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1 9:30 Community Outreach 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	2 8:00-4:00 AARP FH	3	4
5 8:45 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Reformation Information</b>	6 8:00-12:00 AARP FH	7	8 <b>PASTOR LOIS AWAY</b>	9 8:00-4:00 AARP FH	10	11
12 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour</b>	13 8:00-12:00 AARP FH	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 9:30 Evangelism	15 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	16 8:00-4:00 AARP FH 1:30 Stewardship	17	18
19 8:45 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Pack Lunches for Homeless</b>	20 8:00-12:00 AARP FH 6:30 Council	21 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 4:30-6:00 Pancake Supper	22 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live 4:00 Service	23 8:00-4:00 AARP FH 12:30 Lunch Bunch @ Harborside	24	25
26 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour</b>	27 8:00-12:00 AARP FH	28				



## Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

*(in-person and Facebook Live)*

### Lectionary Bible Study

*(3 online devotions/week)*

*Liturgical Worship  
Congregational Singing  
Weekly Communion  
Mostly "55+" Members*

#### **Rev. Lois Sorensen, Pastor**

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Refer to page 9 for an update.

