

CROSS WALK

April 2023

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOIS

Dear Reformation Nation,

As I write this message, we just had a lovely Sunday. On March 26, we welcomed two new members (long-time "friends of the congregation" Richard and Joyce Fisk) and we thanked all of you who keep Reformation's operations and ministries going by volunteering your time and talent. As the free-bees you received (if you attended coffee hour that day) said, "You Rock" and "We'd be NUTS if we didn't thank you..."

April is upon us, and it is a transition month for Reformation. Our "snowbird" members and

"What is God up to here?"

friends are departing, or at least getting ready to migrate elsewhere. Thanks be to God, technology allows us to stay better connected over the summer than how it was years ago. Liturgically, we will celebrate Holy Week, the high-low-high-low-high rhythm of worship events that commemorate what occurred the week that Jesus died on the cross (read more about it in this month's "Lutheranism 101" article).

Thanks be to God, technology also allows us to participate in these special worship events even when our health or other life circumstances get in the way of in-person attendance.

Please invite people to worship with us this month. If not on Easter Sunday, how about the following week? We are planning a "narrative" service, meaning we will not have a sermon but will instead pause several times throughout the service to explain why we do what we do, including Biblical origins of our practices. If not in-person, how about online (Facebook, "live" or otherwise)? That might be less intimidating if they have not been inside any church in a while.

As always, please take a few minutes to contemplate YOUR answer to this question (and drop me a note or an e-mail with what you come up with): "What is God "up to" HERE?"

+ Pastor Lois



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Special points of interest:

- What is God up to here?
- A Special Easter Offering
- Can you be a Synod Assembly "Voting Member?"
- Invite Someone to Church
- Foster Stewardship with "showers" of endeavors
- Learn about Holy Week

Message from the President

We always hear the saying that *"April showers bring May flowers!"* and we certainly hope that is true because it is so dry here around us. This is also the time of the year that we hear about the Easter Bunny, peanut butter eggs (my favorite as you know!),

new outfits for Easter Sunday, Easter Lilies and the list goes on. However, as we focus on the real meaning of the days of Lent and all that leads up to Easter Sunday, hopefully we appreciate the words, ***"Christ has risen!"*** and hold those words dear to our

hearts forever! May you and your family have a very Happy Easter
Vickey



"LET'S DO LUNCH"

Ladies, if you couldn't join us for lunch on March 23rd, you missed a great time. The Back Porch in Lake Alfred is a unique place to visit – it's busy, it's loud, a limited menu with daily specials, all served picnic style. After lunch you can visit The Barn Antiques, The Seasons Gift Shop or browse The Back Yard Garden Shop.



friends are welcome. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the credenza in the narthex. It's good to take a break and meet with friends for good conversation and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you for lunch.

Karen Hamilton, 863-853-9678



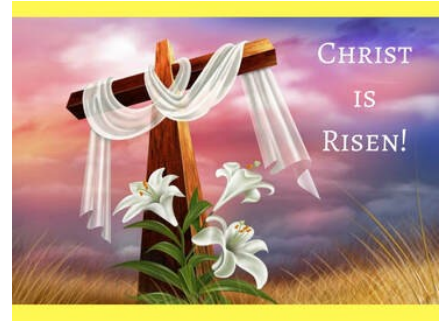
We have just two more get togethers before our summer break. On April 27th we will journey to Harry's Seafood Bar and Grille at 101 N. Kentucky in downtown Lakeland. Parking is a problem, so plan to carpool. We'll meet at 12:30 to enjoy some New Orleans' style cuisine.

All ladies and their female

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

They did it! They volunteered to perform the audit of the 2022 Financials. Members of committee were Sam Wason, chair, Gary Cornell and Jim Williams. It took four hours to complete. Job well done! The results have been forwarded to Council President for review and action. Thanks guys!

A SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING



Dear Church Family,

As Easter approaches, I wanted to let you know about a special Easter offering we will be taking up on Sunday, April 10th. This offering will go towards supporting our church's ministry and enables us to continue spreading the good news of the gospel to our community.

I just want to take a moment to say thank you for your generosity towards our church. Your faithful giving makes a huge difference in our ability to serve and reach out to others with the love of Christ. Your gifts have blessed so many people, and we are grateful for each and every one of them.

If you would like to give towards the special Easter offering, you can do so now on our Vanco online giving page. It's easy and secure, and ensures that your gift is quickly and safely received.

To make a donation, you can:

- Go to our facebook page (facebook.com/lovinglutherans)
- Go to your internet browser and enter <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95R>
- or scan the QR Code below



*Set up your Login username and password **or** make a one-time donation*

You can also use the “special” **EASTER OFFERING** envelope found with your giving envelopes.

As we approach this season of celebration and reflection, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the amazing gift of God's love and sacrifice for us. May we be filled with gratitude and joy as we worship and give back to Him.

Thank you again for your continued support and faithfulness to our church. We are blessed to be a part of this community, and we look forward to all that God has in store for us.

Blessings,

Karen Hamilton, Treasurer

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.

What enhancements would you like to see at Reformation? Maybe something you miss or particularly liked at a previous church or a church you have visited. We won't know unless you tell someone—a council member or Pastor Lois. Watch and listen and you will learn more about a “wish list” for those items that would be

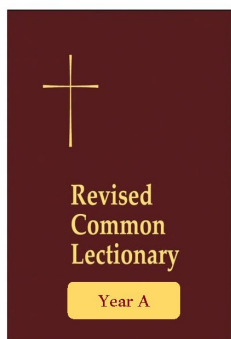


nice to have. The cost for those items on the wish list is not included in the budget but can be covered by special donations or gifts.

Finances through February are strong! Our total giving through February is \$41,215 with expenses of \$32,110.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Since its kickoff on March 5th, we have several congregants taking advantage of its use. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Caballero or Karen Hamilton.

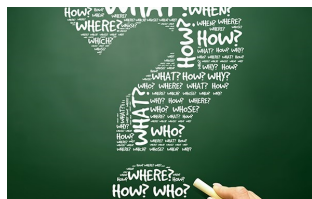
APRIL LECTIONARY (SUNDAY READINGS)



DATE	PROCESSIONAL	FIRST	PSALM	SECOND	GOSPEL
4/2	Matthew 21:1-11	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
4/9	N/A	Acts 10:34-43 OR Jeremiah 31:1-6	118:1-2,14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10 OR John 20:1-18
4/16	N/A	Acts 2:14a,22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
4/23	N/A	Acts 2:14a,36-41	116:1-4,12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
4/30	N/A	Acts 2:42-47	23	2 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

STUMP THE PASTOR - MARCH 5TH

(a/k/a Reformation Information)



Even though Palm/Passion Sunday is a longer than normal worship service, we will still offer our monthly informal opportunity to chat with our pastor. It will be brief (15 minutes or so) and it will take place in the conference room.

Do you have a question about Christianity in general or Lutheranism in particular? Are you wondering about something specific to Reformation Lutheran Church, perhaps how to officially affiliate with the congregation

through 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) or pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Volunteerism makes our worship service thrive. The greeters, ushers, lectors, camera operators, altar people and guest ministers, all do this. If you helped out before pandemic and would like to

help out again, please let Pastor, Doug or me know. We would be glad to get you started again.

I want to thank all who have volunteered in the past, but with our snowbirds leaving for the summer, we will need some new faces to step up and help out. We all have hidden talents and what a better time to use them than on Sunday morning to enhance our worship service.

PLEASE sign up now to help out. The sign-up book is in the narthex just waiting for you.

Yvonne Mueller, Altar Ministry

COFFEE HOUR FOR APRIL



Instead of coffee hour on Easter Sunday, April 9th, we will have coffee and a treat available in the conference room for anyone who would like to remain for a short time to visit. We will have a regular fellowship coffee hour on April 23rd. Please plan to attend and see if we are doing anything special.

STILL NEEDED: SYNOD ASSEMBLY “VOTING MEMBER”



This is your opportunity stay at the Caribe Royale resort near Orlando from June 8 to June 10! Reformation will pay for the hotel room, and you are allowed to share it with a spouse or other guest. You are 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).

This year, the Florida-Bahamas Synod will be electing or re-electing our synod bishop. In addition, the synod assembly typically includes two worship services (great preaching, wonderful singing, and communion with 200+ other faithful Lutherans), an interesting keynote speaker, break-out sessions (workshops on assorted 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 to also attend First Call Theological Education classes. Maybe you can get Pastor Lois and her husband to treat you and your guest to one meal at the resort?

Registration is already open. If you are interested in serving as Reformation's voting member, please contact Pastor Lois (813-494-4052 or pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com) as soon as possible!

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



04/05 KUPRES, Marion

04/12 COX, Fred

04/13 SENGBUSCH, Dennis

04/16 HARNEY, Bobbie

04/20 STACKPOLE, Roy & Iris

04/21 GETTIG, Mary

04/24 MUELLER, Harold & Yvonne

04/25 GRIFFIN, Nicholas

04/27 PARKER, Betty

04/29 ZELAZNY, Phil

EASTER (OR ANY DAY): INVITE SOMEONE!

A church's website is its new (or other social media) presence. Although a lot of people "check-electronic "drive by" of one or get people to actually visit a (whether in-person or online) is

As part of the pre-worship leading up Easter Sunday, YOU to invite someone.



"front door" and its Facebook is its new "back porch." out" a church by doing an both, the most effective way to church's worship service still to INVITE them!

announcements in the weeks Pastor Lois has been inviting

HERE IS WHY:

The top three days for visitors in most churches are Easter, Mother's Day, and Christmas. On Mother's Day, it's mostly due to children (including adult children) being shamed into attending church with Mom or Grandma. On the two church holidays, the visitors are not only family from out of town, they are also people either who are curious about church or who want to (re)connect to a religious highlight from their past. Let's help them satisfy their curiosity or (re)connect!

HERE IS HOW – METHOD #1:

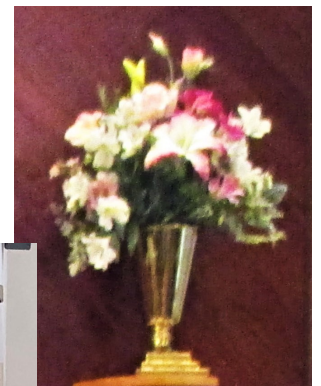
If you have attended Sunday worship in-person recently, you should have an Easter "Invitation Card" to use. If not, use the "Holy Week" flyer (one page of this newsletter). Simply share the card

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FLOWERS—ETERNAL CANDLES

After Easter we can again put flowers on the Altar. Please sign up for a Sunday or two for flowers or dish gardens or the eternal candle. The flowers/gardens are \$25.00 each and the candle is \$7.00 a Sunday. I know there must be some special event or person you need to remember or honor for one Sunday. Karen Wason will be checking the book each week and is ready to put your name in the bulletin. Also if you purchased an Easter lily, don't forget to put your \$10.00 per lily into your offering envelope and mark it "Lily". Thanks for any help you can give us on the flowers and candles.

Yvonne Mueller Altar Ministry



AND THE WINNER IS ...

(Karen Hamilton Wins 2022-2023 Good Samaritan Award)

Karen Hamilton was presented with Lutheran Services Florida's Good Samaritan Award during our March 12th worship service. She was nominated for this award because she actively participates on almost every committee at Reformation Lutheran Church, including outreach, evangelism, stewardship, and fellowship.

Karen is the one who line for our monthly lunch-up to 25 local homeless (which began as a "God's under her leadership in a record-keeping system collection of Christmas Guardian Ad Litem clients.

Karen's main evangelism committee is to information is used by the identify which members is also used by the commission visitors and friends might be members. One of her responsibilities within the fellowship committee is to coordinate a monthly "Lunch Bunch" outing for women which patronizes area restaurants. Karen also serves on the congregational council, currently holding the office of treasurer.

Beyond the congregation, Karen is also active at Cypress Lakes Village. For example, she is the one who orders and installs bricks for the walkway in its memorial garden.



established an assembly packing effort that serves people and their dogs work, Our hands" project 2021). She also maintains for the assignment and presents for over 70 local

responsibility within the track attendance; this congregation care team to might need extra "TLC" and care team to identify which interested in becoming

YOU WERE CELEBRATED ON MARCH 26TH!



Did you attend coffee on March 26th? Shame on you if you didn't because we **Celebrated You!** Each person in attendance received a package of nuts thanking them for their generosity to God and Reformation and a "YOU ROCK" rock for indeed, each of you do rock! Those in attendance enjoyed many homemade treats as well as great fellowship. We all got some special time with our new members, Richard and Joyce Fisk.



“APRIL SHOWERS”

(THIS MONTH’S STEWARDSHIP TIPS)

Pastor Lois here. I know “April showers bring May flowers” is not accurate in our gardens in central Florida, given that April is typically part of the annual “dry season” (November through mid-June, especially February through May); however, short “showers” of endeavors this month can foster stewardship results for months to come! Here are three endeavors I commend to you:

7 OUT OF 10 UNCHURCHED PEOPLE
HAVE NEVER BEEN INVITED TO
CHURCH IN THEIR WHOLE LIVES.

1. **Pray for the un(der)churched.** Your “time with God” includes prayer! Ask God to send the unchurched and under-churched to visit us (especially as we gather for worship, so that they can encounter God’s amazing grace through Word, Sacrament, Christian community). Ask God to send you into encounters with them, whether in-person or online (because your life may be the first gospel about Jesus they ever “read”). Also spend time in prayer listening to God, so that we – as a Lutheran congregation and as individual Christians -- might better understand how to fulfill our roles in Matthew 28:19.

2. **Stay engaged after Easter.** That’s in addition to attending worship (in-person or online)! Of course, how you stay engaged depends on whether you are in the Lakeland area after “snowbird” season. Are you staying in the area? Share (or develop) a “talent for God” by signing-up at least once each month to help with the office, property, or worship (see both sign-up notebooks in the narthex). Do you live or “migrate” elsewhere? You can share (or develop) a “talent for God” that benefits the ministries of Reformation! If you are on Facebook, keep our social media presence active (share posts from our Facebook page, comment on our posts, and use #lovinglutherans and #reformationlutheranlakeland or when you (re)post something about us or the ELCA). If you are not on Facebook, “stay in touch” with a member or friend (or pastor) of Reformation at least once a month by phone, text, e-mail, or “snail mail.”

As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another as
good stewards of the
manifold grace
of God.



1 Peter 4:10



3. **Put your “treasure” to good work(s).** If you are “migrating” for a few months, be sure to gather-up your change (for the disaster relief jar) and go through your pantry (for the food barrel). Even if you are staying in the area, consider automating your giving to Reformation by signing-up for weekly or monthly Vanco contributions. Also, before you put your tax records away, take a look at your charitable giving for 2022; after you offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God (for your ability to support Reformation and other worthy organizations), think about what you might want to do differently the rest of 2023. Also, feel free to give an extra gift to Reformation if you get a tax refund.



AMAZING GRACE (THE SONG)

This article is a summary of a wonderful, familiar hymn from our afternoon Lenten Gatherings. It is old (or at least most of its lyrics are) and indeed anywhere you go, you will find a depth and breadth and height



of what we learned about this during our five Wednesday “Amazing Grace” is 250 years are). It is a great “go-to” song for people who need a reminder of the depth and breadth and height of God’s mercy and love.

Did you know that “Amazing Grace” is one of the most-recorded Christian hymns of all time? According to the Library of Congress, in the United States alone, there are over 3,000 recordings. Popular versions have been recorded by an incredible variety of vocal artists (such as Johnny Cash, Judy Collins, Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley, and Chris Tomlin).

The original lyrics were written by John Newton, an Anglican (“Church of England” Episcopalian) priest. He wrote these words as a six-stanza poem called “Faith’s Review and Expectation” which he first used in a sermon he preached on New Year’s Day in 1773.

Newton put his theological training to use in the poem. For example, the phrase “wretch like me” in the first stanza is based on Romans, chapter 7, verse 24: “Wretched man that I am! Who would rescue me from this body of death?” But Newton also used his poem to “come to terms” with his own wretched past. Prior to entering the ministry, he initially followed his father into the Royal Navy but then joined the more lucrative profession of a civilian captain for a ship transporting African slaves to the Americas.

Thanks be to God, something happened to Newton in 1748 (25 years before he alluded to it in his poem). His ship got caught in a horrible storm off the coast of Scotland, and he had a “conversion experience” when he thought he was going to die in a shipwreck. The moment he called-out to God is memorialized in the second stanza as “the hour I first believed.”

The melody we are accustomed to for the hymn “Amazing Grace” is called “New Britain” and is attributed to composer William Walker in our hymnal; however, a different melody, now lost to time, was first used when the poem was set to music in 1779. Some of the song’s timelessness comes from its meter (the overall rhythm of this lyrics) because this means the lyrics can be used with other melodies that have the same meter (called the “common meter” or 8-6-8-6), including the secular song “The House of the Rising Sun.”

Some of the song’s timelessness also comes from the relative shortness of each stanza (verse) because that makes it easy to either make the song part of a medley of songs or add a chorus. For example, vocal artist Chris Tomlin and his song-writing collaborators (including Pastor Louie Giglio) added this chorus to turn “Amazing Grace” into a Contemporary Christian praise and worship song: “My chains are gone / I’ve been set free / My God, my Savior / has ransomed me / And like a flood / His mercy rains / Unending love / Amazing grace.”

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LUTHERANISM 101: HOLY WEEK

Every Sunday worship service is a “mini-Easter” in that it celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each worship service, Sunday or otherwise, we experience the triune nature of our God: the Holy Spirit gathers us and then, as beloved children of God the Father, we remember and receive the gifts of grace through Christ: Word, Sacrament (when communion or baptism occurs), and Christian community. During Holy Week, we have three worship services that have articular shapes.



On *Palm Sunday*, our worship starts differently. There is an extra reading from one of the gospels, the blessing of palm branches, and a procession in remembrance of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This year, we strategically removed the other readings to emphasize the two gospel readings. The “meat” of the Word portion of the services is one of the passion narratives, a long reading from one of the gospels which goes into detail regarding the arrest, torture, and death of Jesus. Use of the passion narrative is why the start of Holy Week is also sometimes called Passion Sunday, and the nature of this narrative is also why the paraments might be red

instead of purple.

The middle worship service of Holy Week takes place over two or three days (kind of like how a funeral technically starts at the church or funeral home and ends at the gravesite or columbarium). The full “Three Days” (the church’s official name for this service) consists of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

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FOOD BARREL FOR TALBOT HOUSE

We indeed would be **NUTS** if we didn’t *thank you* for your generosity. We asked a lot of you in March – the *Amazing Grace in Action* Lenten Project as well as the monthly Food Barrel donations for Talbot House. Guess What!! You did it!! You so generously supported both projects. Doug delivered \$310.92 in food on Monday, the 20th. Thank You Reformation!!

Blessings,
Community Outreach Committee

COFFEE HOUR — MARCH 12TH



Did you attend "Coffee Hour" following worship on March 12? Wasn't it something else? Vickey Zelazny, our council president, has been after me for a couple years to get someone else to prepare the coffee hour once in a while so I wasn't at all suspicious when she told me she and Dawn Cornell wanted to do coffee on the 12th. Little did I know what was really going on that day. I wrote step-by-step instructions for them to follow and spent a couple hours walking through the procedures with them. They wouldn't even let me into the fellowship hall before worship on Sunday. I was told "They would rather I not come in at that time." When I was finally



allowed to enter following worship I saw to what extent they had decorated the hall and laid out the refreshments. It was warm, welcoming and you all were there. It was a very heart warming moment. Thank you Vickey and Dawn for the excellent job you did in preparing the hall and coffee hour and thank you all for sharing my surprising experience. Oh, by the way, the instructions for preparing a coffee hour are available to anyone who wants take on the job for a Sunday. Just let me know.

Karen Hamilton, Fellowship Chair

INVITE SOMEONE!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)



or flyer with someone! You can hand it to someone, mail it to someone, or (if you are shy) just leave it somewhere it will be found. For example, pin it on your neighborhood's event bulletin board, leave it on shelf in a store, or stick it under the wiper blades of a car. Let's see who the Holy Spirit invites for you!

HERE IS HOW – METHOD #2:

If you are on social media, invite people that way! On Facebook, here is what you do: open the application on your computer or other device, search for "Reformation Lutheran Church" (when you find the right one, you will see a circular "profile" picture of our church), go to our page by clicking on it, scroll-down the posts until you find one about our Easter service (hint: the picture will be the same as the card and flyer), then use the "share" arrow (usually on the lower right side of that post) to either send the post to your own page (so all your "friends" will see it) or directly to a particular person's feed).

BEYOND EASTER:

We also have "calling cards" (a supply can be found to the right of the doors under the portico) and we add an "event" post on our Facebook page each week for each upcoming Sunday service or other public activity, so you can actually invite someone ANY day. Give it a try! And keep on trying!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



<<< Palm Sunday
(the passion narrative)
10 a.m. on April 2nd

Maundy Thursday >>>
(with communion)
4 p.m. on April 6th



<<< Good Friday
(solemn service)
4 p.m. on April 7th

Easter Sunday >>>
(communion & choir)
10 a.m. on April 9th



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA

In Person: 460 Old Polk City Rd

Online: www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans

ALOAFEST—Adult Lutherans in the second half of life

Vic & Barb Caballero, Karen Hamilton and Bobbie Harney attended an all day ALOAfest on March 11th at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Temple Terrace. After a continental breakfast, COR Pastor, Eric Fredricks, led an opening worship, followed by the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, pastor of St Armands Key Lutheran Church, who spoke on the benefits of travel. We spent the next hour in one of three workshops.

After lunch we enjoyed lifelong Lutheran and professional comedian, Al Ernst, who expanded upon Martin Luther's quote "You have as much laughter as you have faith." The next hour was spent in one of three additional workshops. The session ended with closing remarks, music, and prayer for the journey.

If you have the opportunity, we recommend that you attend an ALOAfest. We all came away knowing more than when we arrived.

LUTHERANISM 101: HOLY WEEK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)



On *Maundy Thursday*, we hear about the "last supper" (the sharing of bread and wine that occurred the night before Jesus died on the cross), which is when Jesus instituted the sacrament we know as communion or Holy Eucharist. Before we receive communion, however, we reenact a variation on what we also hear about. Namely, in addition to sharing bread and wine, Jesus issued a new mandate (in Latin, *mandatum*, which is where "Maundy" comes from) to his disciples: love one another as he loved them. Jesus demonstrated that kind of love by washing their feet (something that normally would be done by only the lowliest of servants). Taking into consideration modern hygiene standards

and the physical limitations of some of us, our variation on that demonstration this year will be to offer optional hand washing. After the handwashing and communion, the day ends with "stripping of the altar" (removal of communion vessels, paraments, and even the pastor's stole) to represent the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples that began as soon as the supper ended.

On *Good Friday*, the altar remains "stripped" and we hear the passion narrative found in the Holy Gospel according to John. The rest of the named disciples, even Peter, abandon Jesus as he suffers and dies. Some of the women remain, and two other early believers ask to take care of the body. In lieu of a second sermon, God speaks to us through the Solemn Reproaches. In lieu of regular "prayers of the people" we answer through the Bidding Prayers. The day ends with psalmody and sound associated with the tomb being closed.



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HELP PACK A BAG LUNCH!!

Have you tried it yet? It's something different? It doesn't take very long, and no experience is needed! Signup to pack lunches for our unsheltered neighbors following worship on April 16th. 4-6 ladies make meat and cheese sandwiches and put them in plastic baggies. 4 men or ladies work the assembly line to put a drink, fruit cup, condiments, a sweet, sandwiches,



and chips in a paper lunch bag. That's all there is to it! So little time spent – So much good as a result!! Hope to see some new faces on the 16th. Signup sheet is on the credenza in the narthex.



Introducing Richard and Joyce Fisk who become members of Reformation on March 26th. Richard and Joyce have been attending Reformation for several years. The live at 3201 Bellflower Way, Lakeland 33811. Joyce's cell is 603-759-6640, email: jrfisk@comcast.net.

Be sure to introduce yourself and say "Hi".

LUTHERANISM 101: HOLY WEEK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Reformation's Holy Week tradition does not include an Easter Vigil. If we had one, it would be late Saturday evening, starting either outside with a bonfire or inside without any lights except the lit Pascal candle as "new light" that overcomes the darkness, symbolizing the light of Christ. This "new light" could then be used to light hand-held candles that would be used to "pass" light to the assembly holding candles (like we do Christmas Eve). After the Easter Proclamation, "some" lights are turned on and the hand-held candles are extinguished before up to twelve (yes, 12!) readings are heard. All the lights are then turned for the Gospel reading. After a sermon, any baptisms and affirmations of baptism (confirmations) occur, then there is communion. This final day of the "Three Days" service can easily take three hours! In lieu of an Easter Vigil, some congregations now have a short Easter Sunrise service, sometimes with a variation on the "new light" portion of the Vigil (such as starting outside before sunrise, or starting in a dark sanctuary and then moving outside).



The third service of Holy Week actually straddles the following week: *Easter Sunday* itself. Easter Sunday is the "Sunday of all Sundays." It is a "normal" Sunday worship service in terms of format (the four-part rhythm of gather, Word, Meal, and send), although the gathering starts with an extra greeting. The service as a whole is designed to be more joyous than normal in many ways, including: lilies or other enhanced flowers, white and/or

gold paraments, a lit Pascal candle (a symbol of Christ's presence), a celebratory "thanksgiving for baptism" instead of a "confession and forgiveness" rite, and use of music (greater quantity, higher quality, and/or more musicians). Also, the "Alleluia" returns (re-appearing in hymn lyrics as well as in the Gospel acclamation). In some congregations, the "Meal" portion of the service is enhanced by use of a special wine or bread.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to thank all who so generously donated to the 2023 Lenten Project, *Amazing Grace in Action*.

Our total for these programs was, OH I forgot. I am going keep you guessing until I tell you Sunday morning during the announcements in church. Hope you will be there in person or on line to find out. If you are not there or online, I will have



Marilyn send out a blast next week to let you all know the total. I will tell you that you did a good job with the donations. Talbot House and Grace Lutheran Backpack Programs will be very thankful for our donations and support. This makes me glad I belong to this

congregation always

church as you are always generous with your giving on any project we do and again you did not disappoint me on this year's Lenten Project. We all need to be proud of ourselves for stepping up and helping those who are less fortunate. I hope it gives each one of you a good feeling to see what our little church can accomplish. Again thanks so much for all your support for all the programs we do at this church.

Yvonne Mueller, Lenten Project Chair

AMAZING GRACE (THE SONG) (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

The traditional version that we have in our cranberry-red hymnal contains four of the stanzas (verses) that Newton wrote. The fifth stanza (verse) in our hymnal was originally part of another song, but it has been associated with "Amazing Grace" since 1910). If you are a fan of the BBC show "Call the Midwife, you may have heard the original fifth stanza when Lucille sang it to Valerie's grandmother as she died. It goes like this: "Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace." The phrase "within the veil" comes from the King James translation of Hebrews, chapter 6, verse 19.

The lyrics of Newton's original 6th stanza (verse) are as follows: "The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine; but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine." The first half of this stanza is based on 2nd Peter, chapter 3, verse 10, which refers to the end times. The second half of this stanza is based on Deuteronomy, chapter 32, verse 10, and reflects a summary of how Newton came to view himself: a man who once wasted his life but who, by God's grace, became a precious child of God with the promise of eternal life.

APRIL 2023

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
						1 10:00-2:00 Lake Conference Spring Gathering @ Grace Lutheran
2 Palm Sunday 8:45 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Reformation Information	3	4	5	6  Maundy Thursday 4:00 Service w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live	7 Good Friday  4:00 Service In-Person & Facebook Live	8 10:30 Altar Ministry Decorate
9 Easter 9:15 Choir Run-thru 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live	10	11 9:30 Evangelism	12	13	14	15
16 Food Barrel 8:45 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Pack Lunches for Homeless	17	18 9:30 Chimes 6:30 Council	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Coffee Hour	24	25 9:30 Chimes	26	27 12:30 Lunch Bunch @ Harry's	28	29
30 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Town Hall Meeting						



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*



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