

"Growing in Faith and Love through Jesus Christ"

CROSS WALK

Official Newsletter of Reformation Lutheran Church

September 2023

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Dear Reformation Nation,

We're baaaaaack (the congregation's newsletter has returned from its brief summer hiatus)! This issue is loaded with information and reminders, so be sure to read it "cover to cover" and then refer back to it as needed.

One particular Sunday last month, 46% of us participated in worship at Reformation online instead of in-person. We are truly a "hybrid" congregation, staying connected even when some of us are away for a season, living locally but unable to get to church physically, temporarily traveling, or permanently residing in another state. May we continue to make wise use of technology to remain united as the Body of Christ!

As I write this message, I am excited about the prospect of volunteering as a kindergarten "Reading Pal" at Padgett Elementary, the nearby public school that Reformation supports with school supplies and underwear. I am also looking forward to our "God's work, Our hands" projects later this month and planning various online and in-person activities for October, November, and December. What excites you about our life together these days? As we continue our life together, what is God "up to" with us?



+ Pastor Lois

"What is God up to here?"

Fear not, for I am with you,
Do not be dismayed. I am your God.
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10 TLB

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Special points of interest:

- What is God up to here?
- Be a council member
- Join the Calico Choir
- Plan for the Bishop
- Significance of the Cross
- Learn more about Justice projects
- Participate in GWOH

Message from the President

Happy September to all! Hopefully we are past the heat of the summer and we are able to enjoy the beginning of a new season here at Reformation. Council has been busy this summer working on updating our Policies and Procedures. Each of our offices and committees are listed in this document with the duties and responsibilities of each; therefore, anyone who takes over any of these positions will

readily have available exactly what they are responsible for. We on Council have seen first handed from some unexpected circumstances, the importance of having such a document. Even though we are not finished with this project yet, as it is time consuming, we are moving forward and learning so much as we do so. Being on Council is a very good way to learn about the workings of our church. And, as I always say, the more active

you become, the more rewarding it is to share your time and talents. So, the end of the year is quickly approaching and if you are interested in being on Council, please see me to join us as a visitor on Zoom for one of our meetings. Have a great month!



Vickie

QUESTIONS? ANSWERS!

(NEXT "REFORMATION INFORMATION" SESSION)



What are the differences between associate, seasonal, and full membership in our congregation? Why become a member at all? How do I go about scheduling a baptism? What about _____ (fill in the blank with something you have been wondering about, whether Christianity in general or our denomination (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) in particular?

Join us in the conference room after worship on Sunday, September 3, for the next "Reformation Information" session. If you are not able to stay, please contact Pastor Lois to make an appointment for some other day and time (pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com or leave a message at 863-859-2264).

SIGN-UP! EXPLORE!

(a message about the “talent” part of stewardship)

*We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.
Romans 12:6-8*



If those verses sound familiar, perhaps it is because they were part of the second reading during worship on August 27!

What gift of “talent” (knowledge, skill, experience, and/or “gumption”) do you have to offer to the glory of God through church involvement?

If you already know, use the sign-up sheets in the narthex (or e-mail lovinglutherans@gmail.com).

If you are not yet sure, spend some time this week considering what other people have told you or gain some insight from this online spiritual gift inventory: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/spiritgifts.pdf?_ga=2.227091869.1609210229.1692717122-1523072339.1692717122

DID YOU KNOW?

Iglesia Oasis de Esperanza (“Oasis of Hope” Church), our non-Lutheran siblings in Christ, have been using the Fellowship Hall for worship, prayer, and music practice for about 18 months. Their lead pastor is Juan Carlos Molina. He and his Spanish-speaking congregation are here Sunday afternoons, some Wednesday evenings, and occasional special events. They donate \$400/month to Reformation, which helps with utilities and maintenance of our facilities.



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 the fellowship hall, the narthex and other rooms in the church building for community services, like

- ◇ packing lunches for the homeless,
- ◇ receiving and sorting school supplies for Padgett Elementary School,
- ◇ collecting and counting food for Talbot House Ministries.

This is just a small example of the outcome of your investment.

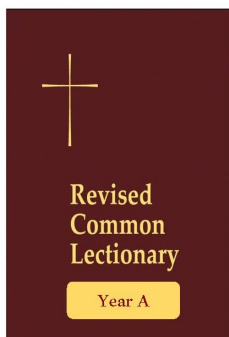


SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY (SUNDAY READINGS)

Remember:

If you watch all three devotions on Facebook each week

*(First reading on Monday, Second reading on Tuesday, and Gospel reading on Wednesday),
you have participated in a Lectionary Bible Study for the next Sunday.*



DATE	FIRST	PSALM	SECOND	GOSPEL
9/3	Jeremiah 15:15-21	26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
9/10	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
9/17	Genesis 50:15-21	103:[1-7]8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
9/24	Jonah 3:10-4:11	145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

[] = optional verses

INTRODUCING CALICO CHOIR

Exciting news!! Starting in emerge at Reformation Calico Choir? Just like the or a calico pony, Calico Choir little of that. Why? We need to order to mightily enhance our experience here at Reformation. All interested people are invited to join.



Meet Cal & Cally

September, Calico Choir will Lutheran Church. What is appearance of a calico cat will have a little of this and a think outside the box in contribution to the worship

Basic facts about our Calico Choir are listed below:

1. On September 17th, the first of our Sunday morning choir rehearsals will begin promptly at quarter of nine in the sanctuary.
2. Calico Choir rehearsals will routinely occur on the first and third Sundays of every month. For those who wish to participate, there will be additional rehearsals for special celebration Sundays.
3. In what appears to be a blatant contradiction, our innovative choir also will be an old-fashioned choir. Everything will be on paper. Simplicity will prevail.
4. Calico Choir members will not wear vestments and will be able to sit with friends and family members during the worship services.
5. Calico Choir has been organized by semester in order to accommodate the reality of our busy lives. First semester will end at Christmas. Second semester will end at Easter. Certainly, you are invited to sing with us during both semesters if that is compatible with your life.
6. Calico Choir will sing a wide variety of music styles.

Help us to launch this new season! Surely, Calico Choir will add sparkle and variety to our already wonderful worship services here at Reformation. Know that you will be joining our glorious existing choir member group. They can really sing! We hope to see you at our first rehearsal on September 17th.

Elise Knoll, Director of Music

ATTENTION ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS!

***Council Meeting for September and
October has been changed to the 4th
Tuesday.***

Join these friends as they
celebrate their birthday or
anniversary in September.



09/01 ROBINSON, Roger

09/09 KRETZMER, Ardra

09/10 ATKINSON, Ed

09/14 STEVENS, Beverly

09/24 SORESEN, Pastor Lois

09/28 ROY, Christopher

09/28 KRETZMER, Dick & Ardra

NEW MEMBERS

07/18 BLEACHER, Sue — by reinstatement

08/15 HATCH, Ron & Mary — by transfer

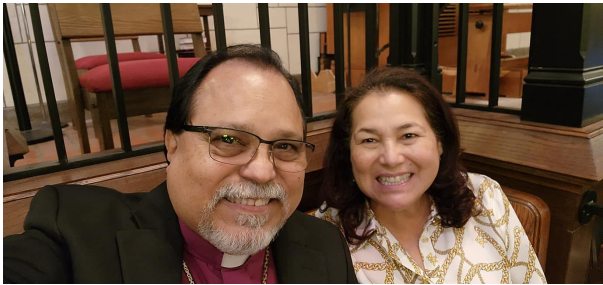
ONE WAY REFORMATION SPREADS GOD'S LOVE— FOOD BARREL DONATIONS TO TALBOT HOUSE MINISTRIES

WOW! We may be small in numbers but certainly are **MIGHTY** in generous donations to Talbot House Ministries each month with food barrel donations. Since this project is an ongoing monthly ministry, we are proud to report that the average giving in food items is approximately \$400.00. This does not include Harvest Sunday and Reverse Advent Donations. The donations over the summer months totaled \$1,248. Thank you ALL who participate for your help in spreading God's love from Reformation to the community. Talbot House is one of "**many**" ways our **little church** reaches out in a "**BIG**" way!

Community Outreach Committee



SAVE THE DATE! SELECT YOUR RECIPE!



Pedro Manuel Suárez, bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, is scheduled to join us for worship on October 22, 2023. We are bringing back the Reformation Sunday potluck a week early as part of the reception for the bishop and his wife. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex (church lobby).

Bishop Suárez previously served as lead pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Pompano Beach. Prior to that, he served in Texas, Illinois, and Wisconsin. He was born in Venezuela, has an MDiv (Masters in Divinity) from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and is married to ELCA Deacon Aura Suárez. They have 2 adult children.



STARS — STUDY, TRY, ACHIEVE, REACH FOR SUCCESS



Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Once again, you have all helped to make some children and parents very happy through the wonderful generosity of your school supplies! My heart is so warmed to think of children being able to go to school that first day with all the supplies they need, just like all the other children in their classroom. Some of these innocent little children are homeless - living in their family car or in a hotel with very little food. How in the world can a teacher expect a child to learn when this is where he is coming from in the morning? But...., we can make sure that little child has all the supplies he needs when he walks into that classroom to make the best learning atmosphere possible. And as I learned through my own many years of teaching, for some children, the best part of their day is when they are in the security of their classroom. Some Sunday when you leave church to go home, drive down Marcum, turn left onto Odom, and then right onto Daugherty. This is the neighborhood these children come from. My eyes were opened when I did this! Your generous gifts of over \$1600 are appreciated by many. Thank you to Karen Hamilton, Sylvia Shaw, and Karen Edwards for counting and packing the supplies and to Doug for delivering them to Padgett School. It was another very successful School Supply project because of YOU!!

Vickey Zelazny, Project Chair



CROSS VS. CRUCIFIX

(LUTHERANISM 101 – PART 1 OF 3)

Having a crucifix in the church sanctuary (worship space) is strictly a Roman Catholic thing, right? Nope. Lutheran, Episcopalian, and other Protestant churches might have a crucifix (cross with an image of the crucified Jesus), an “empty” cross, or both.

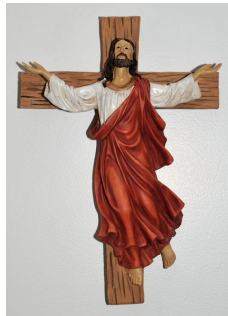


A Lutheran congregation’s worship space is more likely to feature a crucifix as predominant wall art, in a stained-glass window, or on a pole (for processing in and out of the space) if it has an older building, especially if its charter members were recent immigrants from countries where they were persecuted or experienced other hardships. Why? There can be great comfort in having a visual reminder that Jesus understands what it means to suffer.



In newer buildings (or sanctuaries that have undergone recent renovation), an “empty” cross is more common. It can be a powerful visual reminder of the victory of Easter cross did not “win”).

Either imagery is acceptable. cross.



Some congregations even feature a “risen Christ”

Have you ever considered being a member of the congregation council at Reformation? It is a very important position. The constitution states that “the Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life...” It is the governing body of our congregation. You must be a full member at least 6 months, attend worship regularly, and support the church financially. The term of each council member is 3 years.

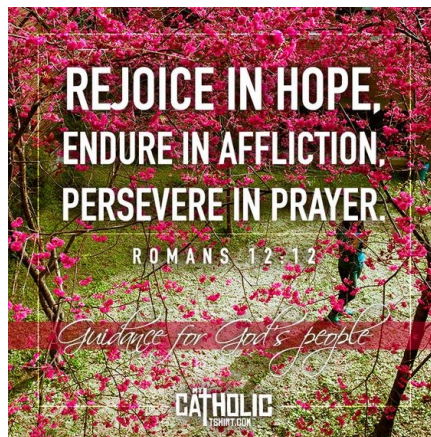
Think about it — we need to fill two vacancies for 2024.

PRAYER ROOM OR PRAYER ZOOM?

(a message about the “time” part of stewardship)

The “time” and “talent” aspects of Christian stewardship sometimes get combined in discussion, but let’s consider them distinctly by referring to spending time **WITH** God instead of offering a talent (knowledge, skill, experience, and/or “gumption”) **FOR** God. Prayer is spending time with God, hopefully listening as well as talking.

If you prefer to pray alone, how for yourself? It doesn’t need to be underutilized closet or even just a room or out in the yard (any place the day’s duties or doldrums). If them there. If you want to focus eyes or use a focal point (such as water).



about you create a prayer room a whole room; it might be an favorite chair in the corner of a where you can disconnect from you like to write prayers, post on listening to God, close your a cross, a statue, or a bowl of

If you prefer to pray with others, how about we start a weekly prayer group on Zoom? Using our “smart” phones and camera-equipped computers, we could gather wherever we are. We could pray for those on our prayer list, bring-up personal concerns, articulate prayers based on current events, or “all of the above.” Monday at 6:30 p.m.? Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. or 4 p.m.? Please contact Pastor with a preferred day and time. She can be reached at pastorreformationlake-land@gmail.com or 863-859-2264 (leave a message).



What a way to end a worship service — join your friends and fellow worshippers in fellowship with a cup of coffee or glass of tea and a goodie! This year we are asking **YOU** to bring the goodies for the coffee hour — either homemade or purchased. There will be a sheet on the credenza to sign up to bring the goodies — two people for each coffee hour. We will furnish the drinks. The first coffee hour is September 10th as we assemble the GWOH projects.

We will celebrate Pastor Lois’s birthday on September 24th. We will furnish a cake.

Looking forward to joining you as we share time with our friends and fellow worshippers at Reformation.

COMING SOON: “NEW AND IMPROVED” WEBSITE

“TOWN HALL” FEEDBACK: At our “Town Hall” meeting immediately after worship on July 30, we looked at some different website options (a mix of templates and actual sites) and discussed possibilities. Those present acknowledged that a church’s website is its “new front door” to visitors: they “drive by” before they decide whether to visit, and ours needs more “curb appeal” as well as functionality. We should have more visual content (actual pictures and short videos, not just stock photos), organize content for ease of use, and look into adding a secure “members only” area for useful-to-us items like the church directory.



NEXT STEP: Watch for an eblast in the next week or so that contains a comparison of website platforms currently under consideration. This is taking longer to prepare than originally discussed during the meeting because, based on the feedback received, we have been looking into some additional options.

OBJECTIVE: We want to transition to a new website by mid-October. Although we will initially focus on better demonstrating “who we are” (a congregation of big-hearted older adults who appreciate Lutheran liturgy), we also want to project a forward-thinking perspective and have the technological capacity to adapt and add content needed to serve others who are looking for a faith community (starting with, but not exclusive to, still-working and recently-retired “younger” older adults).

“MAKING” THE CROSS (LUTHERANISM 101 – PART 2 OF 3)

“Making” the cross (the sign of the cross, with or without water, on your head and/or chest) is strictly a Roman Catholic thing, right? Nope.



Lutherans and others also like to “remember” our baptism. In fact, in many congregations, First Communion candidates are encouraged to “remember” their baptism by making the sign of the cross whenever they are using water, such as brushing their teeth. This is also why Reformation’s sanctuary (worship space) design strategically located the baptismal font by the doors we use to enter the space, and why we moved it back to that location after Pastor Lois arrived.

During the Easter season this year, we removed the font’s lid and added water to reinforce that visual reminder of baptism. You liked it! In fact, some of you are now in the habit of using that water to “remember” your baptism in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Go for it!

DO JUSTICE! (A SHORT POLL NEEDING YOUR INPUT)

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

- Micah 6:8

Reformation's community outreach efforts currently consist of "mercy" (food drives and other ways in which we demonstrate love and kindness by generously addressing immediate needs). But what about "justice" (awareness, advocacy, and other efforts to address the underlying causes of such needs)? Our constitution says that our congregation's purpose (in addition to worshiping God, proclaiming the Gospel, and carrying out the Great Commission) includes "advocating dignity and justice of all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless" (C4.02.d). That's a pretty tall order!

Based on our recent "mercy" projects, "Town Hall" discussions, local interfaith issues, Florida-Bahama Synod involvement, and ELCA priorities, we have developed a list of "some" local and societal concerns that may be of interest. **Please check EVERY concern you want to learn more about, then circle the ONE concern you recommend we focus on during the next 12 months.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Nationalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Welfare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Insecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant/Refugee Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+ Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty (at any age) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racism | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter Insecurity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults (ELCA participation) |

Complete the above poll.

Tear the page out of your newsletter.

*Deposit the page in the "Pinch & Praise" box sitting
on the credenza,*

2023 FLA-BAHAMAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Each year we ask for a volunteer to attend the Fla-Bahamas Synod Assembly as a voting delegate for Reformation. Jim Williams was our delegate for the 2023 Assembly. Below is his report. It is well worth your reading. Maybe next year you will consider being our delegate.

I attended the 2023 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly earlier this year. The three-day event took place in Orlando on June 8, 9 and 10 with Pastor Sorensen and me representing Reformation Lutheran Church.

The assembly was the first synod-wide event I had ever attended. Because of this, the scope of my understanding of the Lutheran church was limited to attending services at my home church. Armed with my limited experience and having studied the assembly's schedule of events I arrived in Orlando, checked-in to the hotel and made my way to the convention center. The convention center was bustling with activity as people made their way to various venues. I was relieved when I quickly found Pastor Sorensen who had saved seats for us in the main meeting room. Once we were seated and the meetings got underway, I began to appreciate the magnitude of the assembly. The meeting room was huge and filled with approximately 400 Lutherans. This was by far the largest group of Lutherans I had ever been with at one time. There were reunions with old friends and introductions to new ones. Music and singing were integral parts of the proceedings. Hearing 400 Lutherans singing hymns in unison was a moving experience and one that I will not soon forget.

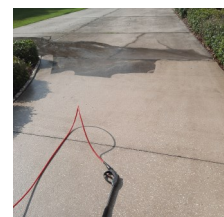
During the three days of the assembly, we heard from people who are spearheading efforts throughout the synod to further the work of the church in ministry and community outreach. I had no idea of the extent to which churches in our synod have a positive effect on our communities. Among those who spoke at the assembly were Bishop Suarez of our synod and Bishop Davenport of the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod. Their eloquence and leadership made it easy to understand how they came to hold positions as leaders of their respective synods.

I think one of the most important things I learned at the assembly is that the success of the synod depends on the work and dedication of its churches, and the success of each church depends on the efforts of its members. It made me feel good to hear Reformation Lutheran Church being recognized several times for our contributions to the synod's mission.

Attending the synod assembly was a positive experience for me and exceeded my expectations.

Jim Williams

Thanks, Doug, for a job well done! Portico and entryway are bright and clean now!



TALKING TREASURE

(a message about the “money” part of stewardship)

Let us CELEBRATE three treasure-related developments:



1. **OUTREACH OUTCOME:** Your generosity for specific outreach efforts remains strong! As this newsletter article is being drafted, we have over \$340 in quarters ready for our “God’s work, Our hands” laundromat kit project, we have another \$340 (not in quarters) set aside for disaster relief (and we are aiming for another \$260 by the first Sunday in September), and you gave over \$500 worth of groceries for Talbot House’s kitchen and food pantry during August.
2. **WISH LIST OUTCOME:** Over the summer, thanks to one generous donor, our church property was enhanced with more than \$1,000 worth of colorful plants. That takes care of two more items from our “wish list” of unbudgeted needs! Watch for an updated version of the “wish list” later this month, along with a new brochure explaining our “special gifts” policy.
3. **ONLINE OPTION:** As we reported earlier this year, we now offer online giving through a company called Vanco. Worshipping in person, but forgot your checkbook? Use your “smart” phone to scan a QR code in the bulletin that brings you to our giving webpage. Worshipping online? Scroll through our recent Facebook posts for the QR code and webpage link. Is your attendance going to be “spotty” for a while? You can set-up automatic giving!



BONUS FEATURE (“OLD SCHOOL” TIP): If you would still rather send a check through the mail, please add a note clarifying what it is meant to cover (regular offering, altar flowers, eternal candle, roof fund, homeless meals, pastor’s discretionary fund, memorial gift, some other special gift, etc.).

PRAISE (OR “PINCH”) YOUR COUNCIL



REMINDER: You do not need to wait for an in-person quarterly “town hall” meeting or attend a Zoom monthly council meeting to provide suggestions or feedback to Reformation’s congregational council. Just use a “praise and pinch” form to communicate with us! An electronic copy is included in this month’s newsletter on pages 17 & 18 and paper copies are available in the narthex (lobby). If you attend worship in-person, please put your completed form in the box in the narthex; if you attend online, please send it by e-mail or “snail” mail.

AUGUST'S SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

A reprint of an article in the Newspaper by Catherine Rogers



This month we meander down the road a ways to Sue Bleacher's beautiful home. Sue has been a Sandpiper resident for 24 years!

She was raised by foster parents on a dairy farm in Lancaster County, PA, along with her two brothers. Right out of High School she married her High School sweetheart and gave birth to three boys, Harry, Kevin, and Dewey (not all at once). She is the reason childbirth is called "labor" because her boys were nearly 10 pounds (one was over 10 pounds!) Yeah, ouch. Sue is a petite woman, so to imagine her having those huge babies is amazing!

For ten years she worked driving a school bus, which she loved. The only problem was they had to strap blocks onto the pedals because her legs couldn't reach! (I'm not kidding). But she overcame that obstacle just as she did everything else in her life. She may be small (and she is), but she's quite the

dynamo!

After her children were older, she went to work full-time for Exide Batteries, which produced plastic parts for batteries in cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc. It was during this time that she and her husband divorced.

Then the funniest thing happened. Her foster brother married a gal who had a brother that lived in New Jersey who would often come to visit. Bob and Sue had known each other since they were nine years old. One day, Bob's sister told him to ask Sue out--and the rest is history!

Sue married her true love in 1989 and moved to New Jersey where Bob and his four children lived. Sue decided she might as well retire when she moved and Bob retired not long after. Then, like so many people, they decided they were sick and tired of winter and moved to Florida – right into Sandpiper!

It wasn't long before Sue and Bob became involved in all that Sandpiper has to offer. She was reluctantly talked into driving a CAP car, making it quite clear if she didn't like it she wouldn't continue doing it. That was 14 years ago! She and Bob would keep our streets safe together. She has also delivered the Newspaper for 12 years. Every Wednesday night for 15 years she was at Bingo until she lost the love of her life five years ago. But, Sue still drives the CAP car five days a week with the memory of her soul mate sitting shotgun next to her. She was given a Certificate of Achievement from Sheriff Grady Judd himself, recognizing 560 hours of volunteer hours in 2022

She has also competed in the Senior Olympics for 12 years, primarily in tennis and bowling. She is an avid (and a very good) bowler who finds herself at the alleys twice a week. In the past, she's helped in the kitchen with Connie Farmer for Thanksgivings, Christmases, and Pancake breakfasts.

When she's not in the CAP car or rolling strikes at the bowling alley (seriously, it's really annoying when you're playing against her), she enjoys trips on the gambling boat that Birdie Lycans puts together.

She is also a breast cancer survivor, and just a survivor period. If you're out between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM Monday through Friday, and see the CAP car drive by, give her a wave. She told me she doesn't need blocks to drive the CAP car, but I'm betting there's a big, fluffy pillow in there to help her see over the dash!

Thank you Sue for all that you do! You're an amazing woman and we appreciate you!

“FOLLOWING” THE CROSS

(LUTHERANISM 101 – PART 3 OF 3)

Why are some people “following” sanctuary (worship space)?

After a long pandemic-related hiatus, we recently resumed the use of the practice of the presiding minister and assisting minister “processing” space).

In the absence of a designated on the role of bringing the presiding minister and anyone else (literally) by walking behind the room follows the cross symbolically) one would show respect to the parade.

Following the cross, whether literally a follower of Jesus Christ. One Jesus Christ, who is represented by the processional cross.

** such as a designated acolyte (candle-lighter), torch-bearer (person carrying a large candle used to “escort” the ceremonial Bible), book-bearer (person carrying the ceremonial Bible) and any non-presiding preacher*



the cross as it is brought in or out of the

hiatus, we recently resumed the use of the practice of the presiding minister in and out of the sanctuary (worship

crucifer, the assisting minister may take processional cross in and out. The in the procession* follow the cross processional cross. Everyone else in the by standing and turning to face it like standard (most important flag) in a

or symbolically, is a public sign of being could say the standard of our faith is

“LET’S DO LUNCH”

Ladies, our summer hiatus has come to an end! be meeting on the third or fourth Thursday of the fellowship we receive with our female friends (along **Where do you want to go for lunch?** Last year places you like to eat. We’ll do the same this year. up to 20 people.



Lunch Bunch will once again month to celebrate the with their friends/relatives). you each provided one or two Just make sure they can seat

We will begin, as usual, with Palace Italian Restaurant on 98N on Thursday, September 29th at 12:30 pm. Sign-up sheets will be out a couple weeks in advance. See you for lunch!!

Karen Hamilton, organizer



Sunday, September 10th, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of “God’s Work Our Hands” (GWOH), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) nationwide day of service. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Reformation will have two service projects: one will be to write thank you notes to the teaching staff and paraprofessionals at Padgett Elementary School, the second will be to put together packages of laundry products to wash/dry a triple-load of clothes to be distributed to the local “working poor” and unsheltered (homeless) people.

It’s not too late to donate your quarters and laundry soap pods. Bring them on the 10th.

Be sure to wear your GWOH t-shirt and plan to come to coffee hour following worship on the 10th to complete the projects as well as enjoy coffee and fellowship.



WANTED: YOUR PICTURES!

Already have a few digital pictures on your phone (or camera) related to the people or projects of Reformation? Please e-mail them to lovinglutherans@gmail.com as attachments to your message. Don’t have any? You have our permission to take some during the month of September, even (discretely) during worship. We want smiling/speaking/singing faces, unusual perspectives of the property (inside and outside), and candid shots of activities. We will use them in the newsletter as well as our Facebook page and soon-to-be-revamped website. If everyone will just send two pictures by September 15, we should have plenty to choose from for the website.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 2-3 months, some low-life operations try to scam unsuspecting parishioners by spoofing (pretending to be) pastors. It generally takes the form of a text or email from the pastor, saying they are in a meeting and are collecting for a member with cancer, asking the recipient to buy a gift card and then immediately transmit its codes to the pastor. Fortunately for us, this scam normally occurs on our pastor’s designated Sabbath day or the recipients are suspicious about the phone number or email address being used. When in doubt, text or call her using the cellphone number found in our member directory. In fact, look it up now and put that cellphone number in the contact list on your phone, so that you have it handy!



INSTRUCTIONS

Praise & Pinch Feedback System

This method of feedback deals with joys, concerns, feelings, and opinions you may have about what is (or is not) happening at Reformation. It provides opportunity for you to communicate about ways we are doing well in our ministry together and areas that might need attention. Such input and feedback helps us all to be faithful in carrying out our mission.

Here's how the system works:

1. There is a confidential box in the narthex for receiving "Praise & Pinch" forms. Copies of these forms (instructions on one side, blanks to complete on the other side) are kept near the box.
2. **Write out your praise(s) or pinch(es) on the form, sign it, and place it in the Praise & Pinch Box.**
3. Forms will be collected by a member of the "Praise & Pinch" Committee.
4. You will be contacted to let you know that your form has been received and to clarify with you the content of your input and what you would like to see happen.
5. Following this conversation (#3 & #4 above), you will then be told how your message will be handled.
6. Your message will be delivered to the appropriate committee, subgroup, or person. Follow-through will include communicating to you the final outcome of your feedback.

Throughout this process, **confidentiality** will be maintained.

Approved by Congregational Council: 01/18/22

“PRAISE AND PINCH” FORM

Thank you for taking the time to communicate about the ways we are doing well at Reformation Lutheran Church and the areas that might need attention. As a congregation, we are committed to voicing our praises and “not sitting on our pinches” with each other. If there is anything in our life together that brings you joy (praises) or causes you concern (pinches), here is your opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings!

To be a healthy and faithful community, we need to be open with one another about what we expect in all areas of our life together. As such, if there is a specific question, suggestion, or concern you would like to discuss directly with a particular staff member, Council member, or committee member, please indicate that desire below.

Praise(s):

Pinch(es):

Desired Outcome (Solution):

I would like our congregation to move forward with _____

I wish we could implement/initiate _____

I am more comfortable with/when _____

I would like us to _____

Here is a specific question, suggestion, or concern;

I would like to discuss it with _____:

Your Name _____ Ph. # _____ Date: __/__/__

Please return this form to the “Praise and Pinch” box in the Narthex.
It will be collected by member of the “Praise and Pinch” Committee,
and you will be contacted about your message and how it will be handled.

Rec'd: __/__/__

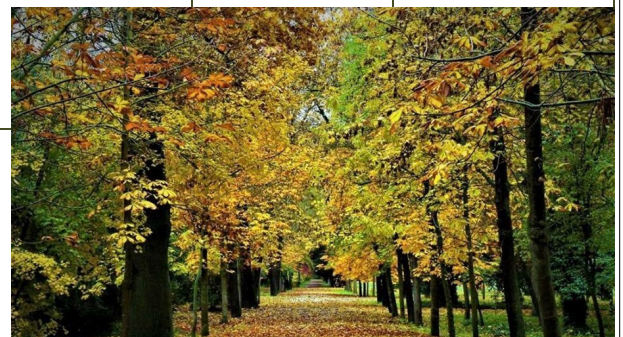
Contacted:

____/____/____

SEPTEMBER 2023

What's Happening at Reformation Lutheran Church

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Reformation Information	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 GWOH 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Coffee Hour	11	12 9:30 Evangelism	13	14	15	16
17 Food Barrel 8:45 Calico Choir 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Pack Lunches for Homeless	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live Coffee Hour	25	26 6:30 Council	27	28 12:30 Lunch Bunch	29	30





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

460 Old Polk City Road



Lakeland, FL 33809

863-859-2264

lovinglutherans@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/lovinglutherans



	Online Visit Facebook/Reformation Lutheran Church or https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95R and click GIVE to set up a one-time or recurring donation to the ministries of Reformation Lutheran Church.
	QR CODE Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Cross Walk is the monthly (September - June) newsletter of Reformation Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are the "loving Lutherans" with a brick-and-mortar presence on the northside of Lakeland, Florida. To receive the newsletter by e-mail or send a draft article, please contact us at lovinglutherans@gmail.com.