

# CROSS WALK

February 2024

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOIS

Dear Reformation Nation,

As I write this message and compose other contributions for the newsletter, I am also coordinating plans for our Ash Wednesday and Lenten midweek services. Oh, joy (not), Ash Wednesday coincides with Valentine's Day this year!

As I "instigated" last year, there will be "Ashes-To-Go" available in the morning as well as a 4 p.m. solemn service on Ash Wednesday. On the other dates, I would like to offer a "simple supper" (soup and bread), provided people sign-up to bring bread for each week.

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

Last month, I commented that we do not need to wait until New Years Day to "hit the reset button" for our life. Although any time is an acceptable time, the season of Lent can be a particularly powerful time to (1) assess our shortcomings and (2) recommit ourselves in grateful response to the fact that we are already a "new

creation" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is especially true if we use the season to try-on a new habit related to one of the "disciplines" of Lent (more on that inside).

A.A.R.P. volunteers are once again offering their popular Tax Aide clinic in our fellowship hall. In addition to A.A.R.P., Iglesia Oasis de Esperanza, and some homeowner association meetings, what other opportunities are there to put our campus to use for the sake of our neighbors? Please take a few minutes to pray about that, then add a prayer for one of our council's officers or standing committees. Pray especially that our ongoing and future endeavors are always guided by faithful discernment of this question: "What is God up to here?"

+ Pastor Lois



### ***Inside this issue:***

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

- What is God up to here?
- Where do our Lenten Offerings go?
- How can you share in our Lenten Project?
- How you can Thrivent help you?
- Be aware of scams
- Learn about "Justice" issues
- Add Time with God
- How a little can result in huge benefits

## Message from the President

**W**elcome to the month of Love! January flew by so fast that I could not believe it. Of course, maybe that was because I was so busy watching that snow accumulate by the feet up home! But now I am ready to focus on this month of valentines and love - love of family, friends, and,

most importantly, our love of God. We will soon be going into the season of Lent and our reparation for Easter, so we have much to look forward to. Those of us on council will be starting to prepare for new things ahead, so please share any thoughts or ideas that you might have as we share our love of Reformation

in the year ahead! Have a great month!



Vickey



## 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 our general fund. This money is 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 cost of over \$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.

## **VOLUNTEERING IS SHARING THE ESSENTIALS** **2024 LENTEN PROJECT**

This Lenten season we encourage each household to give thanks every day for your many blessings and at the same time share with others who are in need. Lent is a preparation period so we can help to prepare those people in need. This year we are getting a jump start on this project by kicking it off the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

The VISTE program which stands for 'Volunteering in Service to the Elderly' will be the recipient of this year's donations. The VISTE program provides a wide range of services to the elderly in our community, including transportation, hot meals, supplemental groceries, and monthly commodity boxes just to name a few. Our theme for this year's Lenten project is "Volunteering Is Sharing The Essentials". We will be gathering donations each Sunday during Lent.

There is a sheet in this newsletter (page 14) indicating what items are especially needed. Each Sunday has its special theme so it will be easier to remember what you need to bring. Take the sheet and put it on your refrigerator so you can keep in mind the things we need each week. There are many unmet needs in the community, and this is one way we, at Reformation Lutheran, can do our part to help.

This congregation always comes through for me and I know you will again this Lenten season. I thank God for all of you because you are truly an example of what kindness, generosity and compassion mean. Any questions, please feel free to ask me or my committee: Bev Nelson, Barb Caballero, and Jeanne Yager or any other Outreach committee member, Karen Hamilton, Marilyn Hodge, Vickey Zelazny, Sylvia Shaw, or Pastor Lois.

Yvonne Mueller, Lenten Project Chair

### **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.

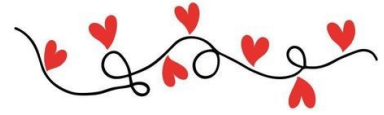
Tax preparation in 2024 will be at Reformation Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall and by appointment only - they will not be processing any walk-ins. Site hours will be: Mondays (8-12) and Thursdays (8-12) starting Thursday, February 1.

Information packets will be available for pick up when you schedule an appointment.

# JOIN IN FELLOWSHIP



February is here — the month of Love !  
Plan to stay after worship for coffee,  
goodies, and fellowship on February 11<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate  
Valentine's Day.



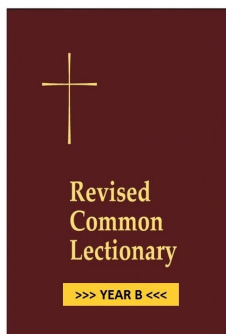
There will also be coffee following worship on February 25<sup>th</sup>. At the moment, that is all we will be serving. We're looking for 2 people to bring the goodies. Check out the Fellowship page in the notebook on the credenza and sign-up if you want to furnish goodies.

Do you have some "theme" ideas we might enjoy, i.e. "Bet you didn't know I . . .", Where do you tell people you are from? These ideas give us something "extra" during fellowship. We're always looking for ideas!

Karen Hamilton, Fellowship chair

## FEBRUARY LECTIONARY (WORSHIP SERVICE READINGS)\*

DATE	FIRST	PSALMODY	SECOND	GOSPEL
02/04 (5 Epiphany)	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
02/11 (Transfiguration)	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
02/14 (Ash Wednesday)	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
02/18 (1 Lent)	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
02/25 (2 Lent)	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38



*\*Remember: If you watch all three devotions posted 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 following Sunday!*

*The devotion on Wednesday is normally "live" at 12 Noon.*

## **DID YOU KNOW?** **THRIVENT**

Thrivent can trace its history back to 1902 as the Aid Association for Lutherans. It began when five hundred people each paid \$5.00 to become members so that they could offer mutual aid for each other. In 2002, AAL merged with the Lutheran Brotherhood to form Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. By then, the combination of companies offered a portfolio of financial services, such as banking, annuities, and insurance. In 2013, the company rebranded to "Thrivent" to more clearly indicate that membership was open to all Christians seeking financial clarity.

# thrivent

In addition to its business lines, Thrivent provides opportunities for its members to support their congregations and other worthy charities. Members can apply for Thrivent

Action Team kits (T-shirts, seed money and other resources) for community service projects. Members can make online donations without paying service fees and also nominate organizations to receive the company's donations through its Thrivent Choice program. Members can attend online workshops and receive educational materials, such as a free will and estate planning guide, to learn about other ways to amplify their generosity.

Our local Thrivent financial advisor is Brian Heipp. He can be reached at [brian.heipp@thrivent.com](mailto:brian.heipp@thrivent.com) or 863-712-5705.

## **AUDIT THE 2023 FINANCIAL RECORDS**



The Internal Audit of the 2023 Financials should be completed in March. We need two (2) voting members to join Sam Wason (who will chair) 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. Complete instructions will be provided. Some of the information is CONFIDENTIAL. Contact Karen Hamilton if you would like to be on the audit team.

## **"Reformation Information"**

Conference Room.

February 4.

After Worship.

Be There.

Aloha.



Do  
you  
have

a question about Christianity in general, Lutheranism in particular, or Reformation Lutheran Church specifically? For example, do you want to arrange a baptism or consider becoming a voting member of the congregation?

This monthly meeting is an informal opportunity to ask questions. If you are unable to stay that day (or are reading this invitation "after the fact"), feel free to contact Pastor Lois directly. You can stop by during office hours, call/text her cellphone (813-494-4052), or send an e-mail to [pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com).



# TEXT AND E-MAIL SCAMS

Every few months, some sleezy so-and-so tries to use text and/or email messages to steal from the parishioners of various ministers, including Pastor Lois. The message tends to either misspell her last name, use “Lori” instead of “Lois” or sign her formal name (Rev. Lois Ann Sorensen). It almost always arrives on a Thursday or Friday, says she is in a meeting, asks the recipient to do her a favor by buying some expensive gift cards (typically Apple cards), and specifies the recipient should then send her the codes off the cards so that she can buy things online for a parishioner with breast cancer.

## Reminders:

- Pastor normally signs her name as “Pastor Lois+” or “LAS+”
- Friday is Pastor’s designated Sabbath, so she will only be “in a meeting” that day if she has a pastoral care emergency or a continuing education class
- Pastor is a PC/Droid owner, not an Apple user
- There is a church credit card that Pastor can use to access the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund (money from professional honorariums and other cash, check, and online donations)
- Any request for assistance from Pastor Lois would come from either the church office ([lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com)) or one of the contact methods listed in the church directory
- Pastor’s cellphone number has an 813 area code and Caller ID might come through under her husband’s name (Gauthier)
- Make it harder for someone to trick you by putting Pastor’s contact information in your phone’s directory and never clicking on links that you have not verified

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

02/12 HATCH, Ron  
02/14 TEDESCO, Shatawn  
02/20 CORNELL, Dawn

02/07 RICHARDS, Jim & Lora  
02/12 NELSON, Don & Beverly  
02/21 FISK, Richard & Joyce  
02/28 SWEET, Larry & Jeannine





# LUTHERANISM 101: LENT

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

*“whenever you pray”*

*“whenever you fast”*

*“whenever you give alms”*

– select phrases from Matthew 6:1-21  
(the Gospel reading on Ash Wednesday)

The “discipline” of Lent – greater attention to the practices of prayer, fasting, and giving – is a remnant of the original purpose of the season. In the early church, Lent was a 40-day intensive period of final preparation for people who would be baptized and officially join the church during the Easter Vigil. The length of the preparation was homage to the 40-day period of fasting and temptation that Jesus experienced in the wilderness (see Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13).

In the church today, the “math” of the 40-day period is not exact, especially when one contemplates whether Sundays are technically part of Lent (after all, each worship service with communion is also a “mini” Easter celebration) and how much of Holy Week is still Lent (more on that next month). The point is to intentionally focus on renewing practices that can help us repent (turn from) worldly ways and more fully follow The Way (our baptismal journey with Jesus).

**PRAY:** Reformation will offer a solemn ash-and-communion service on Ash Wednesday (2/14) and midweek prayer services on the five subsequent Wednesdays (2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20) in addition to Sunday worship services. Participate in these corporate (group) opportunities as best you can, but also “make time” for 15 – 20 minutes of daily prayer, whether talking to God (with your voice or by journaling), listening for God (contemplative prayer), or some combination of the two (such as reading and reflecting on a daily devotion).

**FAST:** The traditional “Friday fish fry” (or the modern “Meatless Monday”) is only one way to approach “giving up” something. If you are going to fast from food, set aside the money you refrained from spending, and put it towards your Lenten giving. Instead of food, consider fasting from a worldly habit (such as watching television or recreational shopping) and replace it with a more heavenly habit (such as spending time in prayer or with loved ones).

**GIVE:** Reformation’s extra worship services and Lenten outreach project will provide convenient opportunities for you to donate additional money or needed supplies. How about also giving of yourself, such as volunteering for something at church or in the community? Anonymous “random acts of kindness” are also a form of giving, to the greater glory of God.

We give thanks to God  
always for you all,  
making mention of you in  
our prayers;

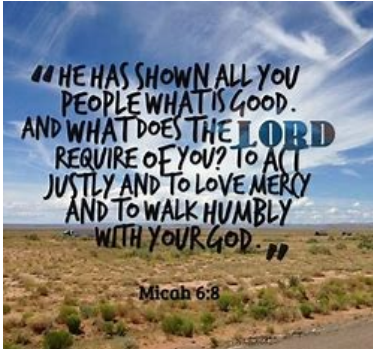
—1 Thessalonians 1:2

**THANK YOU**  
to Gary Cornell and Becky Whipple for being willing to serve on the congregational council. They were voted-in during the “Part 2” meeting on January 14 and actively participated in the January council meeting just two days later.

**THANK YOU**  
to Barbara Caballero, Karen Hamilton, and Phil Zelazny for being willing to run for re-election. The vote to retain them also took place during the “Part 2” meeting.

**THANK YOU**  
to those continuing their current terms on council with Pastor Lois: Bobbie Harney, Marilyn Hodge, Yvonne Mueller, and Phil Zelazny. We also give thanks for the service of those whose time on council has now ended: Barbara Duncan and Beth Walton.

# “CHRISTIAN” IS A “DOG WHISTLE” WORD?



This extended article is intended to lay the groundwork for additional discussions in the coming months.

Dogs can hear high-pitched sounds above the limits of human hearing; when you use a dog whistle, most people will only hear an innocent exhale of air. The term “dog whistle” also refers to coded language: a word, phrase or statement that sounds innocent but actually carries two meanings and can be used to signal “us” versus “them” to a subgroup of society.

For example, the Merriam-Webster general definition of the word “Christian” means “someone who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ” but people of certain denominations believe the word only applies to them and does not apply to other denominations. In recent years, “Christian” has also become a code word for “white conservative” ideology that spans certain denominations and non-denominational evangelicals. Despite being a mostly-white denomination that has the words “evangelical” and “church” in its name, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America would not be considered “Christian” by adherents of this ideology.

“Justice” is another word that has been misunderstood and perhaps perverted by coded use. Pastor Lois has been challenging the community outreach committee, praising our exceptionally generous “mercy” projects (efforts to address immediate needs), while questioning our lack of “justice” projects (advocacy and other ways to address the underlying causes of these needs). After all, the purpose of the congregation, as stated in our constitution, includes “caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation ... and standing with the poor and powerless” (C4.02.d).

Some people have expressed concern that “justice” conjures-up images of partisan politics or violent demonstrations. In contrast, here is a working definition of “justice” from the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment (PEACE), referring, in part, to Micah 6:8 and Nehemiah 5:1-13:

When we say justice, we are referring to the Biblical meaning of justice—not a definition held by any particular political party or social group. Biblically, justice means to hold the kings and nobles accountable for the fair treatment of all people, especially the poor, widow, and the orphan, or the most vulnerable in our communities. In our time, that means holding people like the Mayor or School Superintendent accountable to protect and serve the most vulnerable people in Polk County. We “act justly” or “do justice” by coming together with other congregations and using our people power to get commitments from public officials to accomplish needed changes in our community.



# WANTED: “VOTING MEMBER” FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Would you like to be Reformation’s “voting member” at the synod assembly this year?



It takes place from the afternoon of Friday, May 31, through the morning of Sunday, June 2. Pastor Lois will be arriving a day or two earlier for First Call Theological Education classes.

The event will be held at the Embassy Suites - Lake Buena Vista, and your two-night hotel stay has been budgeted by the congregation. You may bring a spouse or other guest with you. Each suite has a microwave and refrigerator, a breakfast buffet is offered downstairs, there are several restaurants nearby, and Pastor Lois and her husband will take you to dinner one of the two nights.

This will be a “workshop year” (less synod business, more time for break-out sessions on interesting topics). The keynote speaker will be Reverend Rafael Malpica – Padilla, who holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Puerto Rico, a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran

Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now part of United Lutheran Seminary), and several honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Serving as the “voting member” means voting as needed on synod business, attending workshops of interest to you, and authoring (or being interviewed for) an article for the congregation’s newsletter. Interested? Send an e-mail to [lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com) or contact Pastor by February 21, as registration will open soon.

## “LET’S DO LUNCH!!”



Ten ladies met at Red Lobster for Lunch Bunch on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed great food and good conversation. What a way to spend a portion of your day!

In February, we will meet at 12:30 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and go to Evano’s Family Restaurant, formerly Britts North. All ladies and their female 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. Look forward to seeing you for lunch.

*Karen Hamilton, Fellowship chair*



# PRAYER: TIME WITH GOD

**CORPORATE (GROUP) PRAYER:** During Lent, we will offer midweek prayer services. Each service will be at 4 p.m. on a Wednesday. Watch for details! If there is sufficient in-person interest (please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex), we will offer soup and bread in addition to spoken and sung prayers. Please participate on any or all of these dates:

- February 21<sup>st</sup>
- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 6<sup>th</sup>
- March 13<sup>th</sup>
- March 20<sup>th</sup>



**INDIVIDUAL DAILY PRAYER:** Especially during the season of Lent, you are invited to “make time” for 15 – 20 minutes of daily prayer. If you usually talk to God, try listening for God. If you usually listen for God, try talking to God. You do not need to use a devotion booklet or some other written resource; it can be a spontaneous conversation. Here are some suggested prayer topics for the month of February:

- Offer a prayer of gratitude and “good courage” for our entire 2024 congregational council, especially the officers: President, Vickey Zelazny; Vice President, Gary Cornell; Treasurer, Karen Hamilton; and Financial Secretary, Barbara Caballero. No one accepted the office of Secretary, so members of council will take turns preparing the monthly meeting minutes.
- Offer a prayer of discernment for all members of the congregation, so that someone will step-up to serve as our “voting member” at Synod Assembly (please refer to the “Wanted” article for more information).
- Offer a prayer for support of VISTE and kidsPACK. During the season of Lent, we will be collecting specific food items and incontinent products (adult diapers) for VISTE, which serves local senior citizens. The offerings from our Ash Wednesday and Lenten midweek services will be donated to kidsPACK, which offers weekend food for children who are eligible for free lunches at local schools.
- Offer a prayer for the success of heart health and cancer prevention awareness efforts. February is American Heart Month and National Cancer Prevention Month.
- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the contributions of people of color and people with disabilities. February is Black History Month and North American Inclusion Month (employment, education, and other access for people with disabilities).

Did you receive your **2023 Giving Statements?** If not, contact Barb Caballero at  
215-421-4329

*In Loving Memory*

Remember our fellow sister in Christ and her family.

01/23 KUPRES, Marion

# RESULTS OF “PART 2”



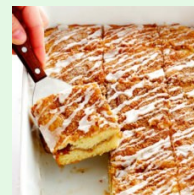
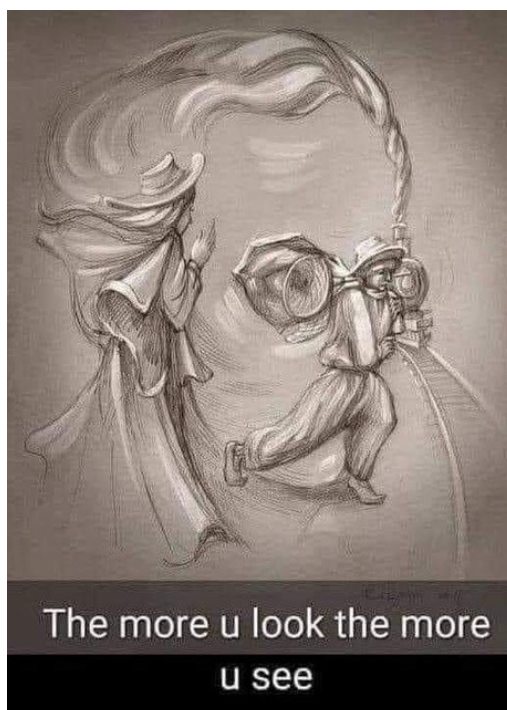
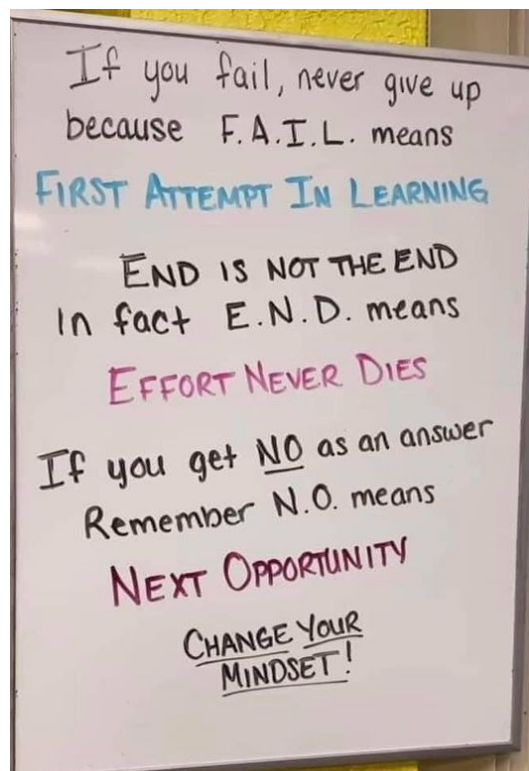
On Sunday, January 14, we held “Part 2” of our constitutionally-required annual meeting. As already reported in the “Thank You” article (on page 7), we elected or re-elected five people to the congregational council.

We also voted for two existing council members to serve on the 2024 Nomination Committee: Marilyn

Hodge and Yvonne Mueller. We will have at least one position on the council to fill in December, so please help Marilyn and Yvonne by letting them know if you might be interested, as they can arrange for you to observe a council meeting or be coached by an existing council member.

In addition, we voted to approve the “required” constitutional amendments from the 2022 churchwide assembly and to postpone action on the “optional” ones. The “optional ones” have been tabled, pending further discussion during the March 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting, which will be in-person. Watch for additional details.

***We did not have any nominations “from the floor” to be Reformation’s “voting member” at this year’s Synod Assembly. Please refer to the “Wanted” article for more information about this opportunity.***



## Coffee Treats

When I was a kid and we had company the coffee pot would go on and the cookie jar would come out. This is what happens on the second and fourth Sunday of each month for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. But the cookie jar is empty! Sign up now to bring treats for a coffee hour Sunday to be enjoyed while we are spending our time together. Sheets are in the narthex to sign up.

Thanks Yvonne  
Mueller

Once you lick the frosting off a *cupcake* it becomes a muffin... and muffins are *healthy*.  
You're welcome 😊



# 2023 IN PERSPECTIVE: JUST \$6.51

This is the second “treasure” article this month from your stewardship committee. The other one was about Thrivent.

Reformation’s financial data for 2023 are in. Income, mostly your offerings, was about \$30,894 more than budgeted. Expenses, despite some unexpected repairs, were over \$5,415 less than budgeted.

Sounds great, right? It is! And yet, expenses exceeded income by \$22,001. If each voting member of the congregation had contributed \$6.51 more each week (less than a dollar a day), we would have ended 2023 “in the black.”

Can you increase your much, compared to filled-out for 2024?

If not, how about your tax refund or some money” so that you extra donation on Sunday, and/or Those are three of the box of offering special envelope.



regular giving by that the “intent card” you That would be great!

setting aside part of other source of “found can make a generous Easter, Reformation Christmas Eve? days for which your envelopes contains a

Are you taking advantage of Vanco online giving? It’s a convenient way to make a one-time donation (when you forget your checkbook) or to set-up a reoccurring donation (to keep your giving regular when you are attending worship online or are going to be away for the summer).

Know of a homeowner’s association or other organization that needs a place to meet? We typically request a \$100 facility use donation. Iglesia Oasis de Esperanza gives us a check for \$400 each month.

Got an idea for another alternative income source? Send a message to the stewardship committee at [lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com).

# PREPARING FOR LENT

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



**Shrove Tuesday** is February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day of “fat eating” or “gorging” before the fasting period of Lent. We are giving you the opportunity by serving an “All You Can Eat” Pancake Supper from 4:30—6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There will be all the pancakes you can eat along with bacon, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee. To-go meals will be available. Sign-up sheets are on the credenza in the narthex. Be sure to sign-up so we can plan how many stacks of pancakes we should have. Fred Cox will be flipping the pancakes again this year. There will be a free-will offering going to support the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute Caregiver Education and Support Fund.

## Supporting the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute

The USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute is more than a world-class research facility; it's a center of hope for those impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders—both the patients and their families.

### Caregiver Education/Support

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other dementias can be emotionally, physically, and financially overwhelming. The USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute is committed to helping caregivers throughout their journey by offering educational programs and hosting support group seminars. The Caregiver Education and Support Fund was established to ensure quality programs are offered to patients and their families at minimal expense to them.

Give as we remember George Cox (Fred Cox's brother), Mary Lou Williamson, Tom Jahnke, Carol Solovitz, and any family or friends that you know who are in need of our support



A new year is here, and we have lots of empty spaces on the volunteer's charts for Usher, Lector and Communion Clean Up for each Sunday. If you can only sign up for one Sunday, it will still help us out. Please sign up now.

We also have empty Sundays on our flower and candle charts. We will not have flowers during lent but will have 2 dish gardens for Palm Sunday which are \$30.00 each and a Lily cross for Easter which is \$25.00. Of course, we will have Easter lilies. The eternal candle is used each Sunday so sign up now for your special day or to honor or remember someone dear to you. The candle is \$7.00 per Sunday.



# Volunteering Is Sharing The Essentials



## **2024 Lenten Project**

**Benefitting Lakeland VISTE—Volunteers in Service to the Elderly**  
**Choose items Weekly and bring to church**

### **February 11<sup>th</sup> — *Get Up and Go Sunday***

Breakfast bars, Granola bars, Cereal bars, Crackers

### **February 18<sup>th</sup> — *Pull Them Up Sunday***

Women's Depends Pull Ups (all sizes)

### **February 25<sup>th</sup> — *Quick Breakfast Sunday***

Cereal, Oatmeal, Grits

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> — *Mix It Up Sunday***

Cake mix, Muffin mix, Stuffing mix

### **March 10<sup>th</sup> — *Starchy Sunday***

Boxed potatoes, Pasta, Rice

### **March 17<sup>th</sup> — *Pull Them Up Sunday***

Men's Depends Pull Ups (all sizes)



# FEBRUARY 2024

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 8:00-Noon AARP	2	3
4 8:45 Calico Choir 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Reformation Information</b>	5 8:00-Noon AARP	6 9:30 Chimes 9:30 Worship & Music	7 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	8 8:00-Noon AARP	9	10
11 8:45 The Guys' Group 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour Lenten Project Begins</b>	12 8:00-Noon AARP	13 <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 9:30 Evangelism  4:30-6:00 Pancake Supper	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00-8:30 & 10:30-12:00 "Ashes to Go" 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live 4:00 Worship	15 8:00-Noon AARP	16	17
18 <b>Food Barrel</b> 8:45 Calico Choir 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Pack Homeless Lunches</b>	19 8:00-Noon AARP	20 9:30 Chimes  6:30 Council	21 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live  4:00 Lenten Mid- week	22 8:00-Noon AARP  12:30 Lunch Bunch	23	24
25 10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour</b>	26 8:00-Noon AARP	27 9:30 Chimes	28 12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live  4:00 Lenten Mid- week	29 8:00-Noon AARP		



## 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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	<b>Online</b> Visit <b>Facebook/Reformation Lutheran Church</b> or <a href="https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95R/home">https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z95R/home</a> and click GIVE to set up a one-time or recurring donation to the ministries of Reformation Lutheran Church.
	<b>QR CODE</b> 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](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com).