

*"Growing in Faith and Love through Jesus Christ"*

# CROSS WALK

May 2024

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOIS

Dear Reformation Nation,

As I write this message on April 23, it looks like the majority of the remaining "snowbirds" are heading north this week. Their presence helps us obtain "critical mass" for vibrant congregational singing, so be sure to attend worship in-person when you can over the summer months, sing boldly when you do, and consider inviting someone to come with you!

If you typically attend worship online during the summer months -- whether due to health, travel, or permanent distance -- remember that you are still a beloved child of God and a valued member of the Body of Christ. We would love to hear from you, whether via a call, e-mail message, or snail-mail note. And remember, if you are in the Lakeland area, home communion visits are "always" an option.

*"What is God up to here?"*

As always, this newsletter is full of information, so please read it "cover to cover" and keep it handy. In addition, be sure to read the body of the e-mail that we send each Tuesday with an advance copy of the weekly worship bulletin. Please also remember to pray that our ongoing and future endeavors are always guided by faithful discernment of this question: "What is God up to here?"

+ Pastor Lois



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

- What is God up to here?
- How do you serve God?
- Changes to Food Barrel
- Request a Bequest
- How to Pray in May!
- Learn about Easter
- Update on PEACE
- While you are Away
- Complete W&M Survey

## Message from the President

*Happy May to all!* Many of you attended Coffee Hour a few weeks ago as we shared memories of people, places, and things that we will always hold in our hearts. Little did I know that I would need my special thing - my mother's handkerchief which gives me her love, strength, and a place to wipe my tears - the very next day! We were over in Tampa with four friends when I received a call that Dad was on his way to the hospital because of yet another fall. So, we had to Uber our way home and get to the ER. This fall really beat the poor guy up, so he ended up in the hospital for 8 days and now is in

a rehab to regain his strength before he can go back to his assisted living! He is getting better every day, has less bandages every day, and still has his sense of humor and his wonderful smile! Once again Mother's presence helped me through a hard time, but there is nothing better than prayers for healing, strength, peace, and

the love of God! ❤️

Vickey



## JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP



April's coffee hours were filled with wonderful decorations, good food, and, as always, wonderful fellowship. As Vickey mentioned above, on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we talked about memories—things that made us feel good when they happened and make us feel good now, as we remember. Goodies were furnished by Vickey and Dawn Cornell on the 14<sup>th</sup> and Marilyn Hodge and Ellen Musser on the 28<sup>th</sup> as they celebrated spring.

The first coffee in May falls on the 12th which is Mother's Day. What better way to celebrate our Mothers than with an *old-fashioned Ice Cream Social*. That is followed with coffee on the 26th, the day before Memorial Day, a holiday for honoring and mourning the military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We will honor/mourn family and friends you lost.

Thanks to all of you who have stepped up and signed up to bring goodies. No one has signed up for the 26th. Can you do that one? For the summer months, June, July and August, we will have coffee only once a month, on the second Sunday. Check out the Fellowship page in the notebook on the credenza and sign-up if you can furnish goodies.

Karen Hamilton, Fellowship chair





Do you like to volunteer? Do you like the outdoors? Do you have some spare time you're looking to fill. Polk County Parks and Recreation has a variety of volunteer

opportunities. They have several events that are happening all over the county this year and they are always in need of help. These events are a great way to give back to your community. Contact Sam Lawrence, Recreation Coordinator, [virginialawrence@polk-county.net](mailto:virginialawrence@polk-county.net) to see if you can help.



Do you like to volunteer but are not an outdoors person? Talbot House has just announced a new volunteer program – designed to make volunteering with Talbot House easier, more impactful, and seriously exciting. Volunteer on your terms! Go online and browse opportunities by cause, location, time commitment, and more. Find the perfect fit or your unique skills and passions! Go online for more information and an application form.



*Thank You!!*  
*Thank You!!*  
*Thank You!!*

Reformation hosted the Synod Parish Deacon Retreat on April 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. This included dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> and muffins and coffee and lunch on the 20<sup>th</sup> for 24-28 people. I had a per person food budget to stay within. Planning the meals and getting the supplies was the easy part. The prep, actual serving and cleanup were the exhausting part. Without the help of Peggy Brooks, Ellen Musser, and Becky Whipple on Friday and Marilyn Hodge, Linda Petrarca, and Becky on Saturday, I would never have been able to accomplish the task. Doug Hodge even put in an appearance each day to help with the physical things. I am happy to say we provided and beautiful buffet for both meals and included food for both a vegan and a gluten-free person. Thanks again to these six people for **their willingness** to volunteer when needed. Without people like the six of you, we could never undertake a task like this.

Karen Hamilton,  
*Fellowship chair*

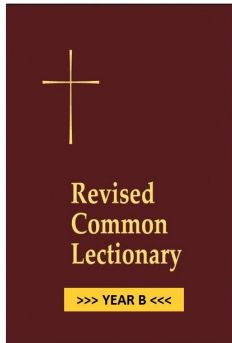
### THEOLOGICAL CONCERN? MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY? THE NEXT “REFORMATION INFORMATION” SESSION WILL BE MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>



Do you have a question about Christianity in general or a concern about Lutheranism in particular, such as whether a loved one can be baptized or whether your baptism is valid? Or are you considering a “next step” in your affiliation with Reformation (becoming an associate, seasonal, or full member of the congregation)? Then “Reformation Information” is for you!

Come to the conference room after worship on Sunday, May 5. It will be as brief as you want it to be, and it will definitely be informal. If you are interested but not able to attend this month, contact Pastor Lois to make an appointment ([pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreformationlakeland@gmail.com)).

# MAY 2024 LECTIONARY (SUNDAY READINGS)\*



DATE	FIRST	PSALMODY	SECOND	GOSPEL
05/05 (6 Easter)	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
05/12 (7 Easter)	Acts 1:15-17,21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
05/19 (Day of Pentecost)	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27,16:4b-15
05/26 (Holy Trinity)	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

*\*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 worship the following Sunday!*

## LITURGY AND OTHER “WORK OF THE PEOPLE” (INPUT REQUESTED)

You have undoubtedly heard Pastor Lois say this, whether in an announcement, during a sermon, or beginning a memorial service: our word “liturgy” is derived from a Greek word meaning “work of the people.”

This is why we sing hymns during worship. This is why we pray certain prayers together and respond (“Thanks be to God” or whatever) at various points during worship. This is why worship is not simply a performance by the musician(s) and presiding minister; it is a group effort. The same is true outside of worship: Christian community, our life together as church, is meant to be “work of the people” (sometimes we are the ones being served; other times, we are the ones doing the serving).

How are you serving God (offering your talent, teach-ability, or tenacity to work for God)? Are you participating in worship as a greeter, assisting minister, usher, camera operator, or some other role? Are you helping with a fellowship function, outreach activity, or property project for Reformation? Are you glorifying God through your involvement in some non-church charity? If physical disability or physical distance prevents you from doing anything else, are you praying for the congregation and its leadership?

Please e-mail [lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com) with your response.



# FOOD BARREL DONATIONS

There are times when **Talbot House Ministries** have been unable to take our donations especially during prime holidays as they get overwhelmed with other large contributions from grocery stores, etc. As a result, we will share our donations with **VISTE**, especially when this happens.

In checking with the staff at **VISTE**, I have found that food donations are always appreciated. They service the Lakeland, Bartow, Forte Mead, and Mulberry areas for **seniors 70 and above**.



Some of the most **"in need"** services are their food programs. Any nonperishable items would be fantastic. I want to let you know we will share our food that has always gone to **Talbot House Ministries** with the **VISTE** program. Their office

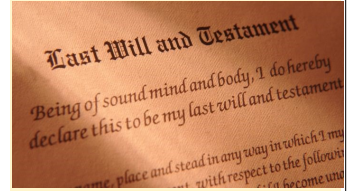
is located here in Lakeland. Please continue to place your nonperishable food in the food barrel and we will make certain that it gets delivered to either of these worthy causes.

The Supplemental Grocery program for **VISTE** provides a monthly supplement to over 1,200 households each month. Supplemental groceries are distributed to clients who can pick up during the first full week of each month.

For those clients who are unable to pick up, volunteers help deliver during the third week of each month. The Supplemental Grocery program has grown tremendously since its inception, and ensuring quality product with nutritional value has become a great focus of **VISTE**'s warehouse operations. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this program. It will be another wonderful way to spread our abundance locally with others beyond the walls of Reformation Lutheran Church.

Marilyn Hodge, *project chair*

*If you keep both feet firmly planted on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.*



## A SIMPLE REQUEST FOR A BEQUEST

Please add this sentence to your will or other estate planning document: "After all my bills are paid, I want ten (10) percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to Reformation Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida."

If you also have a church "up north" that you still support, consider what portion of the year you worship here or how many years you have worshiped here compared to there, and adjust the percentage accordingly. For example, maybe you are here 4 months out of the year, so you would ask that 3.33% go to Reformation and 6.64% to the other congregation.



## RETREAT RESULTS

“Reformation Nation” hosted the Florida-Bahamas Synod’s annual retreat for Synod Parish Deacons (SPDs) on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20. Participants included Synod Council Vice President Michele Hilton (who is also a SPD), Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Rob Rose, Lake Conference Dean Rev. David Thoresen, and about 20 current or prospective SPDs with their pastors. Here are some pictures...

There was worship (holy communion and affirmation of baptism), SPD-lead devotions, “ministry moment” testimonies, show-and-tell remembrances of baptisms, informational sessions (including Lutheran Counseling Sessions and Just Love), a panel discussion about leadership and the future of ministry, and Reformation hospitality (including lots of good food). Here are some pictures...



On the way to meet my husband at a restaurant, I realized that I didn't have my phone and immediately panicked. I needn't have worried. He saw my phone on the couch at home and brought it with him. When he arrived, I checked my texts. There was only one, and it was from him: "I'm on my way, and I have your phone."

# PRAY IN MAY!

Followers of Jesus practice the “3 T’s” of stewardship: time with God, talent for God, and treasure to God. Time with God is not limited to showing up for about an hour a week to worship God with other followers of Jesus. It also involves making a daily effort, usually in the form of at least 15 to 20 minutes of prayer. Here are suggested prayer topics for May:

- The “prayers of the people” (prayers of intercession) provided in each Sunday worship bulletin. Seriously. Pray those prayers!



Every day, starting on Sunday. That way, the people of “Reformation Nation” will be praying together for the church, the world, and those in need. Even if you are not able to pick-up a paper copy by participating in worship in-person every Sunday, you can get the bulletin e-mailed to you in advance; if you are not

already receiving it from [lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com) every Tuesday, send a message asking to be added to the distribution list.

- Each and every person on our e-mail prayer list. During worship each Sunday, the presiding minister adds the names of members, friends, and relatives with current concerns to the prayers of intercession. A complete list of those with long-term concerns is included on the announcement/reminder page of the worship bulletin. You can have all the names in one place if you ask Marilyn Hodge (who leads our congregational care team) to send you the weekly (Saturday) prayer list.
- Over the course of the month, “pray through” this newsletter. Re-read a page each day, then pray for the people and ministries associated with the articles on that page.

*M & M’s are the number one candy in the United States, followed by Hershey’s bars, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, and Snickers.*



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

## *Birthdays*

- 05/01 FISK, Richard
- 05/02 RICHARDS, Lora
- 05/12 MANNINEN, Marvin
- 05/15 REHKOPF, Dale
- 05/18 WHIPPLE, Becky
- 05/20 CHAPMAN, Bruce
- 05/21 SWEET, Jeannine
- 05/22 KNOLL, Elise
- 05/23 SENGBUSCH, Barb

## *Anniversaries*

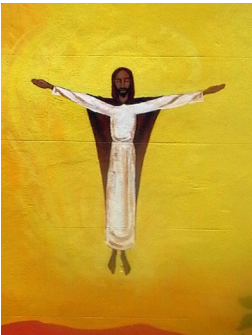
- 05/17 WEAVER, Chuck & Mary
- 05/24 TEDESCO, Tony & Shatawn

# LUTHERANISM 101: EASTER (PART 2)

Similar to Christmas, Easter is a church season (not just one day on the calendar); this is why you may hear people refer to Eastertide or Eastertime. This year, May is the month we transition from Easter to Pentecost.

**How long is Easter?** You may have heard Easter referred to as a “week of weeks.” This is because there are seven weeks (plus one day, technically) in the season. In other words, we keep on celebrating it long after the Cadbury eggs and secular décor (bunnies, chicks, and whatnot) are gone from our stores.

**What do we do differently during Easter?** Having welcomed back the word “Alleluia” on Resurrection Sunday (a word that is figuratively and sometimes literally “buried” or “locked-away” during Lent), we tend to sing joyous hymns with that word in the lyrics. The purple of Lent is replaced with white, cream, and/or gold in our worship space and on the pastor’s vestments. The lectionary (our three-year cycle of Bible readings for Sunday worship) appoints verses from Acts instead of Old Testament books for our first readings. Also, as we do at Reformation, many churches temporarily replace the solemn “corporate confession and forgiveness” rite with a celebratory “thanksgiving for baptism” rite.



**What is Ascension?** Ascension is the day on the church calendar which commemorates when the post-resurrection Jesus departed Earth and returned to Heaven. In accordance with the account of the ascension found in Acts 1:3, it is celebrated 40 days after Resurrection Sunday. However, instead of leaving it on a Thursday (read: poorly attended weekday worship), some denominations and individual congregations “transfer” the commemoration to the following Sunday.

Ascension, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54351> [retrieved April 24, 2024]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/skip/111045024/>.

## RESPECT AND DIGNITY

Women were the first to be present at Jesus’ birth, the last present at Jesus’ crucifixion, and the first to be given the incredible privilege of sharing the great and good news of the Resurrection. Throughout his life Jesus treated women with great respect and dignity. . . .

In a day and time when the Orthodox Jew would include in his morning prayers, “I thank thee God, I am not a slave, I am not a Gentile, I am not a woman,” Jesus made firm friends and followers of slaves, Gentiles, and women! . . . Women from all levels of society were involved in Christ’s life and ministry. They ranked among his closest earthly friends (Mary and Martha) and assisted and traveled with him on his tours of ministry, helping to support him out of their own means (Luke 8:1-3)

Women who were sinners found forgiveness, women who were sick found health, and women who were dead found life!

Jill Briscoe, *Heartstrings*





# FEED THE HOMELESS

We started packing lunches for the homeless as the **Gods Work Our Hands** project in 2021. We decided that instead of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, we were going to provide a more nutritional lunch. After some research, we decided that we could provide a lunch consisting of a can of soda, cup of fruit, spoon, napkins, wet wipes, a treat, two meat and cheese sandwiches, mustard and mayonnaise, and a bag of chips plus one or two 16 oz bottles of water. In 2021, the cost could be covered by \$5 per month from each household attending church. Guess what! Like everything else, prices have gone up and \$5 a month will no longer cover the cost to pack the lunches. It now takes \$7-10 per month to pack the lunches, It would be greatly appreciated if you could increase or start donating \$7-10 per month.

We pack the lunches in the fellowship hall immediately following worship on the third Sunday of the month. It takes approximately 20-25 minutes to pack the lunches and get them to the narthex for pickup by 11:30 am. There are several people who pack these lunches on a rotational basis. I usually have 4-6 women make the sandwiches and 3-4 men or women pack the lunches. There is a signup sheet available on the credenza in the narthex on the first Sunday of each month. **It is important that you sign up if you plan to help.** If I don't have a minimum of 8, I start recruiting people. It is a project that is quick, easy, and important. Try it if you have not. It's a good way to get to know a few more people.

Karen Hamilton, *project chair*

## “LET’S DO LUNCH!!”



Our group in April was small but we had great weather, great food, and great fellowship at The Back Porch in Lake Alfred.



What a way to spend a portion of your day!

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will meet at 12:30 for the last time 'til fall. We are going to the Garden Bistro at Hollis Gardens. 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 fellowship and good conversation. Look forward to seeing you for lunch.

Karen Hamilton, *Fellowship chair*



Thank you to the donor for the memorial gift we received in memory of Pat Heil.



Pastor Carol is adjusting to her new location in Wisconsin but would definitely enjoy hearing from us. Maybe drop her a “Thinking of You” card. Here is her new address:

Carol Solovitz  
441 Stageline Rd  
Apt 316  
Hudson, WI 54016

## PARTIAL UPDATE: POLK ECUMENICAL ACTION COUNCIL FOR EMPOWERMENT

In our April newsletter, we announced that Reformation is joining the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment (PEACE), a local justice-oriented organization that can trace its origin back about 24 years old and has more than 22 member congregations from a broad spectrum of Christian traditions (Lutheran, AME, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist, etc.).

Our involvement in PEACE is intended to be consistent with the organization's definition of justice (which comes from 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.

Reformation's one-year trial membership cost \$1,000, which was paid for by two generous members of the congregation (council member Bobbie Harney and active newcomer Sylvia Shaw). Our involvement in PEACE will become a project of the Outreach Committee, with Sylvia Shaw and Barbara Caballero as co-leaders. The leaders and/or Pastor Lois will attend various meetings and invite other justice-minded congregation members to join what we hope will become a team of 8 or more people.

On April 8, the leaders and Pastor Lois attended a meeting in Winter Haven and heard updates on various issues being monitored, researched, and pursued by the organization. The meeting, attended by over 200 of our siblings in Christ, took place a short distance from an affordable housing complex that was the result of a commitment made to PEACE years ago by the city. Unfortunately, the need for affordable housing is immense. When the complex opened, it had more than 50 applicants for each housing unit.

On April 29 (the date this article is being finalized), an even bigger meeting is happening. The “Nehemiah Action” will likely have over 900 participants (8 from Reformation) and result in new commitments from Mayor Mutz and other local officials. Watch for an article about the outcomes of that meeting in the May newsletter!

## WHILE YOU ARE AWAY ...

Facebook itself is free, but we need audio-visual technology, internet service, and electricity to have a “meta presence” for worship, devotions, and other ways we use social media to stay connected under circumstances that would otherwise keep us apart. We also sometimes use low-cost ads on Facebook to engage with people who have not yet visited us online or in-person.



To glorify God during our weekly worship experience, we have a talented music director who hones her craft by practicing during the week. Besides keeping her comfortable when she is on campus, we need “some” air conditioning in the sanctuary at all times (and a special humidity-control device) to protect investments in our organ and piano.

Two or more volunteers keep worship bulletins and other administrative tasks flowing each week, but they need a computer with software, a copier with paper and toner, working phones (part of our internet service), and electricity to offer-up their talents. When they are on campus, they also answer questions and otherwise assist callers and drop-in visitors.

Thanks be to God, we maintain a climate-controlled donation room (the former classroom) so that we can collect and sort food and other donated items to support our local ministry partners. Thanks be to God, we also maintain a climate-controlled fellowship hall for congregational purposes and for which we receive a monthly donation from Oasis (the Spanish-speaking congregation who uses it on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings).

In fact, with a few exceptions like how many copies of each week’s bulletin are made and how much water is used for (ahem) occupancy-dependent purposes, most of the congregation’s expenses are relatively consistent year-round. That includes having a full-time pastor who is available to make local visits and also provide pastoral care anywhere by phone, text, and other means.

For all these reasons, please continue supporting Reformation financially even when health, vacations, or summertime “up north” keeps you away from campus. Doing so is especially important this year, as one of our most faithful supporters died a few months ago. Your long-distance participation can be as simple as mailing a check or using Reformation’s online (Vanco) giving page.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's' wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did Anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.



## NEXT "TOWN HALL" ON JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>

When a month has a "fifth Sunday" we hold a "town hall" meeting in the fellowship hall immediately after worship. Each of these meetings is intended as an informal chance for lay and ordained leadership to hear questions, concerns, and suggestions directly from members and friends of the congregation.

# SENIORS

- If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.
- Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.
- I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning. Old age is coming at a really bad time.
- Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?
- It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free . . . and three sizes smaller.
- Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

## LUTHERANISM 101: PENTECOST (PART 1)



**What is Pentecost?** That depends on whether you are referring to the day or the "short-hand" name of our next church season! The Day of Pentecost is a major festival/feast day which takes place at the conclusion of Eastertide. For Christians, it commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus who were gathered in Jerusalem as described in Acts 2:1–31. Previously, the Holy Spirit had only anointed and abided within one priest, prophet, or king at a time. Jesus, however, promised to send "another Advocate" to his followers. Red is the color of the Holy Spirit, so the white/cream/gold of Easter is replaced with red in our worship space and on the pastor's vestments.

**NEXT TIME:** Pentecost (the season)

Miller, Mary Jane. Pentecost (A Second Version), from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59681> [retrieved April 24, 2024]. Original source: Mary Jane Miller, <https://www.millericons.com/>.



# 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):**

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**Pinch(es):**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_:**

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Rec'd: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Contacted:

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## WORSHIP & MUSIC SURVEY

Your input matters!

Please E-mail ([lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com)) or mail (460 Old Polk City Road / Lakeland 33809) your answers, or drop this completed form in the "Praise & Pinch" box in the narthex, by May 15.

1. Christmas Eve 2024: I would attend our worship service if it were:
  - ◇ Held at 12 Noon
  - ◇ Held at 4 p.m.
  - ◇ Held at 7 p.m.
  - ◇ Held jointly with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ None of the above (not interested)
  
2. Ash Wednesday 2025: I would attend our worship service if it were:
  - ◇ Held at 12 Noon
  - ◇ Held at 4 p.m.
  - ◇ Held at 7 p.m.
  - ◇ Held jointly with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ None of the above (not interested)
  
3. Lenten Midweek Activity 2025: I would prefer we offer:
  - ◇ A Bible study
  - ◇ A prayer service
  - ◇ The activity held at 12 Noon
  - ◇ The activity held at 4 p.m.
  - ◇ The activity held at 7 p.m.
  - ◇ A light meal with the activity
  - ◇ The activity held with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ Just a service project (no gathering)
  
4. Palm/Passion Sunday 2025: I would prefer we offer:
  - ◇ Both gospel readings and associated reenactments
  - ◇ A focus on the palm (triumphant entry) reading
  - ◇ A focus on the passion (crucifixion) reading

5. Maundy Thursday 2025: I would attend our worship service if it were:
- ◇ Held at 12 Noon
  - ◇ Held at 4 p.m.
  - ◇ Held at 7 p.m.
  - ◇ Held jointly with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ None of the above (not interested)
6. Good Friday 2025: I would attend our worship service if it were:
- ◇ Held at 12 Noon
  - ◇ Held at 4 p.m.
  - ◇ Held at 7 p.m.
  - ◇ Held jointly with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ None of the above (not interested)
7. Easter Vigil 2025: I would attend if we offered such a worship service:
- ◇ Held at 4 p.m. Saturday
  - ◇ Held at 7 p.m. Saturday
  - ◇ Held as a Sunrise Service on Resurrection Sunday
  - ◇ Held jointly with another ELCA of full-communion congregation
  - ◇ None of the above (not interested)

REMINDER: Please check-off your answer(s) to each question, then e-mail ([lovinglutherans@gmail.com](mailto:lovinglutherans@gmail.com)) or mail (460 Old Polk City Road / Lakeland 33809) your answers or drop this completed form in the "Praise & Pinch" box in the narthex by May 15.



# MAY 2024

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1  12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	2	3	4
5  10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Reformation Information</b>	6	7	8  12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	9	10	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b>  10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour</b>	13 ←	14 <b>Festival of Homiletics – Pastor On-Line</b> 9:30 Evangelism	15  12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	16 →	17	18
19 <b>Food Barrel</b>  10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Pack Homeless Lunches</b>	20	21  6:30 Council	22  12:00 Devotions on Facebook Live	23  12:30 Lunch Bunch	24	25
26  10:00 Worship w/communion In-Person & Facebook Live <b>Coffee Hour</b>	27	28	29  10:30 Outreach	30	31	





**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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	<p><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.</p>
	<p><b>QR CODE</b>                  Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.</p>

*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).