The Reporter

The Monthly Newsletter of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America
Organized Feb 5, 1956

Volume 62 Issue 2 **February 2018**

Our Mission

Invite, Engage, Equip, Embody

Invite *our neighbors as Jesus has invited us;*
Engage *in a community of graceful discipleship;*
Equip *our members for growth in faith and ministry;*
Embody *the love of Jesus for the world around us.*

Reformation Lutheran Church
613 Lakeview Ave.
Milford, Delaware 19963
Phone: 302 422-9117
www.reformation-lutheran.net

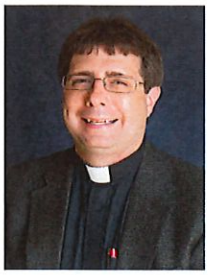
Kids, Inc.
Phone: 302 422-9099

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:30am-3:00pm

Worship Services
Sept.-May
8:30am & 11:00am

Memorial Day- Labor Day
10:00am

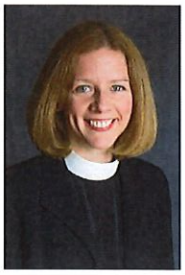
Faith Connections for All Ages
Sept-May
9:45am-10:45am



Our Pastors

Pastor Eric W. Evers

Pastor Paige G. Evers



Return to the Lord

In the Old Testament, God's people are frequently called on to "return to the Lord." In our Sunday liturgy, we sometimes use the words of Joel, "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). The book of Lamentations says, "Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven" (Lamentations 3:40-41). These words are powerful. They draw us into a deep reflection on the goodness and mercy of God, as well as into an honest admission of our distance from him.

And that is the theme of the entire Christian life: God's good provision, our sin, God's perfect mercy calling us back. This is why we begin each Sunday service with Confession and Forgiveness. Our hearts wander and our spirits stumble, and we continually need the grace of God to forgive and restore us.

This theme becomes especially focused in the season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. Lent is a time of preparation, of self-examination, and of repentance. We add to our worship life, this year with Wednesday evening prayer services following our Soup Suppers. Many people fast during Lent. This is more than "giving something up;" it is saying "no" to something for a season in order to allow more space in our minds and hearts for the presence of Christ. Lent is a season that not only challenges us to see our full need for God's grace, but more than that, offers us a deeper vision of Christ's never-ending compassion. We focus on the depths of Jesus' suffering on our behalf, not out of guilt or shame, but in thankful reverence for such perfect love. No matter how much we stumble and fall, Jesus is the solid rock of forgiveness and hope.

Continues on Page 2

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Our Church Leaders:

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

President: Marv Navarro	(302) 382-4870
Vice-President: Fred Seth	(302) 628-8909
Secretary: Emily McDougall	(302) 382-9281
Treasurer: Janet Lonergan	financerlc1@gmail.com

Council Members:

Lee Clarke	(302) 741-2396
Linda Helm	(302) 422-2947
Josh McDuff	(302) 265-2868
To be Filled	
To be Filled	
Beth Quattrociocchi	(607) 727-9827
Bill Vendetti	(302) 424-8293

Our Staff:

The Rev. Eric W. Evers — **Pastor**
Phone: (H) 422-5128
Email: pr.eric@reformation-lutheran.net

The Rev. Paige G. Evers — **Pastor**
Phone: (H) 422-5128
Email: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net

Gail Betton Kelso — **Director of Music Ministry & Organist**
Phone: (C) 228-4155
Email: wooden88@hotmail.com

Mary Lu Wilson — **Director, Kids, Inc.**
Phone: (C) 422-9099
Email: kidsincrlc@hotmail.com

Kathy Kimmel-Russ — **Administrative Assistant**
Phone: (W) 422-9117
Email rlc.milford@gmail.com

Faith Navarro
Linda Helm
Trish Boyer
Bill Vendetti — **Newsletter Editors**
Email:
marvandfaith@comcast.net

The Reporter is published monthly, and mailed to all member households. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is the **15th day of** each month. Please send, as early as possible, your articles, notices, photos, etc. to the newsletter email address above. The Reporter is assembled on the Monday of the last full week of each month and mailed that week.

A full color downloadable PDF version is posted at:
www.reformation-lutheran.net/reporter

Pastor's Message Continues

And so, this Lent, like every Lent, we are called to "return to the Lord." We need to ask ourselves: **what obstacles exist in my heart that keep me from returning?** Is there fear, or pride, or anger? Shame or bitterness? All of it can be washed away by the grace of God. **Are there priorities or desires I am pursuing that distract me from the Lord?** Lent is the time to discover how much more the presence of Jesus will satisfy your soul.

We don't need much, beyond honesty, to realize that we need to return to the Lord, that our hearts and minds are far from where they should be. This is our human condition. But Lent offers us something more: the good news that in Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our salvation, God has come near to us, no matter how far away we have run. Even when we turn our backs to God, he continues to reach out with mercy and peace. "Return to the Lord" isn't a demand. It is a promise: Jesus is near to you. He has accomplished everything needed for your salvation. God has not rejected you. Even now, his love calls to you. This Lent, return to the Lord your God. You will find life and joy and peace.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric

Pastors' Office Schedule

Sunday:	Pastor Eric and Pastor Paige
Monday:	***On Call - Pastoral Emergencies***
Tuesday:	Pastor Paige
Wednesday:	Pastor Eric and Pastor Paige
Thursday:	Pastor Eric (Full Day) and Pastor Paige (Half Day)
Friday:	Pastor Eric
Saturday:	***On Call - Pastoral Emergencies***

The Numbers!

Birthdays and Anniversaries, February 2018*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Candace Griffith Steven Venett	2 Lida Gannon *Rex & Pat Batchelor*	3
4 Laura Sullivan	5 Sandy Kinnamon Savannah Konesey	6 Dorothe Mumford	7 Amanda Schatz *Scott & Stephanie Fleming*	8 Erin Richard Adelyn Richards	9	10 Michael Schlegel
11 Craig Crawley	12 Michele Engelsiepen *Bob & Sue Owens*	13 Lee Clarke	14 Janet Yonker Lindsey Adams *James & Belinda Bahder*	15	16 Noah McDougal	17 Ed Huey Jaeli McDuff
18	19 Caitlin Sullivan Rich Steenland	20	21 Suzanne Madanat	22 Pam Thomas	23	24 Pat Venett
25	26 Will Nauman	27 Gordon Simmons Patricia Smeltzer *Maurice & Pat Little*	28 Barb Kinkle *Mark & Joyce Nauman*			

*Birthdays are in plain text, ***Anniversaries are centered, italic and red***

From the Church Financial Desk:

YTD Annual Attendance Numbers (through mid-January):

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 104 (81 last year)

While weather did have a mild impact on our early January attendance, last year we had much worse weather (and even cancelled 8:30 one Sunday.

Financial Report (as of 12/31/17):

Total Income: $493,837.72

Total Expense: $498,812.28

Income – Expense: **-$ 4,974.56**

The reduced attendance in November and December (due to the lack of heat in the sanctuary) did have a negative impact on our year-end offering income; however, offering income still finished the year almost 4% higher than last year.

Thanks to a special gift, we did not have to hold any 2017 bills into 2018. The colder winter months are generally times of slower offering income, so we encourage you to keep your pledge current in 2018. Thank you for your generous support!

Church Ministries

WELCA NEWS

WELCA Mission Statement:

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Mark your Calendar for our Upcoming WELCA Monthly Meetings

February 1, 2018	Pat Kost ~ 1 pm
February 28, 2018	Souper Supper ~ set up @ 6 pm, Supper served @ 6:30, Pat Nilsson, Hostess
April 5, 2018	Deborah Young ~ 1 pm
May 3, 2018	Birthday Luncheon, Rockery North, Milford at Noon
June 7	Dottie Lofland ~ Noon. Covered dish. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board across from kitchen.

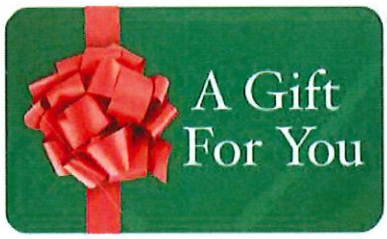
Engaging in Ministry and Action

The women of WELCA are giving socks, diapers, and adult personal items to the Milford Community Center for adults and children in need. The women bring these items to their monthly WELCA meetings. A member of WELCA is delivering their donations to the Milford Community Center on an ongoing basis.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4
Patriots vs Eagles!

The Christian Service Committee will be collecting Hearty Soups to benefit the **Milford Community Pantry** on **'Souper' Bowl Sunday February 4th 2018**. Each team will have a designated bin located in the Narthex. The teams bin with the **most** 'hearty soups" is the Winner! A 'Soup Pot" will also be available for monetary donations. Turn out and show your team spirit! Thank you for your continued support of the **Milford Community Pantry!**

Forever Angel Tree Cards



Christian Service Committee's **Forever Angel Tree** has a goal to collect 4 gift cards per month from Food Lion, Wal-Mart or Wawa. The donated cards will be used throughout the year to help the elderly and disabled. Just place the card in the collection plate and Suzanne Madanat will see the go to where the need is greatest, as with the Mitten Tree gifts. *Let's keep Christmas in our hearts all year!* Thank You!

RLC IN ACTION

Invite ❖ Engage ❖ Equip ❖ Embody

Welcome new Nursery Attendant, Megan Rosetti!

Megan comes to us with a degree from Cornell University. She plans to attend graduate school as she seeks a career in higher education. Megan has lots of experience with kids, working at summer and day camps, including Milford Parks & Recreation. Please take a moment to say "hi."

Come Join Us!

Women of the ELCA	WELCA	
	Feb. 1	12:00 pm
&	Coffee & Crawlers	
	Feb. 2	5:30 pm
	RLC Serves @ Food Bank	
	Feb. 10	10:00 am
	Ash Wednesday Services	
	Feb. 14	Noon & 7:30 pm
	Lenten Soup Suppers	
	Feb.14,21,28	6:30 pm
	Lenten Prayer Service	
	Feb.14,21,28	7:00 pm
	Retired Men's Luncheon	
	Feb. 20	12:00 pm
ReCreaTion Reformation Lutheran Church	ReCreation	
	Feb. 25	12:15 pm
	Knit & Pray	
	Tuesdays	11:00 am
	Bible Study	
	Fridays	10:00 am

Blood Drives

RLC frequently hosts Blood Drives for the Blood Bank of DE. This is a vitally important service to our community. Check the Sunday bulletin or The Reporter to see when the next one will be held at RLC.

Pictures

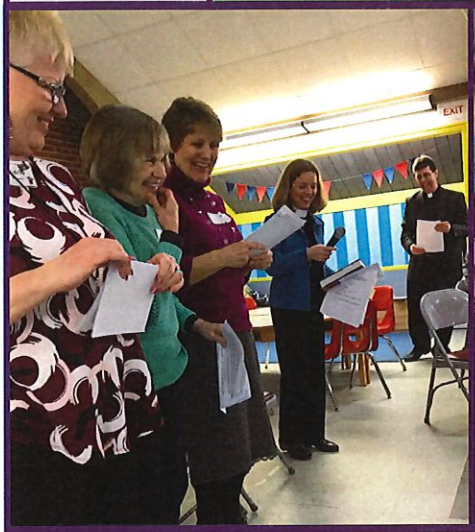
Top: One of the mobile buses that comes to RLC.

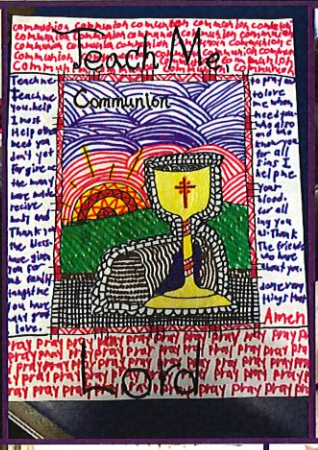
Middle: Registration takes place in the Fellowship Hall.

Bottom: Their technicians make the process pleasant and comfortable.

Church Family Game Day

ReCreation: "Teach Us to Pray"





Our theme for this event was "Praying in the Pews." We learned about and discussed the different types of prayers that are a part of our worship service each week and what they mean to us. We also wrote a prayer of our own.

Faith Connections Invites All Ages to Learn and Grow

You are invited to attend Faith Connections, our Sunday morning learning hour, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Stay after the 8:30 a.m. worship service, or come before the 11:00 a.m. service, for Christian growth and learning. The mission of **Faith Connections** is: *Building and sustaining our faith community one relationship at a time.*

We offer coffee and refreshments every week at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Visit with your church family, welcome visitors, and enjoy catching up with each other. On the Sundays that we have ***ReCreation*** events at 12:15 p.m., Faith Connections ***does not meet.*** Everyone is encouraged to attend worship and the ***ReCreation*** lunch and learning event on ***ReCreation*** days. Since ***ReCreation*** is designed for the whole congregation, all ages, to come and learn together, we focus on worship and ***ReCreation*** on those Sundays.

Summary of Faith Connections Groups held from 9:45-10:45 a.m.:

Everyone: Coffee, refreshments, and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Infants: Play with Ms. Megan in the Nursery. ***Pop in to meet and say hello to our new Nursery caregiver!***

You can read more about Megan in the RLC In Action insert.

Preschool through 3rd Grade, (Parents or caregivers with younger children are welcome to attend with their child): ***Faith Connections Kids*** with Ms. Jeanne in the large double classroom.

4th-12th Grades: ***Faith Connections Youth*** with Pastor Paige in the Classroom across from the Nursery.

Adults: ***Adult Bible Study*** with Pastor Eric, Pastor Gordon, and Chris Antonik in the Fellowship Hall.

Delaware-Maryland Synod Offering for Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 11

Reformation will participate in raising an offering for the Caribbean Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Here is Bishop Bill Gohl's message about the urgent need for this offering (Bishop Gohl is the Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod).

Our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico continue to be devastated by the effects of hurricanes earlier this season. Half the island is still without electricity and there is widespread need for food, potable water, and dependable internet/cell phone service. Our desire to "go" to help is hampered by a lack of infrastructure for which to receive us.

With other synods in the church, we are working together to raise an offering for the Caribbean Synod to help with material goods that can help the congregations continue the important work of recovery.

On Sunday, February 11 (Transfiguration), I am asking all of our congregations and ministries to receive a special offering for Puerto Rico. I will share that gift, on our behalf, in the ways the Caribbean Synod Bishop and Synod Council think best for helping our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico. I will announce the total received on March 11 and send the funds in time for Holy Week and Easter.

To read weekly updates from Bishop Felipe, you can follow the Caribbean Synod at https://www.facebook.com/elcalcs/

Announcements

Youth & Family Ministry: Serving at the Food Bank
Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday, February 10, children and youth age 7 and up, and adults, are invited to come and serve at the Food Bank in Milford from 10 a.m. until noon. The Food Bank is located off Airport Road, at 1040 Mattlind Way. We have had a couple of groups from our church serve at the Food Bank in the past. It is a fast-paced and rewarding volunteer experience. We have a group reservation, and the Food Bank requires folks to register individually on their website.

Here are instructions for registering on the Food Bank Website:

Create a profile and register through our volunteer website: ***http://fbd.volunteerhub.com***

After creating an account and signing into your profile, please follow the 3 steps listed below to join your group.

Step 1) Click "Your Account" on the home page.

Step 2) Click "Next"

Step 3) Type in ***RLCM*** *under "Join Code"*

Step 4) Continue to click "Next" until it leads you back to the home page

Step 5) Scroll down on the home page and click "Sign Up" next to:

Milford Morning Volunteer Room *event on* ***Saturday, February 10, 2018, 10:00am***

Wear closed-toe shoes for safety.

This is open to everyone in our congregation. Feel free to invite friends to join us in serving the hungry on February 10!

Senior Quilts

Mary Deeter informs me that there will be 2 Senior Quilts constructed this Spring for our graduating Seniors. More information will be forthcoming in the bulletins and next month's Reporter. If you have any questions or if you know of another graduating senior who may not be on her list, please feel free to contact Mary at 302 542-8020 or email her at marydeeter@comcast.net.

Spread the word!

Please "**Like**" Reformation's Facebook page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!
www.facebook.com/RLCmilford

Reformation is also on **Instagram!**

Please follow our church's profile: @rlcmilford Check in and tweet or post about what's going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag Reformation Lutheran Church

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

From the choir loft...

Did you notice that Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year? If you look at the calendar, you will see that it is also, of course, Valentine's Day! As a music teacher in a public school, I can safely say that times have changed since I began teaching many***, did I say many?*** years ago! Today, I have to be careful about the songs we sing for Christmas concerts, now called 'holiday' concerts. I tell the kids that we basically have two types of holiday songs; one being secular (of the world) and one being sacred (of the church). Most of them know secular songs...Rudolph, Santa Claus, Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer, etc., but many kids do not know, except for maybe 'Silent Night', the sacred tunes. You can probably come up with many reasons for why that is! When I realized that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day were on the same day and as I began to choose choir anthems, I started to think about the context and meaning of both 'days'...the sense that both seem to be about 'love'; one in the secular sense and one in the sacred sense. This thought kept coming to mind... 'God so LOVED the world that He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting Life'.

Pretty good, huh?

Blessings!

Gail

Ash Wednesday Worship

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14th this year. We will hold a spoken noon Ash Wednesday service that day with Imposition of Ashes. In the evening, we will have our first Lenten Soup Supper at 6:30pm, followed by Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30pm with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

New Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer Service

Would you like a pause during the week to step out of life's hectic schedules and all the noise of tv, radio, and the internet? Starting February 21, through March 21, we will be holding Lenten Evening Prayer services on Wednesdays at 7:00. This quiet, reflective service will last roughly 30 minutes, with Scripture readings, singing (with music leadership by Linda Hansen), and times for spoken prayer, sung prayer, and silent prayer. We encourage you to come to be refreshed in your soul and fed by the Word.

Ways to Pray

Prayer Chain: Reformation has an email prayer chain group that will lift up specific requests in prayer throughout the week. This is separate from the Sunday prayers of the Church. If you have a request you would like on the email prayer chain, please contact the church office. If you would like to join the prayer chain group, please contact one of the pastors.

Sunday Worship Prayer List: The following prayer requests are from the most recent Sunday before the Reporter publication deadline. To add someone to the prayers of the Church in worship, please write their names on the list behind the altar.

June Breitfeller
Linda Caccamise
Elyse Cillage
Tom Corbeil
David
Madi Dodge
Bill Donlin
Zach Emory
Patty Eustis
Kimberly Finch
Ray Gannon
Kevin Gruwell
Pam Gruwell
Jeff Haggerty
JR
Maurice Little
Albert McAllister
Pastor Helen McFadden
Rose Nailor
Letecia Prophet
Pastor John Ranney
Heidy Ritter
Bonnie Russell
Lisa Tisch
Pat Venett
Lillian Willey
Rex Willing
Jill Young

The Hill Family

Fellowship Opportunities for Children and Youth!

You are Invited to Coffee & Crawlers on February 2

Parents with children in preschool and younger (and their older siblings) are invited to come to "Coffee & Crawlers" on **Friday, February 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Pastor Paige and Pastor Eric's home.** Pizza will be provided. Please contact Pastor Paige to RSVP so we know how much pizza to order (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net). Usually Coffee & Crawlers meets one Saturday morning a month for playtime and conversation. We are moving it to a Friday night this month. The Evers family looks forward to hosting our youngest friends in their home!

Confirmation Lunch & Learning Event

On Sunday, February 11, our Confirmation-aged students and families will meet after the 11:00 worship service in the Fellowship Hall for a pizza lunch and learning time. Pastor Eric and Pastor Paige look forward to continuing our discussions together on the Small Catechism, the Bible, and how we live out our faith in daily life. Families of 7th-9th graders also attend ***ReCreation*** events and participate in service projects as part of the Confirmation curriculum at Reformation Lutheran Church.

Youth & Family Ministry: Serving at the Food Bank
Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday, February 10, children and youth age 7 and up, and adults, are invited to come and serve at the Food Bank in Milford from 10 a.m. until noon. The Food Bank is located off Airport Road, at 1040 Mattlind Way. We have had a couple of groups from our church serve at the Food Bank in the past. It is a fast-paced and rewarding volunteer experience. We have a group reservation, and the Food Bank requires folks to register individually on their website.

Here are instructions for registering on the Food Bank Website:

Create a profile and register through our volunteer website: ***http://fbd.volunteerhub.com***
After creating an account and signing into your profile, please follow the 3 steps listed below to join your group.

Step 1) Click "Your Account" on the home page.
Step 2) Click "Next"
Step 3) Type in ***RLCM*** *under "Join Code"*
Step 4) Continue to click "Next" until it leads you back to the home page
Step 5) Scroll down on the home page and click "Sign Up" next to:
Milford Morning Volunteer Room *event on* ***Saturday, February 10, 2018, 10:00am***

Wear closed-toe shoes for safety.

This is open to everyone in our congregation. Feel free to invite friends to join us in serving the hungry on February 10!

Fellowship Opportunities for Children and Youth!

Opportunities for Children and Youth Summary Calendar for February, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Coffee & Crawlers, 5:30 p.m. @ Evers home. Pizza provided. More info on page 9.	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Volunteer at the Milford Food Bank, 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Must register prior to volunteer. See instructions on page 9.
11 Confirmation Pizza Lunch & Learning class at 12:15, Fellowship Hall. Parents encouraged to attend with their children. More info on page 9.	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Worship Services, noon and 7:30 p.m., following the Soup Supper @ 6:30, pm. Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 ReCreation 12:15 p.m.	26	27	28			