



The Reporter

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

Volume 61 Issue 10

October 2017

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



Foundations 500: Faith

“Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ”

(Romans 10:17)

Trust is in short supply these days. We don't trust our politicians, the media, or any kind of "experts." I think that you could make a pretty good case for how they all deserve this lack of trust. We live in a world of broken promises, spin, and bias.

And this isn't just bad for our politics. It's bad for every part of human life together; civilization is based on trust. But the erosion of trust is worse than just not being able to (or not wanting to) believe what we see or hear. It is poison to our souls. See, the most basic reality in the human heart is our faith: what we put our trust in. Our souls were made to believe, to trust.

This question of faith is also at the heart and soul of the Lutheran Reformation. Luther protested against a church hierarchy that taught that you had to do certain good works in order to be saved. Luther said "no" to this, insisting that human effort could never be enough to save us. Even if you say that 99% of the work is God's, and only 1% is ours, it still depends on us. Instead, Luther found throughout the Bible the promise that we are saved purely by God's work, through Jesus' death and resurrection. God does it all.

The way we receive this salvation is faith. And this is where we have to be careful. See, the way we understand "faith" now is very different from the way Luther, or the writers of the New Testament, did. Ever since the Enlightenment, we have viewed faith either as a thinking process (like "I believe that God created the universe, and I don't believe that life is the result of random chance") or as a feeling (like "I was so scared but now I feel my faith"). But that's not what the Bible means when it talks about faith. Yes, faith does involve thinking. It also leads to feelings. But those are consequences of faith. They aren't faith itself.

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 financerc1@gmail.com

Council Members:

Lee Clarke (302) 741-2396
Linda Helm (302) 422-2947
Josh McDuff (302) 265-2868
Mark Nauman (302) 422-3693
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 **Newsletter Editors**
Linda Helm
Trish Boyer Email:
Bill Vendetti 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 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

"Faith comes from what is heard," according to the Apostle Paul in Romans 10:17. Faith is a response. Faith comes after the promise of mercy and grace is given. That order is essential: if mercy and grace came only after we believe, then "faith" would be some human effort we'd have to conjure up in order to get God to forgive us! In fact, it is God's grace that creates faith by giving us something new and amazing to believe in. We may be lost and confused. We may be sinful and unrighteous. But over and against that truth, God speaks a new word in Christ: you are forgiven. You are loved. You are claimed by the God who made you, and broken as you may be now, you will be made whole. "Faith" isn't a condition for whether or not this is true. "Faith" is simply taking that promise at face value and taking God at his word. Faith says, "yes, I am sinful, but Jesus forgives me. Yes, I am lost, but the Holy Spirit will lead me home. Yes, I am making a mess of things, but God still loves me."

Martin Luther's opponents (back in the 1500's and today) would argue, "but you can't let people off that easy! What about needing to change? What about living a better life?" But here's the thing: once you take God at his word, your life will change. The stranglehold that sin had on your soul will get weaker. The burdens that weigh you down will fall off your shoulders. Something new will come to life inside of you. "Faith comes from what is heard," Paul says, "and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." This is no mere opinion, no idle speculation. The word of Christ is the word of God's unconditional, no-strings-attached love and grace. It is Jesus claiming you as his beloved one. It is the Holy Spirit giving the very life of Christ to you.

Even as I write this, I realize I'm going in the wrong direction. I shouldn't be trying to explain faith. I should do what the Gospel authorizes me to do: I should be offering you the Word that creates faith. So here goes: yes, you *are* a sinner. Yes, in fact, your heart and soul *are* a mess. But you are still loved, unconditionally, by the God who made you. He forgives you. He gave his Son, Jesus, to die and rise again to bring you to new, whole, glorious life. His Holy Spirit will never stop shepherding you. You won't always feel that way. You won't always understand it. But it is God's promise for you, sealed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. That's his word. Take it, and live!

In Christ,
Pastor Eric

The Numbers!

Birthdays and Anniversaries, October 2017*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Bob Martin	3 Avery Richard	4 <i>Kevin and Janet Lonergan</i>	5 Frank Angelone Ryan Fleming	6 Dean Fleming Diana Young	7 Colby Sullivan Daniel Knutset Robert Knutsen
8 Soren Evers	9	10 <i>Lester and Erin Tucker</i>	11 David Snyder	12 Belinda Bahder	13 Annie Marconi Kelly Huffman	14 Pete Peterson
15 Candace Hulse	16 Kristin Schlegel	17 Eva Farlow Wesley Smith	18	19 Joyce Nauman Matthew Wilson <i>John and Laura Sullivan</i>	20 Kevin Lonergan <i>Maynard and Eleanor Gregory</i>	21
22 Ashley Hamstead Sigrid Evers	23	24 Melissa Schatz	25 <i>Thomas and Carol Collins</i>	26 Bob Owens	27 Tara Pritchett	28 Daniel McCarthy
29 Al Osterholm Betty Huffman	30 Logan Huey	31 Dana Bergman David Steele				

*Birthdays are in plain text, *Anniversaries are in Script*

From the Church Financial Desk:

YTD Annual Attendance Numbers (through mid-September):

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 121 (123 last year)

Financial Report (as of 8/31/17):

Total Income: \$333,018.85

Total Expense: \$343,850.91

Income – Expense: **-\$10,832.06**

The normal “summer slump” finally hit us, but not until August, instead of in June or July. Even though we are “in the red” right now, this is normal and almost universal for churches. In fact, we are in a stronger position than we have been over the last couple of years. By comparison, in 2015, we were \$27,000 in the red at the end of August, and in 2016, it was \$21,000. Offering income is up 6% compared to the same time last year, Kids, Inc. income is up substantially, and while the day care’s expenses are up from last year, church-only expenses are basically flat. The Council is closing watching expenses and continues to make paying down our line of credit a priority.

We thank our members for your generous support, and if you have fallen behind on your pledge over the summer, the early fall is a great time to catch up so that the church doesn’t fall too far behind. Thank you!

Announcements

Holy Baptisms

Welcome to our newest sisters in Christ, Baptized on September 10, 2017

*Addison Jill Fitzgerald
daughter of
Kirby and Heather Fitzgerald*

*Rhys Violet Ranney
daughter of
Drew and Natalie Ranney*

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18: 2-5 NIV

Visitors are Invited to "New to Reformation" on October 22

Once a month, we are offering an informal conversation time for visitors to talk with one of the pastors and get to know more about Reformation Lutheran Church. If you are new to Reformation and would like to learn about our congregation, please plan to stay after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, October 22. We'd like to share about our church and learn more about you! "New to Reformation" will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Think Outside the Box!

The **Loderhose Trust Committee** is now accepting requests for the 2017 – 2018 year. Last year's requests focused on preparing the church to receive and welcome visitors. This year, the committee would like you to "**think outside the box**" or in our case "**the church**". We would like to see more requests **focusing on outreach and interacting with the community around us**. Request forms are available at the Church Office and should be submitted back to the Church Office by October 23rd. Committee members' phone numbers are listed on request forms if you have questions

Capital Ringers Holiday Classics Concert at Reformation!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 19 @ 4 p.m.

Silent Auction Included

For performance details, go to www.capitalringers.org.

Spread the word!

Please "Like" Reformation's Facebook page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

www.facebook.com/RLCMilford

Reformation is now 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.

Faith Connections Opportunities for Children and Youth!



You are Invited to *Coffee & Crawlers* on October 7 with special extras!

Parents with young children are invited to come and play at "*Coffee & Crawlers*" on **Saturday, October 7 at 8:30 a.m. at church**. This month, there will be two "extras" for parents, to help enrich your family life.

First, Pastor Paige will be sharing about an exciting new resource we now have at church for parents. We have a whole set of "*Phase Guides*," that cover infants through 12th graders. These guides help parents understand what's happening at each phase of their child's life, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They are available for parents to check out, take home, and discuss so they can learn more about their child's particular stage. Pastor Paige is using these *Phase Guides* with her family. She is thrilled to be able to share this brand-new resource with all the parents in our church.

Also, Pastor Eric will be offering a conversation about faith and generosity with the parents. It's hard to live in a generous way. But, our hearts were made to give. We'll talk about what stories we believe about our resources (like our time and our finances), and what story we want to tell by the way we use the gifts God has entrusted to us. We'll be talking in terms of faith and action, both spiritually and practically.

Coffee & Crawlers is all about playing, too! Guests and their little ones are welcome at *Coffee & Crawlers*, so feel free to invite a friend. *The other Coffee & Crawlers dates for the fall are: November 4 and December 2 at 8:30 a.m. Please join us!* You may contact Pastor Paige to learn more about *Coffee & Crawlers* (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net).

Confirmation Lunch & Learning Events Resume on October 1

On Sunday, October 1, 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 Paige looks forward to talking and learning together about the Small Catechism, the Bible, and how we live out our faith in daily life. Families of Confirmation students also attend ReCreation events and participate in service projects as part of the Confirmation curriculum at Reformation Lutheran Church.

Faith Milestone: Bible Presentation on October 15

On Sunday, October 15, we will be presenting Bibles to students in 3rd grade, as well as a couple of students who have joined our church family at an older age. Please take a moment after worship on a Sunday before October 15 and underline your favorite Bible passages for each student. The Bibles will be available in the Narthex. Write a note of encouragement, or sign your name in the margin next to your underlined verses. We are excited to give our young people the tools they need to dive into God's word and read the Scriptures as they grow.

Faith Connections Opportunities for Children and Youth!

Youth & Family Ministry Bowling Night on October 20

Children, youth and families are invited to come for a fun night at Milford Bowling Lanes on **Friday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m.** (The date has changed from the original Youth & Family calendar due to Milford's Homecoming football game.) *Please let Pastor Paige know by October 18 if your youth or family plans to attend so we know how many lanes we'll need for our group:* pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net.



Come and Celebrate Confirmation on October 29!

At the 11:00 service on Sunday, October 29 we will be overjoyed to recognize the Affirmation of Baptism, or Confirmation, for Jenna McDuff. Jenna has completed two years of Confirmation instruction. Please plan to attend the 11:00 worship service on Oct. 29 to celebrate with Jenna and her parents, Josh and Juli, and her younger siblings. There will be a cake reception hosted by the **ReCreation** Core Team after the worship service. Oct. 29 is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It's a perfect day to celebrate this young person affirming her baptism and her Christian faith!

Opportunities for Children and Youth Summary Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation Lunch & Learning Event, 12:15 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7 Coffee & Crawlers 8:30 am @ Church
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Bible Presentations to Youth	16	17	18	19	20 Youth and Family Bowling Night, 5 p.m., Milford Bowling Lanes	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Jenna McDuff's Confirmation, 11 o'clock service	30	31				

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

October 5, 2017	Alice Daino ~ 1 pm
November 2, 2017	Helene Reed ~ 1 pm
December 6, 2017	Susan Romansky ~ Noon . Covered dish. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board across from kitchen.
January 4, 2018	Hostess Needed ~ 1 pm
February 1, 2018	Pat Kost ~ 1 pm
March 1, 2018	Souper Supper ~ set up @ 6 pm, Supper served @ 6:30, Pat Nilsson, Hostess
April 5, 2018	Hostess Needed ~ 1 pm
May, 2018	Birthday Luncheon, TBD
June 7, 2018	Dottie Lofland ~ Noon . Covered dish. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board across from kitchen.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for helping collect items for the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We continue to need items for the boxes. A box is located in the Narthex to collect items. At the beginning of November, we will pack the boxes and deliver them to a local collections center.

Accessories/Toys: t-shirts, socks, hats, gloves, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), small toys that children would enjoy such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (include batteries), etc.

School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, washcloths, etc.

Other Items: Wrapping paper; shoe boxes (card board or plastic); \$9 donation for boxes (Please make the check out to **Samaritans Purse with Operation Christmas Child on the memo line**); Personal notes

Please remember: NO LIQUIDS (BUBBLES, SHAMPOO, LOTIONS, ETC), NO CHOCOLATE (OR ANY CANDY THAT MELTS), NO WAR RELATED TOYS (TOY GUNS, ARMY MEN, KNIVES/SWORDS), NO MEDICATION/VITAMINS, AND NO BREAKABLE ITEMS.

Please consider picking something at the store and putting it in the collection box. As always, you are welcome to make your own box and bring it into the church in November to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Oldland at 752-7130.

Christian Services Committee

We have become aware that Avenue UMC is holding a volunteer training, the week of October 17, at 7 pm for anyone wishing to volunteer at any one of the **Code Purple** centers in Sussex County. If this night doesn't work for you, there will be trainings throughout Sussex County every night that week, except Sunday. For more details, contact Avenue UMC's office.

Pastor Richie, who runs the **Women's Code Purple** in Milford, is in need of child size lunchables, (sold at *Save a Lot* for \$1.00 each,) frozen entrees, diapers and baby wipes for homeless women and children he is assisting prior to the Code Purple shelter opening. If you could provide any of these to his ministry on NE Front Street (across from Arena's) he would appreciate the generosity.

Faith Connections Invites All Ages to Learn and Grow

Faith Connections on Sunday Mornings for Fellowship and Growing in Faith

By Pastor Paige Evers

Faith Connections is our Sunday morning learning time for all ages, 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. Faith Connections is a time talk with your brothers and sisters in Christ, enjoy coffee and refreshments, and deepen your relationship with Jesus. The mission of Faith Connections is: ***Building and sustaining our faith community one relationship at a time.***

We offer coffee and treats 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. Then the learning groups begin. We encourage consistent attendance for all ages at Faith Connections, but if your schedule doesn't allow that, all of the groups are open to you to attend whenever you are able. There is always an open seat for you!

Children are invited to attend a learning group with Jeanne Coherd. This Faith Connections class is open to preschool-aged children, together with a parent or caregiver. During ***Faith Connections Kids***, Miss Jeanne shares Bible stories and helps parents learn ways to continue the conversations about faith at home. If the preschoolers want to move to the Nursery at any time during the Faith Connections hour, the class is flexible. Parents or caregivers are more than welcome to shift over to the Nursery with their child. Miss Jeanne's class is held in the large double classroom. Preschoolers through 3rd graders are invited to take part in ***Faith Connections Kids***.

A new group for 4th-12th graders is meeting with Pastor Paige in Classroom across from the Nursery. These ***Faith Connections Youth*** are having a great time talking about life, school, friends, and the Bible. We are learning how God is active in our lives. The youth are also spending time together at various Youth & Family get-togethers throughout the year.

The ***Adult Bible Study*** meets in the Fellowship Hall during Faith Connections. Pastor Eric, Pastor Gordon Simmons, and Chris Antonik are taking turns leading discussion on various topics related to the Bible, faith, and life. Come for the Adult Bible Study and learn from your brothers and sisters in Christ. The discussion is informal, so you can also offer your stories of faith to encourage others.

On the Sundays that we have ReCreation lunch and learning events, Faith Connections does not meet. Since ReCreation is designed for all ages of the congregation to eat lunch and learn together, we focus on worship and ReCreation on those Sundays. We do have coffee and a few simple refreshments between services on ReCreation days, and we encourage you to stay for fellowship, but the Faith Connections classes do not meet 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. Kristen in the Nursery

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.

Faith Connections!

Looking for Faith Connections Opportunities for Children and Youth? See the insert!

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

From the choir loft...

We are excited to be back singing and ringing again this season. Much fun was had during our 'Summer Pick Up Choir' and now we are back to our Thursday night schedule of bells at 6:30PM and choir rehearsals at 7:30PM. We hope that you prayerfully consider joining us. We hope to present another Christmas cantata again this year so maybe you'd like to join us just for that. We will keep you posted with the upcoming dates on that!

Again, we will be singing at the 8:30 service on the 1st Sunday of the month and will be singing at the later services throughout the month. The bells will be ringing both services on the last Sunday of October.

*Blessings,
Gail*



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.

Les Armour
June Breitfeller
Linda Caccamise
Ruth Ann Bright
Russ & Michelle Chamblee
Elyse Cillage
Eric Coverdale
David
Madi Dodge
Zach Emory
Patty Eustis

Kimberly Finch
Ray Gannon
Tom Glose
Kevin Gruwell
Pam Gruwell
Melissa Hays
Richard & Madeline Hooven
Justin
Megan
Albert McAllister
Rose Nailor

Jensen Pritchett
Pastor John Ranney
Candace Rivera
Bonnie Russell
Leonard Schneider
Adam Seth
Sharon
June Steenland
Donald Surgens
Pat Venett
Jill Young



What does Martin Luther teach us about Prayer? Find out at ReCreation on Oct. 15!

At the end of October, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. While the events of the Reformation were taking place, Martin Luther insisted that the church return to the Bible's emphasis on grace and the good news of Jesus' love as a free gift from God. How do those big ideas that shook the church 500 years ago connect with prayer? Come to **ReCreation** on Oct. 15 to find out! We will dive into Luther's explanation of the Lord's Prayer. We'll also discuss the ways Luther viewed prayer as a deep connection with God, our loving Heavenly Father.

At our September event, kicking off our theme, "**Teach Us to Pray**," we spent a lot of time talking with our brothers and sisters in Christ at our lunch tables. We learned why each person prays. We chose visual images to illustrate how God speaks to us through prayer. We also read several stories of Jesus getting away from the crowds and spending quiet time with his Father in prayer. The bottom line was: if the Son of God needed to take a break from his busy life and talk with God in order to have energy and direction for his ministry, how much more do we need to find moments to pray in our lives!

Whether you have a consistent prayer habit, or you find yourself praying in moments throughout the day, or you feel most comfortable praying in worship, this year's "**Teach Us to Pray**" **ReCreation** lunch and learning events are for YOU! Families with young children may not be able to stay for the entire event, but they are welcome to come for lunch that is provided for them. By sitting at tables together, the youngest children in our church family will grow up knowing that there are adults at church who care about them and will help them develop a life-long faith.

ReCreation helps us all grow in faith no matter how old we are. Following Jesus and shining his light in the world takes constant learning, training, and growth. Prayer is a key part of that. We hope you will make a commitment to coming to **ReCreation** and growing in your prayer life alongside your friends in Christ.

The **ReCreation** Core Team members (Karen Oldland—Leader, Mary Currie, Linda Helm, Marv Navarro, Kristin Schlegel, Barbara Seth, Pastor Paige, and Pastor Eric) look forward to seeing you at the next **ReCreation** event on October 15. Please contact a Core Team member with any questions or to get involved with **ReCreation**.

ReCreation 2017-2018 "Teach Us to Pray"

October 15: Learning to Pray with Martin Luther

November 19: When Prayer Gets Hard

January 21: Praying in the Pews

February 25: Prayer Binds Us Together

March 18: Listening to the Lord

April 22: Praying to Be Healed

May 20: Prayer on the Go