



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 3

March 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



Great Stories from Growing Relationships

Dear Friends in Christ,

The entire month of March is the season of Lent. It's a season that encourages us to focus on strengthening our relationship with God and deepening our faith as we walk toward the cross of Christ. Hopefully you're already taking advantage of the new Evening Prayer opportunity on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m., following our Soup Suppers. You also may be increasing your daily Bible reading, or committing to a regular practice of prayer. Lent is a wonderful time to slow down, reflect on God's Word, and pay attention to how God is at work in our lives.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity for a change of pace from my regular life, as I attended a Youth and Family ministry conference in Atlanta. Thanks to a grant from the Loderhose Fund, I spent three days at the "Youth Ministry Leadership Exchange" hearing talks by pastors, professors, and researchers about youth ministry strategies, the faith development of youth and emerging adults (young people in their 20s and 30s), and the challenges that today's youth are facing as they navigate our world. The amount of information shared by the experts was like sipping from a fire hose. I took notes and tried to soak up as much as possible, while also reflecting on how Reformation can strengthen our youth and family ministry.

What are your dreams for children, youth, and families at Reformation? I'm asking that here because we all have a part to play in helping our youth and family ministry grow. One of our strengths as a congregation is our intergenerational relationships. The friendships between young and middle-aged and old at church are very important. How we, as adults, talk with,

Continues on Page 2



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

Our Church Leaders:

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President: Linda Helm (302) 422-2947
Vice-President: Fred Seth (302) 628-8909
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Emmett Venett financerlc1@gmail.com

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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

engage with, and respond to children and youth becomes the way those children and youth perceive church for the rest of their lives. If our congregation is warm and welcoming to young people, they will see church as a safe place where they can be themselves, tell the truth, and feel supported as they grow.

It's exciting to be on the lookout for the warm relationships being formed and strengthened among all of the different ages in our church family. I feel joy when I see a senior citizen sitting near a toddler at **ReCreation** and helping her draw. And when I see elementary school-aged children and middle schoolers serving alongside adults at the Food Bank. And when I see a preschooler running up to an elementary school student and giving her a big hug. And when I see 14 children sitting for the Children's Sermon (at the 8:30 service, no less!) And when I see a middle schooler taking a leadership role in planning and hosting a **ReCreation** event. And when I see and hear parents talking and children playing at Coffee & Crawlers. And when I see children and adults playing handbells together to the glory of God. There are a lot more stories I could share about the warm relationships between children, youth, young adults, and mature adults in our congregation, and I am always on the lookout for more.

As Paul wrote to the Colossians, "*In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints...*" I am thankful for your love for the young people in our congregation. We have work to do to continue strengthening and growing our Youth and Family Ministry, and we will continue to do that with God's guidance. I pray that the young people in our congregation will experience God's love through you, and that you will feel God's love through them, during this Lenten season and always.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paige

Fellowship Committee Reorganization

Thinking about becoming a little more involved in one of the church committees? Here is a great opportunity for you! Come join us on **Sunday, March 11 at 10:00 am, in the Narthex**, during Faith Connections to discuss the reorganization of the Fellowship Committee. We could use your input. Call Faith Navarro for more info, 265-2275.

The Numbers!



*Birthdays and Anniversaries, March 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Doris Adams Steven Twilley	2	3 Gwen Herbert <i>Dick & Dharma Luiken</i>
4 Carly Marconi Wes Hamlin	5 Chris Gannon Shirley Gerhold	6 Curt Hudson	7 Connie Howell	8 Christine Sohn Dakota Madanat Florence McGinnis	9 Dawn Guyer <i>Jamey & Tammy Kehler</i>	10 Jamey Kehler Janet Lonergan June Steenland Shannon Wilson
11 Addison Fitzgerald Cameron Griffith	12 Alex Ingram Michael Lewis	13 Barbara Barker	14 Nancy Burkett	15	16	17 Heather Fitzgerald <i>Scott & Mia Wright</i>
18	19 Margo Ranney <i>Gary & Lisa Johnson</i>	20 Jill Racz Juli McDuff	21 Robert Adams <i>Glen & Dorothe Mumford</i> <i>Ed & Kim Huey</i>	22	23 Cathy Zimmerman Mark Nauman, Jr. Rex Batchelor	24
25 Mark Nauman, Sr	26 . .	27 Karen Orsini	28 <i>Mike & Beth Quattrociocchi</i>	29 Kathy Hamstead Harry Long Ralph Willis Tyler David	30	31 Tammy Kehler <i>Jay & Mary Konesey</i>

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

SAVE THE DATE - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON RECONCILED BUDGET ***Sunday, March 11, after the 11:00 am Service***

Please plan on attending a short Congregational Meeting for sharing the reconciled budget, as requested on, during our regular Congregational Meeting back on January 28, 2018. The reconciled budget will be presented, discussed and hopefully accepted and voted on. Your input is important. Hope to see many of you there!

From the Church Financial Desk:

YTD Annual Attendance Numbers (through mid-February):

Average Weekly Worship Attendance:	114 (101 last year; weather had a serious impact)
Average Weekly Faith Connections	35 (27 last year)
Ash Wednesday Attendance	67 (57 last year)

Financial Report (as of 1/31/2017):

Total Income:	\$ 39,808.85
Total Expense:	\$ 34,878.30
Income – Expense:	\$ 4,930.55

Thank you to our members for your generous support at the start of the year!

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 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 collecting 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.

Christian Service Committee News

EASTER BASKET GIFTS for 8 Girls, ages 13 to 18, at People's Place, Milford

The Christian Service Committee has placed **8 Easter Baskets** in the Narthex to be presented to the 8 girls, (ages 13-18) that are housed at **People's Place Group Home** in Milford. We would like to fill the Easter Baskets with pens/pencils/markers, coloring books for teens, Chap Stick/lip stick, nail care items, travel sized hand cream/hand sanitizer, hair accessories, candy and religious items. **Donations are greatly appreciated.**

"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY UPDATE!

The Christian Service would like to thank the Reformation Lutheran Church congregation for the "**Souper**" Bowl donations of cash and hearty soups, held on Sunday, February 4. Our "Souper" Bowl winners were the **Philadelphia Eagles**! scoring 118 "hearty soups" over the Patriots 41. We collected \$42.00 in our kettle. Thank you to all who donated soups and monetary gifts to help support **Milford Community Pantry**!

Teddy Bear Ministry

As Easter approaches we must first make our journey through the Lenten season. We take time to reflect and re-focus our hearts on Jesus and the Resurrection that is to come on Easter Sunday. As our Teddy Bears sit on the pews each Sunday the card around their necks says **"This bear has sat among the congregation of Reformation Lutheran Church. It has heard the word, prayers, songs and hymns of joy, and the sermon preached. It has been enriched and loved through God. Now it comes to you with blessings of love, encouragement, and worship."** The Bible verse that is quoted says **"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)"** Our Teddy Bear Ministry has touched many people—adults and children—and shared God's love. It is a quiet ministry where Bears disappear and are replaced by new ones. I don't hear all the stories but many have been shared with me. A loved one with Alzheimer's, a loved one who is sick, a loved one who needs encouragement, or a loved one who is celebrating. **Who do you want to share God's love and the message of the Resurrection and Hope?** Take a Teddy Bear and share that Hope and Love. We ask that you donate \$10 to the memorial fund that supports this ministry and replacement bears. If you don't have \$10 please take the bear anyway—God's love is priceless. If you have questions, call Karen Oldland at 302-752-7130.

Church Ministries (continued)

Vacation Bible School: Save the Date!

Reformation is excited to host Vacation Bible School from June 25-29 from 9 a.m. to noon. This year's theme is "**Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.**" We will experience God's love at VBS and have fun exploring the Bible together. Please add VBS week to your summer calendar and begin inviting friends, neighbors, and grandchildren to attend! The age range for VBS is from children who are entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2018, through children who have completed 5th grade.

There are also several ways to help with VBS, from leading a workshop to shepherding a group of children from station to station, to providing snacks and supplies. If you'd like to help during VBS, please contact Pastor Paige Evers (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net). Pastor Paige and Mary Lu Wilson, Kids' Inc. Director, are coordinating VBS for Reformation members, Kids' Inc. students, and children from the community.



Welcome to God's Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

February 11, 2018

Finleigh Lillyana Grace Smith, Daughter of Jordan & Sarah Smith

Mason Taylor and Zoey Taylor, Son and Daughter of Tristan and Kelley Taylor

February 18, 2018

Serena Rose Waddington, Daughter of Paul & Jessica Waddington



Burial of the Dead

Andrew Wright Whitman

January 25, 2018

May the promise of the resurrection to eternal life sustain Andrew's family.

Faith Connections

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.

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

Faith Connections Youth with Pastor Paige in the Classroom across from the Nursery. 4th through 12th grades.

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

Holy Week Worship

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday / The Sunday of the Passion, which falls on **March 25** this year. At both services, we will begin in the Fellowship Hall with the **Procession with Palms**. At the 11:00 service, we will celebrate First Holy Communion for a number of our young members. Our observance of Christ's Passion ("suffering") for us continues on **Maundy Thursday (March 29)** with the Seder meal at 6:00pm and **worship at 7:30pm**. Maundy Thursday worship includes foot washing and laying on of hands for individual absolution (**forgiveness**). On **Good Friday (March 30)**, we will have a **spoken worship service at noontime**. At 7:30pm we will have a service of Tenebrae / The Seven Last Words of Christ, featuring reflections on Jesus' last words of his earthly life. **A brief, spoken Service of Light** will be held at 7:30pm on Holy Saturday, and **Easter Sunday festival worship will be at our normal times of 8:30 and 11:00 on April 1.**

Look for an Expanded Version of Holy Week Worship on the back of the RLC IN ACTION insert in this issue!

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...

The Lenten season is a time of reflection, a time for introspection, a time of contemplation. This past week, I played the funeral of a man that I had known my entire life. He was even my Sunday School teacher for several years! I remembered an old song about selflessness, about making a difference in someone else's life. Music can do that. It can speak to us in so many ways!

The song is 'Thank You' by Ray Boltz

"Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am so glad you gave!"

"One by one they came, as far as the eye could see; Each one somehow touched by your generosity. Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed here on earth, heaven now proclaims. And I know up in heaven that you're not supposed to cry, But I was almost sure there were tears in your eyes; as Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord, He said 'My child, look around you. Great is your reward!"

"Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord,
I am so glad you gave!"

Take a listen to the tune sometime! I'm positive there are many 'saints' sitting in our pews right now that have touched lives in ways you'll never know!

Be blessed!

Gail

Children's Handbell Choir

The Children's Handbell Choir invites children and youth to come and learn how to ring bells every Thursday from 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please contact Neal Richard for more information.

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.

<i>Amelia and Family</i>	<i>Zach Emory</i>	<i>Maurice Little</i>	<i>Bonnie Russell</i>
<i>Betty</i>	<i>Patty Eustis</i>	<i>Janet Lonergan</i>	<i>Sharon</i>
<i>The Breckenridge Family</i>	<i>Kimberly Finch</i>	<i>Gus Mack</i>	<i>Joe Sherwood</i>
<i>June Breitfeller</i>	<i>Ray Gannon</i>	<i>May Martin</i>	<i>Lisa Tisch</i>
<i>Linda Caccamise</i>	<i>JR Griffith</i>	<i>Pastor Helen McFadden</i>	<i>Pat Venett</i>
<i>Elyse Cillage</i>	<i>Kevin Gruwell</i>	<i>Rose Nailor</i>	<i>Lillian Willey</i>
<i>David</i>	<i>Pam Gruwell</i>	<i>Pastor John Ranney</i>	<i>Angela Williams</i>
<i>Madi Dodge</i>	<i>The Hill Family</i>	<i>Heidi Ritter</i>	<i>Jill Young</i>

The Family of Priscilla Lewin

Diane Simpson and Family



ReCreation News

Come Learn about “Listening to the Lord” on March 18 at *ReCreation*

We have eight *ReCreation* events every year. The theme for this year is “Teach Us to Pray.” At *ReCreation*, we share a meal that is provided for you and then dive into an experience of learning and growth related to prayer and our life with God.

Our next *ReCreation* event will be on March 18 at 12:15 p.m. The theme will be “Listening to the Lord.” We’ll look at prayer as a contemplative activity, and how reading and re-reading Scripture passages can help us grow closer to God. We’ll also experience some creative ways to quiet our minds and hearts and connect with the Lord. By creative, we mean by trying some art and other hands-on experiences of prayer for all ages.

Our “**Teach Us to Pray**” *ReCreation* lunch and learning events are for families and singles, kids, young adults, and seniors. It is for everyone and it is for you! Lunch is provided at *ReCreation*. Enjoy fellowship as you sit and eat with members of your church family from all generations. Then fill your soul with growth as we share stories of prayer, learn about prayer from treasured Bible stories, and discover insights into how we can deepen our prayer lives.

Each *ReCreation* event is designed and led by a different Design Team made up of church members and pastors, and they sometimes include youth as well. Each event also features a Food Team who coordinates and prepares lunch. There is also a Move Team who sets up and takes down the Fellowship Hall so we can have 50-60 people seated together for the meal and learning event.

How might God be calling you to serve at *ReCreation*? For more information, please contact a Core Team member: **Karen Oldland—Leader**, Mary Currie, Linda Helm, Mary Navarro, Kristin Schlegel, Barbara Seth, Pastor Paige, and Pastor Eric. Or simply attend *ReCreation* as a participant and enjoy getting to know your friends in Christ and growing in your life of prayer.

We hope you will make a commitment to coming to *ReCreation* and growing in your prayer life alongside your friends in Christ on March 18. We look forward to seeing you at *ReCreation!*

ReCreation 2017-2018 “Teach Us to Pray”

March 18: Listening to the Lord

April 22: Praying to Be Healed

May 20: Prayer on the Go

Fellowship Opportunities for Children and Youth!



You are Invited to Coffee & Crawlers on Saturday, March 3

Parents with children in preschool and younger are invited to "Coffee & Crawlers" on **Saturday, March 3 at 8:30 a.m.** Coffee & Crawlers meets one Saturday morning a month for playtime and conversation for the young children and parents. Friends are welcome, so feel free to invite new families to attend with you! Please contact Pastor Paige with any questions. (pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net).

Confirmation Lunch & Learning Event

On **Sunday, March 4**, 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 6th through 9th graders also attend **ReCreation** events and participate in service projects as part of the Confirmation curriculum at Reformation Lutheran Church.

Youth & Family Ministry: Preparing for Reformation's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is at 2:00 p.m.

Children up to age 10 are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs on Reformation's grounds on Saturday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy for the eggs, please give your donations to Pastor Paige by Sunday, March 18.

The older children and youth of Reformation will get together at 10 a.m. to stuff and hide the eggs. We'll go out for lunch together at The Palace and get everything ready for the children to arrive at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Paige with any questions: pr.paige@reformation-lutheran.net.

Students will Receive First Holy Communion on Palm Sunday

Receiving Holy Communion is an important faith milestone. We have a great group of seven students preparing to receive First Holy Communion at Reformation! They have been participating in sessions with their parents. They have also attended recent **ReCreation** events to learn more about Jesus' body and blood, and the meaning of Holy Communion in our worship service. The students will be learning how to make Reformation's special Communion bread on March 3. They will receive First Holy Communion in worship at the 11 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, March 25. Please plan to attend to support these students in their faith milestone of receiving the body and blood of Christ.

Fellowship Opportunities for Children and Youth!



Parenting Guides Available for Check Out

Wouldn't it be nice if babies, children, and youth came with instruction manuals? Our congregation has a resource that is sort of like an instruction manual for parents that is available for anyone (grandparents, too!) to check out and borrow for a while. Called "Phase Guides," they are a set of small books that focus on *six things every kid needs: Love, Stories, Work, Fun, Tribes, and Words*. They also help parents have *four conversations for each phase: Health, Sexual Integrity, Technology, and Faith*. Pastor Paige purchased the Phase Guides for Reformation thanks to a grant from Thrivent.

The Phase Guides highlight the fact that parents have 52 weeks to parent their child at each age/phase. Each book covers a different year, from Newborns through 12th Graders. Those 52 weeks aren't a long time, so how can parents make the most of each phase and their family life with a child at that phase? That's what each Phase Guide addresses succinctly and powerfully.

The books have questions for reflection, so those who check out the Phase Guides can keep a journal or notebook on the side to answer some of the questions about their own child. The Phase Guides are kept in the Pastors' Study. Please speak with Pastor Paige if you'd like to check out a Phase Guide. For more information, visit <http://phaseguides.com>.

Opportunities for Children and Youth Summary Calendar for March, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Coffee & Crawlers, 8:30 am First Holy Communion Class, 10:30 am
4 Confirmation, 12:15 pm	5	6	7 Soup Supper, 6:30 pm, Evening Prayer Service, 7:00 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Soup Supper, 6:30 pm, Evening Prayer Service, 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18 <i>ReCreation,</i> <i>12:15 pm</i>	19	20	21 Soup Supper, 6:30 pm, Evening Prayer Service, 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Youth Easter Egg Hunt Preparation @ 10 am Easter Egg Hunt for children @ 2 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

