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 7/8 July/August 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

Getting Together

"Pastor, do you think there's something wrong with us?" It was a question asked by a concerned Council member. The pastor was a seminary professor of mine. He was telling us about one of his pastoral habits that unintentionally made some folks uneasy. Every time he'd interact with a parishioner for more than a brief "hello," he'd always ask, "How's your faith?" Now, this was an old Lutheran congregation, filled with life-time Lutherans. What did he mean, asking, "how's your faith?" I mean, first of all, if you show up at church enough to be recognized by the pastor, your faith must be ok, right? And secondly, come on, we're Lutherans, and you want us to talk about our faith?

Of course, my seminary professor was simply being a good shepherd for his flock. Isn't it the pastor's calling to know the spiritual state of the congregation, so that he or she is better able to preach, teach, counsel, and lead? Isn't it important for a pastor to know the congregation more than just what you can find out over coffee between Sunday services? No, he didn't think anything was wrong with his members. But he did want them to grow in their faith. And he also knew that while attending worship is essential for Christian life, simply being in the church building once every seven days doesn't mean that a person's faith is vibrant.

Now, I'm writing all of this to help explain something Pastor Paige and I will be doing later this summer and through the fall. It is our plan to visit with as many of our members as possible, at your homes if possible, or somewhere else where you'd be comfortable. Our reason is simple: to get to know our members better, and to learn what would be the best

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

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Vice-President: Fred Seth (302) 628-8909
Secretary: Marge Leach (609) 618-0433
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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

ways for us to invest our time and energy in the spiritual nurture of Reformation. On the one hand, we just want to have some time with our members to build relationships. On the other hand, we want to know what your spiritual needs, struggles, and questions are. We want to know better how to lead people into a stronger faith and a deeper likeness of Christ.

Now, there is no "agenda" for these visits. But if you have questions or areas where you would like to grow spiritually, we'd love to talk about it. We might ask questions like, "How would you describe your faith?" Or, "How do you feel you most need to grow spiritually? How could Reformation better equip you for living as a disciple of Jesus?" We'd also love to hear about your life, your work, your family, and the things that matter to you. We're offering to come to your home because we love to experience what your daily life is like. If things are a bit messy, don't let that discourage you; believe me, we understand!

In order to set these up, we will have sign-up sheets available on Sunday mornings during the summer, and we will also be asking some volunteers to call members to arrange times. We expect that the process will last through the fall. Obviously, if you're not able to schedule a time, we understand. This is not any kind of obligation. But we are looking forward to the chance to meet with you so that the whole body of Christ may be built up at Reformation. You are all a great blessing, and we are thankful for the opportunity to do the work of Christ together with you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Eric

40th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration for Pastor John Ranney

Please plan to attend worship on ***Sunday, August 5 at 10 a.m.*** *Bishop Bill Gohl, Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, will be joining us to celebrate* ***Pastor John Ranney's 40th Ordination Anniversary****. Bishop Gohl will make a special presentation to Pastor John, and we will all give thanks to God for his faithful service. Pastor John's actual Ordination Anniversary date is July 1, so feel free to congratulate him in the weeks leading up to* the worship presentation on August 5!

Thanks be to God for Pastor John and Margo and their ministry!

The Numbers!

From the Church Financial Desk:

YTD Annual Attendance Numbers (through mid-June):

Average Weekly Worship Attendance:	131 (120 last year)
Average Weekly Faith Connections	34 (24 last year)

Our Sunday worship and Faith Connections attendance continues to be strong this year. ReCreation attendance was noticeably higher for the year than last year, and summer attendance (one service) is about 5% higher than last summer so far.

Financial Report (as of 5/31/18):

Total Operating Income:	$194,363.37
Total Operating Expense:	$180,482.99
Income – Expense:	**$ 13,939.38**
Benevolence Sent:	$ 3,250.00

We have much to be thankful for! While our May offering income was down, total offerings are still 10% ahead of where they were last year! We have used some of Kids, Inc.'s income to pay $5,000 down on our Line of Credit, and we intend to do the same thing for the next two months. You may notice that we are reporting "operating" income and expense numbers. These include regular offerings, regular expenses, and Kids, Inc. income and expenses. They do not include income or expenses from the Capital Campaign or other memorial funds. We are also now reporting "Benevolence sent," which is what we have sent to the DE-MD Synod so far this year (we usually send it quarterly) as mission support. This funds the vital work of our synod and is very important to our life as part of something bigger than just our local church. Every gift marked as "benevolence" is passed on to the DE-MD Synod. Thank you for your generous support!

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.

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George Balter & Family
Rosie Berberian
Joe Boyle
June Breitfeller
Linda Caccamise
Eric Coverdale
David
Deborah
Cheryl DeLuca
Madi Dodge
Zach Emory
Patty Eustis
Ray Gannon
Kevin Gruwell
Pam Gruwell
Jennifer
Jill
Steven Kuhl
Leroy
Mike Lewis
Roger Murray
Rose Nailor
Annette Quig
Pastor John Ranney
Heidy Ritter
Kathy Kimmell Russ
Bonnie Russell
Sandie
Suzanne
Tedi Spooner
Lisa Tisch
Pat Venett
Jessica Waddington
Lillian Willey

Church Ministries

WELCA NEWS

WELCA Mission Statement:

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

Mark your Calendar for our First WELCA Monthly Meeting coming up this Fall!

September 6, 2018 Pat Wolfgang, hostess~ 1:00 p.m.

The last meeting of the year was a lovely pot luck luncheon in the home of Dottie Lofland, who was celebrating her 92nd birthday! Carol Whyte made her a gorgeous cake and we all sang Happy Birthday to her. A nice time was had by all. There was a brief meeting following the luncheon. A motion was made to keep all the officers intact for another year.

Milford Community Pantry Appeal

To assist the Milford Community Pantry in providing food for the needy this summer, The Christian Service Committee is collecting donations in the months of **July and August.**

July Requests for the Pantry:

Ramen Noodles
Cup 'O Soup
Crackers
Granola Bars

August Requests for the Pantry:

Individual Servings of Ravioli, Spaghetti, etc.
Crustables
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Bread

A receptacle will be located in the Narthex for the Food donations.

Let Reformation Lutheran Church be a Blessing to Children by helping to provide nutritional foods during the Summer months!

Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me".

Milford School Districts Homeless Children's August's Appeal

The Christian Service Committee would like to ***Thank*** *Reformation Lutheran Church's congregation for your continued donations for the Milford School Districts Homeless Children!*

Care items still needed are *Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Chapstick,* and *Wipes. Children who are homeless sometimes have no running water at their disposal, so the* ***wipes are extremely important for sanitary purposes****. Food,* ***especially non-perishable food****, is needed, such as* nutritional Breakfast Bars, Pop Tarts and Sandwich Crackers.

You can place your items in the tote marked **Donations for Milford School District Homeless Children** located in the Narthex. **Thank You!**

Every Penny Counts

The ***Christian Service Committee*** will be collecting ***spare change***!

Every Sunday this June, the Service Committee is asking you to consider leaving the spare change that builds up in your pocket or purse in a glass container we will have set up in the Narthex. At the end of the month all the change collected will be ***donated*** to the ***Milford Peoples Place***. The money we raise will go towards ***sheltering*** and ***counseling*** for woman and children escaping domestic violence, transportation for local Veterans to the VA hospital and meals for families at the local shelters.

With your change, we are hoping to make a change for others in need!

Great family project! Get your kids involved in this easy service project for helping others!

Christmas in July-- Operation Christmas Child

I know it's hard to think about **Christmas** in the middle of the summer but it is that time of year to begin to think about collecting items for the

Operation Christmas Child

boxes. A bin will be located in the narthex to collect items. **For July** we will be collecting the following items: **small toys**, **clothing items** and **accessories** (please see the handout at church for suggestions).

For the month of **August,** we are focusing on collecting **school supplies**. When buying supplies remember that all the items must fit into a shoe box so, for example, small notebooks are better than spiral notebooks.

***The following items are NOT allowed to be included in the shoeboxes*: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.**

You can find more information by going online to **samaritinspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child** or by going to **Pinterest** for ideas of items to include in the shoeboxes. **The collection date will be November 4th this year.**

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

For questions please contact Karen Oldland at 752-7130.

Teddy Bear Ministry

The Ministry of the Teddy Bear continues to be an active quiet ministry. Many of you stop and tell me stories of friends and family that have been uplifted by the gift of a Teddy Bear to share God's love. Just a reminder (*since it's been awhile*) the Teddy Bears in the pews are available for anyone to pick up and share with a friend, family member, or anyone to whom you would like to share God's love. The Teddy Bear's sit in the pews soaking up God's love each Sunday and as the recipient hugs the Teddy Bear they feel both your love and God's love. A donation of $10 is suggested to help replace the Teddy Bears. If you pay by writing a check please be sure to write "Teddy Bear Ministry" on the memo line so the counters know where to credit the donation. If you don't have the money that week, please don't let that stop you—take the Teddy Bear and you may donate at a later date.

Thank you for your continued support of this special ministry.

If you have any questions please ask Karen Oldland at 752-7130.

Fellowship Opportunities for All Ages!

The **Christian Service Committee** is partnering with the **Food Bank of Milford,** to distribute nutritious foods to Delawareans in need. The Food Bank accepts produce grown from produce growers, farmers and even **backyard gardener enthusiasts!**

So, how will this new program work? It's simple. Your summer squash has taken over your backyard and you don't know what to do with it! You have pushed it onto your neighbors so many times, as you approach them on the street, they avoid you! Don't throw it away or let it rot on the vine, bring it to church and help feed your less fortunate neighbors in the community through the food bank!

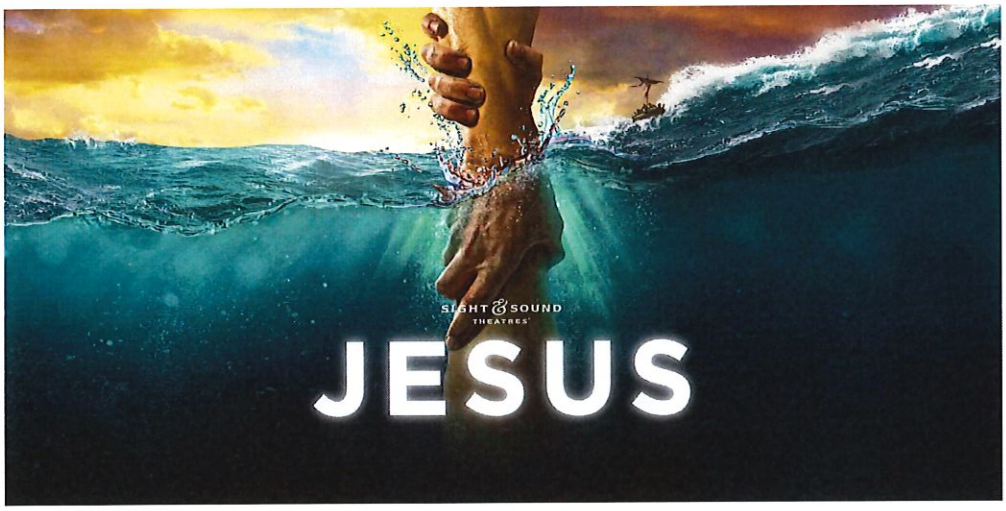
Bring your excess produce bounty to church!

Yes, that is what I said, "**Bring your excess produce bounty to church!**" We will have a bin in the Narthex labeled **Milford Food Bank Produce.** Gently drop your produce into the bin and ***one of RLC's Angels*** (**Al Osterholm**, in fact) will carefully deliver the produce to the Food Bank early that week.

So, no more anxiety if you have too many tomatoes this week, the needy in the community will reap from your harvest. Forgot to bring your excess produce to church this week?

Surplus produce can be donated directly to Delawareans in need. Donations can be dropped off to the **Food Bank's warehouse** in **Milford**, **Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A little Church Ministry for Your Soul!



Group Trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see "Jesus"

This is an amazing show to see the great and amazing life of Jesus. The event has a 48' LED Screen for the backdrop and the effects are incredible. I would like to put together a group trip to go to the event in the fall. The price below includes a tour bus of 56 people from the church leaving near around lunchtime, see the event at Sight and Sound at 3PM, after the event, eat at Millers Smorgasbord. The prices below include the bus, show, dinner and bus driver tip. Price for Adults is $130 and Children from 3-12 years old $75. Please email Todd Hannah @ thannah696@gmail.com or call at 302-242-2364 to hold a spot to allow us to confirm the trip. We would need to be paid now to order the tickets to insure the date.

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

From the choir loft...

(No, really, ... I'm not kidding! This is the LOFT speaking . . . . . .)

*Hey! I am just another place in the sanctuary...(**a place where our seats ARE actually assigned**). I have plenty of room for lots of folks. On choir night, the members arrive and places are taken. My pew pads become warm with the energy and enthusiasm my group brings! I wait all week to have company! My people greet each other...they laugh, they share the good and the bad, sometimes they even cry, they talk about how they can serve each other and the rest of you...it all sounds like an orchestra tuning!! Our choir director offers a prayer and a calm is felt, the music begins...sometimes a sour note or two will surface, but that's okay. They are fixed with warmth and a smile and the music continues. They seem to have fun as they prepare their music gifts! The departure is chatty, the lights are doused and the quiet returns. I eagerly anticipate their return on Sunday morning to share their joy again, to warm their seats and to do what they have been called to do...to serve and praise God.*

I have plenty of room for lots of folks!!

Blessings!

"The Loft!"

Mark your calendars! Advent Musical Event:

*On the evening of Sunday, **December 9** (exact time to be determined), Reformation will host "**The Quiet Center**," an Advent program by Thomas Keesecker. Tom is an accomplished organist, pianist, choir director, and composer. The program includes Tom playing his own arrangements, hymn singing, and poetry.*

It promises to help us all enter more fully into the Advent season.
More details to come, so mark your calendars now!

A *ReCreation* ReFresher!

Our central faith formation ministry, ***ReCreation***, is on a break for the summer. The ***ReCreation*** **Core Team (Karen Oldland—Leader, Mary Currie, Linda Helm, Pat Kost, Marv Navarro, Kristin Schlegel, Pastor Paige, and Pastor Eric)** is working to plan next year's theme. The Core Team hopes you are finding ***re-creation*** and ***rec-reation*** through worship, home devotions, Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship during these warm months!

ReCreation will return in September with a brand-new theme and eight lunch and learning events to help you grow in faith and get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ at Reformation. If you're new to ***ReCreation***, wondering what it's like, or missing the delicious ***ReCreation*** lunches, read on for a ***ReCreation*** **ReFresher**!

Who attends ReCreation?

ReCreation is for families and singles, kids, young adults, youth, and seniors. It is for first-time worship guests and for life-long congregation members. Families with young children can come for the meal and stay as long as they're able. We understand if you have to leave mid-way through for naptime! ***ReCreation*** offers a warm and welcoming environment for all ages to grow in faith together.

How does the lunch work?

Lunch is provided for you. We have a different Food Team for each ***ReCreation*** event. The Food Team leader plans the menu and makes arrangements to buy or cook the food. The meals are simple and appeal to all ages. Some favorite menus are fried chicken, pizza, subs, and pasta. There are always delicious desserts to cap off the meal!

When does ReCreation start? How long does ReCreation last?

We start the meal right after the 11:00 worship service ends. After worship, people simply leave the Sanctuary, get in line for food in the lobby, make a plate, and start eating in the Fellowship Hall. Once the meal is over, we start the learning event. We end around 1:45 p.m. The lunch and learning activities go by quickly. We pack in a lot of fellowship, teaching, and conversation during the ***ReCreation*** event.

What happens at ReCreation during the learning portion?

Every event is different depending on the topic and the gifts of the Design Team who plans it. It's exciting to come to each one and find out what we'll do together. The overall flow of the events is generally the same. We ***Gather*** and introduce the event topic with a large group activity or a presentation such as a skit, a testimony by a church member, or a game. Then we ***Grow*** with table activities such as reading a Bible passage and discussing questions or responding through artwork or even writing a Tweet or bumper sticker to get at the heart of the Bible story. Finally, we ***Go Forth*** with a prayer, a small gift, or a prompt to take home to let the learning continue in our daily lives. Throughout the event, the stories of faith we get to hear from one another are truly amazing. It's inspiring and uplifting to hear how God is at work in one another's lives.

How can I get involved?

It's simple: attend ***ReCreation*** when it begins again in September and save the dates for all of the 2018-2019 ***ReCreation*** events! If you want to go deeper with your involvement, join a Design Team! A different Design Team plans each ***ReCreation*** event. Design Team members range from middle schoolers to our most senior adults. The Design Team meets two times before leading their ***ReCreation*** event. You can be an up-front leader at a ***ReCreation*** event or serve behind the scenes with planning and preparation. Please contact a ***ReCreation Core Team member***, listed above, if you'd like to serve on a Design Team.

We also have a Food Team for each ***ReCreation*** event. If you enjoy hosting meals, please let the Core Team know and we'll explain the simple process for leading a Food Team. Finally, each event also has a Move Team who sets the Hall up on Saturdays so we can fit 40-60 people at tables and chairs for the ***ReCreation meal and learning time***. The Move Team also leads the folks who stay after ***ReCreation*** to help put the Hall back to its normal weekday setup. ***Please contact the Core Team*** if you'd like to serve on a Move Team. From simply attending ***ReCreation*** events to serving on a Design, Food, or Move Team, there is a place for you!

See you at ReCreation!

Fellowship Opportunities for Youth and Family Ministries!

All Ages are Invited to the Youth & Family Ministry Beach Day in September

All ages are welcome to come to a Reformation day at the beach! Save the date for an afternoon at Cape Henlopen State Park on Saturday, September 8 at 2:00 p.m. September is a wonderful time for the sand and surf. All ages can have fun playing in the water or just sitting on the sand together and catching up on summer adventures!

"Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" Vacation Bible School

By Pastor Paige Evers

The VBS children will sing in 10 A.M. worship on Sunday, July 1! Come and hear their inspiring and energizing songs about Jesus' never-ending love and faithfulness!

Vacation Bible School was held at Reformation from June 25-29. This year's VBS theme was ***"Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus."*** We had over 100 children participate. More than 50 volunteers, staff, and youth helpers from the church and Kids' Inc. took part as well. The helpers and leaders guided the children for the five days of VBS, through an *Imagination Station, Bible Discovery, KidVid Cinema, Snacks, Games, and Music.* Many children from our church, community, and Kids' Inc. were touched by God's love. Please go to our church website and Facebook page to see photos from VBS week.

A hearty Thank You to all of our marvelous volunteers. A special thank you to the youth from the church who took on responsibility and leadership throughout the week of VBS. They were impressive and inspiring. Thank you to the congregation for your prayers and support!

Back to School Celebrations for Teachers, School Staff, and Students

At Reformation, we have a tradition of blessing educators and students as they prepare to return to school. Please plan to attend worship and special fellowship events to prepare spiritually for the 2018-2019 school year:

August 26 at 10:00 AM Worship: Blessing of Teachers, School Staff, Educators, and Those Who Work with Children.

August 26 at 11:00 AM: Annual Church Picnic. Enjoy great food and fellowship!

September 2 at 10:00 AM Worship: Blessing of the Backpacks for students of all ages.

Fellowship Opportunity for the Whole Congregation, this summer!

Reviving the Church Picnic!

Sunday, August 26th, Rain or Shine

What a wonderful opportunity we have this year, with talented people who want to revive the **Annual Church Picnic** to it's previous glory, and to quote **Buzz Lightyear**, "*to Infinity and Beyond*"!

Plans are in the making to have our **Annual Picnic back outdoors**! We have such a wonderful area in the back, with trees, grass and even a fenced in play area for the young children. Our plans so far include games for the young children, pre-K to 3rd grade, games and events for the older children, grades 4 through 8, and games for the "older" crowd. We have tossed around ideas like corn hole (for all age groups), sing-a-long for everyone, those tunes we all know, like "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do", "OH Susannah" and "A Bicycle Built for Two". If the kids don't know them, it will be a great time for them to catch the fever!

To follow our previous traditions, the Fellowship Committee will provide the burgers, dogs, rolls for both, and condiments. There will be sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for sides, desserts, drinks, etc. Those will probably be up in early August. We will keep you posted as the picnic date gets closer.

Since the picnic is a rain or shine event, we will be asking for pop-up canopies, to give us some shade outside, in case it is a sunny day. If you have a 6, 8 or 10', all would be very appreciated.

We will need a set up crew to set up the canopies, move the tables and chairs out of the Fellowship Hall (if no rain is in sight) and a tear down team to help take everything back in side, similar to the set-up/tear-down teams used at ***ReCreation*** events.

We are looking for ideas to make the Picnic that will want you come back year after year to enjoy the fun fellowship with all your family and friends here at Reformation. Want to pass your thoughts or ideas with us, please send an email to faithomannavarro@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!