

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
4543 DOUGLAS ROAD
TOLEDO, OH 43613**

NOVEMBER 2016



REFORMATION

News and Views

Reformation Lutheran Church
4543 Douglas Road – Toledo, Ohio 43613
419-473-1369

Pastor: In call process
Secretary: Jan Weatherly
Organist: Martin Britsch

reformationluth@gmail.com Email
website: reformationlutherantoledo.org
Worship Services: Saturday – 4:00 pm
Sunday – 9:00 am
Sunday School – 10:15am

Office Hours: Mon and Wed. 9:00 – 3:00, Fri. 9:00 – 1:00

In case of an emergency, you may reach Corinne Oliger at 419-460-1679.

Mission Statement

“With the help of the Holy Spirit, God’s purpose for Reformation Lutheran Church is to use everyone’s talents to transform lives and serve others by boldly taking the Good News of Jesus to all people.”

A Message from the Call Committee...

What is our church doing during this transitional time...

During this interim period while we enter the call process, our church continues to move forward to fulfill our mission. We have had a variety of wonderful preachers fill our pulpit. Our choir continues to lead the worship. Our members have stepped forward to increase their visitation to the homebound. We have many community events that have or will take place during the remainder of this calendar year. The proceeds from the rummage sale help us to provide for local support of Feed Your Neighbor, Cherry Street Mission, and Lutheran World Relief. From the spaghetti dinner, trunk or treat and the Christmas dinner, all meals or events that are provided free of charge to the less fortunate in our community, the important work of the church continues to take the word of Jesus Christ to the community.

Reformation and Bethany churches have confirmed their desire to continue sharing a pastor, and to that end, have formed a joint call committee. Each church completed a Ministry Site Profile, which has been submitted and approved by the Synod. The next step is to begin the interview process. The call committee will hold a practice interview session to hone their interviewing skills and receive advice from Pastor Al Swartz from Grace Lutheran, who has volunteered to help us. The Synod will soon be sending us possible candidates to interview.

Please continue to pray for the call committee and Reformation and Bethany churches as we work to find a new shepherd to lead our churches.

What’s New at Reformation?

Facebook Page: If you haven’t been to Reformation’s Facebook page yet, please visit there (and Like us.) Anyone is welcome to share photos of church activities, say hello to one another and just keep up on news. You can also share upcoming events with your Friends.

Donations to the Fish Bowl

Each week donations to the Fish Bowl will be designated to a different cause, organization or other purpose. Any and all donations are always gladly accepted.

Web Site – The church's Web site, www.reformationlutherantoledo.org, has undergone some major changes lately. It will, hopefully, be kept up-to-date with all the news and information that concerns the church and congregation. Please take a moment to look it over. If you have any suggestions, please let the church office know.

Electronics Disposal

As Christians we are called upon to be good stewards of the earth. Recycling is an important part of this stewardship. Reformation recently held an electronics recycling collection, which was quite successful. Members from Reformation, Bethany and Augsburg brought in their old electronic equipment to be safely disposed of. Thank you to all who brought in equipment. Proper disposal means that parts will be recycled and these pieces will not fill our landfills with contaminants.

RICK, JULIE & OLIVER HOME ON THE RANCH?

This past August Julie, Oliver and myself left Detroit on a plane bound for Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and eventually an ELCA conference at the Joy Ranch somewhere in northern South Dakota, with no idea of what we were getting into. From Sioux Falls we, with our fellow "ranchers", boarded a bus and on the way to the ranch we visited, had worship, and had learning sessions at several churches, one was associated with an Indian Reservation. After we got back on the bus and continued our two and a half hour drive to Joy Ranch Oliver decided he was tired of the floor and charmed a lady into switching her seat so he could ride in comfort with an entire bus seat for himself!

When we pulled up to the Joy Ranch a retreat center used by the ELCA it did not disappoint. It was complete with horses, a bunkhouse, a blacksmith, general store, hotel and saloon, everything you would expect to find in an old west town on Main Street. There was even a beautiful, small, clapboard church building, built in the early 1800's that had been moved to the ranch property. We stayed in the hotel in a room named "cowboys & horses" decorated with saddles, lariats, stable doors and a four foot tall stuffed animal horse which stopped Oliver in his tracks.

Mornings started early at the ranch, and began a day full of meetings, projects, discussion boards, lectures, exercises worship and campfires with fireside worship every night. Meals in the mess hall were also an important part of our fellowship (even though I was not adventurous enough to try the buffalo burgers, Julie said they were good.....with extra cheese).

Persons representing various Synods from all over the country attended the conference, and the theme was "I have a story to tell". Many people shared stories from their own congregations or synods throughout the ELCA I was amazed by how many churches, like us, do not have a Pastor.

We finally found our purpose in attending this conference; we have been selected to serve the Northwest Ohio Synod as Mission Interpreters, or simply, storytellers. It is our job to tell the story of the ELCA and its work in the world, which begins with each and every one of us as members of Reformation Lutheran Church. Over the next few weeks, we will be giving temple talks here and at other churches to tell our story. We ask for your prayers for this program of the ELCA.

Submitted by Rick Hagg

Altar Flowers

Linda Bailiff is now designing our altar flowers. The cost per vase is back to \$15, from the price increase that had been announced earlier this year. The 2017 calendar is on the bulletin board for you to select your special dates. Sign up or call the church office for the dates you want. Weekly flowers can be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Thank you, Linda, for this stewardship!

Congregational Meetings

We will hold a congregational meeting Sunday, December 4 to nominate members to the 2017 Church Council. The meeting will be immediately following the Sunday morning Worship. If you want to nominate a candidate for council, please be sure to get their approval ahead of time. On Sunday, December 11, we will vote for new council members, as well as accepting returning council members. This is an important time in our transition, so we need leaders to take us boldly into the future.

HOPE FOR AN OLD SHOE

submitted by Rick Hagg

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.

She had so many children she didn't know what to do.

Last summer they counted and there were sixty-four.

Last week they counted and there were twenty-three more.

The rafters were sagging, the tongue flapped in the wind.

How to get started, or where to begin?

The back of the stove poked out of the toe.

And if you looked at the foundation, there wasn't no sole.

The children's clothes were all patched up and holey,

The old woman's shoe was anything but homey.

The cupboard was empty; the dog had no bone,

And ten children slept out on the porch all alone.

When did this happen, how did it begin?

What's to become of her and her kin?

Stewardship is very simple, not so difficult to understand. How could we help the old lady in this nursery rhyme? We can help her rebuild her falling down shoe. We can donate clothing so her children wouldn't have to wear patched up clothes. We can take her to the food pantry to stock her shelves. We can give her money so she can pay a utility bill. Or we can just sit with her on the porch, share a prayer, read the Bible, laugh, cry and just give her hope for tomorrow.

Stewardship is very easy when dealing with the old lady in the shoe and it's not hard to understand that there are "old ladies" living in "shoes" all over the world today. Give of your time, tithes and talents and it, in turn, will bring hope to the world.

Trunk or Treat – Oct. 30

Join the fun in Reformation's parking lot, Sunday, October 30, from 5-6pm. As we treat the neighborhood kids with lots of candy! Inside we will have a hot dog supper as one of our free community meals. We want the neighbors to know we are here and we are reaching out in mission!

THERE'S SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT AND IT'S CALLED GLORYALUIA DEO.

(in English, Glory to God Alleluia, commonly known as the Angel's song) - *submitted by Rick Hagg*

Some years ago I considered writing a musical, I sat down and didn't get very far. I needed a good story, something to write about. I had spoken so several people to write with, but just never got too far. Last year I spoke with Marty Britsch to write the music, he agreed, and Julie, who started as a secretary, also agreed, and turned out to be a very fine writing partner. Many sleepless nights tossing around ideas came and went and we decided to write something on the birth of Jesus. We obviously started our research in the Bible, but we found there was much more to the story. In our research we found that there were many other stories, legends and information from Christmas carols concerning the birth of Jesus.

Questions seemed to abound. For instance: What is a shepherd's life really like? Was the inn filled up or was the innkeeper just too busy? What does the birth of a child mean to a young couple? Would it be better if we just remained indifferent? What does it mean when they refer to Bethlehem as that little sleepy town? Bethlehem, stable, Mary, shepherds, donkey, sheep, what does this have to do with me?

So Julie and I started out writing a cantata.....an oratorio.....a musical.....an entertainment. Well we really don't know what to call it, but I am assured that you might laugh, cry, feel the spirit and most importantly want to tell somebody about it! There's an old adage which says, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there, does it make a sound?" Well, this applies to you, our congregation. If you're not there, you will not hear. If you invite everyone you know (even volunteer to pick them up and bring them) but they don't come, they will not hear. So if the choir sings an original new musical work and nobody is there, then I believe you will miss a brand new unique telling of the Christmas story. (You don't want to miss the chorus of singing sheep!!)

The cantata will be performed at the end of the Christmas season on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 4:00 pm. in the sanctuary. Members of our choir, Bethany's choir and the community will make up the choir. Please put this on your calendar and plan to join us for this special world premier.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Consider serving on your CHURCH COUNCIL in 2017! Be an active part of a great year of Worship and Mission at Reformation!

Funeral Pre-Planning Seminar

On Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6:30, Reformation will be hosting John Castillo, owner of Castillo Funeral Home on Tremainsville Road, who will be sharing information for what all is entailed in a funeral. Sometimes a death may come suddenly, without warning, and if you are not prepared for it, planning it can be a daunting challenge. Mr. Castillo has had many, many years in the business at Foth Mortuary, and now his own establishment. Mr. Castillo will have handout material and will speak about the topic and be able to answer any questions. This seminar is open to anyone. This is not an effort to drum up business for Castillo Funeral Home.

There is no cost for the seminar and no need for reservations. This is, as stated previously, an informational seminar. Reformation will have copies of a funeral service planning guide which will be available to everyone. There will be refreshments. Plan on about an hour for the meeting. I'm sure that Mr. Castillo will be happy to speak privately to anyone requesting it.

Poinsettias



Sunday, November 27th, is the first Sunday in Advent. That means it is time to start thinking about ordering poinsettia plants to add beauty to our worship and to praise God for sending His Son to us. The price for a 6½” pot, which will have 5 blooms or more, will be \$7.00. If you would like to purchase a larger size, contact the office for pricing. Order forms will be in the bulletin. You may also come to the church office to place your order. Payment must accompany your order. Orders must be placed by no later than Sunday, December 4th.

Thanksgiving Dinner –



Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 17th, beginning at 6:00. The cost is \$12.00 per person. There will be a full Thanksgiving dinner and raffles for baskets of goodies. Reservations are requested. You may call the church office, Fran Oliver, (419) 708-5763, or use the “Contact Us” button on the church’s Web site, www.reformationlutherantoledo.org. You will need to provide your name, the number of people who will be attending, and a phone number you can be reached at in the event of any changes. This is always a delicious meal so please come and join us.

Free Holiday Community Dinner

Again this year we will be providing a very special free holiday dinner for the community and those in need. The dinner will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5-7pm in Luther Hall. In addition to the wonderful food there will be fellowship time for our community neighbors with special games and activities for all. Volunteers are needed to donate desserts or to help serve at the dinner. Reservations are needed and must be in by Nov. 27. For reservations, call Carol Dolt (419-385-4242) or Fran Oliver (419-708-5763), giving your name and phone number.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Bill Myers, Jason & Ashley Weatherly, Joshua Rittner, Kyle Dietrich, Jared Kusz.

Home: Miriam Rude, Barb Belcik, Phyllis Neeley, Char Bowlus, Shirley Kennedy, Jan Leonard, Sandy Matzinger, Betty Heiny, Elsie Johnson, Rick Hagg, Sandy Drake.

Hospitals and Care Centers: Kathy Kier (Sunset Village), Alice Notheis (Swan Creek), Lois Rywalski (Kingston), Linda Stirn (Spring Meadows Senior Community); Norma & Donnie Veit (Arbors at Waterville), Michael Morrin.

Family and Friends: Julie Hipple, niece of Roger & Ruth Stygles ; Nicole Erdman, granddaughter of John & Sue Kusz ; Ida Engler, Chris, Paula Sanner & Gina Glover, Tom Schonter, Jack Schonter, friends and family of Fran Oliver; Barb Nicely, Jerry Mitchel, Dwight Henry & Tom Bailiff, Nancy Borsani, Dan Dunderman, friends and family of Linda Bailiff; Violet Liest, friend of M. Ware; Kathie Myers, sister of Peg Hinds; Keith & Trina, Dave Moore, Jeff Snow, family and friends of Barb & Terry Belcik; David Britsch, Tammy Fobert, family and friends of Martin Britsch; Connie Sondergeld & Katie Holtgrieve, daughter and niece of Larry & Sandy Matzinger; Clay Wilson, son-in-law of Grace Anton; Shirley & Holly Durst, Richard, requested by Diane Hitchens; Carolyn Ellenberger, mother of Chuck Ellenberger; Mark P, Lisa, Sandy, friends of Chad Bailiff; Eli Titkemeier; Cyndy Cunningham, by Julie & Rick; Kelly,

friend of Leslee Pryor; Shirley Hoye, by Lucy Young; Julia (in the Dominican Republic), by Corinne Olinger; Frankie Edinger, by Sharon Taylor-Ansted.

Reminder: We are still in need of contributions of toilet paper, paper towels and liquid soap for our restrooms. Please consider donating. This is a much-needed savings for our church. We especially need paper towels at this time!

Reminder to save your cancelled stamps – give them to Miriam Rude.

WELCA

“Perhaps the shortest and most powerful prayer in human language is help.”

Father Thomas Keating

The longer we stay silent about what we need the further we are from getting help. We casually pass up opportunities we shouldn't, sometimes we even offer others help when we are in the greater need. Asking for help, whether we get it or not, breaks the hardness that the world builds up around us. Even when we ask for the impossible we are relieved of that burden and blessed for the asking. Admitting to our humanness lets the soul break the surface, refreshing itself in the light of God.

We isolate ourselves when we put up barriers that we think protect us. They do not. They only serve to prolong our pain and keep us in our brokenness. We must let ourselves be held with a quiet courage that allows our vulnerabilities to be seen. For as light fills the dark and water fills a hole, kindness wraps around what is soft and wanting.

So admitting what we need, asking for help, letting our softness show - these are prayers without words that friends, strangers, wind and time all wrap themselves around. Allowing ourselves to be held is like turning toward God, our God who is always wanting and waiting for us to turn towards him.

Leaning on my friends and turning towards God,
Bethany Collier, Bethany Church

Building Usage

Regular Weekly Activities:

Sunday	12:00-2:00	Basketball-Luther Hall
Monday	12:30	Women's Bible Study-Phyllis Neeley Home
	7:00	Volleyball-Luther Hall
Tuesday	5:30	TOPS
	8:00	Serenity Group
Thursday	6:00	Basketball-Luther Hall
	7:00	Basketball-Luther Hall
	7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	4:00	Saturday Night Worship - Chapel
Mon-Sat	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA Group

Special Events-November:

Monday-Friday, November 01-11	9:00-2:00	ECOT – Luther Hall
Thursday, November 17	6:00-7:30	Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 24		OFFICE CLOSED
Friday, November 25		OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday, November 27		First Sunday in Advent / Decorate for Christmas
Saturday, December 3		Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Acolyte / Crucifer Schedule for 11/6 -

Nov. 6	L. Bailiff
13	G. Anton
20	S. Wilson / C. Hennessey
27	C. Hennessey

Ushers Schedule for 11/6 – 11/27

Nov. 6 , 13, 20 & 27: *D. Baker, B. Brechbill, M. Link, C. Bailiff

Offering Tellers Schedule for 11/6 – 11/27

Nov. 6 J. Weatherly / J. Kraus
 13 J. Kraus / J. Boesenhofer
 20 J. Boesenhofer / M. Jaramillo
 27 M. Jaramillo / R. Stygles

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following members:

Nov. 5 Linda Bailiff
 19 Julie Boesenhofer
 27 Mark Jaques

Bible Readings for November

1	Jude 5-21	16	Matthew 23:37-24:14
2	Luke 19:11-27	17	Hebrews 9:23-28
3	Acts 22:22-23:11	18	1 Peter 1:3-9
4	Acts 24:10-23	19	Luke 18:15-17
5	Luke 20:1-8	20	Luke 23:33-43
6	Luke 6:20-31	21	Revelation 21:5-27
7	2 Peter 1:16-21	22	Revelation 22:8-21
8	2 John 1-13	23	Luke 1:1-4
9	John 5:19-29	24	James 4:1-10
10	Romans 1:18-25	25	Hebrews 11:1-7
11	2 Thessalonians 1:3-12	26	Matthew 24:1-22
12	Luke 17:20-37	27	Matthew 24:36-44
13	Luke 21:5-19	28	Romans 6:1-11
14	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	29	Hebrews 11:32-40
15	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1	30	Matthew 24:23-35



Christmas Poinsettia Sale

If you would like to order poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services this year please place your order through the church office by completing the information below. **The absolute deadline for placing your order is Sunday, December 4.** Please make checks payable to Reformation Lutheran. **Payment must be made with the order.**

No. of plants _____ **@ \$7.00 each** **Enclosed \$** _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of

Please Word this exactly as you want it to appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.