

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

DECEMBER 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 Olinger 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 About Advent and Christmas...

Advent. Rejoice in the coming of the Lord!!

Advent is defined as “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event”. The old Latin word, adventum, meant “coming”. The coming of a notable person or event indeed! Christ is the most notable person in the Christian faith, and his coming, both on Earth and in the Second Coming, are among our most notable events, topped only by Christ’s death and resurrection at Easter.

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year, when we prepare for Christ’s coming, as God’s Christmas gift to us humans. Our churches are brightly decorated, like the bride keeping her torch lit for when her bridegroom comes home. The main decoration seen in the church during Advent is the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath originated in Europe during the time of Martin Luther, although it didn’t appear in the United States until around the mid-1930’s. It is designed to look like both a never-ending circle, to signify God’s eternity, and a crown, to show the coming of Christ the King. It also shows the gradual turn from darkness to light in the life of Christians.

While the design of the wreath has evolved over time (it used to have 20 candles on it at one time), most Western Christian faiths use the circle of fir branches with four candles in the outer ring for each week of Advent, and the Christmas candle in the center. Each candle has its own meaning. The first represents Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus. The second represents the Bible. The third represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. The fourth represents John the Baptist, Jesus’ cousin, who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus’ teaching. The Christmas candle, usually white, signifies the birth of Christ.

During this season of anticipation and preparation for Christ’s coming, and its culmination on Christmas day, with gifts being opened everywhere, we are offered a great opportunity to share this joy and excitement by giving just a little more so that those among us who won’t have any gifts under the tree, or food to eat, or coats to wear in the cold can receive these items, and see the light that Christ brings to the world. These people could be in our city, the nation, or anywhere in the world.

The NWO Synod, the ELCA World Hunger, Feed Your Neighbor, Augsburg's Thanksgiving dinners, and our own Angel Tree are just a few examples of ways we, as the recipients of the greatest gift of all, can let the world know Christ and his saving Grace.

Matthew 24:42

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come.”

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.

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.

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

A Musical Note...

Due to difficulties in finalizing the cantata *Gorialuia Deo*, we have determined it cannot be presented this year. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to schedule a different cantata for this Christmas season. However, the choir is preparing extra special music for Christmas Eve. We will be performing several anthems interspersed throughout the Christmas Eve service, starting with Pre-Service. It is our hope that, in addition to the traditional brass accompaniment to many of our hymns, the music will be a beautiful and inspirational message for Christmas. As always, we hope to see you there.

One additional note: Our new bishop of the NWO synod will be our guest minister on Dec. 18. Please plan to attend worship on that Sunday at 9:00 to help us welcome the new bishop to Reformation!

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.

Angel Tree and Cookie Buffet

The Angel Tree will be up with name ornaments on Sunday, Dec. 4. Lisa from CrossRoads is furnishing the names and sign-up sheet. The return date will be indicated on sign-up sheet. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Social Ministry Committee

Inviting all cookie bakers and candy makers to contribute cookies and candy to this great annual event. Please have your donations to the Lounge on Sat., Dec. 17 between 11 and 11:45 and prior to worship service on Sun., Dec. 18. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Social Ministry Committee

Christmas Matching Challenge

From now until December 31st a group of Lutheran World Relief supporters will DOUBLE your gift to help hungry and hurting families, up to \$189,553. Your gifts can make a difference in someone's life. You can send your donations to: Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore MD 21297-1061.

March Mission Trip

Tom and Janet Titkemeier will be serving again with Christian Medical and Dental -Global Health Outreach in El Salvador March 4-12 2017. We are looking for some willing servants to join us in helping the less fortunate and experience the joy of evangelism- spreading the good news of God's promise of salvation. This is a life changing experience. No medical experience is necessary- just a servant's heart. There are expenses for the trip that are fully tax deductible as charitable contributions. We would also like to suggest the congregation possibly help in funding a member- possibly one of our youth members?? Planting seeds....Please ask any questions, and we can be reached after services, home ([419-472-9559](tel:419-472-9559)) or our cell phones: (T: [419-350-4794](tel:419-350-4794)) or (J: [419-350-4774](tel:419-350-4774)) or by email: Janet at jtitkemeier@ameritech.net or Tom at Titkemeier@ameritech.net. The website for Christian Medical and Dental is www.cmda.org, then click on Global Health Outreach.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Dear LIRS Supporter,

I wanted to reach out to you today following the 2016 U.S. Presidential election to assure you that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) stands by its mission to protect and welcome refugees to our homeland. The United States has always been a place of safety and refuge for persons seeking protection, and LIRS and its partners have worked for more than 75 years to create communities of welcome. At a time when the world is facing the largest global refugee crisis since World War II, it is our hope that the new Administration will demonstrate a continued commitment to upholding American values by recognizing that the protection and resettlement of refugees is an urgent and critical component of the worldwide efforts to tackle this crisis. With your support, LIRS will continue to work closely with its partners across the country to affirm our commitment to supporting their work in local communities, and with lawmakers to help prioritize and sustain policies that support refugees and migrants. Please [donate today](#) to help us continue this important work. Faithfully yours, Linda Hartke, President and CEO

Did You Know?

Did you know that we, the Northwest Ohio Synod of the ELCA have a sister synod? The Southwestern Washington Synod is comprised of 89 congregations and 6 Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities in an area spanning from Federal Way to the Washington-Oregon border and from the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean. Their Web site is <http://www.lutheranssw.org/> if you'd like to visit it and see what ELCA Lutherans around the country are doing.

Race, Ethnicity and Culture

We live in a world with vibrant and beautiful, diverse cultures. This diversity is a blessing from God, but these gifts are often received fearfully or reluctantly. The ELCA recognizes itself to be in mission and ministry in a multicultural society and world and is committed to welcoming and

affirming cultural diversity. We are committed to confronting racism and calling for justice for all people despite ethnicity, culture, economic situation, primary language or gender. Living out such commitments in daily life includes recognition, discernment and action to confront the problems, which are buried deep in each individual and in society and its structures. Much has been done, yet more work and progress is needed that can only be accomplished by working together and with partners who share a common vision.

Bishop Eaton on Election 2016

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton shares three things the church can do, and reminds us, “No human candidate can guarantee our life or our future. That is work that God has done through the death and resurrection of Jesus.” You can view a video of her entire speech at <https://vimeo.com/191012283>.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, immediately following worship. There are some important issues to be discussed and voted on, so please plan to attend. There will be a light lunch served prior to the meeting. All committee’s should have their annual report in to the office no later than December 23rd.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are both on Sunday’s this year, but we will still have worship as on any other Sunday. Here is the worship schedule:

Saturday, **December 24** (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)

7:00 @ Reformation, with pre-service music beginning at 6:30
10:45 @ Bethany, with pre-service music beginning at 10:15

Sunday, **December 25** (Christmas Day)

A combined worship service @ Bethany at 11:00

*There will be no Saturday worship on Dec. 31.

Sunday, **January 1** (New Year’s Day)

A combined worship service @ Reformation at 11:00

Church Office

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, 11/24 & 11/25, for Thanksgiving. It will also be closed on Friday and Monday, 12/23 & 12/26, for Christmas. If you need emergency pastoral care during those times, please contact Corinne Oliger, (419)460-1679, and the pastor on call will be notified.

Redeemer Celebrates their 100th

Reformation congratulates the people of Redeemer Lutheran Church as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. Best wishes in your continuing mission in West Toledo!

Fish Bowl

Thank you to those members who donated to the fish bowl for Augsburg’s Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We were able to contribute \$80 toward their expense of serving 700 turkey dinners.

The Messiah

Enjoy your Christmas season by attending Handel’s “The Messiah,” Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4:00pm at the Rosary Cathedral. Four members of our church – Kristen, Leslee, Lucy and Peg are singing in this beautiful production.

2017 – 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

The ELCA is encouraging our churches to celebrate this special year by reviewing Luther’s ‘Small Catechism.’ We will use Luther’s explanation of the basic articles of the 10 Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, and The Lord’s Prayer in weekly doses of study in worship. How long has it been since you were in 8th grade confirmation class? It’s time for a refresher!

Christmas Cards

If you enjoy sending Christmas cards and some of your Reformation friends are on your list, send one card to the church for all to see. We will display cards to the Reformation family on the Angel Tree in the Narthex.

Thank You Notes Received:

Dear Jan,

I had a great time preaching and being with the people of Reformation these three Sundays. It is nice to be received so warmly and appreciated so much.

My prayers are with you and the people of Reformation as you continue your journey toward a new pastoral leader.

Pastor Melissa

P.S. It made sense to share part of our tithe with Reformation this month.

“Thanks. Camping was awesome. Thanks for sponsoring.”

From Danny (one our confirmands).

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, Larry Matzinger.

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, Mateo, 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 Hoyer, 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.

December 2016 Building Activity Schedule

Regular Weekly Activities

Sunday	12:00-2:00	Basketball	Luther Hall
Monday	7:00-9:00	Volleyball	Luther Hall
Tuesday	5:30-7:30	TOPS	Lounge
	8:00-9:00	Tues Nite Serenity Group	Classroom
Wednesday	8:30-9:30	12 Step West	Classroom
Thursday	6:00-7:00	Basketball	Luther Hall
	7:00-8:00	Basketball	Luther Hall
Mon-Sat	12:00-1:00	Open-Minded AA	Classrooms

Special Activities

Friday	12/02/2016	All Day	Setup for dinner	Luther Hall
Saturday	12/03/2016	5:00-7:00	Holiday Community Dinner	Luther Hall
Sunday	12/11/2016	9:00-4:00	AA Children's Christmas	Luther Hall
Friday	12/30/2016	6:30-7:30	Wedding Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Saturday	12/31/2016	7:00-Mid	Wedding/Reception	Sanctuary/Luther Hall

Acolyte / Crucifer Schedule for 11/27 – 12/25

Nov. 27	C. Hennessey
Dec. 4	S. Wilson, C. Hennessey
11	G. Anton
18	L. Pryor

Christmas Day Worship is a joint worship at Bethany at 11:00am.

Ushers Schedule for 11/27 – 12/24

Nov. 27	*D. Baker, B. Brechbill, M. Link, C. Bailiff
Dec. 4, 11 & 18	*F. Oliger, C. Bailiff, I. Precht, T. Belcik

Volunteers needed for Christmas Eve. Please contact the church office.

Offering Tellers Schedule for 11/27 – 12/24

Nov. 27	M. Jaramillo / R. Stygles
Dec. 4	R. Stygles / J. Boesenhofer
11	J. Boesenhofer / J. Kraus
18	J. Kraus / J. Weatherly

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Dec. 19	Peg Hinds
22	Sue Kusz
23	Chuck Dolt

Happy Anniversary to:

Dec. 4	Peg and Dave Hinds
19	Linda and John Bailiff
27	Chuck & Carol Dolt

Happy Belated Birthday to Linda Stirn (Nov. 29)!!!

Bible Readings for December

1	Acts 1:12-17, 21-26	17	John 3:31-36
2	Acts 13:16-25	18	Matthew 1:18-25
3	John 1:19-28	19	Galatians 4:8-20
4	Matthew 3:1-12	20	Galatians 4:21-5:1
5	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	21	Matthew 1:1-17
6	Romans 15:14-21	22	Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20
7	Matthew 12:33-37	23	Galatians 3:6-14
8	2 Peter 3:1-10	24	Luke 2:1-20
9	2 Peter 3:11-18	25	John 1:1-14
10	Luke 3:1-18	26	Acts 7:59-8:8
11	Matthew 11:2-11	27	1 John 5:1-12
12	Acts 5:12-16	28	Matthew 18:1-14
13	Jude 17-25	29	Luke 19:41-44
14	Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34	30	2 Corinthians 4:16-18
15	Galatians 3:23-29	31	John 8:12-19
16	Galatians 4:1-7		

A Blessed Christmas to All!