

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

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017**



# REFORMATION

## News and Views

Reformation Lutheran Church

4543 Douglas Road – Toledo, Ohio 43613

419-473-1369

reformationluth@gmail.com Email

website: reformationlutherantoledo.org

Worship Services: Saturday – 4:00 pm

Sunday – 9:00 am

Sunday School – 10:15am

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

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.”

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### Happy New Year

People around the world have begun to celebrate the beginning of a New Year. Many will have made promises of what they will do during the year; others have prayed that their lives might improve somehow. Some will just stay on the same treadmill they move on every year.

In the United States, the citizens look to the future with a new president with anxious anticipation. A lot of promises were made, but can they all be kept? After a very contentious, and sometimes highly uncivilized campaign, all citizens, no matter their political leanings, religion, race, sexual orientation or creed, need to return to being one country, working together to make life the best we can for all the people in the United States.

For Christians, the New Year begins the journey that began a few weeks ago with the beginning of Advent and its bright promise of glorious things to come. We then celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom God sent to earth to save His people from Satan’s grip at Christmas. Christ gave us the greatest gift anyone can get, Grace.

Think about that for a moment. Grace! Merriam-Webster has several definitions for grace, but for Christians, the only ones that count are: “unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification”; “a virtue coming from God”; “a state of sanctification enjoyed through divine grace”; and, “a special favor”. That first definition says it all, “unmerited divine assistance given humans for their sanctification”.

God gave us, condemned sinners that we are, His saving Grace from the minute we were born. You can’t work for it. You can’t buy it, although early Christians did try to “buy” this Grace. It’s yours—free of charge. Free of charge because Jesus Christ paid for it with his life. What an amazing, loving act by one person for all people. The writer of Ephesians, Paul, said it so well: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

So, whatever this New Year brings for you; prosperity or hardship, joy or sadness, comfort or pain, if we make the following promises:

Resolve to stay faithful to Jesus Christ. He is the one Truth, Way and Life. There's no reason to look elsewhere.

Resolve to not let anything – a career, a significant other, social media, a house – become an object of worship.

Resolve to watch your language and not speak any destructive talk, especially involving the name of God.

Resolve to prevent burnout by putting aside work one day a week. Trust God to provide for your needs that day and just enjoy the time He's given you.

Resolve to talk to your parents on a regular basis, and show them love and respect. Resolve to be angry less. Channel any feelings of rage, which Jesus said are as severe as murder, into worshiping God and serving others.

Resolve to honor your commitment to your spouse. Whether in thought or in deed, stay pure and loyal in the union God made.

Resolve to not take anything that's not yours, including stuff you can hold and put in your pocket, and plenty that you can't, like music downloads, streaming movies and hours on your timecard.

Resolve to speak about others only with truth and love, not gossip.

Resolve to be content with what you have, and not worry about that others are amassing.

Do these sound familiar? I hope so. If we resolve to live our lives according to these rules, God's unfailing love and Grace are ours. Life after death is ours.

Happy New Year Friends  
(and, as it's said in the Navy—I wish you fair winds and following seas)

## 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](http://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.

## January 22 – Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following Sunday Worship, January 22, 10:15 in Luther Hall. Join us to hear our program committee reports, discuss the 2017 budget, and brainstorm new outreach possibilities, and fellowship ideas.

A light lunch will be served. AND THEN we will meet with Bethany and a representative from the Northwest Ohio Synod who will talk about the status of our search for a new Pastor. What is the progress of our joint call committee? You will want to be in on this discussion!!!!

### **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) or our cell phones: (T: 419-350-4794) or (J: 419-350-4774) or by email: Janet at [jtitekemeier@ameritech.net](mailto:jtitekemeier@ameritech.net) or Tom at [Titkemeier@ameritech.net](mailto:Titkemeier@ameritech.net). The website for Christian Medical and Dental is [www.cmda.org](http://www.cmda.org), then click on Global Health Outreach.

### **Mission Support**

Janet and Tom Titkemeier and Jan and Chuck Ellenberger are going on a Medical Mission trip to El Salvador in March. Donation to the 'Fish Bowl' this month will support this trip. Money will be used to buy Bibles to give to the clients at the clinic. Many of these people will be NEW Christians; they have never heard the good news of Jesus before! Dollars will also be used for medical supplies that the team will take with them. Donations of reading glasses (1.75 and higher) are also needed. We will be praying for the team and the people whom they serve on this trip. "Go into all the world....."

### **WHOA!! Another Big Repair**

Recently we have had major service on our heating system!! Noron helps us keep the aging equipment going, and they are very careful to be reasonable with their charge. We have had to buy a new pump and some pipes. We have yet to receive the bill, but we know it will be Big! Labor alone was many hours! This expense is not covered in our budget – it is bigger than what we have set aside.

If you can help with some extra dollars in your offering, it would be much appreciated! Our generous members have always come through in an emergency, and we pray you will again! Remember our beautiful building is over 50 years old, and repairs are necessary! Thank you for any help you can provide for this expense!!!

### **2017 – The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This year we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. 500 years ago Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of his church; and the Protestant Church was born.

We will invite the people of Augsburg and Bethany to join us in this celebration, because we are Reformation Lutheran Church. We will plan a special Festival Worship for Reformation Sunday, October 29.

The ELCA has suggested that congregations use this year to review Luther's Small Catechism. Do you remember some of his explanations you learned when you were in 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechism class? As a part of our Sunday Worship, we will review the Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. Renew your understanding of these basic elements of our faith.

### **Committees at Reformation**

The standing committees of our church council are: Social Ministry, Gifts/Memorial, Worship & Fine Arts, Fellowship, Stewardship, Cooperation & Support, Property, Evangelism, Christian Education, and Finance. Where do YOU fit? In what opportunities do YOU want to serve? Be an active part of what we do as the family of Reformation!!

### **Thank You Thank You Thank You!**

We would like to recognize and thank all who helped in any way to prepare our church for the Christmas season. Thank you to the choir, to Marty Britsch, and to Dennis Oehlers who once again brought us the beautiful brass musicians for Christmas Eve. Thank you to those who helped decorate the church building and who helped take it down after Epiphany Sunday. Thank you to Jan Weatherly for all of the extra work done in the office. Thank you to Corinne Olinger who puts in countless hours making sure our church runs smoothly. Thank you to Fran Oliver and company for the wonderful Thanksgiving meal, and to the committee who put on the Community Holiday dinner. All of you are such a blessing to Reformation. As always, we thank the dedicated Sexton Crew and Don Baker for their hard work in keeping our building clean and beautiful. Thank you to all who baked cookies for the Cookie Buffet!

#### **Thank You Notes Received:**

“Thank you to the ladies who brought the stocking full of goodies for me. I really appreciated the visit.”

Linda Stirn (Spring Meadows Senior Community)

“Dear Reformation Friends,

Thank you so much for the goodie-filled stocking. Your thoughtfulness was an uplifting blessing to me.

God Bless you all now and always,” Phyllis Neeley

“Thank you very much.

The dinner was delicious. You ladies are very good cooks. Also the bingo was a lot of fun. Thank you for a lovely evening and I will look forward to next year.”

Sincerely, Dolores Gorsuch

“Reformation Family – Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness sending the Christmas stocking. It was wonderful. God Bless all of you” Jan Leonard

“Dear Family – Thank you so much for the meaningful card (it made me cry). We miss you a ton and pray for you all the time. We hope everyone knows Christ’s peace and love this Christmas. God’s Blessings” Pastor Stacy, Ryan & Mia

### **Community Dinner Thank You**

We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with this year’s Community Dinner. We appreciate all of the hard work and support that was given to make this dinner so meaningful to those who attended. Everyone present seemed to not only enjoy the food but also the fellowship. At the same time, the children became very involved in the crafts and games that were provided.

Many expressed that for them this dinner not only reflected warmth, but it also helped them to begin to remember the true meaning of Christmas. Without the effort of each and everyone who gave of their time, that would not have been possible.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we also celebrate and say thank you to all of you. We hope you have a most blessed 2017.

### **Shut-in Gifts**

Many thanks to Fran Oliver for contributing the red stockings and to all who furnished the various items and fruit to fill the stockings, as well as delivering the stockings to our people. These gifts delighted the people who received them. Thanks to all who participated in any way for this great outreach.

**Lent begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday. A full Lenten schedule will be published in the March Newsletter.**

#### **From the church Secretary**

The office is running quite low on copier paper. If you would be able to donate a ream or two it would be greatly appreciated.

**Memorials received:**

The following memorials were received in memory of Kathy Kier:  
Char Bowlus Barb Links Fred and Corinne Oliger Ruth and Roger Stygles  
John and Linda Bailiff Jan and Chuck Ellenberger Dave and Peg Hinds

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

**HOME:** Miriam Rude, Phyllis Neeley, Rick Hagg, Char Bowlus, Shirley Kennedy, Jan Leonard, Lydia Latsch, Sandy Matzinger, Betty Heiny, Elsie Johnson, Sandy Drake, Larry Matzinger.

**HOSPITALS/CARE CENTERS:** Alice Notheis (Swan Creek); Lois Rywalski (Kingston); Michael Morrin; Linda Stirn (Spring Meadows Senior Community); Norma & Donnie Veit (Arbors at Waterville).

**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; Frankie Edinger, by Sharon Taylor-Ansted; Mateo, by Linda Bailiff; Ray Brown, cousin of Corinne Oliger; Julia, in the Dominican Republic, by Corinne Oliger.

**IN MARRIAGE:** Congratulations to Julie Boesenhofer and Rick Hagg on their marriage on Dec. 31!

**IN DEATH:** Kathy Kier and Barb Belcik

**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.**

**January 2017 Building Activity Schedule**

**Regular Weekly Schedule of Activities**

Sunday	12:00	Basketball – Luther Hall
Monday	12:30	Women’s Bible Study/Neeley Home
	7:00	Volleyball – Luther Hall
Tuesday	5:00	TOPS – Lounge
	8:00	Serenity Group – Ed. Bldg.
Wednesday	8:30	12 Step West
Thursday	6:00	Basketball – Luther Hall
	7:00	Basketball – Luther Hall
	7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Mon-Fri	12:00	Open Minded AA Group

**January Special Activities**

- 01/01 Joint Worship @ Reformation
- 01/08 Worship celebrating the Epiphany and Baptism of our Lord.
- 01/09 Congregational Council – 6:30 pm
- 01/22 Congregational Council Installed during Worship  
Annual Congregational Meeting with Lunch  
Private Party – Luther Hall – 3:00-8:00 pm

## February 2017 Calendar of Events

02/24      Wedding Rehearsal  
02/25      Wedding  
02/28      Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

### Acolyte / Crucifer Schedule for 1/15 – 2/26 – 2017

Jan.    15      L. Pryor  
          22      G. Anton  
          29      C. Hennessey  
Feb.    5      S. Wilson / C. Hennessey  
          12      L. Pryor  
          19      G. Anton  
          26      C. Hennessey

### Ushers Schedule for 1/15 - 2/26 - 2017

Jan 15, 22 & 29      \*D. Baker, B. Brechbill, M. Link, M. Hillesheim  
Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26      \*F. Oliger, C. Bailiff, T. Belcik, I. Precht

### Offering Tellers Schedule for 1/15 – 2/26 - 2017

Jan.    15      J. Kraus / R. Stygles  
          22      R. Stygles / J. Boesenhofer  
          29      J. Boesenhofer / J. Weatherly  
Feb.    5      J. Weatherly / R. Stygles  
          12      R. Stygles / M. Jaramillo  
          19      M. Jaramillo / J. Kraus  
          26      J. Kraus / J. Boesenhofer

#### **January Birthdays**

##### **Happy Birthday to:**

Jan.    3      Chip Irons  
          6      Lynn Robertson  
          7      Jan Ellenberger  
          9      Pastor Stacy  
          10     Kristen Young  
          11     Mike Hillesheim, Oliver Hagg

#### **February Birthdays**

##### **Happy Birthday to:**

Feb.    5      Joanne Kraus  
          7      Shearl Schmidt  
          16     Caroline Dolt  
          17     Irv Precht  
          20     Tonya Schmidt, Danny Jaques  
          23     Bill Woodward

##### **Happy Anniversary to:**

Feb.    15     Phil & Nancy Sieja

#### **Bible Readings for January**

1	Luke 2:15-21	17	Hebrews 10:1-4
2	Hebrews 11:1-12	18	Matthew 9:14-17
3	Hebrews 11:13-22	19	Galatians 1:11-24
4	Hebrews 11:23-31	20	Galatians 2:1-10
5	Hebrews 11:32-12:2	21	Luke 5:27-32
6	Matthew 2:1-12	22	Matthew 4:12-23
7	Ephesians 3:14-21	23	Ephesians 5:6-14
8	Matthew 3:13-17	24	Philippians 2:12-18
9	Acts 10:44-48	25	Luke 1:67-79
10	Acts 8:4-13	26	1 Peter 3:8-12
11	Matthew 12:15-21	27	1 Timothy 5:17-24
12	Galatians 1:6-12	28	John 13:31-35
13	Acts 1:1-5	29	Matthew 5:1-12
14	Luke 5:1-11	30	Philemon 1-25
15	John 1:29-42	31	James 5:1-6
16	Acts 8:26-40		