

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

SEPTEMBER 2018



REFORMATION

News and Views

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

reformationluth@gmail.com Email

website: reformationlutherantoledo.org

Pastor: Pr. Tom Schaeffer

Secretary: Jan Weatherly

Organist: Patrick Finnegan

Worship Services: Saturday – 4:00 pm

Sunday – 9:00 am

Sunday School – 10:15am

Office Hours: Mon and Wed. 9:00-2:45 and 3:30-4:30, Fri. 9:00 – 2:45.

In case of an emergency, you may reach Corinne Olinger at 419-460-1679 or Pastor Tom at 419-481-3891

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 our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Below is a slightly edited version of a letter I wrote to be read at Bethany’s congregational meeting which I was unable to attend due to the death and funeral of Karen’s grandmother. I felt it would be appropriate to share this with both congregations and for those members who were also unable to make the meeting.

“When I joined both Bethany and Reformation as pastor, I shared that it was not my agenda to orchestrate a union of the two churches. That was true then and has remained true throughout my first year as your pastor. However, the conversations of a joint ministry were going on long before my arrival and continued after my arrival. If I had a role in the advancement of these conversations, I believe it was the stability felt by both churches upon calling a pastor after so many months of ministry on your own. The stability in the present spurred consideration of the future. That led to the councils from both churches voting to recommend that Bethany and Reformation enter into a joint ministry under a new name. In other words, if approved by both congregations, Bethany and Reformation would be joining to give birth to a new church. As I said earlier, joining the two churches was not part of my agenda. Nevertheless, now that both councils have approved and seek the will of the congregations, I want it to be known that I fully support this motion and would be excited to serve as your pastor in this new church venture. Karen and I have come to love both congregations. Each has a commitment to mission and a desire to advance the Kingdom of God. We have seen and had the honor to participate in the work you both do in service to God and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. We have witnessed the many ways in which you already share that work with one another. There is little doubt in our minds that together we can achieve even greater things. It is important for us all to acknowledge that this is an ending. It is the end of an era for both churches. But understand this. Choosing to do such a thing for the future hope of spreading the Gospel is courageous and exactly what we are called to do as disciples.

In Mark 8:35, Jesus said, “. . . those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” Far too many churches are focused on survival, on saving the life of their church. When we do so, we are sure to lose it. But if we will risk it. If we will dare to lay down the life of our church for the sake of the Gospel, we can find new life.

The Scriptures are clear. Everything on this earth will pass away. That is why all living things must reproduce- so that they can continue to live through their children. Today we are voting to give birth to a new church, a new community that will continue our story and our legacy. It will be the new Body of Christ, through which the DNA of Bethany and Reformation will continue to live and serve and proclaim the Gospel.

I believe that what we are faced with . . . is an amazing opportunity. It is an opportunity to be an example to the churches around us. We will selflessly make this sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel. We will shed a

tear for our past while we triumphantly march with Christ to our future. We will close this chapter while having all faith that God yet has work for us to do in the Book of Life . . .”

In Christ,
Pastor Tom

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. We are currently asking members to indicate their approval and authorization for photos that may include them on the Facebook Page. These forms have been in the weekly bulletins. If you haven't already filled this out, please do so at your earliest convenience.

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, is a great source for information for you and you can tell friends to check out the site to find out what is happening at Reformation!

Church Office Hours – as of 11/01/2017, the new office hours are:

Monday and Wednesday 9:00-2:45, 3:30-4:30
Friday 9:00-2:45

There are now doorbells at both entrances to the church office. If the doors are locked during regular business hours, please ring the buzzer. Just a personal note, the secretary has bad knees, so it takes a couple of minutes to get to the Luther Hall door, so please be patient.

Church Supplies – the church is always in need of paper towels, toilet paper, and hand soap. You can bring supplies to the church office or drop off on Sunday.

Sandpiper Cruise

Join in Fellowship as we take a ride down the Maumee River on the Sandpiper. Enjoy downtown sights, ports, beautiful mansions, and yacht clubs as we 'Discover the River.' Sunday evening, September 9 is the date to join friends from Reformation and Bethany. We think the cost is \$24 per person, but we're checking on it. The boat holds 100 people, and it is public; it is not reserved just for us. We can take our own snacks and BYOB. Save the date and watch for details.

Kick-off Fall - Spaghetti Supper

Fall Fellowship begins with our annual Spaghetti Supper, Saturday, September 22, from 5 – 6:30! You'll enjoy our special recipe spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and desserts. Lucy is our famous Italian chef! This will be another dinner offered free to our community as part of our mission. Cash donations will be accepted ahead of time to help with costs. Wear your team colors! If you would like to decorate a table for your favorite high school, college, or pro team, sign up in the narthex or call the church office. Please sign up to bring a dessert.

Bring family, friends, and neighbors for a delicious night of fellowship at Reformation!

Fall Bible Study

The fall session of Bible Study will begin with "One Thousand Gifts." Begin to find joy in what really matters, expressing gratitude in our lives! Ann Voskamp is the author of the bestseller and this study, and there are video lessons with it. This study looks like it will be good for the heart!! Join us in study and fellowship Thursdays at 12:30 at the home of Phyllis Neeley, beginning September 13. The cost of the book is \$11.80, your time in Bible study - priceless! See Corinne to reserve your spot and to order your book.

World Religion Study Group

A new study group is going to be formed to discuss some of the over 4,200 religions around the world. This would be an evening group, possibly on Wednesday nights (it could also be on Sunday, early evening or so). The study would include handouts, in-depth discussion of one religion per evening, and the possibility of guest speakers, from places of worship throughout the area. We would also discuss how it differs and/or is like the ELCA church. If you would be interested in attending such a group, please email or call the church office to give us an idea of how many would be interested, and if the day and time of the meeting works for you.

Notes of Interest

Can you believe it? Summer is almost over. Time to get back into a "normal" routine for fall and winter. Vacation time is over. That also means it is time to get back to choir rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services.

Our choir rehearsals will begin as follows: Chancel Choir rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings beginning September 13, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Bell Choir Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings after our worship service beginning September 16, 2018 at 10:15am.

There are no prerequisites to be a member of either choir, just a desire to have some fun and praise God through our music. We hope that everyone who played or sang last year will return this year and encourage a friend or family member to join you.

The Christmas Cantata has been selected for this year. It will be "Christmas Presence" by Pepper Choplin. This is a beautiful work that we are sure everyone will enjoy. It will be presented on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 4:00pm in our sanctuary.

If you cannot commit to be a choir member for a whole year, try singing for just the cantata only. The first 45-60 minutes of each Thursday night rehearsal will be spend working on the cantata. Part dominant CDs will be available so that you can listen to your part at home, in the car, or any place. Come join us. If you have any questions about being a member of either choir, or if you would like to sing or play but are not sure you can make all rehearsals, talk to Pat Finnegan. Something can be worked out!

Looking forward to another year of making music to help lead our services and praise God!

Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale was a great success. Thank you to the many who worked on this huge project, especially to the chairpersons Carol Dolt, Jan Ellenberger, Carole Haugh, Sue Kusz, and Fran Oliver, who worked long hours for many weeks. Thank you, also, to the many workers who helped set up, price, sell and tear down afterwards. And finally, to all who donated goods to sell, we couldn't have had a sale without you! There will be a further update in next month's newsletter.

Summer (and fall) Joint Worship and Special Services

The final two joint worship services are coming up. The dates and times are as follows:

Sunday, Sept. 2 10:00

at Our Savior

Sunday Oct. 28 10:00

at Reformation. (Reformation Sunday)

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for all of the cards, prayers and well wishes during the past four months. It's not over yet, but having so many family members and friends concerned and wishing me well makes it a lot easier to cope.

God Bless you all,
Pat Finnegan

In Our Prayers

Home: Pat Finnegan, Lucy Young, Corinne Olinger, Rob Berger, Phyllis Neeley, Judy & Al Schaarschmidt, Rick Hagg, Char Bowlus, Jan Leonard, Sandy Matzinger, Betty Heiny, Sandy & Steve Drake, Larry & Sandy Matzinger, Judy Rife, Terry Belcik, Shirley Kennedy, Gloria DeMerritt, Mel Nottage.

Hospitals/Care Centers: Michael Morrin; Donnie Veit (Arbors at Waterville); Elsie Johnson (The Waterford at Levis Commons).

Family and Friends: Julie Hipple, niece of Roger & Ruth Stygles ; Nicole Erdman, granddaughter of John & Sue Kusz ; Chris, Paula Sanner, Gina Glover, Tom Schonter, Jack Schonter, Reed Francis, friends and family of Fran Oliver; Barb Nicely, Jerry Mitchel, Tom Bailiff, Nancy Borsani, John Bailiff, Dan Dunderman, friends and family of Linda Bailiff; Violet Liest, friend of M. Ware; Jeff Snow, nephew of Terry Belcik; Connie & Brandon Sondergeld & Katie Holtgrieve, daughter and niece of Larry & Sandy Matzinger; Clay Wilson, son-in-law of Grace Anton; Mark P., Lisa, Matt, friends of Chad Bailiff; Eli Titkemeier; Kelly, friend of Leslee Pryor; Shirley Hoyer, by Lucy Young; Frankie Edinger, Jim Ansted by Sharon Taylor-Ansted; Mateo, by Linda Bailiff; Cara, Bob & son of Jennifer Pruetter; Mike Jorris, friend of Shari Gorski; Laura Brock, niece of Chuck & Jan Ellenberger; Regina, Kim, by Karen Schaeffer; Kayla, friend of Leslee Pryor; Michael Manning, by Lois Manning; Sharon, by Joanne Kraus; Heather, by Sue Karalfa; Wendy & Neal, by Lois Manning.

In the military: Bill Myers, Ashley and Jason Weatherly, Kyle Dietrich, Kyle Mikolajczyk, Kayla Fowler, Sean Ray, Sean Ray, Logan Hillesheim.

REGULAR BUILDING USE AS OF 04/15/2018

MONDAY	12:00-1:00 7:00-9:00	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING VOLLEYBALL – LUTHER HALL
TUESDAY	12:00-1:00 5:30-7:30 8:00-9:00	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING TOPS – LOUNGE TUES NITE SERENITY GROUP – EDUCATION WING
WEDNESDAY	12:00-1:00 6:00-8:00 8:30-9:30	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING STEWART BASKETBALL – LUTHER HALL 12 STEP WEST – EDUCATION WING
THURSDAY	12:00-1:00 7:30-9:00 6:00-7:00 7:00-9:00	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL - SANCTUARY MEASLES BASKETBALL – LUTHER HALL SMOLENSKI BASKETBALL – LUTHER HALL
FRIDAY	12:00-1:00	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING
SATURDAY	12:00-1:00 4:00-4:30	OPEN-MINDED AA GROUP – EDUCATION WING SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP – FAITH CHAPEL

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday September 2	10:00	Joint Worship at Our Savior
Monday September 3	8:00-4:30	Red Cross Blood Drive – Luther Hall
Sunday, September 9	TBA	Sandpiper Cruise
Monday September 10	6:30	Church Council
Thursday September 13	7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Begins
Sunday September 16	10:15	Bell Choir Rehearsal Begins
Saturday September 22	5-6:30	Spaghetti Supper – Luther Hall
Sunday September 30	10:00	Stewardship Luncheon – Luther Hall

Acolyte/Crucifer Schedule for 9/9 – 9/30

Sept. 9	C. Hennessey
16	Sage Wilson / L. Pryor
23	Skye Wilson / G. Anton
30	C. Hennessey

Offering Tellers – 9/9 – 9/30

Sept. 9	J. Weatherly / M. Jaramillo
16	M. Jaramillo / J. Kraus
23	J. Kraus / G. Anton
30	G. Anton / R. Stygles

Ushers Schedule for 9/9 – 9/30

Sept. 9, 16, 23	*D. Baker / M. Link / I. Precht / M. Hillesheim
30	*F. Olinger / B. Brechbill / C. Bailiff / T. Belcik

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sept. 5	Ashley Moore
10	Rick Hagg
25	Nancy Sieja
26	Grace Anton

Anniversaries

Sept. 6	Dave & Grace Anton
25	Roger & Ruth Stygles

If you haven't seen your birthday or anniversary in this list, please contact Peg Hinds at pdhinds@gmail.com to let her know so you can be recognized on that special day!

