

THE REFORMATION



Reformation

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3670 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, READING, PA 19606

Reformation's Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
revclay@comcast.net

Parish Administrator: Cindy Shirey
mail@reformationlutheran.org

Minister of Music: Kathryn Fellman
reformationmusic@msn.com

Organist: Donald Hinkle

Sexton: Mike Schneeberger

Custodian: Volunteers of the Church

Secretary: Pam Schneeberger

Treasurer: Rod Kline

Church Office Hours - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
610-779-0534
mail@reformationlutheran.org

Thank-you

Thank you Reformation for letting our troop, Boy Scout Troop 319 use the church for our New Year's Eve party. We appreciate it very much! Happy New Year!
Signed The Entire Troop 319 gang.

Reformation Church Family; Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. We appreciate your love and support and the friendships that make this our "family"! God Bless you all! Pastor Steve and Bonnie and Andrew

Thank you to all the bakers and people that helped with all the Christmas events

Kathy Miller

Pastor's Letter

M. Scott Peck begins his book *The Road Less Traveled* with the words "Life is difficult." Elsewhere he notes "tough times don't last, tough people do!"

We as a nation are facing difficult times. The economy has been officially designated as a recession. Jobs are hard to find. Money is tight. Many have had to leave their homes, unable to pay their mortgages. The front page of Sunday's *Reading Eagle* (1/18) noted that congregational giving across all denominations was shrinking. Attendance has been spotty and people just don't join churches anymore the way they used to.

I usually don't reference Joyce Meyer, but she shares, "Can you imagine Jesus traveling around the country with his disciples talking about how hard everything was? Can you picture him discussing how difficult going to the cross was going to be...of how he dreaded the things ahead...or how frustrating it was to live under the conditions of their daily lives: roaming the countryside with no place to call home, no roof over their heads, no bed to sleep in at night? You and I have the mind of Christ, and we can handle things the way he did: by being mentally prepared through "victory thinking" --not "giving-up thinking."

We have a great opportunity to bear witness to that which fulfills and sustains our every breath. When times are difficult do we hide ourselves under a bushel basket? When the economy bids us shrink our resources into our own little corners, do we follow?

Reformation has given witness for 60 years that God's Word remains steadfast! What an opportunity we have to show others about Jesus and His love. How?

- by remaining steadfast in our giving.
- by reminding ourselves to bring in canned goods each Sunday to go to our food banks.
- by being regular in our worship attendance.
- by giving of ourselves in whatever way the Lord calls!

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever! I'm sure you've sung those words before.

Youth News

RENT A TEEN!

Please take a look at the bulletin board outside the sanctuary to see how you might be able to help the youth by “renting” them to help you accomplish some of your own tasks! The youth are offering such services as: babysitting, present wrapping, shoveling, pet sitting, plant watering, leaf raking and yard clean-up, car washing, and many others, including some that you can dream up!

All you have to do is call the teen of your choice to arrange the event. After the work is completed, feel free to pay them whatever you deem appropriate (paying by check to Reformation Lutheran Youth can be used for tax purposes). All of the monies earned will go into a general fund for the trip.

The “rentable teens” are: K.C. Kohler, Erin Donovan, Sarah Mulvey, Neal Donovan, Scott Galbraith and Tyler Lambert.

JUMPING JUNIORS --ROLLER SKATING AT SKATEAWAY

Sunday, Feb. 22 --1:45 p.m.--4:30 p.m.

Admission cost: \$5 Skate Rental Cost: \$3

Refreshments will be extra Meet us at church at 1: 45 and we'll caravan to Skateaway for an afternoon of skating fun. Bring a friend (or two!)

CAPTIVE FREE NORTHEAST !

**Friday, February 20th starting at 6:00 p.m. through
Saturday, February 21st following the 7:00 p.m. Concert**

HOSTED BY

Trinity Lutheran Church
527 Washington Street Reading PA 19601

Come join us for

**High Energy Worship, Lots of Music, IMAX Movie, Games & Food,
Trip to Goggle Works, Service Project for Tanzania, & Lots of Fun!**
Youth Event for Grades 7—12

**Opportunity House
February 19**

Food Preparers: Please meet at the church by 2:45 p.m.

JoAnn Smith , Bonnie Claycomb, Harriet Clauser, Shirley Harner,
Joanne Scattergood

Substitute: Sue Kern Shopping Duty: Marion Phillips

Servers: 6:30 p.m.at church or 6:45 p.m.at the shelter
Jerry Centofanti, Alison Reinsel, Mike Kern, Tony & Sara Lambert

Substitute: Jane Hinkle

Bakers: Linda Centofanti, Audrey DiGuardi, Karen Hawk, Peggy Kershner,
Cindy Shirey

Substitute: Gerry Wegman

To All Volunteers:

Please call Frances Stuebner if you can or cannot prepare, serve, or bake on the designated date. (610) 320-0296.

BLOOD DRIVE—Saturday, March 21

8:30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now and plan to come out and give blood. Participation has been lower recently, so if your schedule permits, we really need your support. If you've considered donating but have questions, feel free to stop by the sign-up table in March or call Nadine Blackburn at 610-582-9897.

On Sunday, March 1, a representative from Miller-Keystone will be speaking at morning worship services, sharing information about how the blood center works and how your blood donations are used. It should be an interesting presentation.

CHURCH OFFICE

Please consider using your gifts to volunteer time in our church office. We need help in all areas. Some examples are answering phones, filing, typing up newsletter articles, folding bulletins and putting together the newsletter for mailing, calling weekly service participants and general office duties. We also need help with our website. Thank you for considering to help in the office. Call the church office with any time that you can help. 610-779-0534



WELCA'S Bible Study – For the month of February, we will be finishing our study of the book of Daniel. The 3 'H' themes (hesed, heroic actions, and the hidden hand of God) will be discussed. Come and join us, you need not attend all the Bible studies to participate. We start at 7:00 pm and close our session at 9:00 pm with light refreshments. The Bible study is found in Lutheran Woman Today magazine, but you need not have one to come. We will gladly share ours with you. The study can also be found online at <http://lutheranwomantoday.org>.

LWR Quilt Tying – Lutheran World Relief Quilt tying is assembling quilts to be used for humanitarian needs in Africa, Latin America and Asia. We actually do not quilt, but rather tie the quilts together. If you can thread a large eyed needle, tie a knot, and cut, you can help. We usually meet on the second Tuesday morning of the month at 9:30 am and end around 11:00 am.

Reformation Women of the ELCA Tanzania Scholarship

One of the ways in which we feel we have been called to engage in ministry and action was to establish scholarships for the young women in our Partnership Parish in Utanziwa.

The first 8 scholarships were delivered by Pastor Mary this summer to our Parish. The Parish was overjoyed because for the first time young women from Utanziwa will attend Secondary School!

\$450 will send a young woman from Utanziwa Parish to Secondary School in Bulongwa. This will be an ongoing ministry of our WELCA group and Tanzania Partnership. If you wish to make a designated gift, please write WELCA Tanzania Scholarship in the memo line of your check and also on the outside of your envelope and place it in the offering plate.

We thank you for the gifts already given! You can make a gift through the end of 2008 and at any other time. Perhaps you are doing some planned giving before the end of the year or would like to give a Christmas gift to someone in their honor.

WELCA DATES

February 2-7:00 p.m. Bible Study

February 9-2:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawls

February 10-9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting

NOT TODAY, LORD

I'll serve You Lord, but not today
I must prepare for a trip, away.
I'll serve You Lord, another time
When my life enjoys a better climb.
I haven't time to serve You now
I have the garden and fields to plow.
I served You Lord, remember there?
Now let another do his share.

What would have happened if Christ said "NO"?
When His Father told Him to earth to go?
What would have happened if He had quit
No apostles trained, He had "done his bit"?
If He hadn't died on Calvary's Mount
If He had stopped, the price to count
If no teaching He had ever done
No miracles to anyone, - - -

But Christ kept on and gave His all.
Can we do less, when He gives a call?

By Catharine Reed



Yankee Doodle Dandy!

Ages 8-108 are invited to join us for an evening out to see a movie. Feel free to invite any friends, family or neighbors, which might enjoy this event. Trivia will be shared by Dennis Humbert who has had a long time passion for classic movies.

We will be meeting in the parlor at Reformation Lutheran Church. **On Friday—February 20 at 6:30 p.m.** This month's viewing will be **Yankee Doodle Dandy-** (1942). Starring James Cagney and Joan Leslie. This film won three academy awards. Classic Movie Nights will run every third Friday through the month of June. A brochure is available in the narthex and the office explaining each movie.

Prayer List for February

Please keep the following in your prayers for the coming month. If you would like to place a name on the prayer list please call the information to Cheryl Hadley at 610-779-7901 or email her at chrylhdly@yahoo.com. To place someone's name on the list please be sure you have their permission to do so. We will keep their name on the list for one month. If the name needs to remain on the list for the next month just call Cheryl with an update.

Reformation Family: Jayne Phillips, Catharine Reed, Reynold Miller, Anna Hoffman, Frances Gilbert, Jean Smith, Mildred Arner, Marion Henne, Dorothy Oswald, Dorothy Pettit, Grace Sanna, Marguerite Scholl, Pearl Gerth, Skyler Reed, Dorothy Arndt, Grace Booser, Steve Barnett.

Friends of Reformation: Ann Schaeffer, Dolores Hilbert, Ryan Weber, Paul O'Leary, Patricia Phillion, Daniel Heffner, Michael, Matthew Tobias, Ronald Roland, Rita McHale, Bob Korn, Joe & Deb Gargiulo, Kelly, Krista Stone, Jana McMillan, Bryant Domina, Brogan Searfoss, Tori Jones and family, Paul Lewis, Terry Keiser, Elvia Cataldo, Dick Ashley, John Handy, Kate Schimmel, Connor McKemey, Ronald Hawk, Liz Rothermel, and the family of Anna Reifsynder.

Please contact Cheryl Hadley if you are interested in taking over the duties of the Prayer Ministry.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR BURGER-A-MONTH!

You can still become a part of our BURGER-A-MONTH campaign. If you are willing to pass up your favorite fast food sandwich just once a month and donate the money saved to World Hunger, please pick up a pack of BURGER-A-MONTH envelopes. By beginning in the new year, you can choose to make a difference to children and families in need. If you decide to skip buying a whole meal or "super-size" your contributions, there is no limit to what can be accomplished. Thank you to all who have taken part in this program over the last several months. We look forward to your continued support in 2009 and welcome all who would like to join in helping to ease the pain of hunger in our world.

Social Ministry Committee



News About New Orleans and Youth Gathering

First of all, thank you for your ongoing prayerful and financial support of our trip to New Orleans. We are looking forward to a trip that will include some of the typical Youth Gathering events; however, this year we will also be providing a service to the New Orleans community. What's different at the center of this Gathering is a deepening of our awareness of God's call to servanthood. Services we will be providing range from:

- Cleaning Libraries,
- Reading at preschools,
- Advocating for libraries and books in communities of poverty,
- Supporting English as a Second Language program.

As you can see, this trip is a great opportunity to share our gifts and learn what we can do to show God's presence in New Orleans.

Things we have been doing to prepare include learning about New Orleans' history, culture and incredible diversity. We have scheduled team meetings each month leading up to our July trip to unify our group, become prepared to perform our literacy mission, discuss God's love and presence in all places and finally, and hopefully, prepare our hearts to work in Jesus' name.

We are still striving to raise the money needed for this trip and support the operating budget.

Please look to support the following fundraisers—

Pizza Coupons: A \$10 for a coupon that will get you a \$13 pizza. That is a 23% discount. You can even have it delivered. The Youth gain \$5 for each coupon sold.

Bon Ton Community Days Coupons: WHAT A DEAL FOR SPRING!!! We are also selling Bon Ton coupons that are redeemable on Saturday, February 28th at Bon Ton. For \$5.00 you get a \$10 coupon as well as four 20% off coupons. The next best part is the Youth get to keep the entire \$5.00!!!! If we sell over 50 coupons, then we get an even bigger bonus to put towards the budget.

So plan on gaining some great deals while helping a great cause. Look for the Youth at events and between services. The entire Youth Gathering team thanks you very much and asks you to continue to pray for the changes we hope bring to New Orleans and to ourselves. Thank You.

FAMILY PROMISE

The Family Promise program is always in need of donations. If you would consider this ministry in your monthly giving it would be very helpful, when we house them in July. Items that are always needed are single sheet sets, double bed sets, and gently used towels. We have enough comforters and blankets at the present time. Articles always needed are bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, small shampoos and deodorants. You can make monetary donations to Reformation, and it will be used to buy food supplies and diapers as needed for the families. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to help with this ministry. There is an immediate need for a coordinator of the program. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help families of our own community in their time of need.

Men's Group at Reformation

All men are invited to join us the second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. Each month we will have varied activities from short Bible studies, guest speakers, maintenance projects and community support projects.

Our next gathering is **February 14 at 8:30 am. We will be meeting at Mt. Penn Restaurant.** If you have any questions please call Steve Barnett (610-301-9900) or Rod Kline (610-621-2270).



Notice to the congregation: In order to conduct an effective public relations program, Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church shares news about activities and events that occur at the church to the local newspaper and our website. To do this, names, photos and video images could appear in the local media. Respecting the right to privacy, parents/guardians are asked to notify the church office if there are any objections to their child's name, photo, or video image appearing in any publication. Unless notified in writing the church will assume it has consent for the release of a child's name, photograph, or video image. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Opportunities in Music Ministry

All are welcome to participate in these musical groups:

SENIOR CHOIR – Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Directed by Kathryn Fellman (610-777-4894)
Starting Wed., September 3
Grade nine through adult

YOUTH CHOIR – Sundays 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Directed by Kathryn Fellman (610-777-4984)
Starting Sunday, September 7
Grades 7 through 12

JUNIOR CHOIR – Thursdays 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Directed by Kathryn Fellman (610-777-4984)
Starting Thursday, September 4
Grades 2 through 6

CHERUB CHOIR – Mondays 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Directed by Julie Seiz (610-370-1235)
New members start Monday, September 8
Returning members start Monday, September 15
Age four through grade one

“RINGERS” - HANDBELLS & HAND CHIMES -Wednesdays 6:15 -7:00 p.m.

Directed by Julie Seiz (610-370-1235)
Starting Wednesday, September 3
All ages welcome
If interested, please call Julie Seiz

BRASS ENSEMBLE

Directed by Gary Mishler (610-777-0509)
Call to participate or to learn more

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL SPECIAL MUSIC

Speak with Kathryn Fellman (610-777-4894) if you would like to offer your gifts of music or have any questions.

From My Heart to Yours

Have you ever heard the contemporary worship song that includes these words “I stand; I stand in AWE of you”? As I continue to live in “Ruthless Trust” of God’s love, provision and care for me, those words come to my mind over and over again. Some of the definitions in the dictionary for this powerful little word, “awe” are scary, to say the least. For example, “profound and reverent dread inspired by deity”. I prefer to define what I am experiencing with this choice: “veneration: solemn wonder”. That is the way I feel—standing in awe or solemn wonder of my Heavenly Father’s goodness, grace, mercy and love. I experience it in big things (like my recent move) and even more especially in the little things—especially the beauty of nature. Our Father showers us with His precious gifts of sunrises and sunsets, gently falling snowflakes, a vast array of stars in the night time sky—and on and on. You can add to the list! Come! Join me! Let’s stand in AWE of Him together—and share with others what we see!

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica



Property Committee

—The snow season is upon us. Please be patient concerning the snow removal from the sidewalks. Our volunteers will be here at the church as soon as possible.

—The property committee is looking for new members to be a part of the property committee. If interested, in helping with any of these items, call Darren Remlinger at 610-582-5786

—**Winter Weather:**

In the event that worship services need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, listen to WRFY 102.5 FM, WRAW 1340 AM or WGAL TV Channel 8 for cancellation information. Information will also be posted on the internet at www.wfmz.com.



Cleaning Duties

If anyone is interested in helping the Property Committee with some light cleaning duties around the church please contact Darren Remlinger at 610-582-5786. Only one to two hours a week would be a great help. Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped keep the church clean and organized.

When was the last time you had a *financial* checkup?

When you hear the work *checkup*, what comes to mind?

Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health—which may be equally important.

Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Kurt Kohler, at 610-779-2016 today, or visit thrivent.com.

Flower Chart The flower chart for 2009 is on the bulletin board. Please consider sponsoring a vase to the Glory of God. You may sponsor one or more vases per Sunday. Details are on the bulletin board next to the chart. Please remember to make your check to Reformation Lutheran Church for \$35.00 for each vase you sponsor.

March Newsletter Deadline — February 18, 2008

Please use the green forms for newsletter and bulletin articles. They are available in the narthex or e-mail articles to mail@reformationlutheran.org. Articles received after the due date will not be able to be included in that newsletter. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

What is your treasure? Most of us spend time with what we treasure the most. This could be family, friends, time with God, etc. What about health? Remember that God treasures you, and He wants the best for you - this includes a healthy lifestyle. Are you doing all you can to prevent a heart attack? The following are prevention guidelines from John Hopkins. Check with your doctor concerning these recommendations. Each of us is a unique individual, and the guidelines may or may not apply depending on your health.

- **Aspirin Goal:** Low-dose aspirin (75-160mg. per day) for all people at elevated risk for heart attack. Be sure to check with your doctor first.
- **Blood Pressure Goal:** Normal or optimal – less than 120/80mg Hg
- **Cholesterol Goal:** Total cholesterol <200
- **Diet and Weight Control Goal:** Consume a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, low-fat or nonfat dairy products, fish, legumes, poultry, and lean meats. Saturated fats should make up <10% of total calories. Ideal body mass index is 18.5 to 24.9. For those who drink, limit alcohol to no more than 2 drinks a day for men, 1 drink a day for women.
- **Exercise Goal:** Perform at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity (such as brisk walking) on most (and preferably all) days of the week. More vigorous activity can provide additional benefits, including weight loss. Exercise can be broken into smaller segments of time more often. Check with your doctor before starting any exercise program.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2ND ANNUAL BANQUET
Additional Special Goals: If you smoke – STOP. People with diabetes and/or metabolic syndrome should strive for the best possible control of blood glucose levels.
Wednesday, March 25th, 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton of Wyoming
COST: \$200.00 per table of 8
*We would like to find 6 individuals/3 couples to sponsor a table with us at a cost of \$25 per person. Contact Jeanne Gochnauer by Friday, February 27th if interested.
In the last few years, our Reformation congregation has contributed to this worthwhile cause in the form of money, man-hours, and prayer support.

Altar Guild

8:00 a.m.

Judy Dorner
Beth Brizek

10:45 a.m.

Pam Schneeberger
Nancy Hemberger

Greeters

February 1 Brian Mishler & Heather Hinnershitz Bonnie Claycomb & Joanne Reinhart
February 8 Michelle & Chis Karasek Blanche & Bob Link
February 15 Melissa Howell-Clarke & Carol Miller Becky Schaeffer & Tina Stanton
February 22 Darren Remlinger & Judy Dorner Joanne & Don Smith
February 25 Nadine & Alan Blackburn (Ash Wednesday)

Bulletin Helpers

February 6 Evelyn Keller
February 13 Jean Lombardi
February 20 Patti Kline
February 27 Jane Humbert

FEBRUARY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

February 1 Cathy & Scott Sarra
 February 8 Renee & John Donovan
 February 15 Cathy & Scott Sarra
 February 22 Kathy & Pat Austin

10:45 a.m.

Dolores & Richard Noble
 Nadine & Alan Blackburn
 Alison & Matt Reinsel
 Dolores & Richard Noble

Ash Wednesday

February 25 Rich Hawk & Dave Shirey

Acolytes

February 1 Ben DeAcosta
 February 8 Cory DiGuardi
 February 15 Tyler Lambert
 February 22 Tate Dewalt

Emily Moser
 Andrew Claycomb
 Eric Blackburn
 Tyler Lambert

Ash Wednesday

February 25 Tyler Lambert

CD Delivery Volunteers

February 1 Blanche Link
 February 8 Julie Seiz
 February 15 Pam Schneeberger
 February 22 Jane Farrell

CD Recording Assistants

Tim Austin
 Kevin Blackburn
 Jerry Centofanti
 Evan Reinsel

Crucifers

February 1 Mike Kern
 February 8 Emily Larson
 February 15 Scott Galbraith
 February 22 Cory DiGuardi

Adam Gochnauer
 Neil Donovan
 Kevin Blackburn
 Tyler Huber

Torch Bearers

February 22 Adam Gochnauer / Nathan Reinhart Micahel Fost/Derek Werner

Readers

February 1 Nancy Lewis
 February 8 Nancy Lewis
 February 15 Elisha Barnett
 February 22 Kathy Austin

Jayne Phillips
 Scouts (Scout Sunday)
 Jim Rhoads
 Jim Rhoads

February 1 Elisha Barnett
 February 8 Cal Booser
 February 15 Carol Kohler
 February 22 Kathy Galbraith Elisha Barnett

Nursery

February 1 Teri & Elisabeth Stoddard
 February 8 Kaja O'Leary
 February 15 Sue Kern
 February 22 Larson Family

Allison Larson
 Chrystal & Maddie Fost
 Huber Family
 Lauren Knockstead & Jason
 Koslow

