

REFORMATION TIMES

VOLUME 31 NO. 6

JUNE 2010

Summer Schedule



Summer Worship schedule starts on **June 20!**

Traditional Worship at 8:30 am

Contemporary Worship at 10:00



Summer Bible Study

Join Pastor Smoose

“A Gardener, Two Travelers and A Cheat”
Exploring the lives of Adam, Abraham, Sarah
and Jacob

Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m.

June 23 and 30; July 7 and 21

Bring a Friend or Neighbor
Bring a BIBLE

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 6 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Today our Congregation Council outgoing members will be honored and newly elected members will be installed.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am, Contemporary 11:00 am
Adult Forum – 9:45 a.m. – New Orleans Mission Trip

June 13 – Third Sunday after Pentecost – WELCOME OUR MISSIONARIES

Let's show our best hospitality to Bob and Janice Lowden our missionaries to Tanzania who will be visiting today. Learn about this work at both worship services and at Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am, Contemporary 11:00 am

A Special Picnic after the 11 a.m. worship service honors the Lowden's and celebrates the close of Sunday School.

June 20 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

Today, we honor Father's Day and we Install our Ministry members.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am, Contemporary 10:00 am

June 27 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am, Contemporary 10:00 am

PATRIOTIC CONCERT ON TUESDAY, JUNE 29 2 P.M. AND 7 P.M.

Know Your Church Council

President: Debbie Felton
Vice-Pres.: Gary Kamin
Secretary: Kathy Ewens
Treasurer: Tom Conroy
Members: Cynthia Atwood, Andy Benzing, Ron Brzowski, Carol DeLuca, Joe Mirachi, Wilson Moffett, John Prichard, Connie Richardson, Carol Steinbrecher
Youth Rep: Lizz Baldwin

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Articles for the *Reformation Times* should be emailed to Sandy Niss at ssmlniss@verizon.net by the second Friday of each month.

JULY 4

**CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY AND
OUR FREEDOM OF RELIGION**

Featuring HENRY MELCHOIR MUHLENBERG

And

Our Founding Fathers

WORSHIP AT 8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.

Hotdogs and Popcorn Cart after each service

COUNCIL RETREAT PLANNING SUMMARY

The staff, your council members and lay leaders had a busy month sharing two Saturdays and a Tuesday evening to derive a vision of the upcoming five years. Reformation has successfully implemented plans based on these types of sessions in the past. The results of past planning encompass our new building facilities, increased outreach opportunities and emphasis on small group sessions within the congregation. With that as a foundation we worked with a professional facilitator, Janet Corpus, to layout a vision statement and accompanying objectives for the next five year period.

To do so, the eighteen participants evaluated political, environmental, social and technological trends that affect our living area. We looked at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats pertaining to our current church organization. And combining the inputs of all these factors, we generated several independent vision statements. Then we picked the best elements of each to finalize the following vision:

“Enabled by technology, Reformation is a springboard for all people to engage in Christian mission and cultivate Christ-centered lives.”

Technology is a support structure to allow us to manage our financial and human resources more efficiently. The word springboard denotes rapid action for growth. “All people” points to diversity; Christian mission is our outreach and “Christ-Centered lives” outlines the spiritual aspect of our congregation.

Simple wording, but complex in implementation, the next steps were to write a series of specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely objectives. We chose several in key areas like Growth, Leadership, Finance, Technology and Spiritual Growth.

Those objectives are being refined and a basic plan will be written to communicate all the details. It is important to have carefully derived objectives because “that which gets measured, gets done.”

(continued in next column)

COUNCIL NOTES

- Reviewed the long range planning meeting results and began next steps, including a report to the congregation (see article in this newsletter.)
- Reported that Expenses are slightly ahead of Income and encouraged members to be faithful with their offerings over the summer months.
- Reported that the pumps for our septic system were damaged, possibly by vandalism as a large number of feminine products and baby wipes were flushed through the system. It will cost several thousand dollars to replace the pumps. Anyone who is aware of possible vandalism should call the church office.
- Encouraged members to attend worship on June 13 and welcome our missionaries.
- Thanked Evangelism for their “Magnetic May” worship attendance emphasis and want to promote the use of the “Join me at Reformation” car magnets that members will receive.
- Announced that All Ministry Night will be on Monday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- Reported that special gifts have been received which, along with the grant funds, will allow us to upgrade our church computer system.

(Council Retreat continued)

We can act on this vision only with your help. Once the vision is set, it demands the full participation of our members to make it happen. If you have an interest in any of the areas listed above and would be willing to share your thoughts and skills, please contact a member of Staff or Council to join us. Together let’s make the next five years the best yet.

The Planning Team

PARISH NURSE



Pat Woerheide

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you everyone for your prayers, letters of encouragement and meals. I am finally off medical leave and doing well. The experience of emergency surgery has opened my eyes to my own vulnerability. I learned how fragile life is. How do we cope with our own mortality as Christians?

- We learn by faith that Jesus is aware of our brokenness. We know that because of our relationship with Him we will be alright no matter what the outcome.
- Fellowship with others relieves fear and loneliness, whether it is with our family or friends. The help and kindness of others is essential.
- Establish a relationship with your MD, so that he/she is aware of all aspects of your health, both strengths and weaknesses.
- Teach our family, children and friends about the first three items. Pass these items down to your children.
- Follow guidelines of safety in everything you do. Especially in light of the summer season and increased outdoor living. Teach your children to adhere to these guidelines also.

Let's review a few for summer:

Use sunblock everyday. Find one that you like and put it on after you shower in the morning.

Check to see if you are taking meds that make exposure to sun worse.

Use all appropriate protective devices for your outdoor activities. ...seatbelts, helmets and joint protectors.

Follow the rules of the road, do not use cell phones while driving.

Eat healthful foods even during celebrations. Moderation is the key to healthful eating.

(Continued next column)

MEET OUR MISSIONARIES

On Sunday, June 13, Bob and Janice Lowden, the missionaries that we help to support with our Holiday offerings, will be visiting Reformation. During their time with us, they will share presentations about their work, have special time with Sunday School children and the Adult Forum, and enjoy fellowship time at our Church Picnic, which follows the 11 a.m. worship service. This is an opportunity for everyone at Reformation to extend hospitality to the Lowden's.

Janice and Bob are stationed in Arusha, Tanzania, which is also the headquarters for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. They work to strengthen the partnership between the ELCA and the ELCT and also have responsibilities in Rwanda.

Prior to their time of service as ELCA missionaries, two years ago, Bob and Janice lived in Maryland. They enjoy backpacking, singing and traveling. Come meet them on June 13.



(Parish Nurse continued)

Follow the safety rules at the beach, pool or recreational event.

Discuss safety during recreation and support each other in following the rules of safety, make it a family goal.

We are all mortal but life is a gift God has given us. Honor His gift. You are not alone Your church members and staff are always here to help. Thank God for all of these people. I do! Happy summer.

LUTHERAN CHARITIES

BIKE-ATHON 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Twenty years ago Pastor Smoose and Nancy Wiseman, a member of his congregation in Newtown, initiated the Lutheran Charities Bike-athon. Since that time, Nancy Wiseman has become an ordained pastor, and thousands of riders have participated in raising over a million dollars for Lutheran Charities.

Join Pastor Smoose and be part of REFORMATION'S BIKE TEAM for the 20th anniversary ride – AND/OR Sponsor our riders with your donation.

Did you know:

- Dick and Kris Hughey sponsored their refugee children through a Lutheran Charities agency?
- June Black is a resident at one of our Lutheran facilities (Artman Home)?
- The Koethe family has enjoyed the fun ride (2-18 miles along the Schuylkill River) with Suzanna and Katherine (ages 6 and 9) for the past three years. Yes you can ride with your kids!
- Chris West once rode the Bike-athon on a unicycle?

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Start times

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

2725 Egypt Road

Audobon, PA

Free lunch at the end of the ride, T-shirt,

Sign up in the church office or register and get more info at www.lutherancharities.org

From your Hospitality Ministry...



**CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, June 13!**

(After the 11 am Worship Service)

We are having a church picnic on Sunday, June 13 after the 11 am service. We will celebrate our visiting Missionaries and the last day of Sunday school. The Hospitality ministry will supply the hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks and dessert. What can you bring to this picnic celebration? Sign up by filling out this form and place in the offertory plate or drop it off in the church office.

Name:

Phone #:

Please circle what you would like to bring:

Potato Salad

Coleslaw

Deviled eggs



PATRIOTIC CONCERT



Tuesday, June 29
2:00 p.m. & 7:00 pm

Featuring JOE SMITH
Philly Pops' Star Clarinetist
&

The Dixieland Band

Followed by
An Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social

Free will offering benefits

Veterans' Legacy (Memorial Day and Veterans' Day Parades)

Matching funds will be given by Thrivent Financial Services

Bring some of the following FOR OUR TROOPS:

chocolate, silly string, Baby wipes, granola snacks, powdered drinks, small safe toys,
toothbrush/paste; crayons, coloring books

C H U R C H E V E N T S



O. W. L. S.
Older, Wiser, Lutherans

Our May meeting featured a presentation by photographer and biologist, Luisa Schmidt, a friend of Bill and Sue Bianco, who showed beautiful flowers from Longwood Gardens on video along with lovely musical accompaniment. Before lunch, Mary Shook gave a good-humored devotion about enjoying all life has to offer -- including dessert! This was very appropriate, since we had an abundance of delicious desserts!

The OWLS not only have enough to eat, unlike many people in the world, but we also have enough funds in our treasury to help in a small way. Tom Reeves moved and Pauline Sikorski seconded and everyone agreed to a motion that we donate \$75 to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

Please make note of this change:

The OWLS June meeting will be on Monday, June 21 at noon at Middletown Presbyterian Church which is located on Old Middletown Road (across from Indian Lane Elementary School). The OWLS will join with Middletown Presbyterian Church *Prime Timers* for a hot lunch and musical entertainment. Transportation will be available from Reformation if needed. This will be the last get-together until September!

Reformation's OWLS will operate with eight committees beginning in September. Ernie Bogert will set up tables and chairs. Phyllis Frieberg will serve as treasurer. Betty Ann Jaus will be in charge of table preparation and decorating. Rachel Irvine will arrange for food and beverages, with the help of Arlene Moyer. Tom Gibson will plan programs. Mary Shook will take care of devotions. Pauline Sikorski will be in charge of cleanup. Edna Bogert will handle publicity. Sue Bianco has agreed to preside at monthly meetings. Many thanks to all of our volunteers!

BAOBAB BLAST VBS God's Great Get Together July 11- July 15

At this year's Vacation Bible School, kids will share the Good News of God's love through Games, Songs, Stories, Snacks, Activities, and more in an exciting African environment -- all under the Baobab Blast's over arching theme of community. Kids will have fun, learn a lot, and go out into the world to share what they have learned with others.

Pre-registration will begin on Sunday, May 23rd. Please sign up early to reserve your child's spot. The fee is \$15 for one child, \$24 for two children (from the same family) or \$10/child for three or more children (same family).

(Financial assistance is available upon request.) Make checks payable to Reformation Lutheran Church with VBS on the memo line.



THIRD ANNUAL



Come out for a night of:
Praise Bands—Swimming—Fellowship
Food available for purchase!
Free admittance to the pool!

**Sunday June 6, 2010,
5:00 PM -8:45 PM**

**Aldan Swim Club
304 N. Elm Ave,
Aldan, PA 19018**

Sponsored by DelCo Conference of
Lutheran Churches



FROM THE LIBRARY

Reformation Church's library is not only the place where one can find hundreds of books on just about any topic, for any age reader. The library also subscribes to a number of periodicals. One of these is *The Christian Century*. This is a bi-weekly publication which began well over a hundred years ago. It contains articles of current interest, such as one on Haiti's long-term needs, as well as articles of historic interest to Christians, like one by Penn State Professor Philip Jenkins. Jenkins writes about how the politics of the early centuries of Christianity led to the shaping of the creeds. Both articles are in the March 23rd edition. There are also book, film, and art reviews, commentary and editorials in each issue. There is an on-line edition, too, which can be accessed at www.christiancentury.org.

Many thanks for donations to Erika Brooks, Jeanette Brown, and Linda Koethe!

Check out the new library bulletin board for ideas for summer reading!

BOOK REVIEW by Edna Bogert

The Yale University School of Medicine

Heart Book

On Library Sunday, I was rushing to change from choir participant to helping with coffee when I almost knocked myself out—literally—standing up under a low bookcase. Our excellent nurses, Pat Woerheide and Joyce McNally were on the scene in short order, taking my pulse and blood pressure and putting an ice-pack on my head. Joyce McNally made a quick trip to Reformation's library and came back with this book, [The Yale University School of Medicine Heart Book](#). She located "The Relaxation Response," on p. 102, and advised me to practice it! This isn't a

(Continued next column)

COME "RUN THE LANE"!

**5K Run/ 1-Mile Fun Run
Saturday, June 5 at 9 am**

Indian Lane Elementary School PTG is hosting a 5K Run/ 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, June 5. 5K starts at 9 am, 1-Mile Fun Run at 10:15 am and children activities after the races. The run will take place around the streets of Indian Lane Elementary school. Free t-shirts for first 200 registrants.

Proceeds will benefit Norm Kelly Smiles Scholarship and enhance technology at Indian Lane.

More information and registration can be found at www.runthelane.com or contact Sandy Niss (sandyniss@verizon.net).



(Book review continued)

book you would read cover to cover like a novel. It is a reference book and the most comprehensive one I've seen. . It can be used as a resource to learn anything you could wish to know regarding the workings of the heart. There are chapters on how to keep your heart healthy, and the treatments for diseases of the heart. Do you want to know risk factors, diet recommendations, the value of exercise, the latest procedures—anything at all about having the healthiest heart that it is possible to have, this book has it! And it can be found in Reformation's Church Library!

Y O U T H A L L - S T A R S

The following students received awards for attendance at Sunday School and worship services. The month they received the award is in ().

25 Stars - Certificate

Robert Schaub (February)
Kylie Jane Polito (February)
Melanie Walls (March)
Madeline Walls (March)

50 Stars - Certificate

Jillian Emery Hacik (February)
Chad Bumstead (February)
Sarah Michelle Bingeman (March)
Tyler Reed Bingeman (March)
Alexandra Benzing (April)
Julianna Cotter (April)
Mason McKeague (April)
Matthew McKeague (April)

75 Stars - Certificate

Luke Phillips (March)
Kaylee Troutman (April)
Madison Benzing (April)
Ava Hess (April)

100 Stars - Certificate & \$10 Gift Card

Rachel Bingeman (April)

125 Stars - Certificate

Jordan Sharer (April)

150 Stars - Certificate

Kelsey Schaub (April)

200 Stars - Certificate & \$15 Gift Card

Megan Gress (March)
Mairi West (March)
Joelle Emery Hacik (April)
Mitchell Davis (April)

225 Stars - Certificate

Alexis Bingeman (February)
Matthew Gress (April)
Jessica Davis (April)

275 Stars - Certificate

Madelyn Niss (April)

300 Stars - Certificate, \$20 Gift Card & End of Year Trophy

John Walters, III (March)

325 Stars - Certificate

Michael Burns (February)

350 Stars - Certificate

Katharine-Thi Koethe (April)





THE ASSOCIATE EXAMINES... *The Paradox of Strength in Weakness*

When some basic need is lacking—time, energy, money—consider yourself blessed. Your very lack is an opportunity to latch onto Me in unashamed dependence. When you begin a day with inadequate resources, you must concentrate your efforts on the present moment. This is where you are meant to live—in the present; it is the place where I always await you. Awareness of your inadequacy is a rich blessing, training you to rely wholeheartedly on Me.

The truth is that self-sufficiency is a myth perpetuated by pride and temporary success. Health and wealth can disappear instantly, as can life itself. Rejoice in your insufficiency, knowing that *My power is made perfect in weakness*. [2 Cor. 12:9]

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young (2008)

Like all good paradoxes, the assertion that there is strength in weakness is a seemingly self-contradictory statement. The world understands strength to be the logical means for securing prestige, power, and affluence. This is certainly evident in the prevalence of self-help books on the market today that offer to eliminate all kinds of weaknesses in order to help us secure “the good life.” The Apostle Paul understood the opposite to be true. He came to recognize that his strength was most obvious when he was weak and had to rely on God. Only when Paul relied on God to accomplish what he could not do on his own, that God’s power was “made perfect in weakness.”

When things are going well, we tend to rely on our own strength. Pride in our successes can delude us into thinking that we are somehow more worthy than others who struggle and appear weak. We may also believe we don’t have to bother about God and what he wants in a given situation. When things are not going well we either have to manage on our own or rely on God to help us. As we trust in him, we too discover the power “made perfect in weakness.” By depending on God, we find ourselves in the middle of his will for our lives, surrounded by his Peace regardless of circumstances.

Relying on God’s strength rather than our natural ability is not a reason to be lazy or otherwise detached from our problems. We are called to be actively involved with God in his world, doing our very best. But we are freed from the burden of having to figure it all out on our own. When troubles come, as they surely will, Jesus promises we will not go through them alone. We can be confident that everything that threatens our individual lives and the life of our Christian community is under God’s authority and protection. Thankfully, the trials and tribulations that currently trouble our lives will never frustrate the coming of his kingdom for it is already “here but not yet.” Through God’s power we can trust that it will fully arrive right on schedule. So let us rejoice and give thanks for those insufficiencies we are given that connect us to God and his all-sufficient grace.

~Pastor Anita



One of the most moving and humbling experiences in my travels to Tanzania was the way in which people from Pangani responded to my visit there. It was not unusual for members of the congregation to walk 5 km, 10 km, even 30 or 40 km. to be at worship because of my visit. Normally these folk would worship in their own sub-parishes. But when a special visitor was present, they made every effort to honor that visit by attending worship.

Being the recipient of such an outpouring of hospitality has made me more sensitive to the importance of showing hospitality. It is a grace that has lost some of its importance in our country. Maybe we have forgotten what the writer of Hebrews said, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it." (13:2) That writer understood the way in which God blesses us when we are gracious and welcoming of those who come among us.

It is because of the hospitality I have received and because of the promise God gives to those who show hospitality I wanted to encourage members to practice hospitality and make every effort to be at church on June 13 when we welcome Bob and Janice Lowden, our missionaries. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know them personally and we are blessed that they will be at Reformation on a Sunday morning – they only get home every two years, and then they only have about 8-10 Sunday's to visit congregations that support them and have family time. We are truly blessed that they will be with us.

~ *Pastor Smoose*

Called by Christ, we INVITE all people, SERVE our neighbors, BUILD a living Faith

REFORMATION TIMES

Volume 31, No.6

JUNE 2010

Sunday, June 13

CHURCH PICNIC

Honor Our Missionaries And
Celebrate The Last Day Of Sunday School
After the 11 am worship service

Sunday, June 20

Father's Day

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am, Contemporary **10:00 am**

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Tuesday, June 29

PATRIOTIC CONCERT at 2 P.M. AND 7 P.M.

Sunday, July 4

**Celebrate Independence Day And
Our Freedom Of Religion**

