

# REFORMATION TIMES

VOLUME 31 NO. 3

MARCH 2010

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

### **March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent**

We continue our Lenten journey, walking with Jesus toward the cross, the fulfillment of his ministry and his final victory.

8:30 a.m. Traditional worship with Holy Communion  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary worship with Holy Communion

### **March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent (Remember Daylight Savings)**

We continue our Lenten journey, walking with Jesus toward the cross, the fulfillment of his ministry and his final victory.

8:30 a.m. Traditional worship with Holy Communion  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary worship

### **March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Lenten Cantata by the Chancel Choir led by Duncan Stearns will be presented at the 8:30 a.m. service. Be sure to join us for this musical proclamation of the Gospel.

### **March 28 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

Both worship services use the liturgy to express the dual theme of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of Palm branches and the recognition that this is the beginning of Holy Week and the Passion of Jesus. At the 11:00 a.m. worship service those children and youth who have completed their instruction will receive their First Communion.

8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship with Palm branches and communion  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School and Adult Forum  
11:00 a.m.—Contemporary worship with Palm branches and communion.

## **EASTER DAY SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

### **The Resurrection of our Lord**

This is the Queen of Christian Festivals and begins the 50 great days of Easter. Reformation will celebrate with THREE services of Holy Communion that include festive music, a beautifully decorated chancel and inspiring preaching.

**8:00 a.m. Festive Service of Holy Communion**

**9:30 a.m. Festive Service of Holy Communion**

**11:00 a.m. Festive Service of Holy Communion**

NOTE: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY



**EASTER  
FLOWERS**

Lilies, daffodils and tulips will be available for Easter. Order forms will be in the bulletins beginning February 28th. Deadline for ordering will be March 21st.

Also, we want to thank everyone for the juice cartons. However, we do have an excess. A notice will be put out when we are in need of more. Again, thank you

Any questions, please contact Mildred Royer 610-459-2426.

## COUNCIL NOTES

- Approved Holiday Offering Funds to match the congregational special offering for Haiti relief for a total of \$2500.
- Expressed appreciation for the West Point Chapel Choir concert and noted that the offerings, sponsorships and Holiday offering funds paid for the bus expenses and provide \$1000 for HCI.
- Received an update on the sewer hook-up. Al Martinson and Dick Thompson have met with a contractor to determine the best way to provide the conversion from septic to public sewer and will provide a quotation for the work.
- Noted that the Spring Mission trip to New Orleans will be March 27-April 3 and encouraged members to attend the Youth Auction.
- Thanked Andy Benzing and his faithful crew of snow shovelers for all their work.
- Encouraged members to attend Pastor Anita's ordination on February 28.
- Set the long range planning sessions for April 10 and May 1
- Discussed the need for computer upgrades and how to provide some funding.



Wilkinson, Bob & Lee, Jeanne  
Primary phone: 610-306-6901  
Bob's cell: 610-517-5839  
Kelly Wilkinson's cell: 484-832-3357



Sundays at 9:45 AM

Choir Room

The Adult Forum is open to all adults. Topics vary from Bible study to current issues that impact faith and life.

**March 7** – Lenten Bible Study on Peter. Come out and learn about this first disciple and the New Testament book he left to the church.

**March 14** Lenten Bible Study week 2

**March 21** Lenten Bible Study week 3

**March 28** Lenten Bible Study week 4



**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 14, 2010**  
**1:30 PM TO 7:00 PM**

**To be held at**  
**Reformation Church**

### 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 Mirarchi, 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](mailto:ssmlniss@verizon.net) by the second Friday of each month.

PARISH NURSE



**Pat Woerheide**

What is hospice Care? Recently we have had several congregation members' receiving Hospice care. There have been many questions about Hospice. Hospice is derived from the latin word *Hospes*, which refers to guests and the manner their hosts care for them. The first hospices are believed to have opened in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when crusaders operated places dedicated to caring for terminally ill.

Hospice care in the United States began in the 1980's with the opening of a few hospital based palliative programs. Since then it has become a huge optional program for anyone who has a terminal illness, where traditional curative measures are no longer helpful or wanted. As of 2008 almost a million people in the U.S. used hospice as a means to quality life at the final stage of life.

Hospice has become popular as a care option because modern medicine has always had disease and its cure as its focal point. Today modern hospice services focus on relieving symptoms of a terminal illness, which can be physical, emotional, spiritual or social. Hospice puts quality of life with comfort and dignity for individuals and families as their focal point. Medicare/Medicaid funding of hospice care has made it available to anyone. There is no time limit on hospice care and people can leave and reenter care if their disease goes into remission or if the individual wishes to resume aggressive curative measures.

What special services are provided? Pain relief, symptom management, 24 hour access to a hospice RN and palliative care physicians, personal care, household chores and even help with financial matters are just a few. Alternative therapy is offered including massage and music therapy along with psychological and spiritual care. Medical supplies and equipment are included. Companionship and friendly visiting from volunteers is frequently provided.

*(Continued next column)*

**REFORMATION ALL STARS**

The following students received awards for attendance at Sunday School and worship services:

**25 Stars - Certificate**

Mason McKeague Matthew McKeague

**75 Stars - Certificate**

Matthew Sharer Egan Hess

**100 Stars - Certificate & \$10 Gift Card**

Tyler Troutman Maia Simmons

**150 Stars - Certificate**

Brett Conley



**175 Stars - Certificate**

Richie Cotter

**250 Stars - Certificate**

Layla Phillips

**275 Stars - Certificate**

Matthew Walter

**325 Stars - Certificate**

Katharine-Thi Koethe

*(Parish Nurse continued)*

Hospice can be provided in a hospital, in a nursing home, in a specialized hospice home or in a private home. It can be provided through for profit or non-profit corporations. This care can provide a Peaceful journey as the end of life nears for anyone with a terminal illness.

If you know a family utilizing hospice services, anything helpful you can provide is still appropriate, because community and expressions of love help anyone in this stressful time. Many times just knowing others understand and care make this journey easier. If you want more information on Hospice or a referral contact me at 484-444-0424, Pat Woerheide RN, FCN, Parish Nurse.



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

In spite of snowy roads, buried cars, and shivery weather, there were over two dozen members and friends who came to hear Penncrest's *Ambassadors* at their February meeting. Everyone enjoyed hearing this talented group perform a variety of songs and dances, under the direction of Sherre Gaertner. After the performance in the sanctuary, they joined the audience in the Narthex for Valentine cookies, cupcakes, and conversation!

For the March meeting, Ken Delmar will bring his jazz group, the **Media Dixies**, who will entertain us following lunch in Creighton Hall. Watch for additional information in Reformation Lite!

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR BEAR CREEK CAMP**

Bear Creek Camp is our Lutheran camping program with outstanding programs. Many of our children and young people have attended Bear Creek and been enthusiastic about their experience. Recognizing the difficult economic times, Bear Creek Camp is providing \$100 scholarships for the following programs:

- First time camper – any child who has not been to Bear Creek before.
- Sibling Scholarship – Additional children in the same family

Note that these rates DO NOT apply to Adventure programs, Adirondack Expedition, Disciples, River Runners or Float Trips. The coupon (available at the church office) can be included with your camper registration form OR if registering online, mention the church coupon in your email and mail the coupon to camp as soon as possible. Forms and additional information are available at [www.bearcreekcamp.org](http://www.bearcreekcamp.org)

**WHAT IS “MISSION SUPPORT”  
IN OUR BUDGET?**

Reformation contributes 10% of its Current Fund income to “Mission Support.” This is for the work of our Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is the way our congregation models the kind of good stewardship that we encourage from members. Mission support from the 10,500 congregations of the ELCA provides 80% of the resources to fund the mission and ministry we do in partnership.

Funds from our congregation go to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod to provide ministries that support the congregations and rostered leaders within the synod. The synod sends 55% of the mission support it receives to the ELCA which supports synodical, national and international ministries of the church. So how is that money used? Here is some of what we help provide through the national church:

- Helps 204 congregations that are under development
- Began 49 new congregations in 2008
- Supports 240 missionaries in 46 countries
- Supports ministry projects in 90 countries
- Provides staff coordination and leadership support for 8 seminaries and 28 Lutheran colleges and universities; and 187 campus ministries
- Helps develop curriculum for Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools and Adult Education programs and Worship resources for congregations.
- Provide grants, services, programs and resources for congregational ministry.
- Coordinates the Candidacy process for new rostered leaders
- And more . . .

# REFORMATION'S SPRING FLINGS!

## THE SPRING FLING SQUARE DANCE

Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 6PM

We will celebrate the first day of **Spring** with a fun filled evening of **Square Dancing, Potluck Dinner** and **Board Games**. Fun and Fellowship for all ages.

What should you bring?

A **potluck dinner**, your **favorite games**, and your **dancing feet**.

We will have a professional Square Dance caller who will put the spring in your step.

**Please sign up on the form below and place it in the offering plate or the church office.**



## SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

9AM To Noon

Rain Date: April 3rd

**We would like to look our best for Palm and Easter Sunday!**



Please join the Property Ministry to help them **clean up inside and outside**. We will be clearing the lawn and yard of debris, refreshing the mulch in the gardens which will already be pruned. Inside we will spruce up the narthex, sanctuary and the office.

If you would like to help please bring **shovels, wheelbarrows, pitchfork, rags and furniture polish**.

**Attention Youth: this is a great way to earn service points!!!!!!**

Please complete form and place in offering plate or church office.

### SPRING FLING SQUARE DANCE... Friday, March 19 at 6 pm.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How many are coming: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPRING CLEAN UP DATE... Saturday, March 27 9 am to Noon

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## ECO- MINISTRY NEWS

### PRINTER CARTRIDGES

The Eco Committee will resume recycling printer cartridges. Someone has been found that will pick up the cartridges and pay us for them. You can drop them off at the bottom of the stairs where they were previously collected. Thank you to Bill and Sue Bianco for finding this for us.

### DISNEYNATURE FILM: *OCEANS*

The coral reefs are endangered and we can aid in the effort to restore them to health. Disneynature film *OCEANS* opens in movie theaters on Earth Day 2010. In honor of each moviegoer who sees the movie during opening week (April 22-28), Disneynature will make a contribution to the Nature Conservancy to help protect coral reefs. Funds raised will support the expansion and management of new marine parks.

The Regal Theater in Edgemont Square is one theater that will show the film. Look for other theaters which will show the film and with friends and family make plans to attend.

What a fun way to make difference.



## FROM THE LIBRARY

Anyone who has met Eurla Frederick in the six years she has been a member of Reformation knows what an enthusiastic, creative person she is. Besides writing for the devotional booklet about her experiences as a puppeteer, she has demonstrated her expertise with puppets for the OWLs and for Sunday School students. She also makes her own jewelry and is creative in many other ways as well.

This creativity seems to run in Eurla's family! Eurla has just donated to the Reformation Church Library a newly published book, written by her cousin, Laura Wagner. Laura had wanted to explain her own faith to her young son, Ethan, so she wrote a children's book titled, *I Can Find God*. Ethan's paternal grandmother illustrated the book, using Ethan as the main character. Laura said about writing the book, "I wanted children to know that they are special, and that God can be found anywhere they look—inside and all around, now and always."

Look for this beautiful new soft cover book in your church library!

## SYNOD GOES GREEN

Hard copies of Synodical mailings are being discontinued as of March 1. All information for ministries and congregational leaders will be posted online at the synod website: [www.ministrylink.org](http://www.ministrylink.org)

Ministry members, council members and other congregational volunteers who want to receive Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod news and monthly emails of event information can sign up as follows:

Visit [www.ministrylink.org/subscribe](http://www.ministrylink.org/subscribe)

Enter your email address in the box under "sign up"

Click the "sign up" button

Fill in the profile information – and include Reformation as your congregation.

In "areas of interest" check SEPANews and Monthly resources along with any other interests.

# REJOICING SPIRITS

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## Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service -- Seeks Members to Serve

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 4 pm, Reformation offers a worship service for any member or guest who would like to attend. The service is specifically designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some in our congregation are people with physical disabilities with wheel chairs or walkers. Those who attend are called Rejoicers. It is a service of great joy, lots of singing, a brief homily, participative Prayer of the Church, and celebration of monthly birthdays.

The logistics of preparing for this service require some volunteers:

1. Two more people to move chairs to make room for wheelchairs; these volunteers may also help Rejoicers with wheelchairs enter into the nave,
2. Two more people to help set up a refreshment table for after the service; (refreshments are provided).
3. Two more people to greet, make name tags and get information on new people attending.

These volunteers do not need to serve every month. If we have six people volunteer for each position, two people need serve only once in three months. You will be expected to attend the service when you volunteer.

Other rejoicing news: Our Christmas gifts of a resin bust with the Holy Family and the three wise men were very colorful and popular. The Rejoicers and caregivers were equally excited with the gift. I ordered 75 and not one is left. For "Love Sunday" (Valentine's Day) each Rejoicer received several red necklaces. Our birthday celebrations involve each birthday Rejoicer receiving a rubber bracelet in the color of the month.

We are so grateful to the caregivers; without them, no one would have a way to get to the service. We include them in the gifting.

The following are our service dates in 2010. Please check your calendars and see if you are available to volunteer!

March 14, April 11, May 09, June 1, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10 November 14, and December 12

To volunteer, please contact Pastor Carol at 610-627-9296 or [pastorcarol@comcast.net](mailto:pastorcarol@comcast.net)

Come join us... Peter, Toini and Pastor Carol will be waiting to welcome you!



# NEWS FROM LIBERTY AT HOME

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Dear Reformation Congregation,

Members of our Reformation family are familiar with spending time in ministry to others. Whether you are serving others in the community through our **Community Action** program, caring for God's creation and educating others on by participating in our **Eco-Ministry**, or a part of our **Rejoicing Spirits Ministry** that enriches the lives of people with developmental disabilities, your faith in action shows that our Reformation family cares about people and relationships in many ways.

Last year, our members Cynthia Atwood, Ron Brzowski, Gary Kamin and Sally Helms volunteered for "**The Gathering**," a day respite program for older adults experiencing the early signs of memory loss. The program was designed to benefit both the older adult participant as well as the caregiver, who was able to take a temporary break from their daily responsibilities. The program, as a partnership ministry with Reformation, was funded by Thrivent Financial and has been administered by Liberty at Home, an affiliate of Liberty Lutheran Services.

I, along with the church council and our members who were trained and consequently became volunteers for this program, believed that "**The Gathering**" would be a welcomed service to several families in our congregation and surrounding community. Unfortunately, this did not happen, as only two clients were served over the past year. Through many personal outreach visits and conversations, the Liberty at Home staff learned that most caregivers need daily services with longer hours. Therefore, after much careful consideration, the Liberty at Home staff and I have decided to discontinue "**The Gathering**" at Reformation church.

We also talked about the Liberty at Home office here at Reformation. I have learned from the Liberty at Home staff that during the past year they readjusted their need for office space throughout the five county area. As their experience and service has grown, they have limited use for the office at Reformation. The majority of the office work is done with one central scheduler who is based at Artman Lutheran Home in Ambler. In addition, where Liberty Lutheran Services has a physical presence, such as with Paul's Run in Northeast Philadelphia or Artman Lutheran Home in Montgomery County, individuals are more likely to use the home care service connected with one of these affiliates. Liberty at Home will continue to serve our community and I hope we can find a way in the future to provide a physical presence for one of our Lutheran affiliates; however, at this time, the use of an office at Reformation is not necessary. Therefore, beginning March 1 this space will again be available for our use.

On behalf of Liberty at Home staff, I want to thank our members who have volunteered their time and talent in the partnership ministry. We have both appreciated your willingness to serve in this new program.

Pastor Smoose

## **THANK YOU FROM LIBERTY AT HOME**

*Since the opening of the Liberty at Home office in November 2008 and throughout 2009, the members of Reformation have welcomed us to a wonderful partnership in ministry. As volunteers for "**The Gathering**," Reformation members Cynthia Atwood, Ron Brzowski, Gary Kamin and Sally Helms shared their time and talent with us by bringing service to the families that utilized our day respite program. Over the past few months as the number of our participants dwindled, these dedicated volunteers remained optimistic and continued to think about new ways to recruit new participants. As it became more apparent that this program format was not answering a need in the local community, they helped us make the decision to discontinue "**The Gathering**" at Reformation.*

*We can't begin to thank these dedicated volunteers, Pastor Smoose and all of the members of Reformation for your gracious hospitality, support and commitment to our partnership. We hope that Liberty at Home will have the opportunity to serve you for all of your home care needs should a need arise for you or your family.*

*With deep appreciation,*

*Dana O'Donnell, RN, Director*

*Kim Biletz, LPN, Assistant Director*

## REFORMATION NURSERY SCHOOL

Reformation Nursery School is accepting registrations for the 2010-11 school year. There are 2, 3, and 5 day classes 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Optional Extended lunch days are also offered. We have been here for 52 years and offer many activities with a very caring group of teachers.

You are welcome to visit us on Wednesdays or Thursdays 9 am to 10:30 am or call to set up a visit. Contact Pat Doemling at 610-891-0600 Ext. 100.



## SPECIAL MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MARCH

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Springfield will be the site of their annual Lenten Men's Breakfast on March 20 at 7:30 a.m. Rich Westcott will be the speaker. Rich has authored 21 books including *Back Again – The Story of the 2008 Phillies* and is the leading authority on the Philadelphia Phillies. Sign up at church or email [eric@lucii.org](mailto:eric@lucii.org)



## LEPROSY STILL EXISTS

The American Leprosy Mission works to overcome this disease that continues to plague people in many countries. If you are interested in being on an inter-denominational committee to plan for the Spring luncheon in April, please contact Pastor Smoose or call Wilma Plumer at 610-874-4835

## FREE ADOPTION INFORMATION MEETING

Lutheran Children and Family Service of Eastern Pennsylvania will host a free informational meeting to prospective adoptive parents and the public entitled "The ABCs of Adoption" on Tuesday, March 9th, 2010. The meeting will focus on adoption through the countries of Latvia and Russia. Adoption coordinators will be on hand to answer specific questions.

The meeting will be held at Living Word Lutheran Church, 1250 Easton Road, Roslyn, PA, from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

For more information and to reserve your space, please contact Kelli Myers-Gottmoller at 215-881-6800, extension 221, or via email at [kellim@lcfsinpa.org](mailto:kellim@lcfsinpa.org).

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 Edmonds Ave., Drexel Hill

Saturday, March 20

4:30 - 7 PM

(take out orders accepted)

All you can eat!

Tickets -\$7 for adults;

\$3 ages 12 and under

(Benefits Upper Darby HS after prom party)





We are an inviting, welcoming congregation; we are a serving, mission-minded congregation; and we are a caring congregation. This month I want to lift up a great part of our Lutheran heritage that needs some attention – We are people of the Book – the Bible.

One of the foundational teachings of Martin Luther was the power and authority of God's Word as revealed in scripture. It was through his devoted study of scripture that Luther experienced his breakthrough revelation in our salvation by God's grace alone through Christ Jesus. It was because of his conviction that Holy Scripture needed to be accessible to everyone – not just clergy and scholars – that he translated the entire Bible into the language of the people, in his case German. Scripture, the 66 books of the Bible (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament) is where we see the long story of Salvation history and learn about God's faithfulness to his people. Scripture is where we see God's astonishing decision to come among us in the person of Jesus as a blessing for the world. These testimonies of faith and revelations from God provide the basics of our faith.

Sadly, while the Bible remains the most purchased book of all time, it no longer is read very much in many of our homes. While people often express their desire to know more about the Bible and feel embarrassed that they do not know very much about it, Bible study opportunities continue to attract a small number of people. We are giving up a precious part of our heritage and neglecting one of God's greatest gifts.

This is not a concern limited to Reformation, it is true throughout the Lutheran Church and many main line denominations. It is the reason why the ELCA initiated the Book of Faith emphasis. The Book of Faith studies we did this fall were part of that series and are among the best introductory materials that I have used in my years of ministry. I'm not sure how best to encourage everyone to get back to reading the Bible, but I will make a couple of suggestions:

If you have an old translation, buy one that is more contemporary and easier to read. *The Message* has been popular and is a good way to read the Bible in a form that is more interesting. The NIV is also reader friendly.

Don't let your lack of familiarity with the Bible keep you from participating in one of our Bible studies or small group experiences. We are newcomer friendly and like any new pursuit, the first step is the hardest.

Talk to me about some of the Book of Faith materials. While attending a class is one of the best ways to learn about the Bible, the pupil books for these courses are very readable and can be studied on your own.

Rather than denying yourself something during Lent, why not add on a faith-growing exercise like reading one chapter a day from the Bible – Luke's Gospel has 24 chapters – one a day and it can be completed before Easter.

Let's reclaim our heritage and become people of the Book – the Book of Faith.

~ Pastor Smoose

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

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**March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Lenten Cantata by the Chancel Choir will be presented at both the 8:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. worship services.

**March 28 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

Worship with Palm Branches at both the 8:30 am Traditional and 11:00 am Contemporary Services.



**April 4- EASTER SUNDAY**

The Resurrection of our Lord  
Festive Service of Holy Communion at  
8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am