



# Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”

**February, 2019**

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“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. And [Jesus] began to say to them, ‘Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’” Luke 4:18-19, 21

Like many, I have always found myself to be a competitive person. and as a pastor, I confess that I feel this way often when it relates to the ministry of the church. There are congregations with a larger attendance, a higher percentage of people engaged in ministry, and a many things that I feel I could be doing better. In today’s gospel reading we see Jesus reading a passage of Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. He identifies this not only as his purpose, but that it is a purpose that he has, “fulfilled in your hearing.” What is interesting is that Jesus’ message was not well received. It starts well enough, “And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.” (v.22) Yet quickly the marveling turned to wrath. People became angry to the point of wanting to throw him off a cliff. Ministry is not about what the world terms successful. Jesus and many others would be considered failures by those standards. As much as I try, I don’t control the outcome of those who hear or refuse to hear the gospel. As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were all given a mission. The mission given to Jesus’ followers is to go, make disciples, baptize, and to teach what he had commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20) There is similar “commissioning” in the gospels of Mark, Luke, John, and the Acts of the Apostles. In sharing the good news of Jesus, let us remember that we do not do this alone and certainly not by our own power or strength. Rather, let us give thanks for the power and work of the Holy Spirit, given to us in Holy Baptism, that through us, the Spirit’s work is accomplished. Not everyone will “hear” or heed His Word. That is not up to us. What we can do is faithfully follow His commission. Remember that how we live out our lives in all that we do is a response to His calling.

Prayer: Gracious Father, you have equipped us through the power of the Holy Spirit and use us to fulfill the mission you have given your church. May those who hear the good news come to believe in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pr.

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January often seems chaotic to me. You would think that after the revelry and rushing around over Thanksgiving and then Christmas, January would be a welcome calm. I have found that’s not always the case. School children aren’t always excited to be back in school. Teachers either! Folks have to get back to a regular work and home routine. We deal with unpredictable weather. Colds and flu seem to be everywhere. If we made resolutions, our resolve often weakens before the month ends. We set other goals for the year and wonder if/how/when we may ever reach them. One thing remains constant for me though - attending church. Hearing God’s word, receiving Him in the sacrament of Holy Communion, hearing out loud that my sins are forgiven, singing and praising Him, being around our wonderful church family – all those things are a welcome constant during whatever is going on in the world. So many people in the world need that feeling of peace – likely people we work with, live with, or live near. Let’s all do what we can to share God’s peace with them. Pray for/with them, invite them to a Sunday service or a fellowship activity, and let’s see how the Spirit may choose to work in us and them!

Blessings to all,  
Gabi

**Treasurer's Report:** If you put cash in the offering plate, please put it in an envelope with your name on it so you can get credit for your contribution. Thanks!

Yours in Christ  
Matthew DeWinter

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**Fellowship:** Fellowship will hold a game night on Saturday, February 16, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:00. There's no special knowledge required -- just a desire to have a night of fun! Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Hope to see everybody then!

Judy

**Property:** It's good to be back on the property committee again. I want to say a big thank you to Wayne for a job well done these past two years. There's nothing new to report as yet. Our clean up day for February will be Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Junior

**Worship and Music:** Worship and Music is working on a new service for Reformation. Plans are still being worked on, but we are looking into having a chapel service much like we do at RiverPlace and Thrive that will be open to everyone on Wednesday around noon. The idea is to reach out particularly to people who are retired who have difficulty driving at night. The over 65 group is the fastest growing population in the US, so this type of service will give them an opportunity to attend church when the normal times prove difficult. A church in Virginia did this and found it was very well received. You will see/hear more about this as plans are finalized.

**Parish Education:** Bible Study will start back this Tuesday at 7:00. Come join us!

**Mission and Ministry:** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Galatians 6:9 is my mantra right now. While January wasn't a good month for our outreach endeavors, we are not giving up! I have to admit I dropped the ball on getting the Superbowl party on the sign for the local people to see.

Jay & I did get out and meet a few of our neighbors and invite them to Bible study. Everyone was really nice but turnout was not good.

Please pray for us, pray for the lost, and pray that we find them.  
Tea` Jordan

**LCMC Year End Report** - At the end of November we sent out a request for funds. We were running about 9% (which comes to about \$90,000) behind our budgeted goals, and you responded! Thank you for your faithful and generous support. Because of what was given, we have now fully funded our budget! Again, thank you!

**LCMC relies solely on the offerings of its member congregations and what is given allows this association to continue support the DNA of our body: Free In Christ, Accountable to one another, Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, all in order to fulfill the Great Commission in our generation!**



## February Birthdays

17<sup>th</sup> – Seth Armstrong  
19<sup>th</sup> – Amy Jones  
26<sup>th</sup> – Karen Washington



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**Sunday – February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Executive Council**

**Tuesday – February 5<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Sunday – February 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual General meeting - council**

**Tuesday – February 12<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Saturday – February 16<sup>th</sup> – Game Night! 6:30 -8:00**

**Tuesday – February 19<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Saturday – February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Clean up day beginning at 9:00**

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	<u>Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>Feb. 10<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Feb. 17<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Feb. 24<sup>th</sup></u>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carolyn	Wayne	Judy	Junior
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Wayne	Chuck	Gabi	Amy
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Mel	Amy	Junior	Matthew
<b>Usher</b>	Junior	Mel	Judy	Carolyn
<b>Lector</b>	Matthew	Lynne	Amy	Mel
<b>Children’s Sermon</b>	Gabi	Kathy	Wayne	Gabi
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Chuck
<b>Riverplace</b>	Wayne	Pastor	Gabi	Chuck
<b>Thrive</b>	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck

This from Rev. DeGreen in Alabama:

Tues, 01/29/19, "Day of Praise"

"I rebuked the officials and asked them, 'Why is the house of God neglected?' - Nehemiah 13:11

When God calls us to worship Him in the Ten Commandments, the book of Leviticus, and the Psalms, it's because God has ordained that blessings would flow to us from Him when we do.

And, therefore it makes sense, that when we neglect to worship, as today's verse calls us to consider, then we miss out on the blessings that God would give.

Furthermore, neglect of worship, as Joyce Meyer talks about in her book, "Knowing God Intimately," isn't just not going to worship. Neglect of worship is also having your body in a sanctuary while your mind is miles away, thinking about mowing the lawn or anything else that is not God and his wonderful grace.

The reason this is such a big deal is because God has chosen to work through the spoken Gospel of his sacrificial love, along with the Gospel ministries of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to tell us again and again what we regularly tend to forget, namely that God and His grace are the power by which we have the life for which we always yearn.

And when we forget that God and His grace are our power, we start, what is called, striving. Striving is simply living out of your own limited strength instead of living out of the strength of the Holy Spirit and the power of Jesus Christ.

And striving makes us tired. Weary. Bone tired. Weary-existence tired. So that we become irritable. And snappy. And very unpleasant to be around.

And even if you say that you're not irritable and weary when you don't worship God, then I'd still ask you if you're joyful.

Once when I wrote a devotion, "The joy of the Lord is my strength," I was flooded with replies and requests for prayers, asking for more of that strength. We are all honored to pray for each other to be sure. Honored beyond measure.

But please remember this, the "joy of the Lord" that is your strength is that God loves to be with you. It is God's joy to be with you. And God has ordained that the worship of God is the place where we are guaranteed to be reminded of that truth that "It is God's joy to be with you."

So, hearing that truth again in worship, AND BELIEVING THAT IT'S TRUE, we leave worship strengthened to face the world and all that comes with it.

The two verses go hand in hand. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10), and today's verse "Why is the house of God neglected?" (Nehemiah 13:11).

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