



# Reformation Lutheran Church

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

June, 2019

\*\*\*\*\* After {Lydia} was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us. (Acts 16:15)

As disciples of Christ, sometimes we simply need to insist on something for the sake of the furthering of the Gospel message. This is especially true if time is of the essence. We don't want to let an opportunity to serve others or hear His Word get away. The Holy Spirit works within us to guide us toward certain ministries, events, or subjects that need to be taught. Listening to the Spirit and obeying the nudging we feel coming from the Spirit are things we aren't always very good at. We don't want to seem too pushy or aggressive. We don't want to prevail on people for fear we might offend them in some way.

A group of women were gathered in Philippi by the riverside. When Paul and his companions met them, they were invited to pray with some people there. They were introduced to a woman named Lydia who was a seller of purple cloth. That detail about her tells us that she was a person of means. She was a merchant and she dealt in the most expensive color of dye: purple. Only kings and noblemen could afford to have clothing or textiles of this color.

Lydia listened intently to Paul's words and she was intrigued by his message about Jesus. St. Luke tells us that she was baptized, as was her entire household. So moved to be a part of the mission of Christ, Lydia invited Paul and his friends to stay at her home while they were in town. It seems that she would not take “no” for an answer. Acts 16:15 states it plainly: “She prevailed upon us.”

Lydia knew, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that Paul and his companions needed a place to stay, a home base of sorts in Philippi. There was work to be done there, and they were in need of lodging, food, and a place to gather for the sake of the Gospel. Lydia offered her home to them. We don't know if they politely refused at first, but we do hear that she “prevailed” upon them. She insisted! It was her great desire to care for them and to show them hospitality as they worked for Christ. No doubt she wanted to be a part of the ministry as well. It was her faith that caused her to insist the evangelists stay with her and her family, and 2,000 years later we get to hear her story!

Is that also our story, your story? Do we encourage those here to attend our chapel services, do we invite our friends or families to perhaps a nice breakfast with us and then to our service here? Could we? Should we? It's about gently prevailing on others to hear the Good News, the eternal life giving news of our redemption. The news that we know others need to hear. The news that we are sometimes afraid to share. Don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit is with you, strengthening you, your faith, and helping you in your own Lydia story. He helps you prevail! And in so many ways. He helps in your story, in your witness, in your struggles.

I encourage you to pray, praise and thank God for the Holy Spirit's work in you and in those around you. I encourage you to ask through prayer for His Word to be heard by those who do not yet know Him as their Lord and Savior. Amen.

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*“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16*

I know I speak for all when I say that we are earnestly praying that our church grows. Paul said the church should be joined together, supportive of each other, love each other, and each part

(person) do what is tasked to them. That was true in Paul's time, and just as true now for us at RLC. Working together in love and faith, and with God's guidance, we can grow His kingdom!

Peace be with you, Gabi

**Treasurer's Report:** Thanks to everyone for being faithful with your tithing! We've come out a little ahead each month so far. Thanks also to those who are participating in the "+10" for the first Sunday of each month. It's making a difference in our building fund!

Yours in Christ, Matthew DeWinter

**Fellowship:** We hope to schedule a game night and an ice cream social soon. Still need ideas!! Summer is coming and that usually means VBS. It's not currently scheduled, but should we have it, fellowship will be helping with the food.

**Property:** The air conditioner in the sanctuary has been fixed. (Thank goodness!) Work day for June will be Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship and Music:** Have you ever attended a church service that didn't have a refreshment period, i.e. coffee before or after? Many pastors can't imagine writing a sermon without a cup of coffee on the desk beside them...never daring to subject anyone to the product of non-caffeinated sermon prep.

There seems to be a tie between coffee and church. Some refer to coffee as the third sacrament of the church. There actually is a tie almost from earliest times.

A ninth-century Ethiopian goat herder names Kaldi, was on the slopes one day with his goats. He took a short nap, and when he awoke he saw what every shepherd dreads...his goats were gone. He immediately went looking for them and found them in a clearing. He was shocked to see them walking around and almost dancing.

He looked closer and saw they have been eating a bright red berry. If they were good for the goats, they had to be good for him, so he took a handful to the local monastery to share what he found with the monk. The monk decided to try them and for some strange reason boiled them. He drank theboiled water and found that it kept him awake at night. That was great since it kept him alert for the nightly devotions.

We don't have to worry about staying awake during Pastor Jon's sermons, but it is very interesting to see coffee's early connection to prayer. The first response to the effects of coffee was thanksgiving for diligence in prayer and a very close and profound connection between coffee and faith emerged.

**Mission and Ministry:** I've been reading "Evangelism Is ..." by Dave Earley and David Wheeler. What I've learned so far is that evangelism is sharing Jesus without fear. Evangelism is asking questions and then listening to the answers. Evangelism is leading lost people to the Word of God and then letting the Holy Spirit use that to reach them. Evangelism is being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and having faith in His work. Remember...be bold, be confident, and share Jesus!

"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak your Word." Acts 4:29

Blessings, Tea` Jordan

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## JuneBirthdays

7<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Jones    8<sup>th</sup> – Carolyn Ramming    21<sup>st</sup> – Lynne Rowe    23<sup>rd</sup> – Judy Grigsby

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**Sunday – June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Executive council**

**Tuesday – June 4<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Sunday – June 9<sup>th</sup> – council**

**Tuesday – June 11<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Sunday – June 16<sup>th</sup> – Father’s Day**

**Thursday – June 20<sup>th</sup> – AARP Driver’s Class- 9:00-4:00**

**Tuesday – June 25<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 7:00**

**Saturday – June 29<sup>th</sup> – Clean up day beginning at 9:00**

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	<u>June 2</u>	<u>June 9<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>June 16<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>June 23</u>	<u>June 30</u>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Judy	Junior	Linda	Wayne	Carolyn
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Gabi	Chuck	Tea`	Amy	Wayne
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Matthew	Amy	Matthew	Chuck	Matthew
<b>Usher</b>	Mel	Judy	Junior	Judy	Carolyn
<b>Lector</b>	Mel	Lynne	Matthew	Chuck	Junior
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor
<b>Riverplace</b>	Pastor	Gabi	Tea`	Wayne	Pastor
<b>Thrive</b>	Tea`	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Tea`

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*"And since all this loveliness can not be Heaven,  
I know in my heart it is June."*

– Abba Woolson



