



Reformation Lutheran Church

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

August, 2019

I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. - Ecclesiastes 12:14

It seems like nothing ever changes. Even as many things change around us, human nature and propensity toward sin and selfishness never fail to cause us to struggle. Sometimes I think of the retired folks in our church, how much change they have seen in their lives. (And that includes this ole boy!) For many of us, we’ve seen the invention of useful tools that in the end have only contributed to more sin and sorrow. We’ve rejoiced over black and white televisions, color TVs, now Smart TVs! But each of those for all their good have contributed to human sin. TV programs have “gone to the dogs” as they say, as we look on voyeuristically as families fight, neighbors gossip and betray, sex is acted out in vivid detail, language is about as vulgar as it can get and the media has pushed upon us more and more ways to go against God’s will for humanity. And, it’s all been normalized, it’s become “everyday”. “There’s nothing new under the sun,” as the Preacher once wrote. He was right then, and he’s still right now. We might not like it very much, but it’s true.

If we wanted to change things (and I would hope we would all like to), how do we do it? Can we change things?

An important truth is that we can only change ourselves. We cannot control anyone else, but we can control our own actions: what we watch, what we engage in, how we speak, who we support, how we love others. Paul said it best in his letter to Colossae, “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Col. 3:1-2) All might be vanity in the world, but we who follow Christ have something very precious and dear: One who will guide us into all wisdom, goodness, and mercy. We need not focus on the sin and degradation of the world. It’s shocking, to be sure, but Christ’s ways are our ways. We learn to live according to his example, trusting in his grace when we fail. We may not be able to change the world, but others will see Jesus in us, in what we do and say, and the Holy Spirit will work in those folks, granting many the faith to follow Christ in their own lives. All in the world may be vanity, but all in Christ is not, for we “have died, and our lives are hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3)

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Luke 12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

“*Little flock*” — an excellent expression to describe the thousands of dedicated small churches throughout the United States (and the world). Jesus loved his own “*little flock*” of disciples, and God the Father was pleased to bless them. To our little church, (like the 200,000+ smaller churches in North America) God gives a smaller distribution and also a smaller accountability. The church of 30 may not be called by God to accomplish dozens of ministries, as the megachurch often is. But the same smaller church can equally please God by doing well those fewer things God calls it to do. Remain trustworthy in what he gives you. Preach the Word. Strive to change souls. Care diligently for the many or the few that God gives us.

RLC has truly been blessed over the years. Let’s keep sharing those blessings as often and as best we can with our family members, friends, coworkers, and our community as a whole!

Peace be with you, Gabi

Treasurer's Report: Please remember to put a note in the memo line of your check if you have funds directed for a specific purpose. It's a bit of a hassle to go back after the fact and make changes. Thanks! Thank you also to everyone who is making up their tithes for Sundays they are absent It's a big help in keeping our account balance looking good! Speaking of looking good, are you noticing how our building fund is slowly growing? The "Plus \$10" that many of you are doing the first Sunday of each month, is really making a noticeable difference.

Yours in Christ,
Matthew DeWinter

Fellowship: We had a fun game night in July!! Lots of laughing and a surprise card shark! I won't say who, but her initials are K. E. We're planning another game night in August. Going to play a game we haven't tried yet but I guarantee it requires no special knowledge! The date is TBA.

Property: All is good! We polished and waxed the floor this month. Looks nice! Work day for August will be the very last day of the month, Saturday the 31st.

Worship and Music: This past Sunday we began several new things. This is our first month of trying a new bulletin. We will try it for a month and then use just the green book for a month. After that we will discuss and focus on one thing. This is being done to conserve paper and ink. We also used no worship assistant. Pastor Jon will be doing the entire service. That does require a change in how we do communion. Pastor Jon will pass out the wafer and the small communion cups. The communion assistant will pass out the common cup. We tried a couple of different ways of doing this on Sunday. We would like to use the following going forward.

- Pastor Jon will pass out the wafer. The communion assistant will wait to begin passing the common cup until Pastor Jon has finished. Once Pastor Jon picks up the small cups, the communion assistant and Pastor Jon will begin passing out the wine.
This will be a bit different at first, but it will become the norm after a couple of weeks.

Education: There will not be a summer VBS program this year. Unfortunately, it's been difficult to plan a time when we can get all the young folks together.

Mission and Ministry: The committee is looking forward to Fall and some outreach opportunities. We know we'd like to continue with Operation Christmas Child and gift bags to our friends at the assisted living centers. We're considering an exercise class, a bakery, and tossed around several other ideas. Your thoughts are welcome!



August Birthdays

7th – Bobbie Golden

8th – Gabi Owen

18th – Matthew DeWinter

31st – Kathy DeWinter

AUGUST

Sunday – August 4th – Executive council

Monday – August 5th – Outreach Meeting – 6:00 Burger King

Sunday – August 11th - Council

Saturday – August 31st – Clean up day beginning at 9:00

** Looking ahead! Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7th, at 3:30. Mel and Ingrid would like us to come share fun and fellowship with a cookout at their place! Directions and details will be posted. Address: 178 Owens Rd. - Ft. Mitchell, AL.

	<u>August 4</u>	<u>August 11</u>	<u>August 18</u>	<u>August 25</u>
Altar Guild	Wayne	Carolyn	Judy	Junior
Comm. Asst.	Matthew	Junior	Chuck	Gabi
Usher	Mel	Junior	Judy	Carolyn
Lector	Mel	Matthew	Junior	Chuck
Sermon	Pastor	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor
RP/Thrive	Pastor	Gabi	Wayne	Gabi
Oaks	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor

*"Fairest of the months!
queen
the year
that gleam with sunny sheen
doth appear."
- R. Combe Miller*



*Ripe summer's
The hey-day of
With robes
Sweet August*

