



# Reformation Lutheran Church

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

February, 2020

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“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.” - Micah 6:3.

Perhaps these words sound familiar, as if you’ve heard them from another place? There is an ancient part of the Good Friday liturgy called the Solemn Reproaches that are modeled after this verse. Psalm 78 also contributes to the form and tenor of the Solemn Reproaches as it lists the many wondrous deeds God has done for his people throughout history.

The Solemn Reproaches are said at the end of Good Friday worship. After the tomb door has been slammed shut in the tenebrae service, the words of God Almighty are spoken in a voice that is broken and disbelieving. The first one goes like this: O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Years ago, as a new pastor putting together my very first Good Friday worship service bulletin, I sat at my desk and wept as I typed these words into the computer. “How have I offended you?” and “You prepared a cross for your Savior,” rang in my ears and broke my heart. Since then it has been the single-most important piece of liturgy I have spoken in worship. Its poignancy moves me to tears each time. The response of the congregation, also being moved to tears, is so powerful. We don’t deserve such love as has been showered upon the human race since the creation. We have no answer for God as to why we have done the awful things we have done, and why we have stood by as others have done evil as well. We can only sink to our knees in anguish and pray for forgiveness.

We aren’t to Good Friday yet, but when we get there remember the promise: You have been forgiven. Not because you deserve it, but because Jesus loved us enough to go to the cross for our sake. God answered his own question when he sent his Son to save us from sin and death. Amen.

Pr.

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*For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. 2 Corinthians 9:12*

We here at RLC absolutely have so much to praise God and be thankful for! He HAS supplied all our needs and sustained us for the last ten years. His blessings have overflowed to allow us to minister to the community in so many ways. As we move along in this new year, I’m excited to see what opportunities and possibilities await. Let’s make the most of the next ten years!

Peace be with you.

Gabi

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**Treasurer’s Report:** We are in good shape financially as we head into 2020! Let’s keep it that way! Many thanks to Matthew for helping me figure things out!

Blessings,  
Judy

**Fellowship:** Plan to join us for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception following service on February 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign up sheet for those who wish to bring light finger foods.

Ash Wednesday is February 26<sup>th</sup>. The men will be preparing a pancake supper starting at 6:00. Service at 7:00

**Property:** Our next cleaning day will be on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Education:** We will begin meeting on Tuesdays this month for our new Bible study. We'll be studying the Old Testament using the same format we used for the New Testament. Very interesting stuff! Come join us!

**Worship and Music:** We have a very big day in the life of Reformation coming up on February 16. It will be our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The ELCA split in 2009, and a group from St Matthew split away in 2010 when the St Matthew's congregation voted to remain with the ELCA. After a couple of meetings to discuss a path forward, Reformation Lutheran Church held its first service in February of 2010. It's been an interesting 10 years, so on February 16 we will celebrate those 10 years. Following the service we will hold a fellowship/birthday celebration complete with a slide show outlining our history.



I think you will be amazed at all the things we have done over those 10 years. We sometimes say Reformation is the little church with the big heart. You will see that in the slide presentation. There are a good many churches around us...many with far larger congregations and corresponding financial resources. We are certainly one of the smaller congregations, but I truly don't believe there is any church in the surrounding area that has done more. There is a lot to be proud of!

So, on February 16 we will celebrate. That will be a great time to invite others to attend and celebrate with us. It is also a great opportunity to invite back those who have been part of our congregation. They were part of the building Reformation, and should be part of the celebration. It may even get them thinking about the history they have been part of, the friends they no longer see on Sunday morning and encourage them to return.

So get up on Sunday, February 16. Put on a big smile, stand a little taller and come to church for the celebration...

WORSHIP - GROW - and watch us IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

**Mission and Ministry:** New year and new opportunities to serve and share God's word! Several ideas are being discussed so keep an ear out for more information.

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

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"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl.

And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

- Barbara Winkler



to sprout, a



**Sunday – February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Executive Council**

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

**Sunday – February 9<sup>th</sup> – Council**

**Tuesday – February 11<sup>th</sup> – Bible study – 7:00**

**Sunday – February 16<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and reception following service**

**Tuesday – February 18<sup>th</sup> – Bible study – 7:00**

**Tuesday – February 25<sup>th</sup> – Bible study- 7:00**

**Wednesday – February 26<sup>th</sup> – Pancake supper – 6:00 Ash Wednesday service – 7:00**

**Saturday – February 29<sup>th</sup> - Clean up day beginning around 9:00**

Altar						River Place/ Thrive	
Sunday	Guild	Comm. Asst.	Usher	Lector	Sermon	Oaks	
2-Feb	WAYNE	MATTHEW	JUNIOR	LYNNE	PASTOR	GABI	PASTOR

<b>9-Feb</b>	CAROLYN	JUNIOR	JUDY	MATTHEW	PASTOR	PASTOR	CHUCK
<b>16-Feb</b>	JUDY	CHUCK	CAROLYN	MEL	PASTOR	WAYNE	PASTOR
<b>23 - Feb</b>	LINDA	GABI	JUDY	JUNIOR	WAYNE	GABI	CHUCK