



# Reformation Lutheran Church

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

June, 2020

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When Jesus spoke these words, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water,’” he was promising his followers that when he was raised from the dead and after he ascended into heaven, they would be given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was absolutely vital to the formation of the new church and it filled the hearts and minds of the apostles on whom its flames touched. The very power of God would empower, sustain, and lead the apostles as they set out into unknown territory.

The fire of Pentecost was not something new and different in all ways. In this moment it had a specific and powerful purpose, but God had previously revealed his holy presence in fire, always with rich meaning. In the Old Testament, God led his people by a pillar of cloud and fire. At Sinai, this pillar fell upon the mountain in the form of a fiery cloud. It later fell upon Solomon’s temple to mark it as God’s dwelling place. Finally, the fire recalled the prophetic ministry of Elijah.

At Pentecost the same fire fell upon the people, showing that God was leading his people forth, writing his law upon their hearts, and dwelling within them as his new temple. If we focus upon the temple, we see the connection to Jesus’ words above. In Ezekiel’s vision, he saw life giving waters flowing out from the temple. And in Revelation 22, the waters of life flow out from the New Jerusalem for the healing of the nations. This is the purpose of Pentecost and the promise of the Spirit fulfilled. By grace God’s Spirit dwells within us as his temple and writes his law upon our hearts. By grace he is leading us forth as his prophets, priests, and kings. By grace the Spirit is making rivers of living water flow out from our hearts to the world. It is ultimately for the healing of the nations and the restoration of creation in God’s good time.

Prayer: By the power of your Spirit, Lord, make us instruments of your healing power in the world. Amen.

Pr.

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Wasn’t it great to be together again in person for church! I missed being together very much. We do need to be mindful of those who are not quite ready to return and worship with us. Please continue to stay in touch with them. Thank you to Pastor and Chuck for making sure the sermon/bulletin gets out each week via email. In person, we’ll continue to be careful, sanitize, and social distance. I pray that we’ll move forward with renewed appreciation and love for each other, our congregation as a whole, and with a renewed sense of purpose to spread HIS word in our community!

Peace be with you,

Gabi

**Treasurer’s Report:** Many thanks to the folks who are keeping up with their tithes. We’re doing okay, especially with the latest donations from outside the church. If those who are able can make up the tithes they’ve missed, we’ll be doing even better!

The money that was in our cd has been moved into our savings account pending discussion on where best to invest it.

Blessings to all,

Judy

**Fellowship:** Nothing is planned for the moment, but we'll get back in the swing of things soon!

**Property:** Clean up day for June will be Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll be getting in touch with the building owner to see when he wants to proceed with the new carpet.

**Education** – Our in person Bible study will resume after summer.

**Worship and Music:** May 31 was a very special day. After the struggles of the Coronavirus we were finally able to get back to Reformation for a face to face...social distancing of course...service. It was great to see everyone again. Just for information, the church has been fully cleaned, floors, chairs and door handles sanitized, chairs moved farther apart, communion was by intinction and only one person or one family at a time went up for communion. I think we followed all the rules and were very safe. Hope to see all of you soon.

For anyone who is not able to attend, we will continue to send out the service folder and Pastor Jon's audio sermon each Sunday. We will also continue to send out the daily devotions, and on Mondays the devotions will also contain our weekly review of the Small Catechism. We are nearly finished with the Ten Commandments, and once we finish the next section will be the Creed. We all learned, and probably memorized all of this, but it is always good to review...after all it is the foundation of our Lutheran faith.

Here's a bit of Lutheran history - Did you ever hear who the first Lutheran Pastor in the new world was? His name was Pastor Jensen. Obviously, not our Pastor Jensen, but perhaps a distant...very distant...relative.

His name was Pastor Rasmus Jensen, and he was a Dane. He left Denmark in 1619 thinking he was on the way to India. The Danish King sent out two expeditions to India...one going the usual route and the other tried to find the way via the legendary Northwest Passage. It was believed you could travel between Greenland and Canada, across the Arctic and into the Pacific. Pastor Rasmus was the "ship pastor" on the voyage. He would have also been the pastor of the Danish colony once the ship arrived in India. His salary, incidentally, was \$100.00 per year.

The ship entered Hudson Bay in August, but since the Northwest Passage didn't really exist, they could not find the way out. Winter set in, and they became stranded, and planned to wait until spring to continue. While stranded, Pastor Rasmus celebrated all of the normal religious celebrations to include the first Christmas by a Lutheran Pastor in the new world. The ship's log states, "The Holy Christmas Day we all celebrated and observed solemnly, as a Christian's duty is. We had a sermon and chanting, and after the sermon we gave the pastor an offering, according to the ancient custom." Since they didn't have money to give, they gave him white fox skins.

After Christmas Pastor Rasmus became weak from poor food and illness, much like the rest of the crew. By January 23 he was quite weak and was confined to his bunk. In mid-February he sat up in his bunk and preached a sermon to the remaining men. It was his last sermon, and he died on February 20, 1620. Only the ship's captain and two other men survived the winter and made it back to Denmark.

The great lesson...on his way to India, he found himself stranded in terrible conditions in an extremely harsh winter, but he ministered faithfully as long as he was able. A lesson for all of us as we work to build Reformation Lutheran Church. "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

**Mission and Ministry:** We don't have anything planned yet, but we're always keeping watch for ways to reach out in the community. There are sure to be opportunities as things settle down from the virus issues.

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

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**Sunday – June 7<sup>th</sup> – executive council**

**Sunday – June 14<sup>th</sup> – council  
 Father's Day**

**Saturday – June 27<sup>th</sup> – clean up day beginning at 9:00**

	<u>June 7</u>	<u>June 14</u>	<u>June 21</u>	<u>June 28</u>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Wayne	Carolyn	Junior	Judy
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	none needed as we are currently using intinction during communion			
<b>Usher</b>	Carolyn	Wayne	Junior	Carolyn
<b>Lector</b>	Junior	Gabi	Chuck	Lynne
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor	Pastor