



# Reformation Lutheran Church

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

May, 2020

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“When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” - John 10:4

There is great power in a voice. A voice that shouts can bring numerous conversations to a pause. A shout can startle an unsuspecting individual. A soothing voice may bring calm to the screaming child. Voices are familiar and that familiarity gets our attention. For example, in public I often hear someone shout, “Dad.” I don’t look every time because I know that I am not the one being called. However, when I recognize the word “dad” coming from my son, I know that I am the one whose attention he is seeking.

A voice can also trigger in our minds whether the person speaking is a person we trust. That is one of the issues present in today’s gospel reading. Jesus’ voice is one that the sheep know and trust. Sheep trust the Shepherd with their very lives, expecting the Shepherd to protect them, feed and care for them. Sheep will follow the Shepherd to green pastures and beside still waters (Psalm 23:2). Not all who come to the sheep have their well-being in mind. There are those who willingly or unwillingly lead the sheep to slaughter. We see this today among those false teachers who reject Scriptural teaching and follow the values of the world. Indeed, false teachers play into the susceptibility of those with itching ears who “will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...” (2 Timothy 4:3).

Of course, Jesus is no ordinary shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus loves the sheep so much that he lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11). Jesus, by his very identity provides for the sheep’s every need. In addition to being the Good Shepherd we know Jesus in these ways: • I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. – John 6:35 • I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. – John 8:12 • I am the resurrection and the life. - John 11:17 Follow the voice of the Lord, for he is faithful and has given us all that is needed for abundant life now and in the world to come. Amen.

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Even with times as nutty as they are right now, business still goes on. Our lease was set to expire but has now been signed and renewed for three years. Life still goes on as well. When we meet again, we won’t be picking up exactly where we left off. Many things will have occurred while we were apart – a family has a new home, illness among our RLC family, job changes. Some big events, some small. But remember, the church is not just a place. It’s who we are – even away from the physical building. We are a family – the RLC family, and our family reunion will be a joyous one! Looking forward to it!

Peace be with you,

Gabi

**Treasurer's Report:** Many thanks to folks for keeping up with their tithes! At the moment, we're holding steady. Our cd is now due and changes can be made. We have several options for places to reinvest the money with a higher interest rate. For the time being, we'll move the money into our savings account while investment options are being explored.

God bless all of you!

**Fellowship:** Eventually, down the road, when it's safe to do so - - - POTLUCK!!!!!!



**Property:** Workday in May will be the Saturday of the week we reopen.

**Education** – Our Bible study on the Lord's Prayer will resume when we can meet again after things settle down.

**Worship and Music:** We are still relatively confined with the coronavirus battle, but it appears we are past the peak and on the decline. That is great news, and it will hopefully continue as we work on getting back to normal. We may have a new normal, but that will be something to deal with as we move forward.

Probably our biggest issue will be starting to hold Sunday services. We will probably target May 17 or May 24 as the Sunday to begin holding services. Whichever Sunday we choose, we will still have to use social distancing in the sanctuary and continue to have individuals or families go up for communion. Both are small issues. More will come out on this as plans come into focus and we see how opening things up across the state impacts the number of coronavirus cases.

Hopefully, you all are enjoying Pastor Jon's service each Sunday. Also, hopefully you are enjoying the addition of the consecration of the communion elements and the ability to partake in communion while at home. That has been a special addition to our at-home service.

I also hope you are enjoying the daily devotions. It only takes a short time to read them, but it allows us to continue to reach out and touch all members of the congregation.

STAY SAFE...STAY HEALTHY...STAY FAITHFUL

**Mission and Ministry:** Lots to look forward to when we can all get together. In the meantime, keep in touch with your church family and check in with others who likely would enjoy some "company" either through Facebook, email, or a good old fashioned phone call!



3<sup>rd</sup> – Sondra Coulter  
15<sup>th</sup> – Mel Hanson  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Linda Adams  
24<sup>th</sup> – Samuel DeWinter  
30<sup>th</sup> – Ariana Jones

# May

We're looking to start meeting in person again on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll see how things are going and will make sure word gets out once a decision is made. It's understandable that some may not yet feel ready to get out. That is perfectly okay. The sermon and worship bulletin will continue to be provided as is currently being done. When we do gather again, we will continue to observe social distancing until further notice.

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**Sunday – May 10<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day!**



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May

- 1<sup>st</sup> – May Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Star Wars Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Cinco de Mayo/National Teacher Appreciation Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> – National Nurses Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – National Day of Prayer
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Police Office Memorial Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Armed Forces Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> – National Hamburger Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Save Your Hearing Day

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**"Sweet May hath come to love us,  
Flowers, trees, their blossoms don;  
And through the blue heavens above us  
The very clouds move on."**

- Heinrich Heine, *Book of Songs*

