



Reformation Lutheran Church

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

January 2022

From you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. - Matthew 2:6

From the very first prophecies about Jesus it was said that he would be a shepherd king, not a cruel, oppressive, power-hungry tyrant like Herod. Throughout the Scriptures, God is described as a shepherd (among other things of course), one who leads his people, protects them from danger, and guides them into green pastures. This newborn King Jesus, would lead his people away from the harshest and most permanent danger there is: death.

Perhaps it's because we live in a death-defying, death-denying culture that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday seem to be the two days of the year we remember our mortality. For those who do not believe in Christ and his saving power, that number is probably less than two. But as we know, death comes like a thief in the night. Our loved one is fine one day and gone from our lives the next with no or almost no warning. We need a shepherding God in times like those! We need a ruler in our lives who will rescue us from the finality of death. If we don't have a Lord like that, then where is our hope? Without a shepherding king who is our master, we become nihilists - bitter, and living a meaningless life that will end someday with complete and utter darkness. Thank you Lord that we have you! Thank you Lord that this life is not all there is! Thank you for taking on our human flesh and living among for our sake (John 1).

May we never forget that death is the last enemy. There is nothing worse in all of life than the finality of death. But what is more important is to remember who has our life in the palm of his hands. Jesus, our shepherd king who came to save us from the power of sin and death, has given us new life. He has given us light in the darkness of this world and he gives us hope for a future in his holy presence. Our Lord Jesus is immediately and directly involved in our lives and he has promised to never forsake us. He will gently lead us through the valley of the shadow of death, to the clear waters of the baptismal river, and our cup will overflow with his love and mercy (Psalm 23).

Thank you Shepherd King Jesus, for loving us and giving us life. Amen.

Pr.

“Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders You have done, and the plans You have for us—none can compare to You—if I would proclaim and declare of them, they are more than could be numbered.”

Psalm 40:5

What was 2021 like for you? On a personal level, I think we all find it to have been a mix of good and not so good. Our faith in God does not mean a free pass on life's hard times. It DOES mean however, that we can always rely on the ONE who does indeed grant us grace, love, and mercy every single day. As we face a brand new ahead, I wish for His hand of joy, health, and peace to cover you throughout 2022. Remember, “Our hope is not in the new year...but in the One who makes all things new.” Anon.

Happy New Year! Peace be with you,

Gabi

Treasurer's Report: Thank you to those who are keeping up with their tithes. Blessings, Judy

Fellowship: Nothing is planned for the moment. Wouldn't it be great if we could do something at least quarterly? Ideas please!

Property: Hopefully our leaking roof issue is fixed. They repaired the bathroom ceiling but still have to come back and paint it. Our January clean-up day will be Saturday, the 29th, 9:00 a.m.

Education: On Thursday, January 6th we will begin a study with Rev. Brad Hales from Virginia on "Reviving the Local Church". Every Thursday we will meet on Zoom for two hours beginning at 6PM for six weeks. Contact office@rlcoc.org to sign up!

Worship and Music: Beginning this month we will have a new daily video feature on our website. These videos are provided by Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman from a sister church in North Carolina. Dr. Ryman will be taking us through scripture as outlined by Luther. If you miss one, you will be able to find a link on RLC's Resource page. Our daily devotion continues. Pr.

The January-March, Portals of Prayer have arrived and are located on the table at the back of the church. Please feel free to take one. It contains a day-by-day devotion and makes a great way to begin each day...take one for a friend as well.

Mission and Ministry: With a brand-new year come brand new opportunities! Let's see if we can make 2022 a year of even greater impact in the community! All ideas are welcome.



January 4th – Erik Benway
January 9th – Junior Erickson
December 18th – Charles Patterson

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday – January 9th – Executive Council

Sunday – January 16th – Council

Saturday – January 29th – Clean-up Day beginning around 9:00 a.m.

	<u>Jan. 2</u>	<u>Jan. 9</u>	<u>Jan. 16</u>	<u>Jan. 23</u>	<u>Jan. 30</u>
Altar Guild	Junior	Judy	Junior	Judy	Junior
Usher	Judy	Junior	Judy	Junior	Judy
Lector	Gabi	Tammy	Karen	Lynne	Gabi
Sermon	Pastor	Rev. Julie Smith	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
Thrive	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor	Gabi	Pastor
Oaks			Chuck		Chuck