



# Reformation Lutheran Church

**“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”  
June 2023**

*“And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” -Acts 2:2-4*

Pentecost provides an opportunity to consider the relation of the Old and New Testaments. Although some believe that these Testaments are opposed to each other as night and day, their true relation is that of dawn to high noon. After all, they both manifest the same divine light but do so in different degrees. As St. Augustine once said, “The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.”

We see this relationship in the way that the fire of Pentecost fulfills many Old Testament images of fire. In the Old Testament, God led his people as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. At Sinai, this pillar fell upon the mountain in the form of a fiery cloud. Years later it fell upon Solomon’s temple to mark it as God’s special dwelling place. Moreover, the fiery cloud also recalls the prophetic ministry of Elijah, the great prophet of fire. Finally, at Pentecost, this cloud divided into tongues of fire and fell upon the worshippers’ heads.

Since these are all instances of the same phenomenon, we can use the Old and New Testament examples to shed light upon one another. Looking back from Pentecost, we see that the pillar of cloud and fire was an Old Testament manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Looking forward from the Old Testament, we see that Pentecost was the new Sinai, that Pentecost was the foundation of a new Temple made with living stones, and that Pentecost marked the inauguration of the church’s prophetic ministry.

But this is not just interesting in its own right. It also shows us how the two testaments relate to one another. Consider the example of Pentecost as the new Sinai. On Mt. Sinai God met Moses within a fiery cloud and wrote the Ten Commandments on stone tablets. But since Israel could not keep this covenant, the prophet Jeremiah spoke of a new covenant in which God would one day write His law on the human heart (Jer. 31:33). Then at Pentecost the fiery cloud of Sinai descended upon the worshippers in fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy.

This shows us that the Old and New Testaments are deeply interrelated. Thus, we must not ignore or despise the Old Testament but should revere it as God’s word and profit from it.

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*“Then followed that beautiful season... Summer.... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.” - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Happy Summer my friends! With all the grilling, swimming, playing, traveling, sunning, beaching, and relaxing going on during this time – let’s not forget to be praying! We’re working on ways to make RLC better known in the community. While we may not have an active plan at the moment, continuing to pray for God’s guidance and wisdom is the best place to start! It will be a beautiful season, indeed. Peace be with you, Gabi

**Prayer for the Church:** Heavenly Father, we know you have plans for your church – specifically for Reformation Lutheran Church – that are for your glory. The Bible says the church is your house, you dwell in the midst of your people. We ask your wisdom and support as we seek to honor your purposes for us. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know and share the love of Christ that surpasses all understanding. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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**June 8<sup>th</sup> – Carolyn Ramming**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> – Lynne Rowe**

**JUNE CALENDAR**

**Sunday – June 4<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m. (Final one for Summer)**

**Service – 10:30 a.m**

**Sunday – June 11<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.; Service – 10:30 a.m.;**

**Council after service**

**Sunday – June 18<sup>th</sup> – FATHER’S DAY – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.; Service – 10:30 a.m.**

**Saturday – June 24<sup>th</sup> – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday – June 25<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.; Service – 10:30 a.m.**

	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>June 25</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Wayne	Carolyn	Tammy	Amy
<b>Usher</b>	Carolyn	Junior	Junior	Carolyn
<b>Lector</b>	Gabi	Lynne	Junior	Tammy
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor
<b>Thrive</b>	Wayne	Gabi	Wayne	Pastor
<b>Oaks</b>		Chuck		Chuck

**Fellowship:** We should have a cookout! I know folks travel often in the summer. We need to come up with a plan to do something. As always – all ideas are welcome!

**Property:** Our May clean-up day will be Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

**Education:** June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Bible Study will be the final class for the Summer. We have enjoyed learning about the differences between Lutheranism and other Christian religions around the world.

**Worship and Music:** This Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday, and it begins the longest season of the church year. The color in the church will be white on Holy Trinity Sunday, but it will change to green for the remainder of the season.

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity is a central doctrine concerning the nature of God, which defines one God existing in three coequal, coeternal, consubstantial divine persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three distinct persons sharing one essence/substance/nature.

Join us...bring a friend or neighbor.

**Mission and Ministry:** Several items were discussed at our last meeting. Focus Food Bank and a Foster Home are current options. We'll finalize plans and get started on that shortly. All ideas are welcome! (P.S. – maybe too late – but an Adult VBS for a day would be fun!)

## **WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH “Forgotten Giant: Johan Arndt Aasgaard”**

The mystery: There's no history. The first item on the agenda, when Johan Arndt Aasgaard's biography finally is written, is why no one has written the life of one who led practically all Norwegian Lutherans in the United States for twenty-nine years. There is no obvious reason. Aasgaard was a kind of Lutheran Horatio Alger Jr., rising from poverty to prominence. When that biography is written, the author will take up at least four major themes.

Pastor, in all that he did. That he had a pastoral heart is illustrated by an oft-told family story: "A woman came into Granper's office for confession. She had had an affair and was devastated. She confessed all to her pastor, wept, and prayed. Pastor Aasgaard gave his confessor absolution. When she was leaving, she asked: "Pastor Aasgaard, what do I do now?" "Do, my child? About what?" "About my sin, Pastor." To which her pastor replied: "What sin?" Although his name echoes Johann Arndt, the famous seventeenth century pietist, Aasgaard belonged to the United Lutherans, the conservative but centrist branch of Norwegian Lutherans, which incorporated elements of both Haugean pietism and the strict confessionalism of the Norwegian Synod. He was pastor full time at Norway Grove, De Forest, Wisconsin, from 1901-1911, and part time at Salem, Salem, North Dakota, during his years as president of Concordia College.

Leader, spectacular but not flamboyant. Aasgaard is remembered as outspoken, yet at the same time one who was tactful and gentle. These qualities stood him in good stead as he raised money, first of all in his parish, then for Concordia College (1911-1925), as president (1925-1954) for the colleges of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America during and after the Great Depression of the 1930s, and for relief work in Europe during and after World War II. These qualities also stood him in good stead as he helped three differing groups of Norwegian Lutherans grow into one church, he helped immigrants and the next generation become Americans, and prepared the way for larger American Lutheran unity and Christian unity that took place soon after he retired. Aasgaard always was a hard worker, yet he also rose to prominence because he was recognized as a natural leader, one who could be trusted to point the way forward.

Educator, in small and in large. Already in the parish Aasgaard stressed the importance of Sunday school and confirmation for children: "They will have, like the Prodigal Son, something that is essential if they are going to not only stay in their baptismal covenant, but even return if they wander away." He had done further study at Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Wisconsin, which led to teaching church history at the United Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1906-1907. He edited the United Lutheran from 1908-1909 and the Kirkebladet from 1910-1911. Immediately, when he decided in 1911 to leave his parish in Wisconsin, Concordia College in Moorhead invited him to become president, and he established a solid future for the college both by fundraising and by raising academic standards.

Citizen, of the United States and of the world. Unexpectedly, in 1925, Aasgaard became president of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. At his retirement in 1954, when asked what had been his greatest professional accomplishment, he stated, "I delivered the Norwegian Lutherans safely to the American shore"-which he had, though at times leading Norwegian Lutherans must have seemed like trying to herd cats. Again, his tact and gentleness, his obvious sense of the way forward, stood him in good stead. He was committed to helping immigrant Lutherans take on the American way of life: the separation of church and state, freedom of conscience, the democratic process. Much of his energy was spent on "home missions," starting and shepherding congregations as well as charitable institutions. Yet Norwegians have also had a strong commitment to global missions, and, because of the Norwegian merger in 1917 and the disaster of World War II, Aasgaard was necessarily involved in promoting missions around the world. Again because of the disaster of World War II, along with other Lutheran leaders in the United States, he raised millions to provide relief for Lutherans in Europe and especially in his case for Norway. His personal friendship with one of the heroes of the Norwegian resistance, Bishop Eivind Berggrav of Oslo, is part of the saga.

As O. G. Malmin wrote in the Lutheran Herald at the time of JAA's funeral: He was "God's man for a particular time in a particular place. He fulfilled his ministry with devotion and dedication."

**“THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE”**