  **Reformation Lutheran Church**

 **“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”
 March 2024**

*“…that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”* - John 3:15 –

“You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, you put your right hand in, and you shake it all about, you do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around, that’s what it’s all about.” We all know the song; it is a favorite childhood game and is often danced at special events. Everyone stands in a circle and follows the instructions; the verse ends with everyone clapping while singing, “That’s what it’s all about!” The song continues with the other hand, and then other parts of the body.

It is a silly game, but the question at the end has become the focus of many philosophical discussions. What if the Hokey Pokey really is what it’s all about? This leads to the question, “What does Hokey Pokey mean?” After all, if that is what it is all about, we should understand what it means. There are many references for background information, but few agree on the origin of the song.

The question is not new. The great philosopher Jimmy Buffett asked in a song, “Maybe it’s all too simple for our brains to figure it out. What if the Hokey Pokey is all it really is about?” Research into the Hokey Pokey is humorous and interesting. Some think that it is a good thing, that an eternity in heaven doing the Hokey Pokey would be a joyous existence. Others think that it would be more like hell.

We want a reasoned answer for everything, beginning from a very early age. Every child is apt to drive adults crazy with the “phase of a million questions.” These questions are not always easy, but we can usually find an answer and teach a lesson. As we grow older, our questions become harder. We spend a lot of time discussing and debating the deep things of life and we often come up with very different answers. We disagree with our neighbors about so many things far more important than the Hokey Pokey. Sadly we make the questions of faith so difficult that we miss the truth of the Gospel.

Jimmy Buffett’s answer might be funny but the truth of life really is very simple and it has nothing to do with a silly dance. The answer to our deepest questions is Jesus Christ. He is really what it is ALL about.

Pr.

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Easter comes early this year, so we are well into Lent and looking forward to the activities of Holy Week.

Do you know any “two Sunday’s a Year Christians?” You know, those who only go on Christmas and Easter? If you do, why not invite them to spend their Easter Sunday this year with us at Reformation. We’ll have a breakfast before the service and our normal service at 10:30. If they come on Easter, perhaps that will open the door for more visits. The tomb opened on Easter morning for Jesus to come out…let’s be sure our door is open for new folks to come in.

March is the campaign month for Lutheran Men’s Buck-A-Month Club. Once again, last year Reformation was the only congregation in LCMC to have 100% of men donate. That has been true for a number of years, so let’s keep the streak alive.

And don’t forget to pray for Reformation…we are thankful that we live in a country where we are free to worship and to partake of the sacraments.

Trivia Question for the Month: What event marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry?

His baptism by John the Baptist

His birth in Bethlehem

His transfiguration on the mountain

His first miracle at the wedding in Cana

Chuck Hunsaker, Council President

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 **March 2nd – Eli Ervin**

**MARCH CALENDAR**

**Sunday – March 10th – Council after service**

**Tuesday – March 26th – Lutheran Men’s Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Pies and Thighs**

**Saturday – March 30th – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.**

 **March 3 March 10 March 17 March 24 March 31**

**Altar Guild** Tammy Amy Carolyn Junior Tammy

**Usher** Junior Carolyn Amy Carolyn Junior

**Lector** Chuck Gabi Junior Tammy Dick

**Sermon** Pastor Pastor Pastor Chuck Pastor

**Thrive** Gabi Wayne Pastor Wayne Pastor

**Oaks**  Chuck Chuck

**Property:** Our March clean-up day will be Saturday, the 30th, 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

**Fellowship:**   We continue our weekly Lent 6:00 p.m. meal and 7:00 p.m. service each Wednesday through March 20th.  We look forward to seeing you for fellowship and worship.

**Education:** We have completed our Bible Study classes covering the topic of Prayer. The week after Easter we will begin our study of Saint John’s letters and Revelation. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Mission and Ministry:**  It's a new year with new opportunities to be missionaries in our community!  We have a total of twelve Thrivent cards available to us - that's $3000.00 dollars to use in our efforts. Everyone please bring a list of ideas for places we may choose to work with outreach projects. There is also a list posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board for our consideration. All ideas are welcome!!

One event we have scheduled is a yard sale.  It is set for April 20th.  We'll be setting up in the recreation area right inside Coca Lake.  This is also the day of their big neighborhood yard sale.  Start gathering your items together!  I sent out a list of ideas.  If in doubt, bring it to church anyway! Don't hesitate to ask any questions or share concerns.

**Worship and Music:** Christ is Risen!  He is risen indeed!  Hallelujah!

Easter is March 31 this year. Until then, we continue in the season of Lent, when we mournfully contemplate the unthinkable torture and death of our Savior, Jesus, and His sacrifice for us.

We look forward to beautiful music throughout the month of March: sorrowful during Lent, and triumphant on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Christ's resurrection and victory over sin, death, Satan and hell. We thank you, Lynne, for continuing to serve our congregation with your gift of music.

Christ is Risen!  He is risen indeed!  Hallelujah!

**WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH “Emmy Evald: A Vision for Women's leadership”**

"Emmy Evald was a Tartar," Lois Englund told me when I learned that she actually had known this remarkable, best-known Swedish-American woman of her generation. So it is not surprising that one of Emrny's best known lines, certain to provoke the Augustana Lutheran Church women to action, was: "The pastors are against us!" Most of us know that women can get a contrarian reputation just by saying what they think out loud. Emmy Carlsson Evald (1857 -1946) was not dismayed by this kind of resistance, however. Instead of submitting, or stifling herself, she spoke right through it so that others could express themselves and experience the power of making things happen. She was one of the most remarkable Lutheran women in American history.

Working primarily within the Swedish Lutheran Augustana Synod, Emmy organized a Women's Missionary Society in 1892, creating an active force that extended the sphere of women's work at home to faraway places among women and children in India, China, and Africa. With her able leadership, the Augustana Women's Missionary Society continued to grow in strength and leadership clout. Organized in congregational, conference, and synodical levels, it trained women to lead meetings, speak in public, design programs, raise money, recruit members, research and write articles, and promote a cause. The successor organizations for women in the churches are built on Emmy Evald's pioneering leadership.

Emmy Evald first learned at home, where her mother was a vital force and a model for extending the resources of their parsonage home to many needy people in the bustling immigrant neighborhood around Immanuel Lutheran Church, where Emmy's father, Erland Carlsson was the pastor. In 1870, together with her older sister Annie, Emmy left home to get an education in Sweden, where her mother and father had many friends and supporters, and where interesting innovations in women's education were occurring. Annie and Emmy attended Mamsell Cecilia Fryxell's Rostad (a place of rest) School, in Kalmar, Sweden. This school educated girls in a home environment, where their special gifts and capacities were nurtured through Mother Fryxell's attentive and loving guidance. Annie and Emmy's experience at this school was an immersion in the revival, missionary-oriented ethos of the Swedish religious movement that had shaped their father in his early youth and ministry. At Rostad, industry, order, and simplicity were the qualities each a young woman was to develop.

In her active adult years Emmy and her family sought to replicate this model of home and education. Her parents created their own Rostad, giving this name to their country home outside Lindsborg, Kansas. In 1892 the women-wives of pastors and lay delegates attending the synod meeting-met separately to organize the women's missionary society for the Augustana Synod. Rostad was a place of inspiration that helped Emmy form a close society of women who were dedicated to advancing the kingdom of Christ in this world.

Augustana’s Women's Missionary Society worked together to lift up the concerns of women around the world. In order to meet the increasing needs in the church's broadening mission fields, women heard the call to become teachers, nurses, doctors, and homemakers. American women going out to the mission field needed professional training, and the existing female academies in the United States had to be retooled in order to meet these demands. When the Women's Missionary Society was asked to raise the funds for a women's dormitory at Augustana College, where a lack of suitable housing for women on campus discouraged applicants, the women set to work raising significant funds. Their ideal conception of an appropriate home for women students ran into opposition from the male-led college board of directors who locked horns with Emmy and the society. They then responded with a petition drive and writing campaign. Thanks to that media blitz, we know what they were up against. When the women lost their battle and the dormitory was to be constructed near an auto dump, they nevertheless fulfilled their pledge and funded an opulent, grand and spacious building.

Emmy Evald had a vision for women's education that pointed toward service and leadership. In the schools and colleges where young women study today, the model of success is personal and individualistic; students are taught to strive to win in a competitive environment. Elements that inspired Emmy's achievement and that she employed to create a cohesive body of women leaders are more difficult for us to achieve. Competitive models encourage change through provocation and tolerate high levels of conflict and friction. Competition leaves little time for the patient relationship building that fashions sustainable communities. Emmy's model of education would push us to develop ways to identify and nurture personal talent and character and in this way encourage the ideals and dreams of young people.

**THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE**