



# Reformation Lutheran Church

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

*And Jesus said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” -Mark 7:6-8*

Traditions. I love traditions. Growing up, I learned about many of the traditions from my mother’s side of the family, who had come over to Nebraska from Denmark in the 1870s. Recently, since having my own children, I have continued to pass along some of those traditions. Other traditions we’ve instituted within the last decade.

Traditions can certainly be good. They can often remind us of where we came from. Church traditions can help us to focus on Jesus during our worship services. Unfortunately, traditions can lead to disagreement, conflict, and turmoil. Churches have split over traditions. A Lutheran congregation in a small town got in a big disagreement early on in their establishment. Many were German immigrants. One group wanted to keep the tradition of worshiping in their native language of German. Another group thought it was time to speak the language of America and hold worship services in English. Sadly, they couldn’t come to some sort of compromise, so they split into two congregations. One group built a church just three blocks away from the other one. Ironically, both congregations worship in English to this day.

Why do churches split over traditions? When we treat a tradition like it’s God’s command, etched in stone, it can lead to conflict and discord. The Pharisees viewed Jesus to be a bad person because he was breaking their traditions. Their traditions seemed good and were meant to honor God. However, they judged people by how well they kept the traditions and not how much they loved God. As we hold on to our traditions above anything else, we are not honoring God with our hearts. We are in reality honoring him with just our lips. May we place our focus on what’s most important: that which Jesus has called us to do. And may we not become so fixated on what a tradition calls us to do. Pr.

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Have you noticed recently the major finds that archeologists have made that verify things that are mentioned in the Bible? It is interesting that many people who are unbelievers, and even some who have simply left the church, want to see proof that Jesus existed. While none of the things that have been found “prove” that Jesus existed, they do verify things mentioned in the Bible. To me, that provides verification that the Bible is far more than just a book. It is a very special book, and if other parts of the book are proving to be true, isn’t it logical to believe the parts about Jesus are also true. Be on the lookout...more will be coming. Christ has risen...Hallelujah!  
Reach out to friends and neighbors...let’s grow Reformation!

Chuck Hunsaker, Council President

Trivia Question – What Was the Profession of The Apostle Matthew Before He Became A Disciple Of Jesus?

Tax Collector

Fisherman

Carpenter

Physician



**18<sup>th</sup> – Donna Maness**

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

**Sunday – Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:15 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Sunday – Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:15 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Sunday – Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:15 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Sunday – Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9:15 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service; Council after service**

**Tuesday – Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 a.m. Lutheran Men’s Lunch at Pies and Thighs**

**Saturday – Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.**

	<b>Sept 1</b>	<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>Sept 15</b>	<b>Sept 22</b>	<b>Sept 29</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carolyn	Tammy	Junior	Amy	Carolyn
<b>Usher</b>	Amy	Carolyn	Amy	Carolyn	Junior
<b>Lector</b>	Wayne	Chuck	Tammy	Dick	Amy
<b>Music</b>	Amy	Amy	Amy	Amy	Amy
<b>Children Time</b>	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Gabi
<b>Thrive</b>	Gabi	Wayne	Gabi/Amy?	Wayne	Wayne
<b>Oaks</b>	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck	Gabi

**Property:** Our September clean-up day will be Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

**Mission and Ministry Outreach:** Our Humane Society of Harris County project is ongoing! The timeframe has been extended due to a slow start. No worries! Chuck is keeping on top of upcoming House of Hero projects, and Wayne and Carolyn continue to shop for FOCUS. With Fall and holidays (!!!) coming up, there always seem to be more ways to reach out in the community. I’m following up with a few leads, but all ideas are always welcome!

**Fellowship:** Fellowship: We will celebrate 3rd quarter birthdays on Sunday, September 29th. Do we want to do a potluck as before? Any other ideas? Just looking ahead, we have our Oktoberfest meal to look forward to at the end of October. Advent won't start until December, but I'd like us to do our usual soup meal before service. There will only be three Wednesday services this year.

**Education:** Our Bible Study classes covering the Epistles and Revelation continues. Please join us on Sundays, at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Worship and Music:**

- *By Eric W. Moore August 18, 2024* | [Job 23:1–24:25](#)

In August 1932, Thomas Dorsey lost both his wife and son during childbirth. Out of his great loss came a beautiful song that expressed his great need for God. “Precious Lord, take my hand. Lead me on, let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.”

In Job 23, we read Job's response to Eliphaz—Job, too, expresses his great need for God (v. 3). This chapter contains one of the most beautiful passages in the book of Job. He recalls the type of sweet fellowship he had before this ordeal. Since then, he had pursued God in every direction. Above everything else, he desires to be in God's presence again.

He stated, “But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him” (23:8–9). Job was experiencing what some describe as “the dark night of the soul.” This phrase was coined by John of the Cross to describe times in our spiritual life when God seems distant. Theologian R. C. Sproul described it as “a malady that the greatest of Christians have suffered from time to time...This is no ordinary fit of depression, but it is a depression that is linked to a crisis of faith, a crisis that comes when one senses the absence of God or gives rise to a feeling of abandonment by Him.”

Psalm 34:18 reminds us that God is present, even when He feels so absent to us: “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

## **Go Deeper**

Have you ever felt distant from God? Are you there now? If so, keep pursuing Him.

**Pray with Us:** Lord, is it possible to pursue and trust You even through “the dark night of the soul”? In You we find hope and strength. You, who are abundant in power, are also able and willing to heal the brokenhearted and bind their wounds.