



# Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”  
March 2025

*“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”- Romans 10:8b-9*

These verses from Paul’s letter to the Romans echoes the words of Moses in Deuteronomy, chapter 30. The Israelites had been wandering the desert, the wilderness, for nearly 40 years. And throughout those 40 years, God had provided them with all they needed: food, water, clothing. Now they are about to enter into the Promised Land, but before they do, the Israelites hear how they ought to respond to what God has done for them—not to earn salvation. They couldn’t do that on their own. Only God can provide them with salvation. So, Moses tells the people, “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the Word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”

The word is near the Israelites. They know the Word. They know how they ought to live in response to what God has done for them. It is right there, dwelling within them. For Paul, this goes even deeper. Paul says that there’s no need for people to go up to heaven to bring Christ down, or to go to the deepest depths to bring Christ up from the dead. There’s no need to go searching high and low for Christ. Why? Well, first of all, it’s simply impossible to do so on our own. Secondly, just like the Israelites, you and I hear these words, “The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.”

Along with the Israelites, we also hear, “The Word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart.” We find God in the Word. His message of salvation is in Scripture. This is how God chooses to reveal himself to us: in Scripture. Our God and the message of salvation is found in Scripture. It is where our God chooses to be revealed. We don’t know Him apart from it, nor can we fully. When talking about this passage of Scripture, Lutheran father Philip Melanchthon shares these words, “God is found nowhere outside of His Word, or without His Word; He wants to be known through it. By means of this instrument He wants to work.” Our God is found in His Word, and this Word is found in our midst!

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**Mission and Ministry Outreach:** A Thrivent card is being applied for to assist with feed/supplies for Warrior Outreach. If you hear of a specific need for a family or group in our community, let's hear about it and see if we can help. All ideas are welcome!

**Education:** We have paused Bible study until after Easter. Please mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall when we continue covering the Epistles and Revelation.

<b>MARCH CALENDAR</b>
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**Sunday – March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Don't forget to "Spring Forward" and turn your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday night, March 8th.**

**Sunday – March 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. Service; Council after service**

**Tuesday – March 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 a.m. Lutheran Men's Lunch – Cataula Creek**

**Sunday – March 16<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Sunday – March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10:30 a.m. Service**

**Saturday – March 29<sup>th</sup> – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday – March 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. Service**

	<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 9</b>	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 30</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Amy	Tammy	Junior	Carolyn	Amy
<b>Usher/Greeter</b>	Carolyn	Amy	Carolyn	Amy	Junior
<b>Lector</b>	Amy	Dick	Tammy	Gabi	Chuck
<b>Music</b>	Amy	Amy		Amy	Amy
<b>Children Time</b>	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat
<b>Sermon</b>	Pastor	Wayne	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
<b>Thrive</b>	Wayne	Wayne	Gabi	Wayne	Gabi
<b>Oaks</b>	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor

**Property:** Our February clean-up day will be Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

**Fellowship:** Ash Wednesday is March 5th. The men will be cooking pancakes, sausage, and eggs (if someone won the lottery that is! 😊) Our meal will start at 6:00, with service following at 7:00. There are five Lenten Wednesdays where we will have meals before service. A sign-up sheet will be out in the fellowship hall.

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

The first Sunday in March is Transfiguration Sunday and the first Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. As we have in past years, we will not forget Shrove Tuesday but combine it with Ash Wednesday...sort of a Shrove/Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is reserved for the men of the church to cook up delicious pancakes for the evening's dinner. Get ready for some of the most delicious pancakes that have ever touched your lips!

We will be holding 5 Wednesday services with dinner at 6:00 and the Wednesday service at 7:00. Nobody ever goes away hungry from these Wednesday services, so they are another great opportunity to bring a friend or neighbor.

The 40 days of Lent are a time of personal reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and that most special festival of Easter. Without Easter, there would be no church today.

Chuck Hunsaker  
Council President

## **WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH "American Lutheran Aid to Refugees"**

Though World War II in Europe ended in the spring of 1945, the people of that continent were living in perilous conditions. The war had been one of the first modern examples of "total" warfare, which brought the destruction of combat to all sectors of society, not just the battlefield. The lives and homes of many Europeans had been seriously disrupted; millions were without employment, housing, and food; and untold numbers of people had been displaced. Many Germans had abandoned cities destroyed by bombing and fighting, while countless Europeans (mostly from the east) had fled the advance of Russian troops and the Soviet takeover of the Baltic countries and Eastern Europe.

The only major industrial power left, which had not been directly subject to the destruction of war, was the United States, but it was unclear how this country would act. Directly after World War I, the American people and their leaders had largely retreated from the world into a blanket of isolationism. But after World War II, Americans came to realize that if they wanted a peaceful world, they would have to assist the rebuilding of war-torn countries in Europe and Asia; and so they did.

During the war itself, many groups in the United States had already begun to plan for post-war relief and reconstruction. Ready to take their place in this task were American Lutherans, especially in aid to their fellow Lutherans in Europe, as well as others. As early as 1940, American Lutheran groups began major annual fund drives to collect resources for these tasks, and in the decades to come they would raise almost \$250 million dollars.

Almost as soon as the fighting ended in Europe, American Lutheran leaders headed there to assess the situation and to begin funneling aid to the people of that continent. Organizationally, the National Lutheran Council (and in cooperation, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) began to work with European Lutheran leaders, eventually constituting the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in 1947. One of this group's first tasks was refugee assistance and resettlement (Service to Refugees). The situation among the European Lutherans, especially in Germany, was grave, as the war had destroyed churches and other institutions, scattered pastors and church leaders, while the horrors of Nazism and total warfare had scarred the people. Lutherans from the east had fled the expansion of Soviet communism, and were refugees in Western Europe.

After first meeting the basic needs of people, American Lutheran relief personnel began to work with the Allied Military Government in Germany to plan for the rebuilding of the German Lutheran churches, and to assist in building churches-in-exile for Eastern European Lutherans. Individual Lutheran pastors and others began to work in camps directly with refugees (Displaced Persons, or DPs), and to begin to help them rebuild their spiritual lives and communities. By the late 1940s there was a major Lutheran organization in Europe to coordinate this work, with an equally large organization in the United States to support and to fund it. In 1948, the United States government passed legislation to allow for up to 200,000 of these displaced persons to enter the United States, a figure that would later be expanded. This was the beginning of a refugee resettlement program, mainly to North America, that required both funding and organization to make it work.

In 1954 American Lutherans founded the Lutheran Refugee Service (now Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services-LIRS) to coordinate this work. Lutheran congregations throughout the United States were called upon to help resettle the DPs in their communities, and to support them in building new lives in North America. Many congregations responded generously and opened their arms to the refugees. By the 1960s it was estimated that American Lutherans had helped resettle 70,000 refugees in the United States, as well as 22,000 in Canada and 20,000 in Australia.

As this task of resettling DPs from Europe wound down, it became clear that this service to refugees (and immigrants) would be a long-standing and permanent need. Wars and conflicts around the world continued to produce refugees; in the 1960s and 1970s, LIRS worked to resettle refugees from Asia, especially Southeast Asia, and more recently they have worked with refugees and immigrants from Africa. American Lutherans took their place, in many instances took the lead in this work, and continue to support the work of assistance through LIRS, ministering to the continuing needs of a conflicted world and those people affected by it.

**THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.**