



Reformation Lutheran Church

"Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!"
September 2025

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." - Luke 15:10-
The Angels Rejoice

Jesus loved the tax collectors and the sinners, so much so that He was willing to set aside societal expectations to have dinner with them. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled about it, but Jesus reminded them through parables that God would find and save the lost who listen to His Word and trust in Him.

There is a time and a place for warning, for speaking the Law, for calling people to repentance. God's Word is both Law and Gospel. The Law calls us to repent, to turn to God. The Gospel is the promise that assures us that He has provided for our forgiveness. We are encouraged to see ourselves as God sees us: the good, the bad, and the ugly. We are not more righteous than others just because we are not guilty of their sins. We are still guilty. We need God's grace as much as they. We get lost, too, by turning our back on God or by being led in the wrong direction. We need to repent daily, to receive God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, to be transformed by His Word.

Jesus didn't tell the Pharisees that the tax collectors and sinners were good, only that they were in need and that they were willing to listen. It was their willingness that Jesus commended: they had been lost and now they were found. He was rejoicing with them because they saw the reality of their sinfulness and had turned to the only one who could grant them true forgiveness.

As we recognize ourselves in these stories, we cry out to God and ask for His mercy knowing He is faithful to His promises. We were lost, but Jesus found us, saved us, and restored us to a relationship with our God. He has promised to search for all those who are lost, and when He finds them, He will carry them on his shoulders, rejoicing with the angels just as He did for us.

Pr.

Mission and Ministry Outreach: Wayne and Carolyn just made another delivery to FOCUS. Our project for Scarlett's Closet is also complete. There's nothing else in the works right now. Please keep an ear out for opportunities in our community. Around Christmas, I know we'll likely sponsor a child/family from school again this year. Maybe two if there is a need. Fall and holidays do seem to offer more opportunities for our Thrivent cards, but all ideas are welcome!

Education: We will RESUME Sunday Bible Study, at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, on September 14th. "Luther's Catechisms" from CPH's The Lutheran Confessions Series will be the focus of our study.

Fellowship: What a fun game night we had! Thanks to everyone who brought yummy food to share. A good time was had by all! We don't have anything else planned for the moment. If anyone thinks of something, let us know! I would not be opposed to another game night myself. Just saying..... 😊

Property: Our September clean-up day will be Saturday, September 27th at 9:00 a.m. Helping hands are always welcome!

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday – Sept. 7 – 10:30 a.m. Service

Sunday – Sept. 14 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study RESUMES; 10:30 a.m. Service; Council after service

Thursday – Sept. 18 – 11:30 a.m. Lutheran Men’s Lunch – Cataula Creek

Sunday – Sept. 21 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

Saturday – Sept. 27 – Clean-up Day – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday – Sept. 28 – 9:30 a.m. Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Service

	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28
Altar Guild	Amy	Tammy	Junior	Amy
Usher/Greeter	Amy	Junior	Amy	Junior
Lector	Tammy	Chuck	Dick	Gabi
Music	Amy		Lynne	Amy
Children Time	Pat	Pat	Pat	Pat
Sermon	Wayne	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
Bible Study		Tammy	Amy	Tammy
Thrive	Wayne	Gabi	Pastor	Gabi
Oaks	Chuck	Pastor	Chuck	Pastor

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Do you care deeply about engaging our community, helping them grow spiritually, and encouraging people to live the life God wants for us? Unfortunately, in today’s world, distractions, apathy, and busyness often make it difficult for people to really lean in.

I saw a study this week that was done in 2021 by the lifeway Research survey. It found that 3 out of 4 pastors face apathy or lack of commitment in their congregations.

I believe that we are truly fortunate that Reformation Lutheran Church is fully committed. This little church has done more to reach out into the local community than most all of the large churches in the community. We can pat ourselves on the back, but we can’t live on our laurels. We must remain committed...and I believe we will. We are the little church with the big heart!

Let's build Reformation Lutheran Church...why not bring a friend or neighbor with you on Sunday, but let's make a special effort on September 21.

Chuck Hunsaker, Council President

WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF LUTHERAN HISTORY WITH "FRANKLIN CLARK FRY: MR. PROTESTANT"

Very rarely, if ever, has an American Lutheran graced the cover of an American news magazine. If they have, it was not because they were Lutherans, but because of something else. Famous Lutherans, like Justice William Rehnquist or Senator Paul Simon, might be recognized, but that they were Lutherans was purely incidental. But on April 7, 1958, readers of Time magazine were greeted by a cover and feature story focused on Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, the president of the United Lutheran Church in America. The title of the cover and accompanying article designated Fry as "Mr. Protestant." National recognition for a Lutheran leader quite the surprise! But then, Fry was quite a remarkable man.

Franklin Clark Fry was born August 30, 1900, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Both his father and grandfather were prominent Lutheran pastors, so it was not surprising that Franklin would follow in their footsteps. After graduating from the Lutheran seminary in Philadelphia in 1925, he was ordained as a pastor in the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA), one of the largest Lutheran denominations in America at the time. While serving for fifteen years (1929-44) as a pastor of a prominent Lutheran congregation in Akron, Ohio, Fry became very active in the ULCA, serving on various church boards and commissions, including its Executive Board from 1942 to 1944.

Already a rising star in the ULCA, Fry was elected president of that denomination in 1944. At age forty-four he was very young to be the leader of a major Protestant denomination, but his leadership skills and acumen were readily apparent, and he would serve as an important Lutheran leader for the next twenty-four years, until his death in 1968. Fry was renowned for his administrative and diplomatic skills: He was very adept in ordering and growing institutions as well as running church meetings and conventions; he was especially a master of parliamentary procedure. In the now-outdated parlance of the times, Fry was a superb "church- Fry (left) in the Oval Office with President Kennedy at bill signing man," that is, someone who was devoted to empowering the work of the church by building up and organizing church institutions boards, committees, ministries, and outreaches. Fry knew how to get people to work together to expand the effectiveness of the Lutheran churches in America and around the world. This was a period in American history where "bigger" was better-bigger businesses, bigger government, bigger institutions-and religious denominations were growing right alongside them. Bigger and more unified meant more effective-a more effective means by which to spread the Christian message.

As the leader of the ULCA, Fry was automatically a prominent figure in American and world Lutheranism. He was an important leader in the American Lutheran efforts to rebuild the shattered European Lutheran churches after 1945, and in 1947 he was elected president of Lutheran World Relief, which sought to provide humanitarian assistance around the world. Fry was also instrumental in helping to organize the Lutheran World Federation in 1947 and later served as that organization's president (1957-63). He was also a major leader in the post-war effort to bring about organic Lutheran union in North America. Other Lutheran leaders sometimes did not trust Fry or the ULCA. The merger process splintered; instead of a single American Lutheran church, by the early 1960s the process yielded two-the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), while

the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (LCMS) did not join either of them. Fry's denomination merged into the LCA, and Fry served as that group's president from 1962 until his death in 1968. In the 1960s he did manage to get all three major Lutheran denominations to cooperate together in the new Lutheran Council in the USA (1967).

Of course, all these intra-Lutheran activities, as impressive as they are, would not have gotten Fry on the cover of Time magazine in 1958. But though he was passionately committed to Lutheranism, he was not constrained by its borders. Fry was an instrumental force behind the founding of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA in 1950; he encouraged a number of Lutheran denominations to join the new organization and personally served it in a number of different capacities. Similarly, he was influential in forming the World Council of Churches in 1948 and served as chair of its central and executive committees from 1954 to 1968. He was a leading Christian ecumenical leader in the 1950s and 1960s, with a worldwide influence and reputation. Pretty good for a Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania and truly deserving of a Time magazine cover!

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.