

September Newsletter 2021



The Reporter

Reformation Lutheran Church

ALL Are Welcome & Affirmed Here!

Website 803.252.1507 Calendar Email

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Worship Service Update

Every Sunday we offer two worship options. We are worshipping IN PERSON FROM OUR CARS in our parking lot - with Communion! - every Sunday at 11:30 AM. In order to ensure the health and safety of our congregation, we will continue our on-line church service at 10:00 as well. Please join us for worship online [HERE](#). More information about online activities is described below. Stay tuned for updates as we learn more.

Pastor's Perspective



As we experience another surge in Covid-19, because of the Delta variant, Reformation has once again suspended in-person gatherings within the church, including worship. As your pastor, this was not easy to support. My heart grieves deeply to have to make this decision, along with the Transition Team and your Church Council. We have gone back to online-only for our 10:00 service and returned to our 11:30 parking lot service. It was a decision that was very hard to make, but I believe it was a decision we had to make. With new cases spiking between 2,000 and 6,000 per day over the last couple weeks; with hospitals filling up once again, especially pediatric wings, and a few families within our congregation testing positive with the variant, we had to think about the safety of all.

I've heard pastors use the "faith over fear" phrase to justify keeping in-person worships going even in the face of these dangerous facts. Defining such a phrase as they have faith that God will protect them from the virus no matter what science says, so they don't fear. Or they have faith that even if they die, they will go to heaven because of their faith in God, so they don't fear. Interesting. I believe in faith over fear too, but my faith is slightly different. I have faith that God has blessed us with a common sense to listen to the medical field (*which I also see as a gift from God*) as they learn more and more about this virus, and follow their recommendations to mitigate this pandemic for the sake of my neighbor, so I don't fear following what they prescribe. For me, it's a Luther thing.

I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order to not become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But, I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash or foolhardy, and does not tempt God.~ Dr. Martin Luther during the plague of 1527

Luther had a great faith in God — you know that whole *justification by grace through faith* thing — but that faith was rooted in a practicality that God blessed us with minds to think rationally and apply medical discoveries to mitigate plagues and illnesses for the good of all. For Luther, doing so never was a sign of a weak faith, but in fact it was a sign of a strong faith in the gifts God has given us.

But I do have some fear... in how this pandemic — even more than before — has divided the world, this country, even the church. What do we believe in, science, politics, faith? This pandemic, or should I say the ideologies that surround it are creating divides that run deep, and are creating fissures that may be very difficult to bridge. This is not a unvaccinated or vaccinated virus! It is not a conservative or liberal virus! It is not a Republican or Democrat virus! It is not an Asian virus! It is a pandemic! It is a global

virus! And we need to act that way! This virus doesn't give a "rat's tuchus" about what side of the ideological argument we side with, this variant infects indiscriminately. We cannot let this virus divide us worse than before! If anything, we need to unite against this virus! When we do that we mitigate it, we defeat it!

Stepping back from in-person worship is our attempt to participate in defeating this viral terror. It's not easy and these decisions are very risky for Reformation, emotionally, spiritually, and certainly financially. That's why I hope emotionally, we stay in touch with each other, whether through porch visits, phone calls, texting or emails, and spiritually by praying for each other as well as the church. Financially, even though we are not gathering in the sanctuary, please support the ministries we are offering in various ways to join together; virtually via livestream, and with our parking lot services; and also as we look into ways to keep Safe Space Dinners moving forward. All of these variations of being the church, through these inventive ways, need your support, so please give generously so we can grow these ministries, even in these perilous times.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim

Prayers of the Church

Sick and Homebound: Tracy Hamiter; Dot Perry; Barbara Prosser; Connie Pool; Bobbie Black and Beth Mayer.

Health: Emmy Reeves; Landon Derrick; James Dekle; Pastor Jim Nichols; Bernard Slice; Peggy Thompson and Bobbie Prosser.

Christian Sympathy: At the death of Carla Ray. Carla joined Reformation in 2009 and will be missed. A memorial service will be planned by Pastor Tim.

In-Person Worship Service Update

On Sunday, August 22, the Reformation Lutheran Church Council held a zoom Council meeting. The conversation was about recommendations made by our Transition Team, who met the previous Sunday with concerns about the recent Covid surge in South Carolina, and across the whole of the nation. With the Delta variant surge hospitals are filling up once again, breakthrough cases are mounting even within the vaccinated, and there is a higher infection rate among children. With that, the Transition Team recommended to council the stoppage of all in-person gatherings, including worship.

After much deliberation, the council agreed to take a step back until we see a steady continued decline in cases, which had reached over a 5,000 infection rate on Friday, August 20th. When we take those facts into consideration along with the infection of two families of Reformation — not from our service but from outside activities — we do not want to take a risk of putting

others in danger. So it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you Reformation's in-person worship will be suspended as of August 29th until at least the end of October. We will continue our Facebook online Sunday services at 10:00 am, with an upload unto YouTube later the same day, and return to our parking lot service at 11:30 am, transmitted on 99.9 FM.

These certainly were not easy decisions to reach, but with deep discussions, and weighing our options, they were decisions we felt had to be made. We appreciate your prayers for Reformation, South Carolina, our nation, and the world, as we struggle through this virus. We hope you will continue to support Reformation as we seek to make decisions for the safety of all.

For those watching online, I'm attaching a simple recipe for communion bread, if you are interested in baking at home. Also, if you do not wish to bake, we will have communion kits available at the church office (four weeks of kits at a time). Just stop by and pick it up. We will have both wine and grape juice available.

God Bless,

Pastor Tim

Recipe for communion bread

2T. margarine, not low fat
½ cup water
½ cup honey
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup whole wheat flour
1 tsp. salt
¾ tsp. baking soda

Melt together the margarine, water and honey. In separate bowl, mix together regular and whole wheat flour, salt and baking soda. Mix honey mixture with flour. Pat into four very flat circles. Place on a baking sheet. Score top with a cross. Bake at 350° for 10-15 minutes.



Servant's Committee Update

Over the past six months, the Servant Committee members have done an exceptional outpouring of themselves to generate and carry out activities to reach out to the community and enhance fellowship activities. A part of this ministry it has been an exhilarating and uplifting experience to see things brainstormed, planned, and come alive. There have been eight core people making this happen and we are looking for others to join this group to help in planning and carrying out the awesome ideas and suggestions given to us as we grow both in the community and as members of a beautiful congregation.

Below is a listing of the Committee Member's and their contact information. If you are interested, please reach out and let one of us know.

Lynn Black – wildcat4n6@gmail.com – 803-661-8249

Shirley Derriso – Shirley.derriso@gmail.com – 803-413-0966

Sharon Turner – sharonbturner@yahoo.com – 803-609-6841

Ann Kurth – elizabethannkurth@gmail.com – 719-237-9488

We are currently looking for volunteers for the upcoming Indoor Garage Sale as we will need folks to arrange 'stuff' on tables as it is received, to work on **Saturday, Sep 18th**, which involves 'sale time' and 'packing up' when sale is over. Please join us in sharing fellowship and working for the community. This is a wonderful time to get to know your fellow congregant and share in the experience of **'God's Work. Our Hands'**.

September Lector and Usher/Greeter Schedule

September 5

Lector - Jura Clark (Streaming & Parking Lot)

Ushers/Greeters - Gary Parish & Shirley Lamotnagne

September 12

Keating Clark (Streaming & Parking Lot)

Ushers - Ginny Eiwen & Eddie Ritchie

September 19

Jacob Reese (Streaming & Parking Lot)

Ushers - Jim Prater & Lynn Black

September 26

Ben Bullock (Streaming)

Steve Asbill (Parking Lot)

Ushers - TBA

Lector volunteers are needed for the worship service. Can you volunteer and lend your voice? If you cannot volunteer on the scheduled day, please inform Gloria Preslar, so that a

substitute can receive the worship materials in advance of the worship service. Contact [Gloria Preslar](#) for more details on how you can serve.

If you have any questions about the volunteer duties of a greeter or an usher. Please contact [Shirley Lamontagne](#) for more information.

September Celebrations

Birthdays

Louise Dunker, September 1
Daisy Ritchie, September 1
Doug Onley, September 7
Helen Huber, September 7
Michelle Couri, September 10
Robert Ruesga, September 11
Alma Villegas Aguilera, September 16
Carol Newell, September 17
John R. Tomat, September 19
Van Baylor, September 28
William Baylor, September 28

Anniversaries

Charles Joye & Errol Croft, September 7
Taunya Cribb & Hiedi Cribb, September 9
Bill & Lynn Barley, September 26
Nell Orscheln & Lindsay Hawkins, September 29

Movie Night Discussion

On Wednesday evening, August 25, we held a ZOOM meeting to discuss the documentary, *Meltdown in Dixie*. There were about a dozen people who joined the discussion. The documentary covered a situation regarding a small business owner in Orangeburg, SC who opened an ice cream shop adjacent to a very small parcel of property owned by the Sons of the Confederacy organization. The group has erected a monument and flag pole on the parcel and flies a large confederate flag on the flag pole. The movie covers both sides of this story, i.e., those that want the flag removed and those that want it to stay.

Our small group discussed several relevant issues, e.g., racism, white supremacy, and social justice. The general consensus was the discussion went well, and we agreed we need to keep the dialogue going. As such, it was suggested we select another source or example of this topic, presented in books or movie form, and continue our discussions. We agreed it would be most beneficial to invite people outside of our congregation to join the discussion. If you have not seen the documentary, we highly encourage you to view it. Also, please watch for further announcements about the next discussion and consider joining the conversation.



From the ELCA Website

On Aug. 29, Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana, exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina. While the full impact of Ida is still unknown, **Lutheran Disaster Response** is working with ELCA synods and Lutheran social service organizations to assist survivors in the days, months and years after Hurricane Ida. Your gifts make this long-lasting support possible: <https://bit.ly/3zwUNFx>

Monthly Zoom Schedule

Meeting/Group	Recurrence	Time	Zoom ID #
Adult Sunday School	Every Sunday	8:30 - 9:30 AM	859 4578 5914
Bible Study	Every Wednesday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	853 3035 6858
Wired Word	Every Wednesday	7:30 - 8:45 PM	813 6131 9680
Executive Committee	2nd Sundays	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	814 2447 3414
Education Committee	2nd Mondays	7:30 - 8:45 PM	872 8227 0016
Finance Committee	2nd Thursdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	862 8298 4076
Council Meeting	3rd Sundays	11:AM - 1:00 PM	854 3791 4142
Worship & Music Committee	3rd Tuesdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	857 8690 1040
Servants Committee	3rd Thursdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	860 0836 0775
Happy Hour	3rd Fridays	6:00 - 7:00 PM	824 2935 6893

Announcements and Reminders

Calendar Updates

Check the calendar on the church's web page (www.reformationcae.org) for the latest updates, changes, cancellations, and postponements in church activities and meetings.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 19.

We Will Continue to Wear Masks.

Sarah Trani has offered to supply those who need cloth masks. You may contact her directly at sarah.trani@gmail.com.

Keep in Touch with Your Church Family

Do you need a Reformation Lutheran Church Membership Directory? To request a copy, please contact Mikita at the Church Office at (803.252.1507) or via e-mail at officeofreform@gmail.com.

Reformation Lutheran Church Newsletter

The Reporter is published monthly at Reformation Lutheran Church and is sent electronically or mailed to members and friends who wish to have a copy. A link to The Reporter newsletter is also posted on the church website: www.ReformationCAE.org and on Reformation's [Facebook](#) page. A mid-month newsletter is also published and sent electronically with timely information and updates.

The deadline to submit articles or items to be updated, announced, or published is the eighteenth of the month. If you have news to share, please send it to the church office. Please email to officeofreform@gmail.com.