

Reformation Lutheran Church Newsletter

1355 S. Hamilton Road Columbus, Ohio 43227

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Pastor David Ritchie

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August 2021

Church is Open:

Reformation is open for in person services. Our service begins at 11:00. We still practice common sense safety as recommended by the CDC guidelines. On September 26, we will celebrate Welcome Back Sunday. Sunday School will begin at 10:00 with the traditional Rally Sunday. Everyone is invited to participate in sharing a breakfast with each other. The meal will consist of a breakfast casserole, sweet rolls, bagels, juice and coffee. Thank you, Pam Stiverson, for providing a fulfilling meal.

We will continue to air our service on Facebook as we meet in the sanctuary. If you are on Facebook please request to be friends with Pastor (use David Ritchie). You can also watch past services that you may have missed. Masks may be worn or not. Please respect each other's needs.

Your questions and concerns answered:

We welcome questions and comments about our service and any of our events. It shows that people are paying attention to what we are doing. That is appreciated. The following responses are answered by Pastor Ritchie. I do regret the fact that all these issues came to me third hand. I did not know questions like these are being raised. The age-old "pastor adage" is at play here: "Pastor is always the last to know." My colleagues and I speak of this issue frequently. I cannot address concerns or answer questions like these if I do not know them. Please come to me with your questions and concerns. Once again, as you have heard me say many times, I cannot minister to you all if I do not know the problems, concerns, or questions. God bless you with peace.

"The"

I understand that some are questioning the insertion of the definite article "the" between "Jesus" and "Christ" when the phrase is spoken in worship liturgy. Instead of the phrase being simply "Jesus Christ", it is spoken by myself and a couple of worship assistants as: "Jesus the Christ." The simplest reasoning and explanation for this is

the fact that "Christ" is not Jesus' last name, it is his title. Scholars of the twenty-first century have conveyed that this further glorifies Jesus by emphasizing the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed One who saves the people of God from their sin and gives them eternal life. "The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'" (John 4:25-26). No, not all pastors, worship leaders, or parishioners do this. It comes down to each one's personal piety. I am one of strong conviction that we need to glorify Jesus as much as, and the best we can. This is one way to accomplish that goal. I, and some worship assistants, will continue to glorify Jesus by stating "Jesus the Christ" to emphasize that Jesus is the one true Christ, the Messiah of God who has come to save us from our sin and give us eternal life. Thanks be to God!

"Communion Assistants"

Some are questioning why communion assistants are standing up front behind the altar when it seems like they are doing nothing, and if so, they should not be there. First, let me point out that they are not solely communion assistants, they are worship assistants. The role of the worship assistant is to help the presiding minister throughout the worship liturgy with the liturgy itself, as well as helping with prayers and finally, helping with communion. We have this position because being true to our baptismal vocation, all the children of God are given the privilege and responsibility to participate in worship rather than just be spectators. Our role includes both leadership and participation. There are many ways in which we can participate during worship. "The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12). Another reason that it may seem like our worship assistants are doing less is due to the changing to ELW setting 10 from setting 4. Setting 10 takes out the dialogue liturgy, which is the assistant's responsibility, and replaces it with hymnodic liturgy where the congregation sings the liturgy. This then, leaves the worship assistant's role to solely the prayers and assisting with communion. That said, the role with assisting communion has been lessened slightly because of changes made due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Normally, the worship assistant would pour the wine for each individual congregant in his/her duties. This was changed to pastor only to try to lessen the human contact with adhering to social distancing practices. I believe we need to continue to follow this

trend, especially with the unknown variables coming with the increased breakouts of the Delta variant. Hopefully, soon we can get back to resume to celebrate holy communion the way we used to.

“Long Prayers”

A good prayer life is essential to our relationship with the Lord our God. We are called by God to pray at all times and for all things. “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.” (Ephesians 6:18). “Rejoice always, *pray without ceasing*, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Being called to pray for all things, it does seem at times that the *Prayers of Intercession* in worship get a little long. That is not the intention of the prayers. The intention is to include “all things” of God by praying certain petitions. In general, there are six petitions to these prayers that are designed to pray for all things funneling down from global concerns to individual congregations, to the people of those congregations, ending with a glorification of God for the promise of eternal life to all the saints. The petitions themselves are: The Church Ecclesia (the worldwide church), God’s creation, the nations, those in need (both globally and locally), our congregation, and the promise of eternal life. These are standard prayers pre-written for us and published on *Sundays and Seasons* (the general worship guide of the ELCA). The prayers said in worship are also lengthened by praying for the individual persons on our prayer list. We are called to pray for those in need, no matter how long the list becomes. If you have someone on the prayer list whom you feel no longer needs our prayers, please let Pastor know and they will be taken off.

“Background sounds over Facebook”

It has come to the attention of council that there is quite a lot of background noise coming over the live-stream broadcast when participating in worship on Facebook. This is generally happening at the beginning and end of worship when people are gathering and socializing in the sanctuary, especially when there are visitors present. This does make it difficult for those participating online to hear the prelude and postlude, announcements, and such. On the flip side of that, the noise does allow the online worshipper to know that we are physically in the facility and they are welcome to join us. As it is with everything, there are two sides to this story. First, people (I included) get discouraged when they cannot hear the worship activities once the broadcast has begun. Then, secondly, people (again, I included) get

upset when asked to quiet down, for we have come not only to worship God, but also to fellowship with one another. Fellowshiping in the name of Jesus is important to our relationships with one another, but we also need to take into consideration whether we are bothering someone who is trying to prepare for or appreciate worship. Therefore, we all need to be more aware of what we are doing when the Facebook broadcast has begun (which is generally right at 11:00am). At that point in time, we should either become quiet, or take our fellowshiping out of the sanctuary and into the narthex. Let us praise God with fellowship while still being considerate to one another.

Offering:

With the church now open for face-to-face services the counters are back each Sunday. You can still deliver your offering to the church on Sunday morning if you wish to not attend. You can also mail it to the church. Please write on the outside envelope **ATTN: Smile**. That will alert anyone who gathers the mail that this is an offering and that it will also be placed in a safe secure place until ready for deposit.

Women's Rummage Sale:

The Women's Rummage Sale was held on August 6th and 7th. We also held a Flash Sale on Wednesday, August 11 and shopping was open to the Santa Group on Saturday, August 14. As of August 15, the total sales were \$3,308.03. Any items that were not sold were going to several organizations. All golf clubs were donated to First Tee, an organization that introduces golf to low-income children. Some blankets, towels and rugs were donated to a local veterinarian clinic. All adult clothing went to Bishop Griffin, a free store associated with Christ the King Catholic Church. Any books/DVD's will be taken to Half Price Books and baby clothes will go to Once Upon a Child. Finally, everything else will go to The Kidney Foundation. Our rummage sale was huge with 2 ½ years of collections. We used



the Fellowship Hall, old narthex, hallway and 5 classrooms. It took 4 weeks to sort, set up and price all the items. It took 1 ½ weeks to tear down all those areas. First, we want to thank you all for your generous donations. We couldn't have done it without you! Also thank you to those who let us borrow tables and/or

sawhorses. Special thank you to Jean Leckrone, Merry Pruitt, Charlotte Wilson, Paula Flanagan, Susan Davala and Laura Miller for working tirelessly most of those days to get the event done. Thank you to Craig and Cindi Garrelts, Greg Goodwin, Susie Docken, Sallie Tablett, Linda Luft Jones, Susan Scott, Susie and Travis Miller, Jim Wilson, Pam Stiverson, Glen Leckrone, Cal Miller, John Rushmeyer, Tyler Miller, Bobbie Dickson and Pastor Ritchie for helping with check out, moving items, aiding shoppers, set up and preparing food.

Church Property:

As many of you are aware we had a bad year in 2020 with our church property, theft, furnaces and water heater replaced and a gas line leak. I'm happy to announce the gas line has been fixed and the gas company replaced the meters at no cost. We had a water leak by the parking lot, and we had that fixed. We have not had any real big calamity lately, knock on wood.

Thank you to Greg Goodwin and Cal Miller for repairing the back red double doors.

Thank you, Greg Goodwin and Bill MacGillis, for cleaning out the gutter and downspout outside the front door, while it was pouring down rain!

Thank you to Paula Flanagan and Susan Davala for removing the pink valances and straightening the curtains in the Fellowship Hall. They also replaced many of the light bulbs in the fixtures.

Thank you, Bill MacGillis, placing back-flow plugs in basement drains, blowing leaves off roof and cleaned gutters.

Thank you to Cal Miller, Tyler Miller, Travis Miller, Pastor Ritchie, John Rushmeyer and Laura Miller for mowing the lawn this year.

Thank you to Paula Flanagan and Laura Miller for cleaning the church.

Bobbie Dickson, Susie Docken, Susan Davala and Paula Flanagan cleaned out the file cabinets in the church office...thank you.

Thank you to Cal Miller for laying down the men/women's restroom flooring/baseboards that was removed after the flooding. Big Thank You to Paula and Dennis Flanagan for donating the flooring and baseboard.

Thank you, Bill MacGillis, for obtaining bids and supervising repairs to the gas line, water heater and waterline.

Flowers:

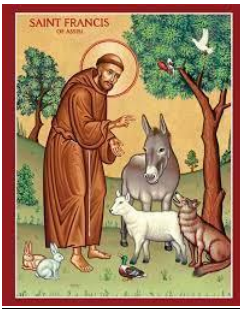


Flowers can be placed on the altar to celebrate a birthday, funeral, the church, God's blessings and just because. There is a flower chart on the white board in the Narthex to sign up. We ask that you bring your own flowers. There are vases available for use in the sacristy for your use. Please wash and return the vases for future use. Fill out a dedication form and place in the holder by the flower chart. Even those of you who are not attending the service can still donate the flowers.

Collections:

We are still collecting pop cans and plastic bags. Those items can be left up front by the men's bathroom

Saint Francis of Assisi – Blessing of the Animals:



Reformation will be holding a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday October 10 beginning at 4:00. Stay tuned to more information. All animals must be on leash.

New Addresses:

Bea Garrelts
Room 207
9400 Hazelton-Etna
Rd.
Pataskala, OH 43062

1-740-964-7313

Terri Pace
1362 Erickson Rd.
Columbus, OH 43227

1-740-222-0009

Susie Docken
105 Bloomsbury Drive
Columbus, OH 43213

1-614-927-3937

Irene (Thornton) and
Jeff Scott
9420 State Rt. 161
Mechanicsburg, OH
43044

1-614-404-3957

Bee Thornton
Address same as Irene

1-614-266-7821

Christmas in July:

We had our "Christmas in July" service on July 25th. Many people commented that they enjoyed this service because they weren't worried about the Christmas festivities. Thank you to John Rushmeyer, reading Joseph, Aislyn Donohue for reading Mary and Pastor Ritchie reading the Shepherd for the wonderful sermon ... After the service we enjoyed Christmas cookies provided by Charlotte and Jim Wilson. They also decorated the Narthex with the tree.



Spring Clean Up:

The Gatekeepers Committee sponsored a spring cleanup on May 14th and 15th. Lunch was served and much was accomplished both inside and outside the facility. Stay tuned for another announcement for a fall cleanup. Thanks to Paula Flanagan for making the spring clean-up arrangements.

Loan Standing:

Good Shepherd was generous to our congregation by loaning \$16,000 to help with the repairs of the furnaces and the water heater that we lost to flooding. Our insurance policy did not cover flooding, but it does now. We agreed to pay back \$276.96 per month for 5 years. Due to the generous donation of members we hope to have this paid off by mid 2022. As the end of July 2021, we owe \$7129.32. If you would like to help in reducing this loan, please mark your envelope as such.

Community Breakfast:

Beginning (under CDC guidelines) November 6, Reformation will open its doors for the monthly Community Breakfast. We offer sausage, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits, OJ and coffee. If you wish to help the outreach committee meet at 8:00 to set up the tables, prepare the food, serve and clean up. The breakfast is served from 9-11:30. Any questions please contact Linda Luft Jones.

Fun Facts about Birds:

- + There are over 9,000 different species
- + Birds are found on every continent



- + Birds are classified as carnivorous
- + Early birds had teeth
- + The ostrich is the largest bird
- + Canada Geese are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the State of Ohio. These birds cannot be harmed or killed by poison, vehicles, guns or dogs unless you have the appropriate license. Harming or killing these birds is considered a Federal Offense.
- + Approximately 20% of bird species migrate long distances every year.
- + Hummingbirds average weight is 1/8 of an ounce.
- + Hummingbirds travel 30 mph and fly nonstop for 600 miles.

Car Show and Cruise In:

Pinecrest Civic Association and C-Town Cruisers held their first car show and cruise in our parking lot. Music from the 50's and 60's played over the speakers. Two food trucks provided excellent food The Pit BBQ and Johnson's Ice Cream. Yummy. The day was warm but the company of the visitors, the vendors (about 6), and the car participants was interesting. We had about 26 cars on display. Reformation will participate in this again next year.



School Supplies:

School is fast approaching and along with that comes school supplies. After careful consideration we decided not participate this summer with donating school supplies to Shady Lane and Leawood Elementary, Sherwood and Walnut Ridge. This has to do with one main reason, a lot of these schools receive supplies from big corporations. We hear the weakness for supplies is in beginning of the 2nd Semester in January.



We will help the schools then. However, the problem is the stores do not have school supply savings then. We would like to ask that you purchase supplies now and hold onto them until December/January. Merry Pruitt is willing to shop for anyone that wishes to donate. Thank you in advance for your support.

Santa Claus Meeting:



The jolliest Saturday at Reformation is when the Santa Claus helpers come together to HO HO HO it up. Their last meeting for 2021 is October 9. They have their professional pictures taken in their beautiful coats and boots. Even Mrs. Claus can be spotted. They are also going to remember 6 members who passed away this past year due to covid. Reformation will prepare a meal for them. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laura Miller. All food will be purchased ahead and prepped on site. Thank you in advance. Please stay tuned for more information about times.

Good Hope:



John Rushmeyer is in his 3rd year of holding the position as the synodical approved Minister for Good Hope Lutheran Church in Glenford. John is enjoying his service to this church. Because he has been approved, he is able to give communion and Baptize members of Good Hope. I borrowed this picture from Good Hopes's Facebook page.

Reformation Sunday:

It's hard to believe that 504 years ago Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. Four years ago, we celebrated the 500th anniversary with a tribute during the service and followed by a dinner catered by Schmidt's Restaurant. It was so good. We will celebrate again with sausages, sauerkraut, German potato salad and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in October on the white board. Wear red on October 31 to show your Lutheranism.

Pinecrest Litter Pickup

Join our surrounding community to assist with a litter pickup scheduled for August 28th beginning at 10:00. Everyone will be meeting at the corner of Westphal and Livingston. Trash Bags will be provided. Please wear gloves and bring a pickup stick.



Please consider helping since Pinecrest has been active with our church.

Ken Sass:



Ken Sass a strong, beloved and caring member of Reformation passed away January 15, 2021. Below is his obituary

Kenneth R. Sass, 91, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2021. He was born in Toledo, Ohio to Kenneth A. and Esther Piotraschke Sass on June 28, 1929. Following high school, Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served dutifully in the Korean War for 4 years. Kenneth retired from DCSC with over 35 years of service. He was a proud participant in May 2015 Honor Flight Columbus. He delighted in the times spent with his children, grandchildren (proudly attending their sporting events), and great grandchildren. Ken was an active member of Reformation Lutheran Church. He particularly enjoyed playing golf, traveling, Siesta Key, Florida, and all Ohio sports. Kenneth is preceded in passing by Marilyn, his beloved wife of 50 years, his parents, and his son Robert. Left to cherish his memory are his son, Steven (Connie Dickson) Sass; daughters, Lynette (George) Edmiston, Susan (Walter) Klepac, and Sandra (Ervin) Bitter; 6 loved granddaughters and favorite grandson; and 7 dear great-grandchildren. His memory will be cherished by many family and friends. A private memorial service will be held in Kenneth's memory on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Interment will take place at Glen Rest Memorial Estates. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Reformation Lutheran Church, 1355 South Hamilton Road, Columbus, 43227. Ken's family would like to give heartfelt thanks to Parkside Village Senior Living Community for all the care and love shown to our dad. ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO SCHOEDINGER NORTHEAST. To share online condolences, visit www.schoedinger.com.

Ken's private interment was conducted by Pastor Ritchie on Friday, August 13, 2021. Rest In Peace Ken, you are missed.

Mitten Tree:



The Mitten Tree will be put up in the Narthex awaiting the generosity of our congregation to accept hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Any items that are not used to for a possible adopt-a-family will be donated to LSS or another organization that could pass them out. The tree will be available to accept the warmth of the articles by November 7.

Midweek Advent Services:

Midweek Advent Services will be held on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15 and 22. We will begin with a meal of Soup and Sandwiches from 6:30 to 7:15. The service will begin at 7:30.

Christmas Eve Service:

The Christmas Eve service will be held on Friday at 4:00.

In his beautiful book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands.

A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

She bowed again and went and sat down.

That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23rd Psalm ever heard.

