



THE REPORTER

Reformation Lutheran Church

April 2016

Welcome!

Reformation is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. We welcome everyone to join with us in a journey of faith. We are committed to providing worship, programs, ministries and pastoral care to all, regardless of age, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religious background, color, economic status, or national origin. Everyone is welcome in this place, where the love of God is the foundation of all that we say and do.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus—Galatians 3:28

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am - Informal Worship

9:45am - Coffee/Fellowship

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Classic Worship



THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

By the time you read this we will have been through Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, but we will still be in Easter. There are seven Sundays in Easter, taking us all the way up to the Ascension and Pentecost, and if there was ever a time when we should be focusing on the message of Easter, it is now.

With all the violence in the world, and as it draws closer to us, we need Easter to guide us on the path to peace. That's what Jesus did with his entry and subsequent death, he revealed paths of peace. In Luke's recount of that entry, Jesus' lament as he was entering tells us that, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!" His entry, which signifies the beginning of our Holy Week, begins the story that identifies the DNA of the church and reveals the possibilities for society. Jesus claims that the religious types missed it, and because they missed it, they did face some dire consequences. These consequences were not because God is looking to punish them, but because when we resist peace, we run into our alternative, and that is the opposite of peace, which is usually dire.

"But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

More than likely, by the time of Luke's interviews individuals, the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Rome had already taken place, and they were trying to make sense of it all. But this piece of the story of Easter gives us some hope of finding peace. What if we, in this first century of this new millennium recognize the things that make for peace in the Easter text? How can that change the course of history and give us hope?

First, Jesus comes **NOT** as a suicide bomber but a suicide lover and forgiver. He is going to reveal his and the Father's love for the world at all cost. If the religious lot recognize him as the cosmic messiah of God's agape, all well and good, but if not he is **WILLING** to die to reveal it. He told his disciples outside of Jerusalem that was why he was going, to be handed over to the chief priest and die. Jesus reveals what the peace of utter selfless love looks like.

Second, Jesus, after entering Jerusalem went to the Temple and cleaned it out! He threw out all those things that pertained to buying ones forgiveness, all the **RELIGIOUS** stuff! Finding peace happens when we discard the religion of exclusion, who is forgiven, who is not. That type of religion creates hated enemies, instead of creating space to love them. It creates the a place that gives room for zealots, crusades, inquisitions, jihad, and other justifications for killing others. It creates the opposite of peace!

(cont. page 7)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH are requested for our senior members and homebound:

Tetia Garren Frances Barefoot, Elizabeth Davis, Tracy Hamiter, Louise Meetze, Katie Westbrook, Dorothy Stucke, Dorothy & Landis Perry, Frances Starr, Cope & Evelyn Veronee, Christine White

Members & friends who are hospitalized or have special needs: Members & friends who are hospitalized or have special needs:

Gene & Katy Bain; Dusty Roether's (Joshua Greer) uncle - Ricky Crider and son; Landon Derrick & Grace Weed (friends of Gloria Preslar); Cale Peake's family; Justin Shorter (Anthony Porter's cousin); Paul Bouknight; Joshua Greer's (father's brother and brother's son); Joshua Greer and (Dusty Roether's Great Aunt); Frances Barefoot; Jeff Porter (friend of Gloria Preslar); Howard Simmons (husband of the best friend to Gloria Preslar); Mary Dickman's sister (Lisa & Steven Jackson); Mary Dickman's uncle (Lee Briggs); Ralph Ketner (Jan Swing's uncle); Katy Eargle (Colleen Clark's sister); Cale Peake's friend; Jan Swing Quick & Dorothy Swing

WHEN WE PUT
OUR PROBLEMS IN
GOD'S HANDS,
HE PUTS HIS PEACE IN
OUR HEARTS.

Christian Sympathy: To the family of Michael and Carol Kuhrau. Michael's mother passed away in Germany. The Kuhrau's traveled to Germany and made it back to South Carolina safely. We continue to keep them in our prayers.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 3rd, Sarah Trani will sponsor a SHRIMP and GRITS brunch fundraiser on Sunday, April 3rd between services from (10am - 11am) in the fellowship hall. This fundraiser is to support her mission trip to Tanzania. Tickets are \$10. If you would like to make a donation after the event, please see Sarah Trani or mail a donation to the church office marked ("Sarah's Trip"). We are happy to help support Sarah on her missions trip.

RESERVING SPACE AT REFORMATION - If you are planning to have a meeting or special event at RLC during 2016, you are encouraged to contact the church office to reserve space. Reservations for the parlor, sanctuary and fellowship hall for 2016 are beginning to fill. Call the church office and reserve your space at 803.252.1507 or by email—officeofreform@gmail.com. Don't delay!

The Membership Drive for Lutheran Theological Seminary Auxiliary is coming up. \$1.00 is membership for one year. To honor someone the fee is \$199.00 or if you wish to do a membership in memory of someone the cost is \$100.00. These funds provide scholarships, supplement items that are not covered in the regular budget, summer camp for student's children to one of the Lutheran Camps, providing a reception immediately after graduation, and anything else that regular budget does not cover and if within reason.

REFORM THE MUSIC CONCERT - A concert will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 10th at 4pm. For more information or details regarding the concert, please see Joshua Greer, Director of Music. There will be more exciting news about the organ in the next letter and at the concert, so stay tuned...

VBS - Mark your calendars now for Reformation's Vacation Bible School, July 13-15 from 6:00-8:00. Dinner will be served each night at 6:00 and the fun will begin in the sanctuary at 6:45. Once again we will have an adult class and this year special activities will be provided for the youth! Plan to come and bring a friend!

SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION - Planning to help with Vacation Bible School this year? Teaching Sunday School? Or maybe just interested in learning more about protecting the rights of children? Please mark your calendars for May 14th from 10am-12pm to attend the special training session for all of those who minister to our children.

Sarah Nevarez, a colleague and friend of Alexis Stratton, will be joining us for a training session called Stewards of Children. Stewards of Children is an award-winning, evidence-based program that works to prevent child sexual abuse by educating adults to be aware of the issue, identify red flags of abuse, and act to prevent sexual abuse of children in their community. It was developed by Darkness to Light out of Charleston, SC. Sarah Nevarez, Adult Education Coordinator of Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands, is an authorized facilitator of the program.

This training will bring us into the 21st century with our child safety and security protocol. It is a way all of us can make sure we are protecting the safety of our most precious members. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments and lunch will be served. Please make every effort to join us for this important training. Please call the church office at 803.252.1507 or email jilltruett@gmail.com to reserve your spot now!

2016 South Carolina Synod Assembly

June 9-11, 2016

This year's Synod Assembly will be held for June 9-11 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street Columbia, SC. Wireless internet is available throughout the facility at no cost.

A Reforming Church: Living out Reconciliation and Renewal

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God" - Romans 12:2

2016 is the Twenty-ninth Assembly of the South Carolina Synod - ELCA and the 191st meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina.

At this Assembly we are looking forward to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by exploring our history as well as looking ahead to the ways we continue to be a Reforming Church. We will share in Bible Study, Worship, Mission Moments, Keynote Presentations, and Faith Practices/Discipleship Experiences. It promises to be a full and exciting Assembly. All of our registration is done online (no paperwork for assembly is mailed). Please go to <http://scsynod.com/synod-assembly> to get up-to-date information on assembly and to register.

Conveners

The conveners of the ministry teams meets on Monday, April 4, at 6:30 pm to review and coordinate plans from the ministry planning day and consider the overall ministry of RLC for 2016. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2nd.

Good Food, Good Feet, Good Friday

On Good Friday, March 25, Reformation participated in the "Good Food, Good Feet, Good Friday event. The participants had to take a two hour training session prior to the day of service. On the day of service we helped register the participants, gave out food, washed feet, kept the washing stations set up, prepared "Blessing Bags" to give out after the foot washing was complete. We served from 7:30 - 2:30. It was a very humbling experience for all those who participated. This event was held at Christ Ministries on North Main Street. This was the fourth year for the event. Next year plan to spend your Good Friday and be involved in this ministry, which is a special ministry to the homeless people in our community.

Easter Recap

About 45 attended the Early morning worship in the park



Crowd of members, friends, guests for Easter Breakfast

The children enjoyed an indoor Easter Egg hunt and was chaperoned by parents and others interested in "hiding" Easter treats for the children.

Festival service with over 145 attending and enjoying the wonderful music and joyous celebration

Church beautiful with the Easter lilies in the chancel and the Resurrection Cross decorated with white flowers.

The beautifully decorated cross on the Union St and River Dr corner proclaimed the Day of Resurrection

The children took a selfie with Pastor Tim during the Children's Chatter of the Easter worship service.

Thanks to all who helped to make the day a wonderful celebration of the Resurrection: Pastor Bupp; All musicians; All worship leaders; Those who decorated; Those who provided food; Those who set up and clean up; Those who helped with egg hunt; Those who came to celebrate this most important day in the life of a Christian

Special thanks to the Worship team, Meg Hazel, convener; Fellowship Team, Michael Reames, Convener; Christian Education Team, Jill Allowos, Convener; Property Team, Bill Baldwin, Convener



APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 First Steps (FH)
3 Weekly Schedule Shrimp & Grits Fundraiser One Voice Concert	4 Conveners 6:30PM	5	6 11AM Group Bible Study 6:00PM - Choir NAAC	7	8	9
10 Weekly Schedule Reform the Music Concert - 4pm	11 Thrivent (FH) Primetimers (P)	12 PFLAG - 6pm	13 11AM Group Bible Study 6:00PM - Choir NAAC	14	15	16 Via de Cristo (S) (FH)
17 Weekly Schedule Midlands Men's Chorus (S)	18	19 Council 6:30pm	20 11AM Group Bible Study 6:00PM - Choir NAAC	21	22	23
24 Weekly Schedule Primetimers 4:00pm	25	26	27 11AM Group Bible Study 6:00PM - Choir NAAC	28	29	30 Wedding (RLC)

April Birthday Celebrations

4/1 - Levi Boyd	4/12 - Mary Nichols	4/17 - Josue Rodriguez	4/23 - Barbara Burton
4/3 - Esther Richey	4/12 - Matthew Bedenbaugh	4/18 - Stacie Hook	4/23 - Shannon Moore
4/5 - Luke Willoughby	4/13 - Jeff Harrell	4/19 - Cameron Harsey	4/27 - Katie O'Connor
4/5 - Nicholas Willougby	4/15 - Sarah Trani	4/19 - Bill Gilmore	4/28 - Evelyn Veronee
4/7 - Rev. Bill Eiwien	4/17 - Michael Watson	4/20 - Dorothy Ellen Perry	4/28 - Kathy Bupp

April Anniversary Celebrations

4/10 - Brian & Christa Willoughby	4/17 - Anthony Miles & Patrick Proper	4/24 - Jim & Julia Prater
4/25 - Lee Amick & Robert Ruesga	4/26 - Buddy and Susan Hooper	

TREASURERS UPDATE — REPORT



February, 2016 summery

Offerings needed for monthly budget	\$17,209.00
Offerings received in February	\$11,981.00

2016 Year to Date summery

Offerings needed for YTD budget	\$34,420.00
Offerings received YTD	\$28,067.00

ELCA NEWS and EVENTS

CHICAGO (ELCA) – In observance of International Women's Day, March 8, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrate the cultural, educational, political and social achievements of women across the globe.

"As we join the rest of the world in celebrating this day, we give thanks for the incredible women leaders in the ELCA and throughout our Lutheran companion churches," said Andrew Steele, director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.

Through the ELCA's International Women Leaders initiative, the ELCA will provide more than 200 women from global companion churches with scholarships and educational opportunities to support their call to ministry and leadership. The initiative is one of 10 priorities of the ELCA's five-year comprehensive campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the campaign seeks to raise \$198 million to help sustain and grow the ministries of this church.



CHICAGO (ELCA) – The Rev. Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Delaware-Maryland Synod based in Baltimore, traveled with an interfaith delegation to the Vatican for a March 2 meeting with Pope Francis. The group met the pope following his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square and received a blessing for their ecumenical work in the aftermath of the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray.

"The civil unrest in Baltimore in April 2015 brought out the best in the faith community. At one point, more than 100 pastors and Muslim imams walked arm in arm down the street in order to stop the rioting," said Herz-Lane in an interview prior to the trip. "Interfaith relationships are stronger now than they were before the unrest. We know the faith community has an important role to play in addressing some of the underlying problems that led to the riots and that we can only do this together." Following Gray's death, Herz-Lane and other faith leaders in Baltimore expressed concern over Gray's death and appealed to residents to remain calm as riots and arson broke out across the city.

"The witness for peace by religious leaders during the riots in Baltimore prevented further violence following Freddie Gray's death," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "The continued witness of this inter-religious delegation as they work for peace in Baltimore and pray for peace with the pope in Rome is a sign of healing. I am proud of Bishop Herz-Lane's participation in this work. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.' May these children of God be blessed."

Pastor Perspective Continued

Finally, Easter tells us we should be a kingdom of foot washers. Jesus, after that last Passover meal, got up from the table and washed the disciples' feet. All of them! Including Judas', the one who would betray him, and it stopped Judas in his tracks! Jesus had to remind him three times to do what he was supposed to do. Jesus will also tell Phillip, if you believe in this message of selfless love, better works than these actions of love you will do.

As we travel these seven Sundays of Easter, let us find the ways of peace in Jesus' love revealed in the Easter story and beyond, as the 1st Century Church found it's peace in the mist of Pax Roma. Come, let us travel this journey as we come together in the body known as Reformation. Come join the journey of peace.

Peace, Pastor Tim.

The Pastor's Lament:

When we see someone drinking poison, we don't pick up the same bottle and drink it and expect a different result. I would hope not, but after the tragic events in Brussels and Paris, that's exactly what I hear some of our presidential candidates doing. They want us to drink the same poison of monitoring and isolation that got Europe to this point.

Shortly after the Brussels tragedy, I heard a European citizen tell an interviewer that their politicians and law enforcement leaders need to go to the US and see what we are doing right. She went on to say that a country as large as the US, with the number of Muslims we have and to have as little radical and violent actions as we have, we must be doing something right. She also pointed out that there is a higher degree of assimilation taking place in the US that is not happening in Europe. But now we have two candidates for running for President telling us that the failed European policies of monitoring and isolating are what we should do. Lets drink that poison, for certainly the outcome for us will be different.

Brian McClaren writes in his book "Everything Must Change" that kind of thinking is nothing short of suicidal. We cannot maintain that kind of energy to support that kind of power – Rome couldn't, Napoleon couldn't, Germany couldn't, and neither could the USSR – so why practice the foolishness to try? It is hubris at best, suicidal at worst.

Through Christ we are called to be seekers of peace and inclusion, that's what Holy Week and Easter is about. It's filled with expressions of peace through serving, the manifestation of radical love, and the wonderful possibilities of God's complete inclusiveness. It is the better way, and the way of abundant life. A life filled with deepening relationships as we find new ways to love each day, even a love for our enemies. Sound crazy?

That's what the religious likes that greeted Jesus, when he entered Jerusalem, thought too. It's what the apostles wrestled with all the way to the cross and beyond, until the Day of Pentecost. Then we read throughout the Book of Acts how a church loved an empire into submission. It wasn't easy, it was dangerous, and it was deadly, but this crazy radical selfless love defeated violence with peace. It didn't do it with isolation, arms or force, but a love that revealed a peace the violent empire had no answer for.

Let us not fall for posturing and bolstering as one candidate tries to outdo the other with violence and force. Let us seek peace, and find the courage to follow our messiah into Jerusalem and beyond. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Peace,

Pastor Tim

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Pastor Tim Bupp

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

P-A-I-D

PERMIT NO. 4

COLUMBIA, SC

APRIL WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	Apr 3	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24
Open (Close)	Cale Peake (Ben Bullock)	Cale Peake (Cale Peake)	Cale Peake (Jim Prater)	Cale Peake (Sam Ruff)
Altar Guild with Ben Bullock	Sharon Baldwin & Michael Shirley	Cale Peake (Julia Prater)	Jill Allawos (Rev. Karin Culp)	Lisa Shepherd (Ben Bullock)
9AM Acolyte/Crucifer	Kyra Ritchie	Denise & Jane Derriso	Kathia & Sebi Valverde	Danyelle Ritchie
9AM Ushers and (assistants)	Bill & Sharon Baldwin (Donny & Matthew Peter-Fritts)	Sam Ruff & Raymond Cook (Caroline Kearns/ Cale Peake)	Michael & Carol Kuhrau (Marie Pearson/ Gloria Preslar)	Andy Miles & Cale Peake (Sarah Trani & Gloria Preslar)
9AM Asst. Minister/lector	Paula Prosser	Lindsay Hawkins	Bill Baldwin	Bob Hoemke
- 11am (or 10) Acolyte/Crucifer	Jim Prater	Mary Dickman	Ben Bullock	Colleen Clark
11:00AM (or 10) Ushers & Offering (assistants)	Ross Jolly & Luis Guzman	Sam McNutt & Michael Shirley	Jim Prater & George Black	Sam Ruff, Raymond Cook
Lector 11 (or 10)	Connie Pool	Julia Prater	Luis Guzman	Jenny Temple
11:00AM (or 10) Asst. Minister	Alexis Stratton	Ben Bullock	Mary Dickman	Jim PRater