

## Senior Recognition Sunday, May 5, 8:30 a.m. Rise Worship

Congratulations to  
Michaela Schrader, Cailan  
Steward, Adison Wendt,  
John Wetta, and Addison

Willett as they graduate from high school this month! On Sunday, May 5, you are invited to be a part of celebrating their accomplishments and blessing them as they head into the next step in their journeys. The blessing will take place during Rise worship, with an opportunity to greet and congratulate the graduates during the learning hour. Please take a moment to wish each of them well by writing a note of congratulations and encouragement in the books we have for each student. Even if you don't know them all well, you are encouraged to share a note of congratulations – and maybe your favorite bible verse – as these graduates will be able to take these books with them wherever their journey takes them as a tangible reminder of the love and support of their Reformation family.

## Sunday School Celebration May 12, 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, May 13, we will celebrate another great year of learning here at Reformation. Through song, activities, crafts and snacks, we will explore what it means to be sheep of the Good Shepherd. Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for both the teachers and students who made this another incredible year!



## Save the Date! Reformation FUN-raiser Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

On May 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m., you are invited to join our Rise Team and friends for a "fun-raiser" performance of song and silliness to support our needed HVAC purchase and our friends in the Southeast High School band who are traveling to Normandy, France, in 2020 (all proceeds will be split 50-50). The evening will feature our own church lady, members of the SEHS band, and songs from the Beatles, South Pacific, Sister Act, Simon & Garfunkel, and others. The evening will also include a silent auction of various items (woodcrafts, desserts, other special treasures). Donations are most welcome! More information will follow in next month's Ref Life.



## Youth Picnic and Park Clean-up Wednesday, May 29, 6:00 p.m.



School is almost out, and we are ready to serve and have some fun! On

Wednesday, May 29, all middle school and high school youth are invited to Coleman Park (across 13<sup>th</sup> Street from the church) to do a little park clean-up and share together in a picnic and some outdoor games. We will provide burgers and hot dogs to grill, and invite you all to bring sides or desserts to share! Please RSVP to Pastor Kristin by Tuesday, May 28. Thanks!



## Beginning Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, our summer worship times will be:

Saturday Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Rise Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship at 10:00 a.m.



*Rev. Dr. Mari Larson  
Senior Pastor*

# Life Lessons, Large and Small

This year's National Workshop on Christian Unity was my tenth. One of my "a-ha" moments this year is that the first ecumenical imperative ("we should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced") is not limited to ecumenism. Imagine how much better we'd get along in all areas of life if we consistently began with what we had in common rather than how we disagree. (There are five ecumenical imperatives which were agreed to by Lutherans and Catholics meeting in Lund, Sweden. If you want to now more about this, I suggest a document entitled, "From Conflict to

Communion" which is posted on the internet.)

Our culture may continue to be polarized on many issues, but we have the power to change how we regard one another. During my childhood, there was a movement to see and say, "I see Jesus in you." I don't hear that phrase much these days, but I believe that is precisely what the extrapolation of this ecumenical imperative is challenging us to do.

It has been twenty years since Roman Catholics and Lutherans agreed to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Since then, three other world communions (World Methodist Council in 2006, World Communion of Reformed Churches in 2017, and the Anglican Communion on Reformation Day 2017) have embraced this agreement, putting an end to our 500-year-old dispute! It took generations of theologians meeting for conversation and dialogue, but it was accomplished. If you're facing a disagreement that looks insurmountable, remember this one, and don't give up.

At the National Workshop, I was elected President of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network of the ELCA and, before sitting down for the first meeting, I received a prayer shawl and huddled under it with the Methodist and Episcopal Presidents. Our prayers do not need to be long or filled with multi-syllabic words to be powerful. I am grateful to my Methodist colleague for praying for me as she knit the prayer shawl and putting it over our shoulders to get us started well on the work we will be accomplishing together.

My best friend, Cindy, died in January, and I am beginning the month of May with vacation time. Gary and I will be flying to Arizona where I will be preaching at her memorial service. When Cindy, her sister Sue, and I sat at Cindy's dining room table in the spring of 2016 to plan this memorial service, we had no idea that Sue would later be diagnosed with ALS and would die a month before Cindy, or that I would leave for Wichita before 2016 was over. The hours we spent planning Cindy's memorial service were a great gift to her widower, Carl, and to her new pastor who didn't have the opportunity to know Cindy well. Pastor Sharon and I spoke on the phone, and she invited me to return to preach. (Rules about pastors returning to a former congregation for a wedding, funeral or weekly worship service vary by Synod; in this case, I had no expectation of returning until Pastor Sharon's invitation was extended.) Please pray for us as we gather on May 4 at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Clarkdale, Arizona. And, if you haven't already done so, pick up a funeral planning booklet in the display right outside the church office to record what you would like included in your funeral or memorial service.

**Pr. Mari**

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

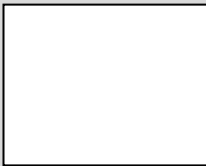
## Open Door Food Pantry



Spring has sprung! Let's celebrate by helping to feed hungry kids and families with canned fruit and fruit snacks. Peaches, pears, applesauce, mixed fruits-doesn't matter what kind- all will be appreciated.

Don't forget we ALWAYS have a need for canned meat and canned vegetables, dried beans, cereal and oatmeal, sugar and flour, soup and crackers.

Place your items in the grocery cart located by the door in Parish Hall. Thanks for remembering to add these items on your shopping trips.



## Best Times of Life

**Monday, May 13**  
**12:00 p.m.**

Our guest speaker will be Wayne Bryan, Artistic Director of Music Theater of Wichita. His talk will encompass the coming season, other activities of MTW, and possibly the future of Century 2. Come enjoy one of our favorite guests.

Please bring a covered dish to share and your own table service. You can make reservations with Jolene Dougherty (776-2068) or Judy Carlson (733-0809). Anyone 55 or older is invited to join us.

## Women of Reformation Calendar

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 6  | Blanket Makers, 9:00 a.m.  |
| May 9  | Rebecca Circle, 10:00 a.m.<br>Church Office Conference Room,<br>Hosted by Jolene Dougherty |
| May 15 | Dorcas Circle, 1:30 p.m.<br>Leader - Lotus Gerards<br>Hosted by Shirley Metz               |
| May 20 | Blanket Makers, 9:00 a.m.  |

## Women's Night Out

**Tuesday, May 21**  
**6:30 p.m.**



Please join us at *Taste of Country* in the home of Charlene Towne on May 21. Enjoy this country home and tour her beautiful gardens. We are always served great food that includes pie and her famous rolls. The time is 6:30 p.m., but if you want to carpool from church, please be there by 6:00 p.m. Please let Martha Deines know by Monday, May 20 (214-4414) so she can let Charlene know the number attending.

We will complete our journey through Luther's Small



Catechism with the teaching on Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 19. Potluck lunch begins at 12:15pm. The class itself begins at 1:00pm. All are welcome!

## Do You Have an Article for the June *Ref Life*?

Please e-mail to Royce  
Deadline for the June *Ref Life* is May 15.





## Stephen Ministry

The Chinese word for **crisis** is a combination of two characters: one for *danger* and the other for *opportunity*. Every crisis, even though it may offer impending danger also offers opportunities for personal or spiritual growth.

Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with you through the danger of your crisis and to help you find the opportunities God has in store for you.

For more information about how Stephen Ministry can help you or someone you love, please contact Lotus Gerards at 683-8602.

## Soul Food Thanks

Tacos, stuffed shells, pizza, salad, fruit, and too many yummy desserts to mention. All of these and more have been a part of the delicious meals that have been served on Wednesday nights as we gathered for our weekly Soul Food meal. As we wrap up for this school year on Wednesday, May 8, a huge thank you goes out to all who have provided meals as a part of this ministry, and especially to Andrea Fuller, who coordinated the meals, making sure that we were all fed well throughout the year. Thank you!



Did you know? Reformation provides Sunday afternoon Communion Worship for the residents of Via Christi Village (commonly known as Georgetown). Pastor

Mari, Pastor Kristin, Seminarian Andrew Beers, and this month, PMEA student Dallas Rakestraw are all providing leadership. Rise Worship Coordinator Jensen Lee has been providing some of the music.



## Camp Tomah Shinga

It's not too late! You can still register for a week of fun and faith formation at Camp Tomah Shinga this summer! Camps are available for students who are in first grade through high school – and there is even a Family Camp Weekend for families to experience camp together! Confirmation students will be attending the week of July 14-19, and there are camps for all ages that week as well! It is a great opportunity for young people to experience God in new ways while immersed in God's amazing creation. You can register online at [www.tomahshinga.com](http://www.tomahshinga.com). Contact Pastor Kristin with any questions!



## First Communion

On Easter Sunday, Emmaline Larson joined us at the Lord's table as she received her first communion. During the class on Palm Sunday (which turned out to be one-on-one!), she learned more about this special meal and baked

the communion bread that was used on Easter Sunday. Welcome to the table, Emmaline!



Welcome to the congregation, new members Krista and James McKay. Their children – Kelly, Mavis, and Kirk – will be joining through Holy Baptism on May 26.





Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) will be our preacher on May 19. In March, the Central States Synod Council endorsed KIFA as a state public policy office (SPPPO) of the

ELCA. Of this, Rabbi Moti said, “ELCA is doing important advocacy work throughout the country, providing an important moral voice grounded in deep commitment to faith, and we are pleased to be part of it. This partnership will make KIFA part of a network of advocates throughout the country. We also believe that this will help strengthen our outreach to Lutherans throughout Kansas, as well as to other denominations.” There are 16 SPPOs across the ELCA. Pastor Mari met Rabbi Moti last fall, and our Church Council affirmed the invitation for him to preach at Reformation.



## Summer Family Faith Experiences

After much discussion, the Learning Ministry Board has made the decision to host three Family Faith Experiences over the course of the summer in place of Vacation Bible School this year. Families (and individuals!) of all ages are invited to participate in these great activities on Sunday afternoons June 23, July 21, and August 18. We'll share together in a day at the movies, play our favorite games, and wrap up the summer with an opportunity to teach and learn each others hobbies.



## Family Promise

**Hosting Week—May 19-26**

*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.  
(Hebrews 13:2)*

During week of May 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming guests from Family Promise into our church. When we have hosted in the past, I have been in awe of just how giving our members are of their time, talents and treasures through the support you all have provided. I am again asking for your help.

We will need lots of volunteers in order to make sure everything runs smoothly. There are all kinds of things you can help with such as: driving the guests to/from the day house, preparing a meal, being an evening host, and staying overnight to name a few. If you have volunteered in the past, I hope you are looking forward to another opportunity – and if you haven't had the chance yet – I hope you are excited to volunteer this time!

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with the volunteer opportunities listed. Just write your name down next to whichever opportunity(s) you would like to fill. About a week before the guests arrive, I will contact you with the details and answer any questions you may have.

It is important to remember that in order to volunteer directly with the families, you must complete training. If you have not been trained yet, there is still an opportunity:

- April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at GracePoint Church, 9035 W. Central

Please register for this training by emailing Stacia. If you cannot attend this training – and would still like to help – let me know and something else can be arranged.

We are in need of disposable plastic containers that can be used for sack lunches, and always welcome financial contributions (make sure to mark them for Family Promise) in order to offset the costs related to grab-and-go breakfast and lunch items for our guests. If you have any questions contact me (Dulcinea Rakestraw) at (316) 737-9759 or Pastor Kristin.

## Notes of Gratitude



### Overflowing With Thanks

♡ Thank you for your calls, visits, cards, and prayers as Gary suffered from an upper respiratory infection and my hospitalization due to influenza. We are both on the road to recovery and feel truly blessed to belong to such a loving church family!

~Peace & Love, Gary & Linda Hoepner

♡ We want to thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy for our family following the death of our mother/grandmother, Carol Hill. Mom had long-time connections with several Reformation members and enjoyed attending worship at her second church home. Carol's Memorial Service will be held at Christ Lutheran (5356 N Hillside, Wichita) on Saturday, May 18, at 11:00 am.

~Blessings to you all, Judy, Kevin, Dalton, Morgan and Braeden Winters

♡ Many thanks to my Reformation friends for helping me accomplish my move to Arizona! I had excellent packing help from Marla Schmale, Dallas Cronk, Marsha Sears and Martha Deines. The volunteer truck-loading team knocked it out of the park! Thanks to David and Anita Dorf, Larry Ehrlich, Dakota Bennett, Raymond Drake, Marsha Sears and Martha Deines. Special thanks to Gene Bowers for putting out the call for help and to Martha Deines for her taxi services. Thanks as well to Pastor Kristin and Pastor Mari for the blessing and prayers during worship. I felt surrounded by prayer all through the moving process.

~ I will miss my Reformation Family. God bless you all! Pastor Cheryl

♡ I would like to thank my Reformation family for the cards and healing prayers sent to me during my recent heart surgery. They worked!

~Feel so blessed, Barbara Everson

♡ Thank you for letting us have our AA meeting at your church on Monday nights. We really appreciate it and it helps a lot of people.

~Sincerely, Chuck, Back to Basics Group

♡ We recently received the following thank you from the family of a woman who received one of the Hospice gowns we made during God's Work, Our Hands Day last September:

*Dear Caring Hands at Reformation Lutheran Church,  
You have no way of knowing what a blessing you all have been, what you may think a small service was truly a whisper of love and compassion to a sweet Godly woman and her distraught family. Ava Mace had a short illness – widespread cancer, found too late for treatment. We received a sweet, soft, pastel gown with sheep. It was perfect! Some of mom's last words were, "This is so soft, how nice." She was bathed, lotioned, hair washed and put this last earthly attire on. Your part in this thoughtful gift has left your fingerprints in heaven. Mom is embraced in the arms of Jesus now – no pain, no more suffering! May God richly bless each and every one of you – thanks beyond measure.*

~Maces, Crandalls, Werners

♡ Thank you for your contributions to Filling the Gap and Bags of Blessings.

~from Partners for Wichita

## MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 3:45 PM Middle and High School Youth Dinner &amp; A Movie</p>	<p>29 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p>	<p>30 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:00 PM Area Ministry Strategy Team Meeting</p>	<p>1 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 11:15 AM Safe Haven Task Force 11:30 AM Ladies Lunch Out 11:30 AM ROMEOs 12:00 PM Adult Education 6:00 PM Soul Food 6:45 PM Adult Education 6:45 PM Confirmation</p>	<p>2 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10:00 AM Outside Group - Conference Room 6:00 PM Youth Ministry Team 6:45 PM New Hope 7:00 PM Ministry Boards</p>	<p>3 Church Office Open 9am-12pm 1:00 PM Church Women United</p>	<p>4 5:30 PM Worship with prayers for Healing</p>
<p>5 High School Senior Recognition 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>6 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p>	<p>7 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:30 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 11:30 AM ROMEOs 12:00 PM Adult Education 6:00 PM Soul Food 6:45 PM Adult Education 6:45 PM Confirmation</p>	<p>9 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 10:00 AM Rebecca Circle 6:45 PM New Hope</p>	<p>10 Church Office Open 9am-12pm</p>	<p>11 5:30 PM Worship with Holy Baptism</p>
<p>12 MOTHERS' DAY 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Mother's Day Concert 9:45 AM Sunday School Celebration 11:00 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>13 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 12:00 PM BTOL Polluck 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>14 Church Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p>15 Church Office Open 9am-3pm Ref/ Life Deadline 11:30 AM ROMEOs 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle</p>	<p>16 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:45 PM New Hope</p>	<p>17 Church Office Open 9am-12pm 7:00 PM Fundraiser</p>	<p>18 7:00 AM St. Paul's Community Breakfast 5:30 PM Worship - Holden Evening Prayer</p>
<p>19 *Family Promise 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>20 *Family Promise Church Office Open 9am-3pm 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p>	<p>21 *Family Promise Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:30 PM Women's Night Out 7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p>22 *Family Promise Church Office Open 9am-3pm 11:30 AM ROMEOs</p>	<p>23 *Family Promise Church Office Open 9am-3pm 7:00 AM Coleman 8th Grade Breakfast 6:45 PM New Hope</p>	<p>24 *Family Promise Church Office Open 9am-12pm 8:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive</p>	<p>25 *Family Promise 5:30 PM Worship</p>
<p>26 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship with Holy Baptism 9:30 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM McKay Family - Parish Hall 10:00 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>27 Church Office CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision</p>	<p>28 Church Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p>29 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 11:30 AM ROMEOs 6:00 PM Youth Picnic &amp; Park Clean-Up</p>	<p>30 Church Office Open 9am-3pm 6:45 PM New Hope</p>	<p>31 Church Office Open 9am-12pm</p>	<p>1 5:30 PM Worship with prayers for Healing</p>