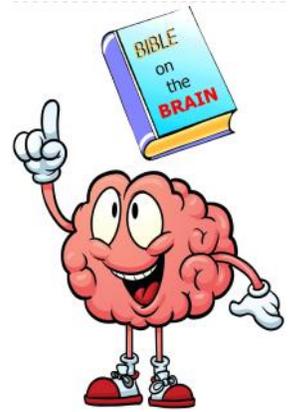


Our Biblical literacy could use a recharge! At this year's Synod Assembly, Rich Melheim (pastor, author, playwright, dad, and a bunch of other cool things) challenged us with some facts about neurology to (literally) feel good about the Bible. I have been listening to Rich Melheim for more than 25 years (he was introducing a new kind of confirmation curriculum when I was starting out as a pastor). He's ridiculously funny (he painted a green cross on his forehead and one on Bishop Roger's forehead during closing worship), extremely knowledgeable, and is so 'outside the box' that he barely knows that a box exists.



He talked about many topics during his time with us, which you'll be hearing more about over the next few months, but since it's summer and our routines tend to be a little different, this is a good time to reflect on our Biblical literacy and devotional habits.

Have you noticed that next week's Scripture texts are included in your weekly announcement folder? They are there so that you can read them as part of your devotions each week. Those same texts, along with some hymns, are the topic of "God Pause" daily devotionals which are delivered right to your e-mail in-box. (To sign up, Google/Bing God Pause and follow the prompts on the Luther Seminary website.) As members of Pastor Hoyer's Sunday morning class have said repeatedly, studying the Scripture texts used in worship makes worship more powerful and more meaningful. Rich Melheim would be happy to explain, in neurological terms, why and how that happens, but I will just recommend the book Melheim quoted: *Brain Rules* by John Medina.

If that's not your style, grab a quarterly devotional booklet from the table in the narthex. These are provided free-of-charge to you (unless you want to make a donation). The readings are short. You may be surprised to learn that some people keep these booklets in their bathroom.

If you'd rather not read something, how about listening to Scripture? Many versions (including NRSV – the translation we use in worship – and The Message) are downloadable to a device. I've been listening to Scripture this way for many years. A very long time ago, my job involved typing letters from a Dictaphone and, when I was doing other job tasks, I had Bible cassette tapes playing in that machine. More recently, I drove to North Carolina with CDs of The Message Bible playing in the car.

You can also watch devotionals. There are hundreds to choose from, but here's a recommendation: Reformation member Will Swanson produces a weekly vlog (video blog) of reflections on the week's lessons. You can subscribe to his page on YouTube!

My point, and more importantly, Rich Melheim's point, is that we don't all have to "do" Scripture the same way for it to enhance our lives or make us feel good. Sitting in a chair with a cup of coffee and the Bible makes some people feel good, but it doesn't work for everyone. Listening to the Psalms while you are driving helps some people stay calm in traffic, but others prefer music or silence. While you have the opportunity, take some time to find what works for you; God's Word is calling!



All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Pastor Mari Larson



Frequently Asked Questions About Our Pastoral Transition

Will we have an interim pastor after Pastor Kristin leaves?

For now, we are using resources from the Central States Synod as well as resources within our congregation to fill in at least through the summer. Just back from Argentina, Eric Jensen will be accompanying our confirmation students to Camp Tomah Shinga; Parish Ministry Education and Associate student Dallas Rakestraw, seminarian Kaylie Ines, and Parish Ministry Associate Anita Dorf will be leading worship when Pastor Mari is away; our Homebound Communion Ministers, Altar Guild, Worship Assistants, Stephen Ministers, Parish Nurses, Council, Boards, Prayer Chain, other groups, volunteers, and staff will continue to do what they have been doing well.

Are we going to call another pastor to replace Pastor Kristin?

We will review the needs of our ministry here with respect to the budget and availability of staffing options to determine just what kind of person or persons we want to fill the roles that Pastor Kristin has been providing. This is a similar process to that which we underwent after Office Administrator Debbie Stephens died. We started Debbie's original job description, adjusted it in line with her recent tasks and our wish list, and evaluated the hours needed to complete those tasks. With Kalynn Blum's considerable help, that process took three months. This process is more complicated, will involve a congregational survey, and will necessarily take longer. The Church Council will be completing a ministry inventory in July. When that is completed, you will be invited to take part in a cottage meeting in late July or August (watch the narthex for a list of meeting times). There will also be a survey of the congregation (in September) before our Ministry Site Profile can be completed. That's the part of the process we know and the timeline we can plan. After we complete those steps, we will enter into an unknown timeline. We ask that you remember this entire process in your prayers.

Will Pastor Mari have to lead all 3 services every week?

Pastor Mari talked specifically about this with the congregation's officers, noting that she has spent most of her years of ordained ministry as a solo pastor leading 2-3 weekly worship services, and that she is willing to lead all three services every week during this time of discernment for the congregation. No change to our normal worship schedule is anticipated.

Can Pastor Kristin come back to visit?

Every household should have received an e-mail or a letter from Congregational President Laurel Davis about the limits of the pastoral relationship. Pastor Kristin will be invited back for events like congregational anniversary celebrations, but is not allowed to return to perform baptisms, confirmations, weddings, or funerals. (You may remember that, in May, Pastor Mari asked for our prayers as she returned to her former congregation to preach at her friend's memorial service. This was a very rare exception to the covenant pastors sign when they leave congregations. She worked and prayed to not impede the ministry of the new pastor.)



Our Nursery Coordinator, Kim Powell, will be leaving her position on July 14. Kim is a member of Reformation so we will see her after that, but she will no longer be providing stellar care for our children in Reformation's nursery. Please stop by and say thanks to Kim for her ministry.

Open Door Food Pantry



As the summer heat sets in, please remember that many school-aged children throughout our community have to be self-reliant for meals with their guardians at work. Please focus on quick, easily prepared meals, this month.

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, July 8 12:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker for July is David Dorf, member of Reformation. He was a Synod Representative for Reformation at the recent Synod Assembly and will tell us about the synod activities.

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

| | |
|---------|--|
| July 1 | Blanket Makers, 9:00 a.m. |
| July 15 | Blanket Makers, 9:00 a.m. |
| July 17 | Dorcas Circle, 1:30 p.m. Leader - Eva Whetstone Hosted by Jan Barr |
| July 29 | Blanket Makers, 9:00 a.m. |



Women's Night Out Tuesday, July 23 6:30 p.m.

All women are welcome to join us for an evening of good conversation and food at China Inn, 4605 E Central, on July 23rd at 6:30 p.m. We would love to see you there!

If you plan to attend, please contact Martha Deines at 214-4414 by Monday, July 22.



4th of July Celebration

We're not having a July 4 party here this year, but you are still welcome to watch the fireworks from the church parking lot.



Do You Have an Article for the August *Ref Life*?

Please e-mail
Deadline for the August *Ref Life* is July 15.



Stephen Ministry

Sometimes life gets to be too much for as many reasons as there are reasons. And sometimes you wish there was someone to whom you could talk about this “reason:” someone who would hold

your conversation in confidence; someone who would not judge; someone who did not have advice and all the answers. You just wish there were a Christian friend that would listen to you and really hear what you are saying. And then you wish that someone would walk with you while you searched through your own options.

You may be wishing for a Stephen Minister and Reformation is blessed with this resource—for you. Stephen Ministers do not share information with anyone. Stephen Ministers listen and then walk with you as you sort through the “reason” you are facing. Stephen Ministers at Reformation have a 25 year history of being Christian caregivers to members and others who have requested someone to listen to them and to walk with them.

If you find yourself “wishing,” contact Lotus Gerards and discuss your wish with her. You can reach her at 683-8602. Our Stephen Ministers are experienced Christian Caregivers who just want to listen and really hear you, with you on your journey.

Sunday Communion

During July and August, we will be using one “station” for Communion. This means that those serving Communion will serve those on one side of the main aisle and then move to accommodate the those on the other side of the main aisle. The ushers will direct you.



Recent Pastoral Acts

Holy Baptism

Samuel Nathan Johnson and Hannah Elizabeth Johnson were baptized on Sunday, June 23. Their parents are Nathan and Kelly Johnson. Their grandparents are Dan and Sheryl Johnson. Katie Zimmerman and Patrick Lang are Samuel’s baptism sponsors. Shelby Johnson and Sean Lang are Hannah’s baptismal sponsors.

Mark Allan McKinney was baptized on Sunday, June 23. His baptism sponsor was Susayn Brandes.

Renaming Ceremony

On June 19, Katie Hobart legally changed their name to *Kye Hobart*. This was followed by a time of worship and fellowship at Reformation.



From Our Church Council

Enjoy your summer vacation time, but please don’t forget your church.

Just a Reminder... During these summer months, offerings tend to decrease and those who regularly volunteer are often absent from worship. We need you! If you’re going to be away, we invite you to use bill pay or send your offering to the church office. If you can serve as a Communion Assistant or Sound Technician once (or more regularly,) please contact the church office. We will train you and even offer you free refreshments after the worship service!



Confirmation Camp

Thanks to Eric Jensen who is representing Reformation with our confirmation students at Camp Tomah Shinga July 14-19. Please pray for Eric, Kate (the Tomah Shinga staff member we sponsor), as well as students: Gavin Willett, Max Wallman, Jarrett Steward, Jacob Wetta, James Shackelford, Drew Torgerson, Jack Bruntz, and Kate Bruntz.



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful send-off. Celebrating 12 years of ministry among you with great food, silly pictures, funny stories, and so much more was an amazing gift for Steven and me as we head to Wisconsin and new adventures there. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the honor and privilege to have walked with you as your pastor, and especially for all we have learned and shared together. Steven and I will miss you, but will hold you in our hearts and in our prayers. As beloved Reformation member Twila Black always said, "God loves you, and so do I (we)!"

Love, hugs, and God's peace,
Pastor Kristin and Steven Woelk (aka PK and Mr. PK)

HVAC Update

Thank you so much for your offerings. Fully funded, we are able to order the new unit on June 17! The unit will be installed as soon as it arrives.



Final Fun-raiser Results

Our church lady thanks all who participated in and contributed to the fun-raiser. \$3093.56 was raised and split equally between the Southeast High School Marching Band's trip to Normandy and replacing our RTU3 HVAC unit.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Red Cross for hosting the Honor Your Hero East blood drive. We were able to collect 8 pints on a goal of 21. Up to 24 lives were saved from those donations. We hope to see more donors next year, but are still grateful for those we received. Thanks again. Tia Bodine.



Christmas in July

On July 27-28, we will celebrate Christmas in all three worship services. This is an opportunity to wear your favorite Christmas sweater or, if it's 90-degrees outside, maybe Christmas earrings or socks. As usual, there will be a Christmas craft and bake sale in Parish Hall. This year's proceeds go to: Reformation sound equipment (50%) and Southeast High School Marching Band's trip to Normandy (50%) If you are a crafter or a baker, we'd be glad to accept your donations for the sale. Bring them to the church office starting July 22. The craft and bake sale will take place after Saturday worship and between Sunday worship services. More plans are pending. Watch bulletin announcements and e-blasts for more information.



Save Your
Items for Our
Rummage Sale

Reformation Garage Sale

Our youth ministry team is taking a break from the garage sale this year, but we're still going to have one. It will be smaller; however, this is an important ministry for our church and our community. Proceeds will benefit Community Breakfast. Please continue to save your treasures for the sale October 3-5. Watch bulletin announcements and e-blasts for more information.



You are invited to a worship service of Affirmation of Baptism for Alex Beers & Spencer Beers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, July 3, at 6:00 p.m.

Alex Beers & Spencer Beers are members of Reformation but worship at St. Paul's since their father, Andrew, is serving as St. Paul's pastoral minister while in seminary. The worship will be followed by a potluck dinner.

Have you been wondering where your well seasoned cookie sheet has gone? Can't remember the last time you had your hands on your favorite spatula? You might want to check out the collection of forgotten cookware, bakeware, and utensils that have accumulated in the Reformation kitchen. Look behind the kitchen door to the right on the counter top.



Copies of the Summer 2019 Thrivent magazine are available at the Thrivent display in the narthex by the office. Featured articles include:

- Caring hearts - Creating a financially secure life for loved ones with disabilities.
- Questions for your financial advisor.
- Faith, family, fun! Instilling generosity in children.

The Thrivent magazine is free for Thrivent members. If you're interested in this or other benefits of membership please contact Justin Carlson at 729-2631.



Pastor's Schedule



During the pastoral transition, Pastor Mari will be taking Monday mornings and Friday afternoons as her "day off". Also during the month of July, she will be gone July 9-15 and July 19-22. Thank you to Dallas Rakestraw (PMA student) and Kaylie Ines (seminarian) for their worship leadership. Pastor Chad Langdon of Christ Lutheran Church and Pastor Elizabeth Cummings of Resurrection Lutheran

Church will be available for any pastoral needs that may come up while Pastor Mari is gone.



President Laurel Davis,
Vice-President Chris Steward,
Secretary Tanya Flores,
Treasurer Dulcinea Rakestraw,
Jon Bruntz,
Jane Camenzind,
Ali Davis,
Andrea Fuller,
Suzanne Koch,
Karen Pfeiffer,
Ben Walter,
Camilla Wilson
David Dorf, ex officio member
Pastor Mari, ex officio member

JULY 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>30 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:00 AM Traditional Worship w Healing Prayers</p> | <p>1 Church Office Open 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p> | <p>2 Church Office Open</p> | <p>3 Church Office Open 11:30 AM ROMEOS</p> | <p>4 Church Office CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY 6:45 PM New Hope Alateen</p> | <p>5 Church Office Open</p> | <p>6 5:30 PM Worship with prayers for Healing</p> |
| <p>7 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:00 AM Traditional Worship</p> | <p>8 Church Office Open 12:00 PM BTOL Potluck 7:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision</p> | <p>9 Church Office Open Pastor Mari Away</p> | <p>10 Church Office Open Pastor Mari Away 11:30 AM ROMEOS</p> | <p>11 Church Office Open Pastor Mari Away 6:45 PM New Hope Alateen</p> | <p>12 Church Office Open Pastor Mari Away</p> | <p>13 Pastor Mari Away 1:00 PM Roudison Baby Shower - Parish Hall 4:00 PM Living Grace Lutheran Youth Overnight Stay 5:30 PM Worship</p> |
| <p>14 Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga Pastor Mari Away 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:00 AM Traditional Worship</p> | <p>15 Church Office Open Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga Ref Life Deadline 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p> | <p>16 Church Office Open Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga 7:00 PM Church Council</p> | <p>17 Church Office Open Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga 11:30 AM ROMEOS 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle</p> | <p>18 Church Office Open Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga 6:45 PM New Hope Alateen</p> | <p>19 Church Office Open Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga Pr Mari Away</p> | <p>20 Pr Mari Away 7:00 AM St. Paul's Community Breakfast 4:00 PM Living Grace Lutheran Youth Overnight Stay 5:30 PM Worship - Holden Evening Prayer</p> |
| <p>21 Pr Mari Away 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:00 AM Traditional Worship</p> | <p>22 Church Office Open 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision</p> | <p>23 Church Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Night Out</p> | <p>24 Church Office Open 11:30 AM ROMEOS</p> | <p>25 Church Office Open 6:45 PM New Hope Alateen</p> | <p>26 Church Office Open</p> | <p>27 Christmas in July 5:30 PM Worship</p> |
| <p>28 Christmas in July 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship 10:00 AM Traditional Worship</p> | <p>29 Church Office Open 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics</p> | <p>30 Church Office Open 8:00 AM Operation School Bell Training</p> | <p>31 Church Office Open 11:30 AM ROMEOS</p> | <p>1 Church Office Open 12:00 PM Primary Early Volting 6:00 PM Youth Ministry Team 6:45 PM New Hope Alateen 7:00 PM Ministry Boards</p> | <p>2 Church Office Open 12:00 PM Primary Early Volting</p> | <p>3 9:00 AM Primary Early Volting 5:30 PM Worship with prayers for Healing</p> |