

RE-FOCUS

Volume 37

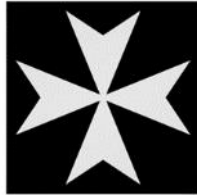
A Publication of Reformation Lutheran Church
March 2017

Number 3



We enter into the 40 days of Lent with worship each Wednesday at Noon and 7:00 p.m. The noon worship will be followed by a meal at 12:30 p.m. and the 7:00 p.m. service will be preceded by a meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will focus on some of the crosses of Lent. All services except Ash Wednesday will take place in the narthex.

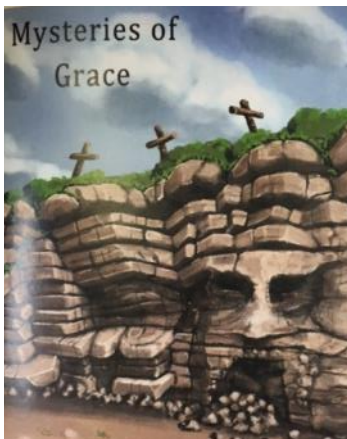
One of the crosses we will “discover” is the Maltese Cross (pictured here) which is rich with symbolism. If the 8-pointed shape looks familiar, it is because of its similarity to fire department emblems.



By the way, if you have had trouble figuring out the 40 days of Lent on your calendar, remember that Sundays are not counted in the 40 because Sundays always acknowledge and celebrate Christ’s resurrection even as we focus on Christ’s suffering and death (and refrain from Alleluias and Hallelujahs).



Devotions for Lent *Mysteries of Grace*



This year’s Lenten Booklet is a collection of stories, written by Reformation members and friends, that are both personal and powerful. Copies of the devotional booklet may be picked up in the narthex on the ushers’ stand. Take one for yourself and one for a friend or neighbor you think might enjoy it.



Lent begins with the solemnity of Ash Wednesday (March 1). Our worship services (at Noon and 7:00 p.m.) will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Ashes will also be delivered to several homebound members who have indicated that they wish to receive them. If you would like ashes delivered to you because you cannot attend either of our worship services, please call the church office.

Chris Cakes Ash Wednesday Supper March 1, 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Ash Wednesday will kick off our Lenten meals this year, and will once again feature Chris Cakes for the evening meal. Join us for supper on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, for a time of fellowship and more than a few giggles as people “catch” their pancakes. Of course, that part is optional but we do hope that you will join us prior to the service that night.



As has been a tradition at Reformation, we will be having light meals associated with each of our Lenten services, noon time and evening of each Wednesday in Lent. The Fellowship Board asks that you consider assisting in this ministry by signing up to provide one or more of the meals for these services. A sign up sheet will be found in the Narthex as we approach the Lenten season. Thank you for your service to the congregation by helping in this way.



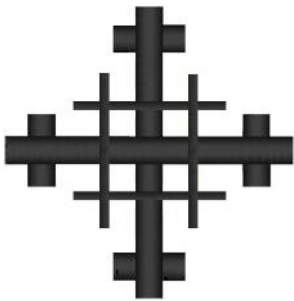
*Pastor Mari Larson
Senior Pastor*

During the building program of my former congregation, there was a time when crosses were the main topic of conversation. There needed to be a cross at the front of the sanctuary, of course, but the architect proposed not a cross by a well-known local scroll saw artist nor a stone cross of local flagstone but rather a cross set into the huge window that overlooked beautiful Sycamore Canyon. This was a new concept to the Midwesterners who had settled in the Verde Valley of Arizona in their retirement, but as we settled into the new building, we noticed that the cross was not only visible to us as we sat inside the sanctuary but also to those who looked at the building from the outside. It was particularly noticed when we gathered for evening Lenten and Advent worship and the glow from the sanctuary lights became a beautiful background for the cross. Because of that cross, people driving by on State Route 89A knew that the building was a church. Some even came to visit!

Crosses are our theme during our Lenten Wednesdays. Ash Wednesday features the Tau Cross (one of which is on the back of the wall of the meditation garden). The other crosses are: Saltire, Maltese, Crosslet, Celtic, and Anchor. Come for worship on Wednesdays at Noon or 7:00 p.m.



From the first wedding at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Clarkdale, Arizona



Watching Jesus Passing By *Beginning Sunday, March 5, 9:45 a.m.*

The Son of God, the Savior of the world, staggers while carrying his cross through the city of Jerusalem. The street is tiny and narrow, dirty and crowded. The soldiers are pushing people aside as they prod Jesus and the two criminals along the way. Up ahead, hugging the walls, are some followers of Jesus, many of them women, weeping and wailing. Among them is one elderly lady named Veronica. She's talking with some man who had approached her while she was waiting for that dread procession to appear. When Jesus does draw near, she defies those soldiers, steps out onto the street and wipes away the blood and sweat from our Savior's face, only to find, later, that the image of his face is imprinted on the cloth.

Well, so some say. It's a myth and unimportant. But during our Sunday morning Bible classes we shall imagine the conversation between that man and Veronica, a different man each week. Perhaps such conversations will help us see what the cross has to say to us who are so desperately pursuing happiness and trying to live well. Maybe we can learn to weep for ourselves and for our children, and in that weeping find repentance, and in that repentance find forgiveness, and in that forgiveness find the power to pick up his cross and follow him, and in that following find out how really to live well.

It happens in the Conference Room, far left off the narthex as you enter the church, Sunday mornings from 9:45 (don't be late) to 10:45 a.m. Come.

Yellow Bag Challenge



Canned meat is a simple and easy way to make a meal. Canned tuna, salmon, or chicken makes great sandwiches, noodle casseroles, burritos, or stand-alone entrees.

This month's challenge is canned meat! Pick up an can (or two!) of a canned meat to donate to the Open Door Food Pantry. These donations will allow another family to make their favorite meal.

Your donation will be delivered to the Open Door pantry at the end of the month. Please contact Christi Leewright-Patry (214-1879) with questions, suggestions, or to partner in this ministry.

Best Times of Life Wayne Bryan Music Theatre of Wichita



BTOL (Best Times of Life) will meet March 13 at 12:00 p.m. in parish hall.

Wayne Bryan,
Music Director

of Music Theater of Wichita will share highlights of the upcoming 2017 summer season. You will not want to miss this preview of a delightful musical summer.

Please bring a covered dish to share and your own table service. Call Jolene Dougherty (776-2068) or Doris Moden (636-8996) with your reservations.

Rebecca Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 9 in the conference room.

Hostess:
Leader: Dallas Cronk

Dorcas Circle will meet at on Wednesday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m. Hostess: Barb Lee at her home and lesson leader is Lotus Gerards.

Please join us!



Reformation is now a recipient of Dillon's Community Rewards dollars! If you shop at Dillon's, your purchases can benefit your congregation (without any cost to you). Here's what you need to do to make this happen:

If you don't already have a Plus card, ask the cashier for one the next time you are at Dillon's

Go to: at www.dillons.com/communityrewards

Sign in, if you already have an account, or Register, to create an account

Hit "Enroll Now" and enter Reformation's NPO code: 50590

Quarterly, Dillon's will send us a percentage of the dollars Reformation member have spent in their stores. How awesome is that!

Home Bound Communion



Home Bound Communion is now distributed on the second weekend of the month or sometime during the week if the home bound person is not available on Sunday. If you would like to join this ministry as a communion minister or if you know of someone needing/desiring this ministry, please call Jolene Dougherty (776-2068).

Forty for Forty Campaign



Area 5 Lutheran churches are helping to sponsor Mision San Juan de Dios. This small church serves the underserved and immigrant population in south Wichita. In addition to traditional Lutheran services in Spanish, this church helps the congregation and surrounding area with furniture, clothing and other basic needs.

Mision San Juan de Dios has a dynamic congregation: many members leave for better living conditions when they get better jobs. When these members move away, they take their personal and financial contributions with them. This leaves the church and its mission in need.

Area 5 ELCA Lutheran churches are coming together in 2017 to help support the people and mission of Mision San Juan de Dios. Many members of Area 5 Lutheran churches already help with the Mision's church council and activities. If every Lutheran in Area 5 gave \$40 per year, this congregation would be sustainable indefinitely.

For Lent, Reformation is launching the "Forty for Forty" Campaign. Consider donating \$1 every day for the forty days of Lent to help support Mision San Juan de Dios. All donations, no matter how small, will be appreciated.

Special envelopes will be in the pews for Lent to collect contributions. You may also write a check directly to "Partners Church" and put it in the collection plate. Envelopes and checks will be collected and sent to the larger "40 for the Future" Area 5 campaign to support Mision San Juan de Dios.

If you have any questions, please talk to Rhea Hartley or Suzanne Koch.
Blessings, The Service Board

Bethany College Choir, Handbell Ensemble Set Spring Tour Dates



LINDSBORG, KAN., February 14, 2017 – The Bethany College Choir, Chamber Choir, and Hand Bell Ensemble will set out on their 2017 Spring Concert Tour on March 16 with performances in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Concert stops on this year's tour include Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita on March 16 at 7 p.m.

The featured work in the concerts this year is Benjamin Britten's Cantata, "Rejoice in the Lamb" sung by the Bethany Choir with Dr. Melody Steed performing on organ.

"We are excited to venture south and east for this year's trip," Dr. Mark Lucas, co-chair of the Bethany College music department, said. "We truly see these trips as much more than performance tours, but rather as an opportunity to live the mission of the college."

The Bethany College Choir and Chamber Choir are directed by Dr. Lucas. The Bethany College Hand Bell Ensemble is directed by Dr. Steed, assistant academic dean and associate professor of music.

The Bethany College Choir celebrates its 82nd anniversary this academic year. Since its founding by Hagbard Brase in 1935, the choir has performed over 500 concerts in 29 states and four European countries. The choir is also an integral part of the internationally known Messiah Festival of the Arts held each spring during Holy Week.

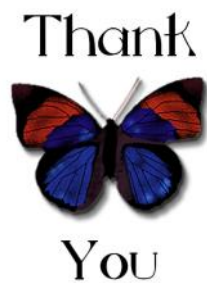
A Thought for the Month



It's March, the month of spring, when we become aware of God's magnificent cycle of seasons. The change of seasons sometimes reminds us of the ever-shifting changes in our surroundings, situations, and lives. If you or someone you know is experiencing a painful life situation,

please call a Stephen Ministry Leader: Anita Dorf (210-9124), David Dorf (208-4064), Lotus Gerards 683-8602), Marsha Sears (634-6101).

Stephen Ministry provides confidential one-to-one ministry; identity and interactions between care giver and care receiver remain private. Stephen Ministers seek to bring Christ's healing love to people who are lonely, grieving, ill, or stressed.



Dear Reformation Family, Words cannot express how grateful we are for your love and support following the death of Steven's son, Steven, Jr. ("Junior"). Thank you for your donations, cards, and prayers – all of which worked together to lift us up during this difficult time. We are blessed by you, and humbled by your love and generosity. As we

cling to the promise of resurrection and hope, we give God thanks for each of you!

God's peace & joy,
Pastor Kristin & Steven

Reformation Lutheran Church Financial Results As of January 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual	2015
Income	40,179	46,119	39,057
Expenses	41,006	33,309	35,118
Income Less Expense	(827)	12,810	3,939
Average Jan. Attendance	<u>2017</u> 142	<u>2016</u> 200	

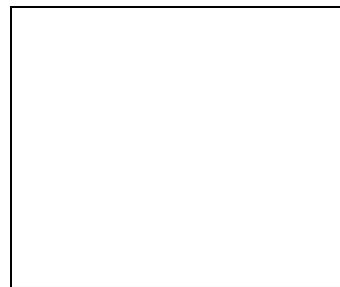
Cottage Meetings Are Coming



As promised, small group cottage meetings are coming to a home or restaurant near you. We are planning for meetings on different days and at different times in order to accommodate both your schedule and Pastor Mari's (especially during Lent).

Join the Prayer Chain! Contact the church office (634-0586) or Lotus Gerards (683-8602) to get linked.

Get Your VBS Gears Turning With Hands-On Training!



Reformation will be hosting a Maker Fun Factory FunShop training on Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 pm.

At a Maker Fun Factory FunShop, discover time-saving and budget-stretching tips from

Group's VBS veterans! Meet and mingle with other VBS Groupies in your area and coordinate sharing props and decorating resources. Learn how to create amazing decorations with step-by-step instructions; experience a "Day at VBS"; network and learn how to plan, coordinate and pull off an amazing VBS event. Get practical pointers on all thing VBS—including fundraising, volunteer recruiting, decorating, and family follow-up. Get an energizing jump start to your VBS season, and...have fun! Bring all your key leaders!

Cost: \$20/early-bird (at least two weeks prior to the event) \$15/more than 5 people from same church (at least two weeks prior to the event) \$40/person (registering less than two weeks prior to the event or at the door)



Welcome New Members

**Julie Hartley
Robb Cutler
Kristal Cutler**

If you would like to join our church family, please let Pastor Mari know: 634-0586 (church office)

**Servants of GOD,
guided by the Holy Spirit,
to make CHRIST known.**

First Communion Preparation

*Sunday, April 9
12:30-3:30 p.m.*

Christ invites us all to his table! Any young person, regardless of age, who wishes to begin receiving communion is welcome to come and explore this awesome mystery! Children and their parents will learn more about communion in engaging ways, including baking the bread that will be used for worship on Maundy

Thursday. If you believe your child is ready to receive communion, plan to bring them to the class. RSVP to the church office (634-0586) by March 26. If you have questions about first communion, please contact Pastor Mari. Parents watch your mailbox for more information. (And, yes, Pastor Kristin will be back for this class and is excited about being together with you all.)



Filling The Gap March 20 - 24th

Once again Reformation will provide support to The Partners For Wichita's "Filling The Gap" Program during the spring break session. Here are some ways you can help:

Donate \$\$

You can donate to the program to help cover the cost of the lunches. Send donations designated for "Filling the Gap Lunches" to Partners for Wichita, 925 N. Waco, Wichita, KS 67203 or to Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67211.

Donate Snacks

Give fruit or pudding cups, packaged snack bars, chips or crackers, cuties and bananas to supplement the packaged lunch.

Volunteer Opportunities

Once again we'll provide support to the Hilltop Mobile Site which is located in the parking lot of the Hilltop Community Center at 1329 S. Terrace.

We need drivers to help transport the lunches and snacks to the Hilltop site. We're looking for members with a van/SUV/truck, and a couple hours to help each day. Help hand out lunches at the Hilltop site.

If you are interested in helping, a collection box for food donations will be in the church narthex starting Saturday, March 4th.

The Service Board and Partners For Wichita thank the members of Reformation for the continued support of this community project.

Confirmation Lent Project

Lent offers a slight change of pace to the confirmation schedule. Instead of class on Wednesday nights, we'll gather for worship with the congregation. Since we are not meeting as a class on Wednesdays, we'll be focusing on a special project—watching for the mysteries of God in our daily lives to see how we (and others!) are changed by God's love!

Do You Have an Article for the Re-Focus?

Please e-mail Debbie or leave in the office mailbox.
Deadline for the April Re-Focus is March 15.

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 2:00 PM Brownies	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics Stephen Ministry Supervision	28 6:30 PM Women's Night Out	1 Ash Wednesday 11:30 AM ROMEOS 12:00 PM Lenten Worship 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 5:30 PM Chris Cakes 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Parish Choir	2 6:00 PM Youth Ministry Team 7:00 PM Ministry Boards	3	4 5:30 PM Worship - Healing
5 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	6 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics	7	8 11:30 AM ROMEOS 12:00 PM Lenten Worship 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 6:00 PM Handbells 6:40 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Parish Choir	9 9:30 AM Rebecca Circle	10	11 5:00 PM Worship
12 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 2:00 PM Brownies	13 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM BTOL Potluck 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics Stephen Ministry Supervision	14	15 Re-Focus Deadline 11:30 AM ROMEOS 12:00 PM Lenten Worship 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle 6:00 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Parish Choir	16 7:00 PM Bethany Choir Concert	17	18 7:30 AM Community Breakfast at St. Paul's 5:30 PM Worship - Contemplative Prayer
19 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	20 9:00 AM Blanket Makers 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics	21 7:00 PM Church Council	22 11:30 AM ROMEOS 12:00 PM Lenten Worship 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Parish Choir	23	24	25 5:30 PM Worship
26 7:30 AM Rise Rehearsal 8:30 AM Rise Worship 9:45 AM Learning for All Ages 2:00 PM Brownies	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Rise Team 7:00 PM Back to Basics Stephen Ministry Supervision	28 6:30 PM Women's Night Out	29 11:30 AM ROMEOS 12:00 PM Lenten Worship 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch 6:00 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:30 PM Parish Choir	30	31	1 5:30 PM Worship - Healing