

“SON”SHINE Newsletter

Reformation Lutheran Church, 633 S. New York Road, Galloway, NJ 08205
609-652-8431

<https://www.rlc.church/>

8:30 & 10:00 am Church Service, Sunday School 10 am

Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor, Brian Conover, Music Director, Stacie Krouse, Church Secretary

The Season of Easter 2024

Pastor's Message

Easter Blessings, Dear Siblings in Christ!

When Jesus greets the disciples after his resurrection, whether on the beach or in the upper room, he says “Peace be with You.” The Hebrew word is “Shalom”, which means the peace of one’s well-being for wholeness, body, mind, and soul. This is the same greeting we extend to one another each week in worship when we “Share the Peace”. Like, Faith, Hope, and Love, God’s Peace is a verb, which means it requires genuine response in our actions, words, and deeds towards another. We have had some wonderful opportunities since Rally Day to help others, if you recall in the fall, we had a successful “Feed the Northeast” food drive partnering with Thrivent. Our Giving Tree this year was for gift cards that went to Oasis Food Bank which we continually donate food each month. With the start of our youth Group this year, we have worked to instill service projects for them too. They have made Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches for the Atlantic City Youth Mission several times. They packed tins of cookies and wrote cards to our shut-in members at Christmas. For Palm Sunday they hosted a pancake breakfast with the help of their families. So proud of our youth! See a few pictures below!

This month they will be working in the garden planting our leftover Easter Flower bulbs for next year and putting some mulch down. This summer we will be kicking off a bone broth soup ministry with the help of Rosemary Hennessey, who teaches the Music Together class in our church. I would like to remind everyone of our Spring Cleanup scheduled for Saturday April 27, see the flyer below for more information. While we wrap up another school year, we look forward to summer break and the exciting VBS program Miss Nina is putting together for our youth. In addition to what we do together as church for the wellbeing of others, I know many of you have ministries you do such as visiting shut ins or going into facilities to spread joy. Others volunteer giving out vaccinations, volunteer at local food banks, others knit and crochet blankets, hats, and scarves, and much more. Thank you for all you continue to do living out your faith for the wellbeing of others!

As we look ahead to summer making plans for vacations or helping to get our young people off to college, I urge you brothers and sisters to continue to look for ways to share God’s peace with others. Remember, it can be as simple as a smile and saying hello, or holding a door open, we never truly know what is going on in the lives of others and how much that simple gesture can change the course of one’s day or life. God’s Peace be with you all, and remember to be ... a blessing, Pastor Heidi

MINISTRY AND EVENTS



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
633 . New York Rd.
Galloway, NJ 08205
(Located at the corner of Rt. 9 & Biscayne Ave.)
(609) 652-8431
<https://www.rlc.church>

Spring Clean Up Saturday, April 27, 2024 9 AM to 12 PM

Our church needs your help with sprucing up both inside and outside. Inside we will give the sanctuary a nice Murphy Pine Soap bath plus we need some strong folks to move the partitions back down into the basement. Outside we will weed and prune in the garden between the building as well as the shrubbery along the front of the building. We ask that you bring your own work gloves, kneeling pads, and garden tool. We will provide trash bags. The more hands the lighter the work, please consider coming out to help beautify our church. We will enjoy a time of fellowship starting at 11:30 with hotdogs, chips and drinks. Water will be available to keep everyone hydrated.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL AND MAY

Administrative Professional Day
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Thank you,
Stacie Krouse,
Church Secretary *Extraordinaire!*

National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024
Mother's Day, May 12, 2024

Sunday, May 19, 2024

**The Day of Pentecost
Confirmation**

One Morning Service, 10:00am.
Followed by Food and Fellowship.
5 young members of our congregation
will affirm their baptism:

**Savannah Butler, Brandon Butler,
Emily Silipigni, Emory Silipigni, Jr.,
and Lila Johnston.**

The Holy Trinity

Sunday, May 26, 2024

**Summer Worship Times Begin
June 2, through September 1, 2024
One Morning Service at
9:00 a.m.**



(photo at left)

**Pastor Heidi welcomes New Members
Sunday, February 4, 2024.**

**The Silipigni Family:
Emory, Amy, Emily, Emory Jr.,
Fran Blowes, and
Trish Arrom**

DID YOU KNOW?



The **Food Pantry in Pleasantville** that we help to support is located inside the Oasis United Methodist Church, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The proper name of the ministry is **“Pleasantville Center for Hispanic Outreach (PCHO),** which services Pleasantville and surrounding communities. The contact person there is Joan Robinson who has been with the program since its inception in 2012. There are over 25 volunteers that assist with food distribution every month.

Distribution of food items is offered once a month on the Fourth Wednesday, serving 115-120 families. In February, 2024, this represented 457 individuals, 290 adults and 167 children. 5,000 pounds of food was given out last month. Allotment and inventory come from **Food Bank of New Jersey, local churches, and individual supporters.** All food acquired each month is given out entirely.

Since the Pandemic, the number of people seeking food assistance has increased. Unfortunately, every month the PCHO must refer people to other food pantries because they run out of food. When available, they issue gift cards to these individuals as well as families that contact them during the month who need emergency food.

Please consider bringing food items to Reformation to help this ministry. Also, a monetary donation, in any amount, large or small, may be given towards the Shop-Rite Gift Cards we sponsor here at RLC.



The RLC YOUTH GROUP (“ACTS 29,”) Sponsored a Pancake Breakfast for the Congregation on Palm Sunday. March 24, 2024



A New Book

A new book by David K. Wessel tells the story of his father Carl Wessel, and his grandparents Dietch and Mimi Wessel, who emigrated from Germany to Absecon/Galloway Township, New Jersey, USA, between WWI and WWII. The Wessels joined a growing community of German families settling in the rural neighborhood of 6th Avenue and Jimmie Leeds Road (and would they believe we now call that area “Downtown Galloway”?)

The Wessels were welcomed to America by cousins and family friends, the Hornbostels, the Moellers, and the Feldeisens, who not only brought to their new country craft and skills such as farming, carpentry, hospitality, beer brewing, baking and sewing, but also carried with them their Lutheran faith and love of the Lord.

Long time members here at Reformation Lutheran Church will remember Carl Wessel and his family, along with cousin Tess Feldeisen Conover (our RLC Musician Brian’s mother), who were Charter Members (1958). The ministry of the Lutheran church in Galloway, or Absecon Highlands as the area was then named, was established in the early 1930s by the Epiphany Lutheran Church congregation in Pleasantville. An old directory has all these devoted German family names listed in the membership. Most likely, the adults were instrumental in encouraging a Sunday afternoon ministry, particularly for the young folks, in an old township schoolhouse.

Carl Wessel and his cousins Lutzy and Tess Feldeisen attended the four-room public school on 6th Avenue with their friends Margie Adolf, George Hornbostel, Edith, and Bill Hanggeli. The emigrant community loved their new country and created a social network and friendship among all the residents in Absecon and nearby Egg Harbor City. We are certain that pinochle card parties had a big influence in all of this! Other names we recall include: Adolf (chickens and eggs), Gross (wine makers), Grindler (coopers/wine barrel makers), Killian, Hanggeli, Zipfel, Bergman, Messner, Sontag.

But being of German descent during these times between the two World Wars was not always easy or pleasant. In his book, David K. Wessel reveals this untold, fascinating story of his father’s family deciding to leave Germany in 1928, living in America until 1934, and returning to the homeland only to find a changed country under the rising powers of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich.

In “Choosing Sides” the author tells what happened. Using family anecdotes with charming dialog, and historical events with frightening reality, the writer exposes the struggle of this family to find peace, love, and joy in a war-torn world.



Confirmation Class 1938 Epiphany Lutheran Church Rev. Walter Harrison, Pastor

(Boys, L/R) Robert Olsen, Thomas Hamm, Frederick Jahn, Carl Wessel, George Hornbostel, Bill Hanggeli.

(Girls, center) Dorothy Waterstradt, Margie Adolf (Hinmon), Verna Grunow.

(Girls, front) Virginia Dorington, Virginia Eaves, Pauline Waterstradt, Audrey Stefens.

There is a copy of this new book, “Choosing Sides,” by David K. Wessel in our church library for you to read.

