

“SON”-SHINE Newsletter

Reformation Lutheran Church

633 S. New York Road,

Galloway, NJ 08205

609-652-8431

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

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME (through Labor Day) 9:30am

(Fall & Winter times are 8:30 & 10:00 am with Sunday School at 10:00)

Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor

Brian Conover, Music Director

Stacie Krouse, Church Secretary

reformationlutherannj@gmail.com

The Day of Pentecost And Celebration of Anniversaries of Ordination June 8, 2025



The Reverends Heidi Link, Glenn Englehardt, Neil Jaggie, John Elstad, and Dean Brown



On the Day of Pentecost, The Reformation Lutheran Church celebrated Anniversaries of Ordination with the three retired clergy who are members of the congregation.

Rev. Jack Elstad, Sixty-Two Years

Rev. Glenn Englehardt, Fifty Years

Rev. Neil Jaggie, Fifty Years

The Rev. Dean Brown, Assistant to the Bishop, NJ Synod ELCA, shared salutations and greetings. The Rev. Heidi Link, Pastor of the church, officiated.

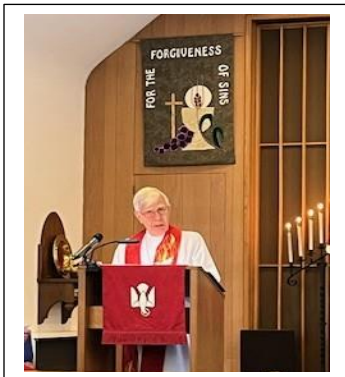
Pastor Neil Jaggie's Sermon

Most of you likely recall the comedian and celebrity, Geoge Burns. George once gave this advice to aspiring preachers. "The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and then make sure that the beginning and end are as close together as possible."

Well, here is my beginning. I start with one word, "Thanks!" Is there any way to begin a journey but by saying, "Thanks?" I say thanks to the congregation of Reformation for recognizing the ordination anniversaries of the three of us this morning. Thanks for being part of the family of God. Thanks for being here today. Thanks for those who planned this day and for those who serve today. Thanks!

Now for the middle of this sermon. Sixty-two years of ordination for Pastor Jack. Sixty-two years have passed. As Pastor Heidi said, "That's longer than she has been alive." What can I say to my friend Pastor Jack but, "Bravo, Bravo, Bravo. Thanks be to God for your service."

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Pastor Elstad
Reading Scriptures



Pastor Jaggie
Preaching



Pastor Englehardt
Celebrating the Eucharist

Pastor Glenn and I are young-uns in comparison. Each of us has only fifty years of service apiece. Fifty years, five decades, a half of a century. It sounds like a lot of years, and it is! But the truth is that the event feels like it occurred yesterday. My oh my, how quickly pass the years.

Pastors Jack, Glenn, and Neil, there is nothing special about us. We are just three men in a long parade of men and women who have been part of the ordained ministry of the church since the days of Peter and the original Apostles and the event of Pentecost. We are three men who are bound together for eternity first of all by our Baptism and secondly by the day in which we stood before the Host of Heaven, the people of God, and our family and friends, and responded to the questions, “Will you seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?” “Will you serve the people of God with energy, intelligence, and love?”

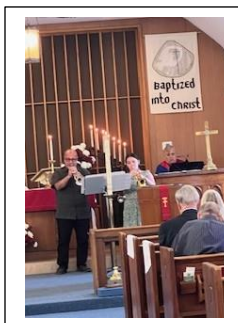
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Pastor Brown
Greetings & Salutations



Pastor Link
Worship Leader



Trumpet Prelude
David Seals
Audrey Seals



Offering
Cindy McKnight
Jeff Pattison



Flute Music for
Communion
Emma Seals Osterman



Holy Communion
Clergy

To these questions, I stood on a very hot day in Grace, North Arlington, Glenn stood in his home church, Zion, Egg Harbor City, and I believe Jack stood at St. John's, Ocean City, during a Synod Assembly. The three of us were brazen enough to respond, "I will, and I ask God to help and guide me!"

With this pledge we joined a great company of witnesses that goes back to the days of Peter and will follow us forward into the days of eternity. Fifty years later I can honestly say that it gives me goose bumps to consider my place in the pilgrimage of the people of God from one generation to the next.

The church that Jack, Glenn, and I were ordained in is not the same church that we will end our lives in. We may pine for the church we remember but yet more vigorously, I desire to celebrate the church I live in today.

One of the great things about the Church of Pentecost is not that we grow older year by year, but we have experienced the potential of being born anew again and again and again. This is the power at the heart of the Reformation Church that we should stand proud in. Would you want to be the same person you were 50 years ago, 62 years ago? I may long to be at times but pray and hope not to be. We are a community of faith, who will never be a finished product. We are Pilgrim People always on the road. A people called not to travel back toward the past but forward toward the future. We travel as the people of Israel not knowing where we are going but moving always in the direction of the rising sun. It will only be on the day of Jesus Christ that we will arrive on the shores of the homeland that we long for.

For the three of us, I would acknowledge that the ministry itself has been a Life Lesson. I don't know where some people have gotten the notion that clergy live lives insulated from what they call *real life*. Believe me when I tell you we have seen more of *real life* than most.

We have seen the blessings that flow from God and the sorrows that flood creation as the work of our foes. We have seen you the people of God live your lives at their best and at their worst. We have travelled with you to cemeteries with stillborns and centenarians. We have lived in the shadow of those who are givers and those who are takers. We have encountered the weak and the strong. We have experienced delight with caregivers and shock from abusers. We have lived among those forever positive and those chronically pessimistic.

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We have been lifted up by the generous and taken back by the stingy. We have lived amongst those who grant grace to others without hesitancy and those who prefer to judge with the heavy hand of the law at every opportunity. We are a church that recognizes we are made up of a crazy concoction of saints and sinners. What holds it all together is what happens at the communion table where it is impossible not to recognize that we are all beggars upon God's grace.

I could keep going on. But most importantly let me conclude by saying for myself and my two colleagues, "Thanks for this ordination anniversary recognition. Thanks for being part of the Pentecost experience. Thanks for being our brothers and sisters in faith. Thanks for your service to this congregation of Reformation. Thanks Be to You! If the church lives to shower grace and hope upon this world and flood it with the service of good works it wouldn't be because of Pastors like Heidi, Glenn, Jack, or Neil but because of you!"

As Pastors commissioned by the Pentecost experience, we remind you that you also have been charged as a Baptized Christian to bear witness to Christ wherever you may go, allowing the Light of Christ to shine so bright through your life that those lost in darkness may see Christ in you and come to believe in God who alone can bring healing, forgiveness, and redemption.

On behalf of Jack, Glenn, and myself, "I say thanks for this day," and I pray that gratitude flows out of all the moments of your life with thanks to God to whom all the glory belongs!

Now I hope I have accomplished what George suggested in the composition of this sermon!

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The church welcomed 115 worshippers!
Family, Friends, and Neighbors
came from far and wide to celebrate the day.
In attendance were folks from
Reformation Lutheran, Absecon/Galloway,
St. Thomas Lutheran, Bricktown,
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Little Egg Harbor,
Zion Lutheran, Egg Harbor City,
Grace Lutheran, Somers Point.



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20

FOOD and FELLOWSHIP

There should be an edict, commandment, or commentary out there affirming that when Lutherans gather, Food & Fellowship is Standard Operational Procedure!



A Heartfelt Thank You

To everyone from the Reformation family who helped make the celebration a success! (Pictured at Left) Mary Chamberlain, Diane Bianchini, Ruth and Kirk Bye, Susan Charles, Ginny Pattison, Pastor Heidi. (Not in picture) Susie Jensen, Stacie Krouse, Cindy McKnight, Nina Tillett, Karl Kroon, Jeff Pattison, Al Chamberlain, Curtis Hinmon, and Council President Erin O'Hanlon. Compliments to Chef Leo at *Celina's Mulberry Café* for the delicious catered meal, and to *Aversa Bakery*, Brigantine, for the scrumptious cake!



A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to each and every one who worked in so many ways to make the celebration on Pentecost Sunday such a special event for me and the other two pastors celebrating the anniversary of their ordinations. I was touched by the many aspects of the day and how many faithful members worked so hard in making it so special. Your thoughtfulness, hard work and loving nature touched me so very much. It was a community of kindness shown in each aspect of the day and filled my heart with appreciation and love.

Our grandson got it right when he said, “The whole day was filled with love.”

With many thanks, appreciation, and love,

Pastor and Ruth Elstad

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to thank the fellowship for the efforts so many made to make the Ordination Anniversaries of Jack, Glenn, and myself so special!

Blessings to you all! I am so delighted that Epiphany and Reformation blended so well!!

Thank you all!

Neil and Pat

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On Sunday June 8 I brought home flowers, food left from the post-Service luncheon, and a wonderfully descriptive framed plaque as reminders of what the morning’s celebration had been about. But I didn’t need any reminders. It was a memory that will stay with me the rest of my life.

Thanks to all of you, members and friends of Reformation, for being there for Pastor Neil, Pastor Jack, and myself, to help us celebrate our calling to serve God and His Church as ministers of Word and Sacrament. May God also bless each of you in your calling to live as His children.

In Christ’s name,

Pastor Glenn E.

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