

“SON”SHINE Newsletter



Fall 2023

Note the Fall Sunday Services
return to 8:30a.m. and 10:00a.m.!

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

Pastor's Message

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:...”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Welcome to Fall, my favorite season of the year! It's that time of year where we return to two worship services along with Sunday school, and our youth return to routine of school. We had a productive summer getting the new youth room ready. Many thanks to Ruth & Kirk Bye, Mary Chamberlain, Glenn Englehardt, Curtis Hinmon, and Stacie Krouse for all their hard work and contributions. After the 10 AM service on Rally Day a few weeks ago, we dedicated the room and enjoyed a time of fellowship with pizza and salad and lots of play for all ages! We will be kicking off a youth group starting in October on the 3rd Sunday of the month right after the 10 AM service/Sunday school. It will be a time of faith formation, relationship building, and of course play. The room has a ping pong table, so we also hope to set some time aside for tournaments of all ages this winter season after the holidays.

The Fall season can be a busy time of year settling back into the routines of school and church, but it is also a time to enjoy God's beautiful creation as the warm sunny days and cold nights turn the leaves from shades of green to shades of red, yellow, orange. A time to gather in fellowship curled up in a blanket sitting around a campfire or on the porch, breathing in the crisp air while enjoying a mug of hot cinnamon spiced apple cider. Of course, we can't forget that it's also football season, another opportunity for us to gather as a community (Go Birds!). The seasons of the year and the cycle of life that comes with them remind us that time, creation, and life are always in motion, a perpetual cycle of beginnings and endings. Despite all this circular motion, which can get overwhelming at times, there is one constant that never changes, and that is the love, grace, and presence of our triune God: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Psalm 100:5 reminds us: "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations."

Be a blessing, Pastor Heidi

RECENT EVENTS

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Another successful **VBS** this summer was directed by Nina Tillett. The five Tuesdays (July 11 - August 8) from 9:30 am until noon included Bible lessons, crafts, and even a field trip to "**The Funny Farm Rescue**" in Mays Landing where the children and staff enjoyed a day with the rescue animals and learned about the good work, love, and protection these animals receive there. The children presented a check (\$506.00!!) to the Funny Farm Rescue from RLC "**Joyful Noise**" **Offerings** that were received in church during the summer worship services.

Here is a synopsis from Miss Nina

On the first day of VBS, we heard the story of Noah and the Ark and were reminded that whenever and wherever you see a rainbow, it is a message from God telling us that he loves us. Various ways to make a rainbow were explored including looking through a couple of types of prisms and performing a science experiment called a walking rainbow. We finished the day up with a God promises a rainbow craft and making whatever picture we liked on rainbow scratch off paper.

The topic for the second day was the story of Abraham and the Stars. Our science experiment for this day was a real challenge. The children were given a small amount of salt and a ruler. They had to see how many grains of salt it took to make a 1-inch line. We used salt rather than sand because it is slightly bigger and easier to work with. However, if we had used sand, scientists would have used that number to estimate the number of grains of sand on all of the beaches in the world, which is roughly the same as the number of stars that can be seen. It is a number almost beyond imagining. Our craft for the day was Father Abraham and the Stars and affixing glow in the dark stars to various constellations. The stars are another reminder that God's presence is everywhere.

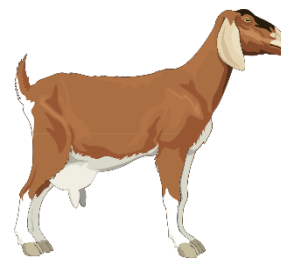
We talked about numbers in nature on the third day of VBS. This was done using a book called Wild Fibonacci Nature's Secret Code Revealed, which explained how certain number patterns turn up repeatedly in nature in the number of leaves on a plant to the spirals seen in a snail, antler, or seashell. Another sign that all things in creation were designed to fulfill a purpose and were created by one far more intelligent and all-knowing than any person could ever hope to be. One analogy used was that God's fingerprints are everywhere, we just have to look for them. In that spirit, the children also learned how to dust for fingerprints. The

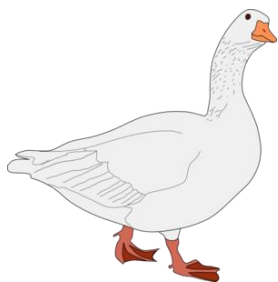
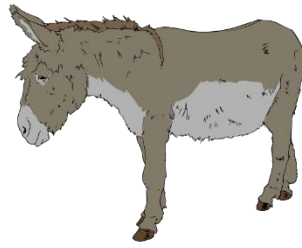
craft of the day was making a paper plate ocean with a fish, octopus, seahorse, starfish and sand dollar all things that represent in some way a number in the Fibonacci sequence. We also made eggshell geodes.

The fourth day of VBS was devoted to the discussion of All Creation is Good. As a group, we listed as many things that God made as we could think of for each letter of the alphabet. We also played a game using compasses. There was a bigger lesson there, but we just used it for fun. The craft of the day was scratch off animal masks and pompom poppers. Following that, all the kids wearing their animal masks had a great time playing together in the hall. They shared, helped each other and were very careful to watch out for and include the 2-year-olds that were trying so hard to be like big kids.

Each day we had singing, lots of social time and plenty of snacks.

On the fifth day we went to The Funny Farm, here are some pictures:





**“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”
(NRSV)
Proverbs 22:6**

**“Point your kids in the right direction --- when they’re old they won’t be lost. (The Message)
Proverbs 22:6**

Youth Room renovations continued through the summer months. Members of RLC were asked to submit names for the new room, and the Youth were given the list to choose the name they wanted. Dedication of the room was Rally Day, September 10, 2023 after the 10:00 a.m. Pastor Heidi has some great ideas for using this wonderful space in our building. Keep your eye on the Sunday Bulletin for more info. By the way, we are grateful to Mary Chamberlain for sewing a beautiful cover for the chair rack in the youth room. Thanks, Mary!



Memorial Garden

Lots of activity throughout the summer included some new plantings given by the Bye Family, Jean Barrett, and Cindy McKnight; a newly donated 75’ hose & nozzle with some patio stones from Curtis Hinmon; and volunteer work by the Widecrantz family. Steady, careful progress continues into next season.





ALTAR GUILD

The Dedication of a set of new paraments, one side green, the opposite side purple, was offered to the Glory of God on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Pictured here is Cindy McKnight with her brother Jeff Pattison and his wife Ginny.

The Altar Guild at RLC serves the Lord with joy, devotion, and thanksgiving, preparing the Altar weekly for services, seasons, and festivals of the church year.

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Reminders

Shop-Rite Gift Cards are available to buy in any dollar amount, large or small. See Stacie or Pastor Heidi before the service. You may keep the cards for yourself, or donate them to the church ministry. Once we have enough for a \$25 card, we will pass it on to Oasis Food Pantry.

Food Pantry Items are collected in the Narthex for the Pleasantville Oasis Methodist Church Food Pantry. No glass containers, please! No clothing accepted at this time.

Prayer List sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board at the beginning of each month. To add or remove a name put your requests on the sheet, or contact Stacie, or Pastor Heidi.

“Holy Grounds” Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is posted monthly on the Narthex Bulletin Board for you to volunteer to bring baked goods, and/or fruit & veggies to share for this fellowship time after the 8:30 and after the 10:00 morning services. **Please consider taking a turn** and sign up to help provide a variety of finger food. The church kitchen committee provides beverages.

Joyful Noise offerings are received on the last Sunday of every month. Charities are posted in the Bulletin “Family Notes.”

Streaming continues online for our 10:00 worship service. Find it on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ReformationLutheranNJ>



**Our Annual Spaghetti and Crab Dinner
was a great success this year once again!**

Our take-out dinner was held on Sunday, September 24, 2023. A special “Thank you” goes out to Phil Anderson for the crabs and Beth Reale for the sauce!

Many thanks to all that came out to help including those who did prep work on Saturday. We had some new helpers this year, welcome aboard Karl, Trent, Lorie, and Susan! Check out the pics below!

SKABBETTI

*(Jane G. Martel, a schoolteacher in Winchester, MA, asked for **recipes** from nursery-school and kindergarten children. Here’s a funny.)*

- 41 sausages as big as your ear
- 41 meatballs not as big
- 41 orange potatoes or tomatoes
- 41 skabbetti
- 41 clean oil

First you decide what it will be tonight – sausages or meatballs? When your father tells you which one, then you cook. Mix the sauce in the blender so your elbows don’t hurt. When the skabbetti is done from the cooking in the broiler (2 degrees or maybe 3), get it in the silver pan with holes in it by your spoon with the holes in it. Then spread out the sauce. It serves your whole family and all your father’s friends.

We may be guessing, but is it possible that our resident fisherman and crab supplier has a favorite hymn tune? “Shall We Gather at the River?”



UPCOMING EVENTS

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
Come before his presence with singing. (KJV)
Psalm 100:1,2

“On your feet now — applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter,
Sing yourselves into his presence.” (The Message)
Psalm 100:1,2

Save the Date: **November 12, 2023**. We will be celebrating **Brian Conover’s 30th Anniversary** as our talented, beloved, and favorite church musician during the **10:00 morning service**, with fellowship and food afterwards. (*Note: no 8:30 service this day.*) Brian is truly a blessing for our congregation at RLC. Congratulations, Brian! **Thank You, and God Bless You!**



“Tea and Talk” Bible Study
Resumes Tuesdays
at 10:00am & 6:30pm
Beginning October 10, 2023
See you there!



Blessing the Animals: On Saturday, September 30, 2023, between 10:00 am and Noon, we held our first Blessing of the Animals. People brought their family pets to the church parking lot and Pastor Heidi prayed and blessed them. Look for Pictures in our next edition! This Blessing of Animals is a cherished tradition established in the 13th Century by **St. Francis Of Assisi (1182-1226)** also “originator” of the *Christmas Crèche*. Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God’s creation. He is venerated in Lutheranism as “**Renewer of the Church**” on October 4. A prayer, “**Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace,**” and a hymn “**All Creatures of Our God and King,**” are attributed to St. Francis and are included in many hymnals.

It is interesting to take note of another name from the Italian village of Assisi, **Clare, Abbess of San Damiano**. She is venerated in the Lutheran Church on August 11. She died in 1253. Notes from “*Sundays and Seasons*” explains: “At age 18, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow his example of Christian living. With Francis’s help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a woman’s Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.”

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow
love;**

**where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

DON" T FORGET!!!

Reformation Sunday

will be celebrated October 29,
2023.

Wear **RED!!**

STEWARDSHIP

For further details follow link

<https://tifwe.org/four-principles-of-biblical-stewardship/>

We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through his providence to glorify him, serve the common good and further his Kingdom.

– Bill Peel, “Biblical Stewardship”

Psalm 24:1

Deuteronomy 8:18

Colossians 3:23-24

Matthew 25:21

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

– C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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A Narrow Escape: Three tight-fisted men were in church on Sunday morning when the minister made a strong appeal for some worthy cause, hoping that everyone in the congregation would give at least five dollars. The three misers became very nervous as the collection plate neared them. Finally, one of them fainted and the other two carried him out. (*The Big Book of Church Humor*)



We've Missed You!

Your Church Family at Reformation has noticed a few empty places in the pews. As a worshipping congregation, not only do *we have one another*, but also, *we have God*. In being together, “God’s Spirit flows through us so that we might encourage one another to greater faith and greater joy.”

A recent Devotion from “Christ in Our Home” said, “God has given us the grace of relationships...and our relationships with each other draw us closer to God. We are called to share our gifts with one another, for the sake of one another.”

(*Jon Gathje, serving Trinity-North Omaha, NE*)