



800 E. Michigan Street + Orlando, FL 32806 + 407.425.7771
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+ reformationlutheran@hotmail.com +
+ reformationlutheranorlando.org +
Sunday worship services with communion: 9:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

for week of 3-6-2016

MINISTERS:
+ ALL THE BAPTIZED +

OUR STAFF

Rev. Robert L. Cosmas, pastor
vacancy, music director
Linda Greer, administrative assistant

CHURCH COUNCIL+

Shay Harold, president
Pam Ridgeway, vice president
Brenda Erwin, secretary
Steve Hilgen
Bill Parker
Mary Reis

+ If you have an idea or concern, please
contact Pr. Rob, Shay Harold, or another
council member.

Pastor Rob is available Sunday through
Thursday. If you have an emergency
on a Friday or Saturday, please call the
church office at 407.425.7771.

To submit articles for consideration in
this weekly newsletter, send to
ReformationLutheran@hotmail.com,
subject line: to Herald editor, by **Tues-
day noon** each week.

The purpose of this newsletter is to
inform. All articles will be edited, but
please check your spelling of proper
nouns and verify your facts before
submitting.

Dear Friends,

We are half way through our Lenten stroll through the forest,
"Upon this Tree." In examining a collection of biblical trees,
we have come to more deeply understand the cross as THE
TREE OF LIFE. In our ancient vespers liturgy on Wednes-
days, we say,

Behold, now is the accept- | able time;
now is the day | of salvation.
Gather us, O God, around the | cross of Christ,
and make it for us the | tree of life.
May the fruits of this tree | feed the hungry,
and may its leaves | heal the nations.

According to the ancients, the cross is the axis of the uni-
verse, the *axis mundi*. The entire spiritual universe turns
upon the passion of our Lord. It unites and connects the cos-
mos, heaven, earth and the underworld as the salvation of all
creation, "...for through Him, God was pleased to reconcile
himself to all things whether on earth or in heaven by making
peace through the blood of his cross." *Colossians 1.20*

This axis of the cosmos, our Tree of Life, is brilliantly and
beautifully depicted in the Apse of the Basilica of San Clem-
ente, Rome, pictured on the next page. The Crucifixion Tree
blossoms from an ancthus plant at the base of the Byzantine
mosaic which shimmered in the golden candle light of the
12th century. The vine, so abiding, spreads across the world.
Here, the architects and artists created a sacred space
intended to transport the pilgrim into God's saving work. The
pilgrims and congregants are drawn into the activity of the
sacrament during the Lord's Supper, where the believer,



Tree of Life, Apse, the Basilica of San Clemente, Rome

experiences redemption elevated from floor through table unto heaven where Christ benevolently presides. The worship space was designed to foster a mystical encounter with paradisiacal life.

Here, east met west as the iconographic depictions are literally windows into heaven. The Greek word, *ikon*, literally means image. Thus, it connotes image as used in Genesis and beyond, "Adam was created in the image (*ikon*) of God." "Though He was in the image (*ikon*) of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited." *Philippians 2.6* As sacred art, the ikon transcends by combining shape, color and symbolism to transport the viewer into a theological truth and heavenly reality.

This Sunday we will explore the vine and branches of Jesus. Notice how they cover the entirety of the apse symbolizing the church's growth. It's rooted in and blossoming from the Tree of Life, the Axis of the Universe.

Take a few minutes to study the ikon here. I've also placed an enlarged reproduction in the sanctuary. Hear the words of our Lord address you, "I AM the vine, you are the branches, those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit because apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15.5*

In His love,
Pastor Rob+

P.S. The funeral for Ingrid Hellender is Saturday, March 19 at 3 p.m. I pray that you can make arrangements to join us in love, support and consolation for Ralph and the entire Hellender family. May our little parish continue to bear rich fruit of consolation from the vine of Christ's redeeming love. Pax

Fourth Sunday in Lent
color of the day: purple

Readings for 3-6-2016

Joshua 5.9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5.16-21
Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

Servers for 3-6-2016

Greeters - Joan Brown Williams
Ushers - Bud & Kathy Keffer
Lector/ Acolyte - Linda Greer
Altar - Donia Bessa
Server - Lori Schildwachter
Teller - Dick Cosmas
Snacks - RELC
Flowers - from John Kirk in
memory of his dad

**Attendance last four Sundays
and Lenten Vespers**

	a.m.	+	p.m.	=	total
2/07	67	+	7	=	74
2/10			35		
2/14	72	+	9	=	81
2/17			20		
2/21	62	+	7	=	69
2/24			21		
2/28	73	+	8	=	81
3/2			20		

Offering for January:

\$16,951
income needed each month to
make budget: \$15,750

March birthdays

01- Tiffany Hagerman
02- Julianne Meyer
03- Brian Fernandez
04- Sarah Cosmas
05- Savel Wise
07- Franklin Sharpe
10- Christy Colson, Cindy Griffin
11- Bob Greer, Jr.
13- Ruth Sharpe
16- Kim Bergstresser
17- Lindsay Greer
19- Deb Nalley
20- Tom Bessa
23- Jackson Upperco, John Bessa
30- David Stock

Lutheran Cooks Conjure up Delights!

Come join us at the monthly pot luck on March 12. That is also the day of the Big Hunt event at our church. The pot luck gets underway at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall and we all have to eat, so come on back! You can relax and enjoy your food and fine cuisine of others in a casual atmosphere. Bring something you like to eat plus some to share. We had a great selection of foods during our last event and this time we hope will be no exception.

We all have wonderful Easter stories; let's plan to share some past holiday memories together. For information, call Tom Bessa at 407.859.4327.

FRESH CUT FLOWERS FOR EASTER MORNING

Please remember to bring fresh cut flowers to either the sunrise service or 9:30 a.m. service on Easter. During the sunrise service, attendees can adorn the cross with the flowers. After this service, the cross will be taken to the sanctuary. If you will attend the 9:30 a.m. service, please place your flowers on the cross before the service. This is a wonderful addition to both of our services.

Lily dedications for Easter

The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Remember that you can dedicate your lily in honor of or in memory of someone. Cost is \$10 per plant. Please mark your envelope or indicate on your check that the funds are for the lilies.

Two ways to help with the Big Hunt

1. We still need volunteers to help with the events during the Big Hunt on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Some of the duties are the following:

registration helper	bounce house monitor
activities supporter	candy & prize distributor
church coordinator	

If you can help, please call or e-mail the church.

A volunteer event will be held March 6 after the 9:30 a.m. service to go over all the duties, assign specific activities and hand out an event t-shirt.

2. If you can't help during the Big Hunt, please consider donating a bag of candy.

We need individually wrapped, hard candy for goody bags for all the kids after they have hunted for Easter eggs. Please do not bring chocolate candy because it could melt. Candy donations are needed until March 6. On that Sunday, we will ask everyone's help in making the bags after the 9:30 a.m. service.

Thank you from the Big Hunt Committee

March events

Mar. 6, 8:30 a.m. - hand bells practice;
after morning worship - assemble candy bags for the Big Hunt in social hall and meeting for helpers for the Big Hunt in adult Sunday school room
Mar. 9, 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - quilting workday, contact: Joan Brown Williams;
5:30 p.m. - soup, bread, water supper in social hall;
6:30 p.m. - Lenten vespers
Mar. 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - the Big Hunt;
6 p.m. - monthly pot luck, contact: Tom Bessa
Mar. 13, 2 a.m. - Set your clocks forward an hour or you will be late to church.
Mar. 16, 5:30 p.m. - soup, bread, water supper in social hall;
6:30 p.m. - Lenten vespers
Mar. 21, 6:30 p.m. - council meeting, contact: Shay Harold or Pr. Rob
Mar. 24, 6:30 p.m. - Maundy Thursday service
Mar. 25, 6:30 p.m. - Good Friday service
Mar. 27, 7 a.m. - sunrise Easter service;
9:30 a.m. - Easter service
Mar. 30, 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - quilting workday, contact: Joan Brown Williams

MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2015

Reformation Lutheran Church has received a "Thank You" from the Florida-Bahamas Synod for our contribution of Mission Support during 2015. The certificate reads:

"To the members of Reformation Lutheran Church, Orlando from the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in grateful appreciation for giving \$2,900.04 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synodical and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

The certificate is signed by both Bishop Schaefer and Bishop Eaton. Congratulations, Reformation. Keep up the good work!

Hand Bell practices BEFORE morning worship service this week

The hand bell choir has resumed practices. They usually meet after the 9:30 service in the adult Sunday school room. Practices are 30-45 minutes.

But this week, March 6, practice will be at 8:30 a.m.--BEFORE the service. This is because of the schedule conflict with the Big Hunt volunteers meeting after the worship service THIS WEEK ONLY.

New members are always welcome. For more details, speak to Angie Gonzalez, director.

Quilting opportunity

If you would like to help with the quilting effort but cannot make the Wednesday morning workdays, would you be interested in meeting on the third Thursdays of the month, 5:45-8 p.m.? If so, please tell Joan Brown Williams, Brenda Erwin or any of the Material Girls. First work-night would be April 21 in the social hall.

VOLUNTEER MEETING THIS SUNDAY, March 6

A meeting for all who will help us with The Big Hunt on Saturday, March 12, will be right after the 9:30 a.m. service in the adult Sunday school room. If you didn't sign up to volunteer but want to help, please come by. We will discuss the time frame of the event, as well as the different jobs/assignments. Refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Are you an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to direct? Each year, eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars based on their qualifying insurance premiums, contract values and volunteer leadership. If you're an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to designate, you can help strengthen our community by directing them to Reformation Lutheran Church.

In fact, this past year eligible Thrivent members directed \$2,376 to Reformation. Thank you to those members who participated in the Thrivent Choice program and helped support our church's mission by directing Choice Dollars!

Choose to make a difference by directing Choice Dollars today. Simply visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions.

Easter worship service schedule

Please attend either the garden sunrise service, scheduled for 7 a.m., or the sanctuary traditional Easter service at 9:30 a.m. There will not be a 5 p.m. service on Easter.
