



The Reformation Herald

Reformation
Lutheran
Church
Orlando, FL

'Getting to the heart since 1959'

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.

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+ reformationlutheranorlando.org +
Sunday worship services with communion: 9:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

for week of 3-20-2016

Dear Friends,

This Wednesday we concluded our series Upon this Tree with an examination of two gardens. The Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane. Max Lucado, a popular evangelical author, believes that the entirety of scripture stretches between these two gardens. He put it brilliantly when he said,

“The Bible is the story of two gardens: Eden and Gethsemane. In the first, Adam took the fall. In the second, Jesus took a stand. In the first, God sought Adam. In the second, Jesus sought God. In Eden, Adam hid from God. In Gethsemane, Jesus emerged from the tomb. In Eden, Satan led Adam to a tree that led to his death. From Gethsemane, Jesus went to a tree that led to eternal life.”

It is the Tree of Life, the Cross, that will take center stage next week. Sunday's Palm-Passion service begins on the Mount of Olives. Jesus will return there--to the Garden of Gethsemane where he will pray that the “cup may be taken” from him. Sunday's liturgy unfolds the mystery of the Passion. I encourage you to join us. The bulletin will contain the entire passion account. Keep your copy as it makes a wonderful devotional guide for your Holy Week journey.

We will also encounter and ask the Lord's blessing upon our Palm Branches. These symbols of Messianic Kingship were strewn at Jesus feet. Such an activity was akin to waving banners during a parade. They were signs of submission to the king. The crowds acknowledge Jesus' import. The palms could have also been referencing Jesus' righteousness, since righteous men are called palm trees in Psalm 92:12. It's also possible that the palms were placed in front of Jesus because Solomon's temple was decorated with palms.

The crowd also cried out, “Hosanna,” as they descended the Mount of Olives into the Kidron Valley. This blessing is from Israel's pilgrim liturgy Psalm 118 in the Songs of Ascent. With Jesus riding a virgin donkey, the prophetic meaning of Zechariah 9.9 comes gushing forth,

“Behold your king is coming to you, humble, and
mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

To be sure, he is a king of peace, a king of simplicity, a king of the poor. Dare I add as a Ragamuffin King? The symbolic meaning and power of the moment is overwhelming. While the

Palm Sunday: **3-20-2016**

color of the day: purple

Readings

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalms 31.9-16

Philippians 2.5-11

Luke 22.14--23.56

Servers

Greeters - Dee Ann Daniels

Ushers - Dick & Joan Cosmas

Acolyte/Lector - Kathy Keffer

Altar - Linda Greer/Debby Karnes

Server - Jeff Price

Teller - David Denholm

Snacks - the Keffer family

Flowers - the Hellender/Dean

families in memory of

Ingrid Hellender, our beloved

wife, mom and oma and

from Erika Cruthis in memory of

husband Glenn

Attendance during Lent

	a.m.	+	p.m.	=	total
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		
3/6	60	+	6	=	66
3/9			20		
3/13	63	+	6	=	69
3/16			18		

Offering for February:

\$14,043

income needed each month to

make budget: \$15,750

March birthdays

17- Lindsay Greer

19- Deb Nalley

20- Tom Bessa

23- Jackson Upperco, John Bessa

30- David Stock

Holy Week Schedule

3/20	9:30 a.m., 5 p.m.	Palm Sunday
3/24	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday service
3/25	6:30 p.m.	Good Friday service
3/27	7 a.m.	sunrise Easter service in garden
	9:30 a.m.	traditional Easter service
	<i>No 5 p.m. service on Easter Sunday.</i>	

Baptismal Info Needed ASAP

Pastor Rob needs your baptismal information for the Easter service and other purposes (recognizing your baptismal birthday). Please include the following information, if possible, or as much information as you can:

your name at time of birth; your present name if different

date of baptism

name of church

location of church (city and state or city and country)

name of pastor

Please send your information via e-mail, call the church office or write it down and hand to Linda Greer this Sunday.

If you or your children were baptized at Reformation, we already have this information. You do not need to respond to this request.

Many thanks to those who have already submitted this information.

FOOD/DRINK IN SANCTUARY

Please help us keep our reupholstered and refinished pews clean and beautiful. There is to be no food, drink or gum brought into the sanctuary. The only exception is a capped water bottle. The Property & Management Committee members, council and staff thank you in advance for your help in keeping the entire sanctuary looking great.

March events

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 in garden;

9:30 a.m. - traditional Easter service

Mar. 30, 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - quilting workday, contact: Joan Brown Williams

from page one

Pharisee's command Jesus to shush the children, He admonishes, "If these were quiet, the very stones would cry out." Indeed, all of creation would sing the Messianic entrance song. Sun, moon and stars would join in the chorus which we now sing as part of our Eucharistic Liturgy. For the Messiah is entering, the true body and true blood of Christ are present and the King himself is the host and meal.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

The acclamation, Hosanna, literally "Come to our aid! Come, Lord!", had messianic context in Jesus' day. We find in it the complex emotions that must have accompanied the pilgrim disciples of Jesus. They had made their Passover journey of Assent from Galilee below sea level 600' and were preparing to enter the most Holy site on the planet, ascending to over 2500' above sea level.

Hosanna, the joyful praise of God at the moment of processional entry, hope that the hour of Messiah had arrived, and at the same time a prayer that the Davidic kingship – God's kingship over Israel would be reestablished. --*Jesus of Nazareth* Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
Is it any wonder that the stones are ready to cry out?

So let me encourage you to join us this Sunday as we begin this important pilgrimage of faith through Gethsemane to Jerusalem, the Upper Room, the Hill of Calvary and, finally, the Garden Tomb.

I hope you will join us for the journey.

Palm Sunday of the Passion – 9:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper of our Lord 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday – The Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise – 7 a.m.

Easter Morning Worship -- 9:30 a.m.

I know I will see you at church.

Many blessings on your journey,
Pastor Rob+

