

Phone: 952-929-0439  
Website: www.reformationslp.org  
2544 Highway 100 South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-1705

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
Permit # 2003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lutheran Church of the  
**REFORMATION**

## HERE AND NOW

Volume LI June 1, 2010 #6



### June

- 5 Zaiga Siktars
- 8 Carol Cushman
- 10 Lorraine Anderson
- 15 Max Fehring
- 24 Sophia Katherine Luther

***Sunday Worship at LCR will continue at 10:00 am throughout the summer months.***

### OUR PEOPLE

□□□□□□□□

#### THANK YOU to:

—Dale Stenseth and Leroy Pietz for putting up the banner with the new grass logo from our recently updated website.

—Charlie, Danielle, Max and Winston for assembling the new bench along the walking path near the new banner.

—LCR's faithful choir members who are taking a deserved break for the summer.

□□□□□□□□

**THANKS from**—Luther Park for LCR's member contribution of \$400.

□□□□□□□□

**We Pray: For health and well-being:** Jean Quist; Gloria Olson; Carol Drake's son-in-law, Jeff; Nancy Lund's brother, Ken; Eleanor Hunsberger's grandson, Jahhee and family; Joyce Krogh; Dorothy Falde.

□□□□□□□□

**The LCR prayer list has been updated for 2010. If you feel you would like to have the congregation praying for you or your family, phone the church office at 952.929.0439.**

### Reconciling in Christ Forums Set for Reformation in June

At the Reformation annual meeting in January, a planning group was introduced which was to work on arranging a series of conversations to consider the question of LCR becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. Such congregations make a concerted effort to publicly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender persons.

June has been selected as a time for a series of four forums on RIC to be held each Sunday in the Commons, 9:00-9:50 a.m.

**6/6 - Marilyn and Michael Miller** of Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer will tell their story. Parents of a daughter who is lesbian, they have long been involved in the RIC movement.

**6/13 - Pastor Tom Mundahl** will lead a Bible study on the church and the welcome of GLBT persons.

**6/20 - Joan Duke, Ginny Jones and Paul Nixdorf**, a Twin Cities RIC Team, will share their stories as well as historical material on RIC.

**6/27 - Open Conversation** about a public Affirmation of Welcome statement and its possible adoption at LCR. (The planning group is working on the statement and will submit it to the LCR Congregation Council in advance of 6/27).

Please join us in the Commons in June for what promises to be a series of wide open conversations pointed toward our future at Reformation. Refreshments *will* be served. The Planning Committee—

Marilyn Anderson, Stu Ekstrand, Nancy Lund, Don Luther (convener) and Emma Wilhelm. (June news-article about Kids' Crops -10)



## Margins

When I arrived at one of the parishes I served, the newsletter was more packed with news and information than any I had ever seen. Many people wrote articles, community events were attended to, and efforts were made to include as much as possible. But as I asked people in the congregation and the community if they actually read the “Kairos Chronicle,” the response was disappointing. “Oh, I try to look at some of the articles.” “I find it rather hard to read, so I keep it and then recycle.” At least they did recycle!

Fortunately, we had two graphic designers who were new members of the congregation, so I got them together one afternoon and asked: *what do you think about the newsletter?* They both smiled as if they had been waiting for an opportunity to improve this communication tool. And they agreed about the problem: there was simply too much information “stuffed” into a very few pages. Even worse, the percentage of pages covered with print had increased as we attempted to make more “news” available. They both made it clear: **we needed more substantial “margins” and more “white space.”** One of the graphic designers agreed to become editor; the other volunteered to help out. Suddenly, people read that newsletter...and it became the foundation of a new website.

As summer begins, it occurs to me that we need more ‘margins’ in our lives. We need time to sit on the deck and simply sip our coffee or glass of wine. We need time to rest, to strengthen our friendships, to breathe deeply, and to tune our hearts to a greater rhythm of creation. We need time away from our daily schedules and the incessant ‘driving around and shopping’ that seem to have become the goals of our culture. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, “A broad margin of leisure is as beautiful in human life as in a book.”

But it is difficult to stop and establish margins when we are anxious and fearful. In fact, the secret of the system that keeps us moving on the American ‘gerbil wheel’ is this induced anxiety that we don’t have the right clothes, the ‘right stuff’ for recreation, the right vehicle, or, in fact, enough money to provide these. It is even worse when unemployment is so high and the prospects of living at this wasteful level seem to have dimmed.

Jesus invites us to “...not worry about our lives, what we will eat or what we will drink....But seek first for the kingdom of God and God’s justice, and all these things will be given” (Matthew 6.25-33). What a ‘mantra’ for summer! What an invitation to celebrate the ‘white spaces,’ the ‘margins’ and ‘silences’ in our lives—even in our worship.

*Pastor Tom*

### Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through April 2010

	2010 Budget	April Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	160,493.80	10,791.28	48,641.84	30%
Total Income	120,466.00	10,352.67	42,352.87	35%
Surplus (Deficit)	(40,007.80)	(438.61)	(6,288.97)	16%

### LCR Worship Attendance

4/25	32	5/16	31
5/2	20	5/23	31
5/9	35		
Average: 30			

## JUNE NEWS & EVENTS

**Report from Nicaragua**—Megan Boren's business manager in Milwaukee, Kathleen Jefferson, reports that Megan bought a newer school bus in Nicaragua, after selling the old bus for parts. Buying the bus in Nicaragua instead of the U.S. avoided the dangerous trip through Mexico and Honduras, as well as entrance red tape and fees.

The schools, preschool and K-12, are doing well. Megan continues to tutor children every Saturday at the community rancho on her campus.

Students sponsored by LCR people have sent Kathleen pictures of themselves and letters of thanks which have been translated. Kathleen will forward them to LCR. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with the students and their families., Kathleen will ask Megan to email updates to LCR. Nancy Lund

\*\*\*\*\*

**Family Fun Day, Sunday, June 6, 12 noon!!** Free fun for all ages; Bowling, Games, Silent Auction-Hotel Room/Night Giveaways, and Special Guests!!! Beverage tickets are also available at the event and on [www.vitalculture.com](http://www.vitalculture.com). Sponsored by the Dennis Hovde Organization, "Fighting For a Promising Future" – Feeding Children in Lima, Peru. You can contribute at this website: [www.vitalculture.com](http://www.vitalculture.com); by check to D.H.O. 2625 Xenwood Ave. S, SLP, 55416; or at the June 6 event located at The Park Tavern, 3401 Louisiana Ave S., SLP.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kids' Crops** – LCR's gardening club meets Wednesdays, 4 pm in the Birchwood Community Gardens (on the back of the LCR property). Kids of all ages are welcome. We grow vegetables to cook, eat and share while having FUN! Meet new friends and learn about earth-friendly gardening. Enroll now through May 31 – both kids and mentors! Cost is \$15 for the season. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Call for more info. or sign up at LCR church office 952.929.0439 or Danielle Fehring 952.546.1878.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LCR has been a Care of Creation leader for many years.** Birchwood Community Gardens, the forest, and the prairie have shown our leadership. Now we have an opportunity to reflect on the 'carbon footprint' that we make in another way—by becoming a "Zero Waste" Congregation. That is, let's explore ways together to eliminate what cannot be reused or recycled from our church life. Not only can we recycle paper products, we can move toward elimination of paper cups and plates, etc. What else can we do? Your ideas and help are important in this process. Thanks from your Stewardship of Creation, Property, and Hospitality Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) has moved! STEP's new location is: 6812 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park.**

The phone number remains the same: 952-925-4899.

**Kickin' it for STEP: an interfaith kickball game, benefiting STEP.** An all ages, family-friendly event to gather, celebrate summer and support STEP. Bring a non-perishable food item or donation. \$1 has the buying power of \$9 at STEP. A shared Spark Churches/Adath Jeshurun Synagogue Young Adults event. Wednesday, June 16, 6-7 Social, 7-8 Game at Oak Hill Park (field is at 34th and Quebec). SLP Mayor Jeff Jacobs will be there. Connect: [info@sparkchurches.org](mailto:info@sparkchurches.org), 952-929-6465.

\*\*\*\*\*

**West Metro Grief Support Coalition** invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship. Meetings take place 4:30-6:30 pm, April 6-June 22, 2010 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 3801 Wooddale Ave., St. Louis Park, MN. Visit their website at [www.aldersgatemn.com](http://www.aldersgatemn.com) or phone 952.929.6725.

The schedule for June is—

June 1	Jeanne Shellum	Gratitude
June 8	Pastor Holly Aastuen	God's Presence in Grief
June 15	Leslie Kreofsky, MFT	Hope in Moving Forward
June 22	Host Church	We remember our loved ones

For more information, please call the coalition coordinator, Darcie Rodman at 763.546.4404 or find us online at [www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org](http://www.westmetrogriefsupportcoalition.org).