



## **“SON” Shine Newsletter**

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Biscayne Ave & Shore Rd Galloway, NJ 08205 609-652-8431**  
**8:30 & 10 am Worship Church service**  
**Sunday School 10 am**  
**Pastor Heidi Link**  
**Music Director - Brian Conover**  
**Church Secretary - Stacie Krouse**  
**November 2019**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:4)*

Welcome to November! Later this month we kick off the start of the holiday season with the celebration of Thanksgiving; a time for being grateful for all that we have. November and December seem to pass so quickly as we prepare and celebrate the holiday trio of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve. It is a busy season filled with shopping for gifts, party planning, cooking large meals, baking cookies and pies, and traveling to holiday get togethers. It is a joyful time of year for many but it is also an exhausting one and by New Year's Eve we are all tired and ready for a long winter's nap.

The challenge for us is that the business of the holiday season can cause us to forget to rejoice in the “reason for the season”. We tend to get inward looking, preoccupied with all the things on our “to do list”, at sometimes we get grumpy and impatient with people, and arguments arise. For some people, the stress of the season can seem more like a burden than a celebration, often for reasons we may not always be aware of. For others, the sorrows of grief, mental, emotional or physical illness prevents them from being able to celebrate. In all these things, it is important to remember to be kind to one another. As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians “Let your gentleness be known to everyone.” The Greek word, *epieikes*, is translated as *gentle, patient or moderate*. Paul was writing to them because he had received word about descension and false teaching within the church. His letter encourage those who were in opposition to one another to have a humble attitude like Jesus rather than one of control by selfish ambition and pride. He reminded them that their life with Christ was a gift of God's grace freely given through faith.

Paul had a great love for this church and his letter was filled with joy and confidence in their perseverance to live out their Christian faith in all aspects of life. Paul's words of encouragement to the church in Philippi can help us today as well, especially during the holiday season when we have a tendency to get overwhelmed and stressed out by it all. Paul reminds us to: think before we act or speak, practice mindfulness, be present and aware of those around you, looking to the greater good of the community in which you find yourself at any given moment rather than our own wants and desires. Being present and open to the community around you is a way for you to always be rejoicing in the Lord; for where two or three are gathered so too is Christ present, and that is something to rejoice in! Blessings on your Thanksgiving celebrations, may the Peace of the Lord be with you all.

Be .... a blessing,

Pastor Heidi

Please remember to join us for the celebration of Pastor Heidi's installation on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> after our one worship service at 10 am. It will be a pot luck lunch (dessert will be provided) so feel free to bring a dish to share 😊

### **RLC FUN FACTS**

**Epiphany Lutheran Church of Pleasantville originally purchased the old Conovertown schoolhouse & land for \$4,000.**

**Our original church (the old schoolhouse) was dilapidated and was converted using volunteer labor!!**

**We were so excited on Reformation Sunday to get a visit from Martin Luther (Brian) & his wife, Katrina (Pastor Heidi). We enjoyed hearing part of Martin Luther's travels & experiences. We hope they will visit us again 😊**



## Our 1<sup>st</sup> Fall Book Club

We really enjoyed reading & discussing *The Shack, by Wm. Paul Young*. Pastor Heidi led a lively yet thought provoking discussion. Our next book club will start in December the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be reading the classic *A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens*. There is a sign- up sheet in the Narthex. The discussion will be on Mondays at 10-11 am & Thursday evenings at 7-8 pm.  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!**



Tuesday morning crew  
(Missing: Ginny Nelson & Betsey Daniels)



Thursday night crew

**FIRST COMMUNION** took place on Sunday, November 3rd. Quinn August Baumiller received her first communion. God bless her!



Quinn and her parents



Quinn & Pastor Heidi

## Other things going on here at Reformation

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Absecon Presbyterian Church.

**2020 FLOWER CHART** is up and ready for the coming year dedications for altar flowers and/or bulletins. Sign up in the Narthex! (There are still Dec 18 dates available)

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** It's that time again! The Christmas Poinsettia dedication forms are in the Narthex. The deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

~~~~~  
We are currently looking for a local family to help during the Christmas season. More info to follow...

Bear Ladies craft tables will be going up the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent. Be sure to check them out as we have many new items for sale ☺