

# Reformation Lutheran Church

1118 Union Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

## NEWS RELEASE

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: 803-252-1507 ▪ Email: [reformat@bellsouth.net](mailto:reformat@bellsouth.net) ▪ Website: [www.reformationlutherancolumbiasc.com](http://www.reformationlutherancolumbiasc.com)

### Reformation Lutheran Church Names Timothy Bupp New Pastor

**Pastor Timothy Bupp (Tim)** has been named the new pastor of **Reformation Lutheran Church** beginning Wednesday, August 14, 2013. His first sermon to the congregation will be held on Sunday, August 18, 2013 with a special combined service at 10:30 am in the Church sanctuary at 1118 Union Street.

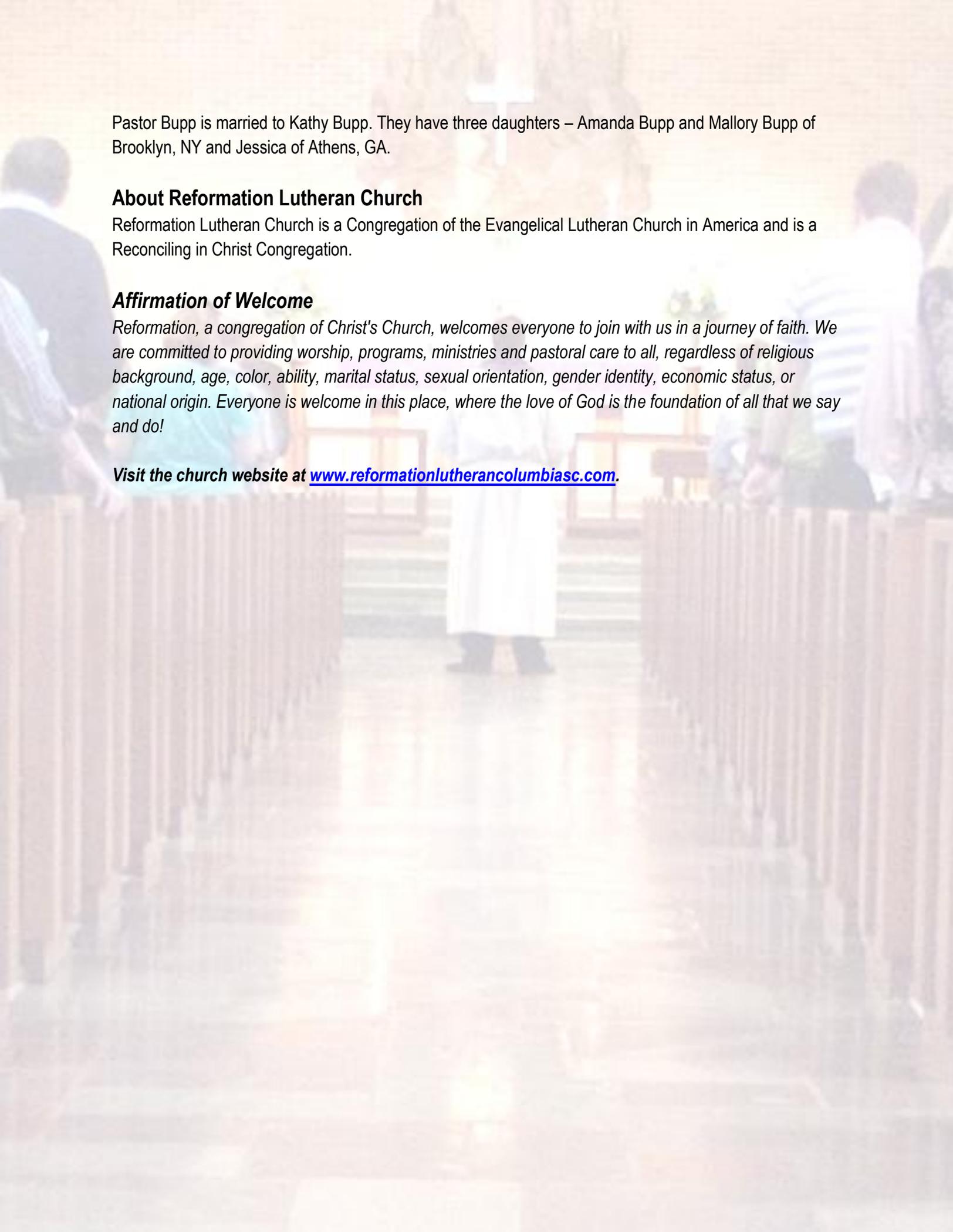
Born in a small town in western Pennsylvania and raised by a single mother, Pastor Bupp graduated high school in 1975. Following in his father and grandfather's footsteps, he began working at the steel mill and became involved at a local Lutheran church, first with the youth group, then a confirmation teacher, a liturgical assistant, and a lay supply preacher prior to pursuing the ministry full-time.

Pastor Bupp completed his undergraduate studies at Slippery Rock University while continuing to work full-time at the steel mill. "After six to eight years in a steel mill, it was refreshing and I learned I had a real grasp of the English language," he remembers. Since finishing Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, he has served congregations in both Pennsylvania and South Carolina. He comes to Reformation from Zion Lutheran in Lexington, SC.

Pastor Tim has helped transform smaller congregations in Butler, PA into healthy, growing ministries. He says that **Grace@Calvary's** community outreach efforts were what "made us relevant and was the most important part of the transformation." A skilled preacher, he has participated in the national interdenominational Festival of Homiletics since 2007.

Pastor Tim was drawn to Reformation at a time in his life that he is ready to truly build upon a ministry of outreach. "It's such an open church, the kind that I have always dreamed of being a pastor of. It represents what **I believe** the first-century church is was about." Pastor Tim says the church's decision to become a *Reconciling in Christ* church represents a greater truth: "When people come through the door, there are no hoops to jump through; you don't have to be like everyone else." This matters to him on a personal level as well, being the father of a lesbian. My hope is that when she comes home to visit Mom and Dad, she may have a church family as well."

Julia Prater, president of Reformation's church council noted, "Both the Call Committee and Church Council felt the Holy Spirit was at work in our discerning the Call of Pastor Tim Bupp. His enthusiasm about taking the church out into the community will open new doors and new opportunity for the mission and ministry of Reformation as we grow together in our spiritual journey."



Pastor Bupp is married to Kathy Bupp. They have three daughters – Amanda Bupp and Mallory Bupp of Brooklyn, NY and Jessica of Athens, GA.

### **About Reformation Lutheran Church**

Reformation Lutheran Church is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

### **Affirmation of Welcome**

*Reformation, a congregation of Christ's Church, welcomes everyone to join with us in a journey of faith. We are committed to providing worship, programs, ministries and pastoral care to all, regardless of religious background, age, color, ability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, or national origin. Everyone is welcome in this place, where the love of God is the foundation of all that we say and do!*

**Visit the church website at [www.reformationlutherancolumbiasc.com](http://www.reformationlutherancolumbiasc.com).**