



Church Of the Reformation - Lutheran
The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
With Christ at the Heart

Christus
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7910 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-2721
 (314) 352-1355 (office); (314) 352-7652 (fax)

Reverend David C. Pelsue, Pastor
 Website: www.reformationstl.org



A New Beginning

January always marks a new beginning. This year in Epiphany we will be meditating on the first chapter of Mark's Gospel. You may wish to read it ahead of time. The focus is mainly Jesus' calling of His disciples. The Baptism of Christ on the first Sunday of Epiphany takes us back to our Baptismal beginning in Christ where He called us to faith.

As we observe the various disciples of our Lord responding to His call by leaving behind former things and ways to follow Christ, this provides us an opportunity to retrace our steps in discipleship to Jesus.

We may give thanks for our parents and Godparents in bringing us to be Baptized. We may well ponder on our confirmation and that vow to remain faithful, even to death, rather than fall away from this faith. In the spirit of beginning anew, it would be a good time to find your copy of Luther's Small Catechism and reread it. Or you could get CPH's [Lutheranism 101](#) for such a review. Or read Luther's Large Catechism.

While you're at it take a look on page 303 of Lutheran Service Book and start reading your Bible following the Daily Lectionary by date. You'll be amazed at the new insights you will gain through this endeavor. Take some steps to renew your prayer and devotional life. Our hymnal also has great resources for that (Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families – p. 294; Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings – p. 305)

God grant that our faith may grow with the dawning light of **the Epiphany of our Lord**. Which by the way will be celebrated as usual here at Reformation. Come with the Magi bearing their gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ child, **Friday, January 6th at 7 p.m. Divine Service**.

May the New Year bring a blessed new beginning for you and your family. In Christ,

Pastor Pelsue

Vicar's Corner



Happy New Year!

A new year is now upon us, 2011 is behind us and we now look forward to what God has in store for us in 2012! It is that time of year where we look at making New Year's resolutions and hoping that we stick with them once we make them. I was reading a book for my Evangelism module for school and came across a section that talked of how church attendance is declining across America. In reading that it made me wonder what the importance of going to church really is. It brought me to reflect on the 3rd Commandment and what that commandment really is all about; "Remembering the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy."

Coming to church on Sunday is a time where we get to thank and praise our Heavenly Father for all the blessings that He has given us. It was great for me to see how God blessed the members of this congregation this past year when I was doing the power point of Thanksgivings during the month of November. When we come into God's House, we meet Christ in a special way, or more correctly, Christ meets us. Jesus comes to us in Word and Sacrament to serve us and our most fundamental needs. Our faith is strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through the reading of God's Word, words that speak to us and bring us comfort through all of life's trials and disappointments.

We are nourished by partaking in the eating and drinking of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion. We also can take great comfort in receiving Christ's true forgiveness thru the words of Absolution spoken by the pastor.

Jesus is present when the believers are gathered together as Matthew stated in his Gospel: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among you." (Matthew 18:20) The church is not a building, but it is people who make up the church. People who have been irrevocably changed by God and who have joined together to bring honor to the one

they call King!! So as you look at making New Year's resolutions for 2012, I pray that you would reflect on the 3rd Commandment and make it a commitment to come and worship with your brothers and sisters in God's house, praising and honoring Him who has provided you with so much! Praying you all have a blessed 2012!

In Christ our Newborn King,
Vicar Brett



JANUARY NEWS & NOTES

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

Epiphany of Our Lord
Divine Service
Friday, January 6th - 7:00 p.m.



CARE & SHARE will meet on **Thursday, January 26th at 9:30 a.m.** for the assembling of quilts, layettes, laprobes, etc.

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING



On **Saturday, January 7th, at 9:00 a.m.**, everyone is encouraged to come and help take down the church Christmas decorations. The more people the merrier and all help will be greatly appreciated. Please bring a salad, snack or appetizer to share.



RETIREES MEETING



The Retirees will meet on **Tuesday, January 24th at 12 noon.** Look for more details to follow in upcoming church announcements.



MONDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

The Monday Evening Bible Class will resume on **January 9th at 6:00 p.m.** They will continue their study of Galatians. All are invited to join! Contact Vicar Brett, 314-352-1355, with any questions.



CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF

Board of Christian Fellowship invites everyone to join them on Super Bowl **Sunday, February 6th**, immediately following the late service (12:00 noon) for our annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off. More info will follow in future Sunday announcements and February newsletter.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the February newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, January 16th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.

AFFTON FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION!



The Reformation Ladies Club is collecting food for the Affton Food Bank. The food helps families in the Affton area. Please bring the suggestions items (listed below) and place in the grocery cart in the parish hall or the hamper in the narthex. Just think of how many needy families in the Affton area you will be helping! The food will be taken to the Affton Food Pantry once a month. Top priorities are:

Entrée items: Hearty beef stews; chicken n' dumplings, canned tuna, chili, etc.

Dry Pasta including Ramen noodles.

Meal Accompaniments: Pasta and rice mixes.

Paper Products: Toilet & facial tissue, paper towels, and laundry detergent.

Hygiene: Toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant.

Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise.

Thanks for your help! *Reformation Ladies Club*

THANK YOU



Dear Reformation,
Thanks so much to the members of Reformation for the gifts that were sent to the Dehne family. We are thankful and blessed to have caring individuals as you. God Bless you all.

*Letter received from Concordia Seminary
for the Giving Tree Seminary family*

Dear Reformation Family,
I would like to thank everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas. The church looks beautiful! Thanks also to the Men's Club who helped to prepare the pancakes and sausage breakfast for all the helpers – it was great! Thanks again for all the help!

In Christ, *Pastor Pelsue*



2012 BULLETIN BOOSTERS

The New 2012 Bulletin Booster Chart is now up! If you would like to sponsor a week of church bulletins, please fill in your name (and dedication) on the lines under the week you would like to underwrite. Insert your check for \$18.00 in the "Bulletin Boosters" envelope and place in the offering plate or the church secretary's mailbox. The envelopes are located next to the chart. Checks should be made payable to Reformation.

THE 2012 FLOWER CALENDAR



The new flower calendar is now up on the narthex bulletin board. If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, fill in your name on the Flower Chart on the date you would like to reserve and complete the form located under the calendar. Place the form along with your check for \$26.00 in the offering plate or the secretary's mailbox. Checks should be made payable to Reformation. No flowers will be ordered unless the check is received one week in advance. Thanks for your cooperation.



TIME TO RENEW THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

The Lutheran Witness is a great way to find out what's happening in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Each monthly issue is packed with up-to-date information about people and places, letters from readers and humor, plus much, much more. A one year subscription is \$15.60. Write your check out to Reformation Lutheran Church, place it in the "Lutheran Witness" envelope which is included in your box of church envelopes and put in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to church. New subscriptions are due to begin in April. **The list with all subscriptions must be in to the church office by no later than January 23rd.**

MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE WORKSHOP



Concordia Seminary will offer a workshop titled "Making Abortion Unthinkable" on **Saturday, January 28, 2012**, on the Seminary campus. The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m.

The workshop will include video-based presentations as well as discussions segments. Dr. Jeff Gibbs, professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, will serve as the moderator for the workshop. Seminarian James Conrad (Life Team Leader) will assist Dr. Gibbs in exploring the question of abortion with regard to clear, focused apologetics and human reason at its best.

The workshop will strengthen and clarify understanding for those who attend, as well as equip them to speak winsomely, even to non-Christians, on behalf of the unborn. The workshop is suitable for adults and older teens. Each participant will also receive a helpful manual of materials.

Pre-registration by January 23 is required. The registration cost for "Making Abortion Unthinkable" is \$20 and includes lunch and materials. For more information or to register for "Making Abortion Unthinkable," call 314-505-7486 or email ce@csl.edu.

**Come along with us to WASHINGTON, D.C. for the
39th Annual National March for Life with the...**



**Missouri Life Caravan
Sunday-Monday-Tuesday
January 22-23-24, 2012**

Stand up and speak up in support of LIFE!

Preliminary Schedule & Information:

- Sunday, January 22nd, morning: Buses leave various sites in Eastern Missouri. Stop for lunch & dinner (bring money for this).
- Monday, January 23rd: Arrive in D.C., meet with Senators & Congressional Reps from Missouri. Join thousands of pro-lifers in the March for Life. Evening: board buses; depart for home.
- Tuesday, January 24th, morning: Breakfast stop. Late afternoon: arrive home!
- The Cost will be \$155 per person, meals not included.
- All passengers must be age 7 or older.
- All travelers ages 7-18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Missouri Life Caravan trip *does not* have an overnight hotel stay. The overnight period is spent traveling on the luxury motor coach buses. Journey with us to Washington, DC, on one of our many buses or if your group is large enough to fill a bus, call us and we'll help your group or organization put together their own bus! Have questions? Want to sponsor someone to go on the trip?

See the bulletin board for more information and a registration form or visit www.missourilife.org/ or call Missouri Right to Life Eastern Region at (314) 434-4900 or email: LifeCaravan@missourilife.org



WINTER LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE

“Are We Still Fighting the Crusades?”
Concordia Seminary (Sieck Hall, Room 202)
801 Seminary Place
January 11, 18, 25 & February 1, 2012
Wednesday evenings - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Crusade is still a powerful word. Whether applied to current armed conflicts or used as anti-Christian polemic, certain ideas and images of the crusades seem to be alive and well. But what were the crusades, really? This course will define crusade, examine the religious origins of the crusading movement, recount the conquest of the Holy Land (as well as its subsequent loss), and explore the expansion of the crusading idea beyond the Middle Ages.

Cost is \$30 per person and includes handouts and refreshments. For more information or to register by phone with credit card, call 314-505-7486, or send a check (please include phone number) to Lay Bible Institute, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105.
Registration deadline is January 9, 2011.



LUTHERAN CONVALESCENT HOME AUXILIARY MEETING

The January meeting of the Lutheran Convalescent Home Auxiliary is on Monday, January 23rd beginning at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker is John Kotovsky and his topic is “What’s Happening in 2012?” The meetings are held at the Lutheran Convalescent Home, 723 South Laclede Station Road. Please bring a sandwich, dessert is provided.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Hospice is a special kind of care designed to provide sensitivity and support for people in the final phase of a terminal illness. Heartland Hospice’s goal is to provide palliative and supportive services to meet physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of patients and their families in the home, health care facilities or other residential settings. Volunteers are the heart of the Hospice Team. Heartland volunteers offer support, companionship and practical, caring help to this special group of people. You can donate as little or as much of your time as you desire. Please contact Christine at 314-413-6442 if you would like to bring something special into someone’s life.



LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

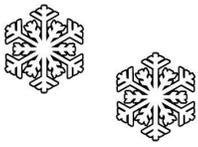
It is appropriate to begin a new year in the Name that is above all names, Jesus Christ and it is in that Name that we resolve to be more determined than ever to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our communities, our country, and to the ends of the earth. Your investment in Lutheran Church Extension Fund will help support congregations that are sharing this good news. Call 1-800-THE-LCEF (843-5233) or visit www.lcef.org for more information on how you can support these ministries.

DARE TO READ ...

LIKE A LUTHERAN

Lutheran Book of Prayer; Luther’s Small Catechism; Reading the Psalms; Lutheran Service Book; The Lutheran Difference; Law & Gospel; Treasury of Daily Prayer; Concordia – The Lutheran Confessions; and The Lutheran Study Bible. These are the books that every Lutheran should have in their home. Take the challenge to read like a Lutheran with *The Essential Lutheran Library*: a collection of best-selling Lutheran works that provides the tools, prayers, and texts needed for today’s daring Lutherans.

CPH is currently running a sale on most of these books. Please see the church bulletin for pricing and to sign-up to purchase. Contact the church office, 314-352-1355, with any questions. Deadline to sign-up is March 15, 2012.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

4th Tony Kubasta
 7th Joan Geidel
 9th Andrew Geiser
 10th Grace Pelsue
 12th Ronald Paul
 LeEtta Robinson
 14th Donna Franklin

15th Dan Dowling
 Megan Hemmer
 20th Melissa Jordan
 21st Kenneth Lewis
 23rd Joseph Rowland
 Arline Ulrich
 25th Mary Jane Autry
 27th Jerry Bierman

28th August Heinze
 Austin Starns
 29th Carol Feuerhahn

**GOD'S BLESSINGS TO
 YOU!**

January Schedule

Altar Guild Schedule:

January 1st
 January 6th
 January 8th Both
 January 15th
 January 22nd
 January 29th Both

8:15 Service

10:00 a.m. - Ann Miller
 7:00 p.m. - Julia Graudin
 Ann Miller
 Ann Miller
 Ann Miller

10:45 Service

Karen Liebmann
 Karen Liebmann
 Karen Liebmann

Greeters Schedule:

January 1st 10:00 a.m.
 January 8th
 January 15th
 January 22nd
 January 29th

Lisa Adams and Dennis & Jan Schrader
 Mark & Julia Graudin
 Frank Matta
 Rick & Ann Miller
 Shirley Ciegel
 Mark & Deb Eischer
 Norma Grau
 Mildred Wotli
 Marilyn Jones

Ushers Schedule:

Jamie McAlister
 Rick Miller
 Robert Klemme
 Denny Schrader
 Martin Liebmann
 Martin Liebmann, IV

Acolytes Schedule:

January 1st 10:00 a.m.
 January 8th
 January 15th
 January 22nd
 January 29th

Micah Hung
 John Larson
 Katie Meyer
 Philip Bliese
 John Larson
 Christian Liebmann
 Haven Liebmann
 Mary LaFlamme
 John Schilling

