



Church of the Reformation – Lutheran

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

With Christ at the Heart

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



In February we approach the zenith of Epiphany's light in the mountain top experience of our Lord's Transfiguration and then we enter the shadows of Lent's more somber penitential and preparatory tones which will culminate in Holy Week until we celebrate the Son-rise of our Lord's resurrection on Easter.

This year our Wednesday (11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.) Lenten sermon theme will be, "Seven Words from the Cross." Each Wednesday our Homily will meditate on a different word of Christ from the cross while in the evening service our Christus Choir will chant Carl Schalk's setting of that same word. As Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd) approaches and during Lent I encourage you to read all four Gospel accounts of our Lord's ministry and passion as your personal devotions.

In our worship this Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd) we will once again offer the application of ashes on the foreheads of those who come forward to the chancel, near the beginning of the service. This is an ancient Christian custom. These ashes remind us (much like a cross necklace) that we are sinful and stand before God as dust and ashes, in need of His forgiveness. The ashes are made from the palms of Palm Sunday. They also remind us of our Lord's passion, that while we were yet sinners, Christ suffered and died to redeem us.

Ashes will be applied by the minister and assistants in the shape of the cross on your forehead with the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Christ suffered and died to redeem you."

It is purely a matter of Christian freedom as to whether you come forward for the imposition of ashes or not. Let sincerity of heart rule whether you come or not. Luther reminds us in our thoughts toward others, "put the best construction on everything."

Serving our Lenten Lord with you,

Pastor Pelsue



Vicar's Corner!

It's a Leap Year, what will you do
with your extra day?



This year is a Leap Year. We get an extra day in the year! The history behind Leap Year is the earth's solar orbit takes 365 and a quarter days. Because of this, every 4 years an extra day is added to the calendar so we don't fall behind in the natural cycle of things. Each leap year we add that day onto the end of February. In this way, the calendar is readjusted to the astronomical timetable.

In the calendar of ancient Israel, God set up a remarkable means of readjusting things. Just as mankind was commanded to rest every seventh day (Ex. 20:8-10), so the land was to be allowed to rest during the seventh year (Lev. 25:4). This sabbatical year allowed the farmland to replenish for greater fertility. In addition, debts were canceled (Deut. 15:1-11) and Hebrew slaves were set free (vv.12-13).

With our busy schedules and our hectic pace of life, we too need readjustment. Demands of work, family, and church can require reevaluation. One way we do that is by observing the Sabbath principle—making sure to set aside time to rest and prayerfully refocus our priorities. Jesus, for example, went "to a solitary place; and there He prayed" (Mark 1:35).

With your extra day of the year, may you find time to rest and spend time with God in prayer and in His Word. Spend the day with family or loved ones and maybe just enjoy being in God's creation and all the blessings that He has given you. What a great way to prepare yourself for this Lenten Season and remember what our Savior did for us on the cross.

To face life's many challenges
And overcome each test,
The Lord tells us to take the time
To stop, to pray, to rest.

In Christ's Love,
Vicar Brett

FEBRUARY NEWS & NOTES



CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

VOTING FOR EDUCATION!!!

We have two great opportunities to show our support for children and families participating in COR's tuition program. At each event you will have the chance to *vote* with a cash donation for your "favorite ..." All donations will support the COR tuition program with matching funds applied for thru Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We have set the goal at \$500.00. *The opportunities are:*



THE ANNUAL CHILI/SOUP COOK-OFF on **Sunday, February 5th at 5 p.m.** Come and watch the Super Bowl and vote on your favorite chili/soup with cash donations. Money collected will go toward COR's tuition program. Matching funds have been applied for thru Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Drinks will be provided. Sign-up sheets are posted on the fellowship bulletin board for attendance and for those participating in the chili/soup cook-off.



The Second Opportunity is:



The **ST. PATRICK'S DAY POT-LUCK DINNER** on **Sunday, March 18th**, immediately following the late service (12:00 noon). Bring an Irish Dish (or dish of your choice) and enjoy good food, fellowship and a great cause.

To help support the COR Tuition Program, we will have a **Shamrock Contest**. Bring a handmade shamrock (drawn or other art form) depicting the **Trinity** for a chance to win! This contest is for all ages and talents. There will be three categories to enter and vote for your favorite - child (ages 5 thru 12); teen (age 13-19); adult (age 20 and up). Voting for your favorite shamrock in each category will be by cash donation with 100% of the proceeds going to the COR Tuition Program. Matching funds have been applied for thru Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Please help to make these fund raising events a success by casting your *Vote for Education!!!!*



SUNDAY SCHOOL VALENTINE'S PARTY on **Saturday, February 11th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The party is for ages 2 thru confirmands and parents. Little Caesar's Pizza will be served. A free will offering to help with cost of pizza will be taken. Please

sign-up on the fellowship bulletin board if you plan to attend so that enough pizza is ordered. Thanks!!!!



LWML WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Please join the LWML for a World Day of Prayer Service on **Friday, February 24th** at Salem Lutheran Church, 8343 Gravois Rd, St. Louis. This event, sponsored by the St. Louis South Zone LWML, will begin at **9:30 a.m.** with fellowship and coffee. the prayer service will start at 10:00 a.m. Please join them as they pray for our Church, Our Country, and Our World. All are welcome!

LADIES CLUB

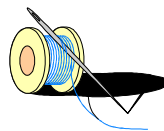


The Ladies Club is planning a **RUMMAGE SALE** sometime in April or May. Please start saving your items but don't bring them up to church as of now. I will let you know dates as soon as possible. Hot selling items to watch out for are sporting goods, infant-toddler items, books, cd's and custom jewelry, plus any clothing. No electronics (TV's; VCR's; etc.) appliances or furniture please.

We are asking for all the help we can get - setting up, selling the day of the sale, and then taking down. You can contact Mary Lou Tucker at 843-7783 or Brenda Hargett at 353-3437 or let us know when you see us at church. The money will go toward replacing the much needed windows in the confirmation room.

Our next meeting will be on **February 16th at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of the congregation are invited! We hope to see you there!

Brenda Hargett



CARE & SHARE will meet on **Thursday, February 23rd at 9:30 a.m.** for the assembling of quilts, layettes, laprobes, etc.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY!

Remember the hungry during the feasting on Super Bowl Sunday (**February 5th**). The youth will once again do a "Soup-er" Bowl Canned Good Drive. Please bring canned goods and soup to church. There will be youth members gathering your donations at the church doors before and after each service on that Sunday. The food will go to the Affton Community Food Pantry - right here in our own community. Thanks in advance for supporting the Youth Group! **COR Youth**



The next youth group outing will be on **Sunday, February 12th** at 12:00 noon for **LASER TAG**. Please contact Martin Liebmann (314-544-1152) for more information.



RETIRES VALENTINE PARTY



Please join the Retirees as they celebrate Valentines Day with food, games and lots of fun on **Tuesday, February 28th** at 12:00 noon. Lunch and activity will be announced in upcoming bulletins.



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PARENT MEETING

The annual meeting of parents of students interested in attending Lutheran Elementary Schools next year ('11-12) will be on **Sunday, February 12th** in the **nave** at **9:45 a.m.** At this time we will answer your questions about the program and distribute the Commitment Forms. Parents of 3 and 4 year olds are welcome to attend this meeting to learn about our tuition program as they plan for the future.

MISSOURI DISTRICT JR. HIGH YOUTH SPRING RETREAT



The Spring Junior High Retreat will focus on baptism and the theme, **Poured Out** is based on Titus 3:4-7 (NIV) "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." The retreat will be held at Camp Windermere in Roach, Missouri the weekend of **March 23-25, 2012**.

These retreats are great opportunities for young people (grades 6-8) to grow in their relationships with one another and with their Savior.

The weekend will consist of a 4-session Bible study based on the theme, plus games, fellowship, community building, a talent show and worship. The Saturday Night Fun Fest includes hayrides, board games, basketball, music and karaoke. If you would like your 6th, 7th or 8th grader to attend this retreat, please see Pastor Pelsue or Vicar Brett.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the March newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, February 13th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



THANK YOU

Dear Ladies Club and Reformation:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful gifts and the kindness you have shown to us during this difficult time. We enjoyed and appreciated all of our gifts. Thank you for helping to make this Christmas very special to us. Happy New Year to all!

*God's richest blessing to you,
Derek, Amy, Grace and Hope Hotzel*

Greeting Ladies.

Thank you for your gift containing 25 items received on January 10th. The cry of the poor is being heard and that cry is being answered. It was answered by this donation, as well as by the gifts of many other individuals and organizations. Those of us who work in this food pantry, and who in other ways are connected to the operation, are appreciative of the help we receive from many supporters. Because of gifts of this type the Pantry is able to offer our clients a variety of nutritious and healthy food.

Sincerely, Affton Christian Food Pantry

FEBRUARY AFFTON FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



The Reformation Ladies Club is collecting food for the Affton Food Bank. All food collected goes to help 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. The food will be taken to the Affton Food Pantry once a month. The pantry is currently experiencing a high demand for a lot of items, but the top priorities are:

Entrée items: Tuna, canned Ravioli, hearty beef stews, pizza mixes; and macaroni and cheese, rice etc.

Dry Pasta including Ramen noodles.

Meal Accompaniments: Tomato sauce and paste, canned peas, corn, pork n' beans, navy beans, lima beans, canned fruit.

Condiments: Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise.

Extras: Cakes mixes, icings, Jello Mixes, and Kool-aides.
Paper Products: Toilet & facial tissue, paper towels, and laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and rubber gloves.
Hygiene: Toothpaste, deodorant, travel size shampoo & conditioner, travel size bar soap.

Thanks for your help! *Reformation Ladies Club*



From the Stewardship Board

We are all off and running with a new year. Like many of you I have made my New Years' resolutions and set some personal goals for myself. I am looking forward to a great 2012! And what is going to make my new year a success is knowing that when my resolutions fail (usually by Valentine's Day) and my goals are just out of my reach that God still loves me and has given me the gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Over the coming year I look forward to serving on the Council as your Stewardship Chairperson. I hope to learn more about all of the gifts and talents that are in our congregation at Reformation and explore ways to use them for the Glory of God.

At this time of new beginnings and a new year I want to remind everyone of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ that has been given to all of us to say nothing of the many other gifts and talents He also has blessed us with. I challenge everyone to reflect upon what gifts you can use in God's service. Over the course of this next year we will explore various ways in which we all can use our gifts and talents here at Reformation and in our community. The Stewardship Board would love to hear from you with any thoughts or suggestions.

Yours in Christ, Linda LaFlamme

"What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" - Psalm 116:12

LUTHERAN HIGH SOUTH ACTIVITIES

You are invited to the Annual Lutheran South-Lutheran North SEM BASKETBALL GAMES on Saturday, February 4th at Maryville University. The C boys play at 12:30 p.m.; JV girls at 2:00 p.m.; JV boys at 3:30 p.m.; Varsity girls at 5:30 p.m.; and the Varsity boys at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults and \$3 for children. Elementary and middle school students who wear their school spirit wear will get in free. The Alumni hospitality room will be available.



The Lutheran South MEN'S CLUB 2ND ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person and includes food and drinks. Prizes include an Ultimate BBQ Pit, Flat Screen TV and tickets to Cardinals and Blues Games. Proceeds benefit Lutheran South. For more information or to register, please visit the Lutheran South website at www.lhssonline.org or call Mike Meyer at 314-631-1400 ext. 108.

SALEM LUTHERAN UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



THAT'S AMORE!

On February 11th, the Senior High Youth Group of Salem is sponsoring their 3rd Annual Valentine's Dinner by Candlelight! Homemade Fettuccine Alfredo, Baked Mostaccioli, and bread will be served with Italian salad, desserts and drinks. The cost is ...Free Will Offering. Babysitting, coat check and pictures will be offered. Don't miss out! Reservations are for 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. You may make your reservations by calling 314-352-4454 or to kullmann@charter.net. All proceeds will help pay for the Youth Group's trip to 2012 Missouri District Youth Gathering in Joplin, MO and the 2013 National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX.



UNDER THE BIG TOP



Salem Lutheran Church and School is hosting a dinner-auction, "Under the Big Top" on Friday, February 17, 2012 at Royale Orleans Banquet Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and the Live Auction starts at 8:00. Tickets are \$50.00 each and donations are being accepted for the auction.

If you can't attend but would like to support this event, you can "Adopt-an-Animal." There are 6 animals you can adopt for \$5 to \$25 each. Your name will be displayed on your paper animal at Salem before and after the Auction, at the Auction and in the Event Program.

For more information, to order tickets or to adopt an animal, call the school office at 314-353-9242.

CONVALESCENT HOME AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of Lutheran Senior Services Lutheran Convalescent Home Auxiliary is Monday, February 27th at the Lutheran Convalescent Home, 723 South Laclede Station Road. Shirley Kamps' "Adventures Down Under" is the program for the afternoon. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program follows. Please bring a sandwich, dessert is provided.



REFORMATION'S ONE DAY SERVANT EVENT!

On Saturday, March 10, 2012 Reformation is going to be doing a ***One Day Servant Event*** for the Vicar's evangelism module. *This event is for all ages and abilities!* The focus is to help out our brothers and sisters in our neighborhoods. ***So far we have 13 signed up for the One Day Servant Event. My goal was to get 30 to 35 people so we could have 6 or 7 groups of 5 go out and serve. Of course we would love to have more and serve with us.***

If you know of a neighbor in your neighborhood that is in need of any service, please let Vicar Brett know by no later than **Sunday, February 12th**. **Please fill out the form below and give to Vicar.** The service can be anything from raking leaves, cleaning out gutters, or a small job around their home. There will be a sign up sheet outside of Sheri's office to sign up for the One Day Servant Event.



One Day Servant Event Neighbor Form

Neighbors Name: _____

Neighbors Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Service Needed: _____

UN-APPROVED MINUTES for CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION-LUTHERAN
Church Council Meeting January 12, 2012

PRESENT: Mark Bliese, Julia Graudin, Brenda Hargett, Derek Hotzel, Jack Jeffcott, Dan Kamp, Linda LaFlamme, Dan Reimler, Pat Stelzer, Dale Thielker, Lee Thielker. Pastor Pelsue, Vicar Hartwig.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. A quorum was present. Pastor had a devotion from "By The Way" by Paul Devantier. Julie has volunteered to have the devotion in February.

The minutes of the November 10, 2011 Church Council meeting were reviewed. Brenda Hargett moved to accept the minutes as written. Jack Jeffcott seconded her motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Derek Hotzel welcomed the new council members. He noted the new carpet has been installed and the first electronic newsletter has been posted. He also noted that the pictorial directory is currently at the printer. He wanted to thank Amy Hotzel and Andrea Brunsvold for all their work on the directory.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vacant - no report.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dale Thielker presented Dan Kamp's report on the monthly income summary for December 2011. Regular envelopes amounted to \$16,904.50, with PRIMP offerings of \$160 and Vicarage Fund offerings of \$1,335. He also noted a contribution to the Miscellaneous Fund of \$20,006, with a total income toward expenses of \$50564.15. The full reports can be viewed on the bulletin board near the nursery. Julie asked if an explanation for each of the special envelopes could be put in the next newsletter, and Dan stated that he will write up the explanation.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Kamp presented Dale Thielker's report that we are current on all obligations. We had expenses of \$22,077 for December. There were \$2,804 in non-budgeted expenses. Notable expenses were \$85 to the Affton Chamber of Commerce membership, payment #2 of 2 for the Zimbelstern (\$1,388) and \$1,045 for grass cutting for the second half of 2011. He also noted offering envelopes have been ordered and distributed, and the financial statements have been produced and will be put in the narthex.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported on the funerals of Gert Rottnek and Henrietta Kalin. He has made many visits to our homebound members. He helped coordinate the carpet installation by pulling together a crew of Jeff Groppe, John and Brenda Hargett, Jack Jeffcott, Tony Kubasta, Tony Pelsue, Jill Pelsue and himself. He noted the catechumens put together welcome bags to pass out at Mackenzie Place, and the Men's Club provided the funds for the contents of those bags. Pastor also thanked the Men's Club for the pancake breakfast for the church decorating. He noted that attendance at Christmas Eve 5 p.m. service was 118, 10:30 p.m. was 27; Christmas Day was 80; New Year's Eve was 28 and New Year's Day was 73. Epiphany had an attendance of 30. He also attended the Eagle Scout award ceremony of Martin Liebmann IV on December 29.

VICAR'S REPORT: Vicar has preached numerous times and has made numerous visits. He was not able to help with Henrietta's funeral. Monday evening Bible classes will be starting again. He has been doing a walk through the Books of the Bible on Sunday morning. He will be taking some of our congregational members to Joplin on January 13-15 for a rebuilding effort. March 10 is scheduled as a one-day servant event. The deadline for signup is February 12.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Linda LaFlamme stated that Diana Meyer has joined her committee. Linda is working on a column for the newsletter. She asked about having some school principals from the parochial schools come to address our congregation. Pastor stated we can look into it.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Pat Stelzer stated her committee looked through the evangelism boat in the narthex to evaluate the evangelism material and brainstormed on how to promote it. She said they are also looking into an Easter activity and also the one-day servant event Vicar is planning.

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP: Julie Graudin is planning a Superbowl chili cook-off for February 5. Money collected will be contributed to the Tuition Endowment Fund. Abiding Savior is also making sub sandwiches for Superbowl Sunday, with the proceeds going to defray the cost of their eighth grade trip. February 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be a Valentine party for grades 2-8. Pizza will be served and a freewill offering will be gathered. Vicar and our fieldworker, Matt Resner will be in attendance. March 18 she is planning a St. Patrick's Day potluck. A freewill offering will be collected with contributions going to the Tuition Endowment Fund. She is thinking of having a talent show, and also a July 60th Birthday celebration, since a number of our members will be turning 60 this year. Dan Kamp asked if the collected funds for some of these events is for the Tuition Endowment Fund or for a pass-through fund. Julie stated we could do some collections for one and some for the other.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Dan Reimler reported the elders met on December 7 and approved the transfer out of Nancy Busch to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville. The elders also met on January 4 and approved the transfer out of Joseph, Lisa and Brett Santiago to Peace Lutheran Church, Lemay and the transfer out of Phyllis Peters to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbia, Ill. He also noted that Dan Reimler was elected as the chairman of the elders and Chia Hung is the secretary for the board. Mark Graudin has been assigned as Elder #2.

BOARD OF PROPERTIES: Jack Jeffcott wanted to thank all the members who came to help with the carpet installation. He asked the congregational members to keep him apprised of needs around the church that should be addressed. He asked about the maintenance budget and how to address issues for the church property. Pastor noted that he had drafted a letter to the company that provided the carpet squares and thanked them, as well as gave them a check for incidental materials they provided. Derek moved that the council thank the congregational members as well. Dan Reimler seconded his motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD OF FINANCE: Dale Thielker presented Lee Thielker's report, noting we had a surplus of \$5,520 for the month of December, but ended the year with a deficit of \$7,065. He also noted that we have cash available for budgeted expenses of \$25,712.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Brenda Hargett wants to thank Shelly Bliese for her willingness to serve as our Sunday School Superintendent, and also for the teachers and board members who are willing to serve in their own capacities. She also wanted to thank everyone who was involved in the Christmas program. She also wanted to set a date of February 12 to meet with the parents of children in the Elementary Education Tuition Program. Shelly reported to the board the thanks of the Sunday school staff and students for our cake donor.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A very large donation from a deceased member was received. Dan Kamp discussed some budgetary issues as well as investment opportunities connected to this donation. Derek Hotzel formed an ad-hoc committee of Pastor, Dan Reimler, the members of the Board of Finance, John Hargett and himself to discuss various options for this donation, and to present their recommendations to the church council by its March meeting.

Dan Kamp also brought up the issue of our church's internet presence. After some discussion, Derek formed an ad-hoc committee comprised of Pastor, Vicar, Linda LaFlamme, Nikki Kamp and Julie Graudin. They will look into the possibility of using more social media, e.g., facebook and twitter, in addition to our web site.

ADJOURNMENT: Dale Thielker moved to adjourn. Brenda Hargett seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mark J. Bliese, Secretary



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st Karin Bartz
Sean Meier
2nd Michelle Borchelt
3rd Sarah Kubasta
9th Ben Schubert
10th Elizabeth Eischer
13th Karlee Duneman
14th Wayne Menendez
16th Shelly Bliese
17th John Lewis

18th Harriet Backhaus
Pamela Bierman
19th Janet Grau
Carol Grau
20th John Michael Franklin
Paula Jeffcott
22nd Kim Walton
Mary LaFlamme
25th Garnett Huighe
Jill Pelsue

26th Lois Uthoff
28th Heather Rowland
29th Champagne Brahan

**GOD'S BLESSINGS
TO YOU!**



February Schedule

Altar Guild Schedule:

February 5th Shirley Ciegel
February 12th
February 19th Both Shirley Ciegel
February 22nd (Ash Wednesday) - Shirley Ciegel
February 26th

8:15 Service

Shirley Ciegel

10:45 Service

Julia Graudin
Julia Graudin

Julia Graudin

Greeters Schedule:

February 5th Don & Karin Bartz
February 12th Rick & Ann Miller
February 19th Shirley Ciegel
February 26th Anne Greb

Marilyn Jones
Mary Lou Tucker
Carol Reimler
Hal & Lois Uthoff

Ushers Schedule:

John Borchelt
Mike Klemme
Dean Larson

Dan Reimler
John Hargett
Jack Jeffcott

Acolyte Schedule:

February 5th Katie Meyer
February 12th Philip Bliese
February 19th Micah Hung
February 26th John Larson

Christian Liebmann
Haven Liebmann
Mary LaFlamme
John Schilling

