



Christus
COR

Church Of the Reformation - Lutheran

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

7910 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-2721

Reverend David C. Pelsue, Pastor



Tell Me About Lent

someone recently asked in Sunday's Bible Class. So I did some research:

Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of self denial, repentance, and prayer before Easter. The forty days represent the time

Jesus spent in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan (*Matthew 4:1-2, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-2*).

Its purpose is preparation for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Passion, and Death of our Lord Jesus and culminates in the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Western Christianity, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday. The six Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

During his forty days in the wilderness Jesus overcame all three of Satan's temptations by citing scripture, at which point the devil left him, angels ministered to Jesus, and he began his ministry. Jesus further said that his disciples should fast "when the bridegroom shall be taken from them" (*Matthew 9:15*), a reference to his Passion. Since, presumably, the Apostles fasted as they mourned the death of Jesus, Christians have traditionally fasted during the annual commemoration of his burial.

It is the traditional belief that Jesus lay for forty hours in the tomb which led to the forty hours of total fast that preceded the Easter celebration in the early Church ('three days in the tomb' is understood as spanning three days, from Friday afternoon to early Sunday morning, rather than three 24 hour periods of time). One of the most important ceremonies at Easter was the baptism of the initiates on the vigil of Easter Eve.

The fast was initially undertaken by the catechumens to prepare them for the reception of this sacrament. Later, the period of fasting from Good Friday until Easter Day was extended to six days, to correspond

with the six weeks of training, necessary to give the final instruction to those converts who were to be baptized. In Jerusalem near the close of the fourth century, classes were held throughout Lent for three hours each day.

With the legalization of Christianity (by the Edict of Milan) and its later imposition as the state religion of the Roman Empire, its character was endangered by the great influx of new members. In response, the Lenten fast and practices of self-renunciation were required annually of all Christians, both to show solidarity with the catechumens, and for their own spiritual benefit. The less zealous converts were thus brought more securely into the Christian fold. May God richly bless our Lenten meditation on Christ.

Pastor Pelsue

Is St. Patrick Irish?



Is it March already? Time certainly flies when you enjoy what you're doing and are surrounded by friends. Thank you. March not only marks the halfway point of my vicarage it also marks the halfway point of the festival part of the church year. In March, we observe Lent. Lent is a time of preparation and reflection prior to Easter. Tucked into the middle of Lent & March is Saint Patrick's Day. Its celebration seems out of place.

As many of you are aware, St. Patrick's Day is primarily an Irish and Roman Catholic holiday. It is intended to commemorate St. Patrick and his work. The celebrations however are often intense with a lot of the color green, alcohol, and a few shamrocks thrown in. Chicago dyes their river green and McDonalds has a Shamrock shake. So what should a non-Irish Lutheran make of it all? Let's step back and look at the facts rather than the myths and exaggerations.

St. Patrick was a real man, born a British Celt in 387. He was kidnapped by Irish marauders at 16. He was a slave of a druidical high priest for six years in Ireland before escaping and returning home. On his return, he dedicated his life to the service of God, eventually

becoming a priest. He desired to return to Ireland and convert his captors to Christianity and did so in the spring of 433. As a slave, he had learned the language and the customs of Ireland. This was undoubtedly helpful in his efforts of conversion. While details of how much credit should be given exclusively to Patrick, there is no doubt that his efforts were hugely successful.

Details of his methods, like the use of a shamrock, are not substantiated. Patrick makes no mention of it in his *Confessio* (one of two surviving manuscripts). If he did use a plant to describe the Trinity, it would more likely to have been clover. St. Patrick didn't drive the snakes out of Ireland (there were none there to begin with). The color for him was originally blue and seemed to change around the middle of the 18th century picking up green from the shamrock.

As Lutherans, we recognize St. Patrick as a great missionary. He was dedicated to sharing Christ. The idea that the shamrock represents of teaching about the Trinity is admirable. As for the color green ... ehh to each his own, just no pinching. If you chose to celebrate, moderation in the spirit of Lent would be good. And, by all means share the Gospel of Christ.

Vicar Appel

MARCH NEWS & NOTES



UPCOMING LENTEN SERVICES

"Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Lenten Wednesdays -
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and April 1st
11:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



EASTER LILIES TO BEAUTIFY THE ALTAR

Easter Lily ordering envelopes are located in the narthex on the church welcome stand. If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please fill out the order form on the envelope and put your check/cash inside. Checks should be made payable to *Reformation* and please note in the memo portion of your check "Easter Lily." Envelopes may then be placed in the



offering plate or the secretary's mailbox. The cost is \$6.00 per plant. Please make sure you indicate on the envelope whether the lily is in memory of a loved one or for another occasion.

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

The Ladies will get together on **Tuesday, March 3rd**, at **12:30 a.m.** for refreshments provided by Helen Matta and Henrietta Kalin. The devotion will be given by Mary Lou Tucker. The afternoon program is "Bingo".



AFFTON EVANGELISM OUTREACH

In Romans 10:17 Paul wrote, "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." **Saturday, March 14th from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.** will be an opportunity to bring the faith creating word of Christ to recent home buyers in Affton. We will welcome them to Reformation and provide them with information about our congregation and the beliefs of Missouri Synod Lutherans. If you would like more information about this evangelism effort, contact Debbie Gawlik at 631-7355.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Board of Education welcomes all who would like to help in planning Vacation Bible School for this summer. Please contact Marion Lewis, 832-4358 or Sharon Burgeois, 638-8767 by March 31st if you are interested in this opportunity for Christian service. Opinions on daytime vs. evening hours are welcome. No dates or programs have been chosen. Thank you.

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th, at 2:00 a.m.

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday (3/07) before you go to bed.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Please be sure you have all items/articles for the April newsletter into the church

office by no later than **Monday, March 16th**. Articles may be e-mailed to reformationlc@sbcglobal.net, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

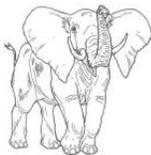
Please take a moment to introduce yourselves and welcome COR's newest members:

John and Brenda Hargett
5118 Hilda
St. Louis, MO 63123-3751
(314) 353-3437

Donna Schilling and son John
9956 Merito #6
St. Louis, MO 63128-1751
(314) 849-1779

RETIRES MARCH GET-TOGETHER!

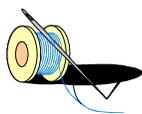
Perhaps it is sitting on a shelf collecting dust, maybe it is in a box only opened once, or it was something you loved and gently used, could be an item you did not know what it was or how to use it. These are White Elephants! So look high and low for one or more "white elephants" and bring them to our March Retirees. We will play "White Elephant Bingo." You might win something you could use or treasure. Along with our game we will have lunch consisting of White Castles and or Taco Bell tacos, snacks and desserts. Come join us for some fun, food, and good company on **Tuesday, March 24th at 12 noon**. Please be sure to sign up on the church bulletin board! Thank you.



CARE AND SHARE

The next get-together of the cut-up and tacky bunch is **Thursday, March 26th at 9:30 a.m.**

The Care Bears thank everyone who has donated material for their quilting efforts. They are always looking for cotton material and thread. *Knits, silks, wools and other heavy fabrics are nice but cannot be used for their quilting efforts.*



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The next fellowship event will be a "Game and Appetizer Night" on **Sunday, March 15th beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Bring your favorite game to play and an appetizer to share. All ages are welcomed! More details to following in future announcements.

The *55th Anniversary Committee Meeting* is scheduled for **Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m.**

The *55th Anniversary Celebration of COR* will take place on **Sunday, May 3rd**. A memory book is being planned. Members are encouraged to share a favorite memory of their time at Reformation (memory should be no longer than one paragraph). It could be of a particular event, clergy or lay person. A decorated box to place your memory will be in the narthex. For more information, call Julie Graudin at 832-2266.



CHANGES FOR ORDERING FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

After much consideration, several changes have been made when ordering flowers for the altar.

1. Fill in your name on the date you would like to purchase flowers for.
2. Complete the form located under the calendar and then place the form along with your check in the offering plate or the church secretary's mailbox.

There is a slight increase for the purchasing of these flowers. The new price is \$20.00 for two small bouquets or \$25.00 for two larger bouquets. Checks should be made payable to the *Reformation Lutheran Church*. No flowers will be ordered unless the check is received two weeks in advance. Thanks for your cooperation.

MARCH FEED MY PEOPLE MEAL-A-MONTH



Tuna, Tuna Helper or mushroom soup and noodles, green beans, pears, powdered milk (opt.)

Please take a bag out of the shopping cart located in the parish hall and fill it with the grocery items stated above or with any food items you would care to give. Place bag of groceries in the narthex shopping cart.

Please - no glass containers or clothing. Thank you for your donations!

UPCOMING CONCERTS



THE SEMINARY CHORUS 2009 SPRING TOUR

will conclude on **Sunday, March 15th at 4:00 p.m.** This service of Light and Evening Prayer is presented by the Concordia Seminary Chorus and will feature singing by the Chorus and congregation. The concert will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 453 N. West Street, Perryville, Missouri. For more information call, 573-547-8317.

The Lutheran High School South Music Department presents a BAND CONCERT featuring the Wind Symphony, Jazz Band and Concert Band on Saturday, **March 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the LHSS Kuhlmann Center.**

And

A CHOIR CONCERT featuring the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir and Lancer Singer on **Sunday, March 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the Kuhlmann Center.** A Free Will donation will be collected at both concerts.



MARCH OWLS MEETING

The next meeting of the "Older Wiser Lutherans in Service" will be on **March 24th at 11:30 a.m.** at the Laclede Groves Campus at 723 S. Laclede Station Road.

Mrs. Gloria Koesting will be the speaker at the meeting with the topic "Get Your Ducks in Order." Fellowship/Devotion begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:00 noon and the presentation at 1:00 p.m. Please call the LSS office, 314-446-2403, on or before Friday, March 20th to let them know your coming. The price for the lunch is \$7.00.

Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life
Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place, St. Louis
Presents

"WILL ADAM GO AWOL? - WILL EVE?"

On

Thursday, March 26, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.

This conference, part II of a series of forums on Genesis 1:27 ("Male and Female He Created Them")

will feature Dr. Robert Weise, a theology professor and cellular biologist with an earned doctorate in zoology. Dr. Weise will discuss the theological, social, and scientific ramifications of procreation without recourse to sex, and the emergence of a new post-human species bred in test tubes without the involvement of parents - a designer-made commodity that could be traded commercially. Admission is free; we ask that you register by calling 314-505-7486 or email ce@csl.edu"



MISSOURI DISTRICT SINGLES MINISTRY CONFERENCE April 17-19, 2009

The Missouri District Family Life & Youth Board and the Singles Ministry Planning Committee is pleased to announce the Annual Missouri District Spring Singles Ministry Retreat. This year, the retreat returns to Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, Missouri on April 17-19th. Rev. Bill Marler, presenter at this year's conference, will present: "Called to Be", based on text from Galatians 5:13.

This special weekend will gather singles of all ages and from all across the state for spiritual renewal, uplifting music and great fellowship. The weekend also includes opportunities to make new friends, music and singing, Bible study, organized free time choices, fellowship and worship.

Cross Pointe Retreat Center offers both double and single occupancy rooms. The registration fee of \$139 per person includes program, two nights lodging (based on double occupancy) in the beautiful hotel on the campus of Cross Pointe, light supper on Friday evening, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Single occupancy rooms are available for \$199 per person. A deposit of \$70 is required with the registration form. Deadline to register is April 3rd or when capacity is reached. A brochure for this special weekend is on the info table in the narthex.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE UPCOMING EVENTS!

DISCUSSION ON LIFE ISSUES

You're invited to an informal discussion on LIFE ISSUES featuring Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life on Friday, April 3rd at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 12345 Manchester Road. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 11:15 a.m. There is no cost and you do not need to register in

advance. If you need additional information call 515-441-6571 or 1-888-364-5433.

**2009 LFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
JULY 24-25TH, 2009**

Celebrate the Abundant Life and Lutherans for Life's 30 year anniversary. Please join them as they follow the Shepherd from the beginning of life to the end of life and through the trials of life in-between. The Keynote speaker is Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo. The conference will be held on Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25th at the Doubletree Westport, 1973 Craigshire Road, St. Louis, MO.

For more information or to register for the event go to www.lutheransforlife.org.



**DISCOVER YOUR SCIENTIFIC
SUPERPOWERS!**

Camp Invention at Abiding Savior Lutheran School will be exploring the science of superheroes this summer. Find out how they use science to foil the bad guys! You'll also get to use real tools to take things apart, like old VCRs and phones, and see what's inside! Then, you'll have to search for hidden Viking treasure and build the fastest invention to cross the finish line!

Camp will be held on July 13th-17th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, and for girls and boys entering grades 1-6. Attend camp for \$185 if you register by March 31st or attend with a friend. Online registrants receive an additional \$5 savings! Spaces are limited. For more information you can visit: www.abidingsaviorlutheran.org.

WAITING FOR A VICAR

Those who did not attend the December '08' annual voters' meeting may be wondering about the vicarage situation for 2009-10 at COR. Under our previously agreed on "Ongoing Resolution for a Balanced Budget" the Reformation Finance Board was compelled to submit a budget that would be close to anticipated membership contributions for 2009.



Since our contributions have been running somewhat behind our budget in 2008, in order to present a

balanced budget for 2009, some significant item had to be eliminated from COR's ongoing operating budget.

While the Vicarage Program has always been a high priority at Reformation and is considered part of our mission work, by helping prepare future pastors, it also comes under annual consideration by virtue of another Ongoing Resolution and because we must apply for a Vicar in February of each year. It is also a significant budget item involving \$25,082.

So, in order to preserve the possibility for the Vicarage Program and yet present a balanced budget, it was resolved by the Voters to forgo having a new Vicar for this coming fall, and to consider future Vicarage as a non-budget item. This means that we accrue funds for a future Vicar until we receive a sufficient amount (\$25,082) to support a full year, then we may apply for a Vicar.

Future monies given to the COR Vicarage Fund will be held toward a future Vicar. Our current Vicar (through Aug. 15th) is supported in our current operating budget. Any future Vicar would be supported as a non-budgeted item that we would have saved for during the previous year.

The result of all this is that we have not applied for a new Vicar in 2009 and will be waiting for your support to match the figure cited above. This means beginning August 15, 2009 we will not have a Vicar. As of the end of January, 2009 the Vicarage Fund had about \$440.00 toward a future Vicar. We need an additional \$25,000 by February, 2010 in order to apply for a Vicar for August, 2010.

A few additional notes: When giving to the Vicarage Fund or any other designated fund, please bear in mind that this should always be over and above your normal giving to the general fund so as not to jeopardize fulfilling our normal obligations. Also please realize that your congregation needs your ongoing financial support even more so during the current economic challenges. But we are confident God will supply our every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

Pastor Pelsue