



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



The following devotion for Church Council based on Romans 8:38-39 done by Debra Gawlik, COR's Board of Evangelism Chair, bears repeating for all to hear and benefit:

Uncertainty is the word for the current world situation. Economic woes press us on many sides. To whom do we look for help? Our

President assures us that we need change--we need the government to bail out failing businesses and provide us with that which we lack. Our politicians promise change and hope; but offer no certainty in their plans. Jobs are lost; investments shrink. Stocks drop, destroying plans for a comfortable retirement. We look to the experts on the economy for answers; but the leading economists, disagreeing on what course of action to pursue, offer contradicting replies.

While some still look to our leaders in hopeful expectation, others cannot escape the overwhelming sense of dread as companies cut their workforces, declare bankruptcy and need government bailout monies to survive.

As our jobs disappear, our savings dwindle and financial institutions falter, we may be tempted to despair; but as beloved children of God we have a hope that does not disappoint, a Savior who has more than overwhelmingly conquered all our enemies from the smallest to the greatest.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer we petition the Lord for daily bread, and for deliverance from evil. As God's people, we trust in our Lord to supply all our necessities of life and to protect us from the Evil One. David, in Ps 34, reminds us that 'Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.' Our Lord is the one to whom we look for our stability. He is our hope.

As the world around us finds that their foundations are crumbling, the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 8 speaks of our foundation, hope and certainty, when he reminds us of our God's great love for us--

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So when the news of yet more layoffs, and ever increasing economic instability fills your ears, look to your Savior and remember that while some trust in investments, and some, in governments, we trust in the Lord our God.



Free or Persecuted?

As we move into May, our thoughts inevitably move to summer. We think of vacations and kids anxiously await the end of school (parents, not so much).

But before we jump right past the whole month, let us not forget Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day. Both days give us an opportunity to remember and thank those who protect us and keep us free. On Memorial Day, we honor those who have died in the service of our country. In addition, on Armed Forces Day we honor those who are actively serving, many of whom are currently in harms way. These men and women give us the freedoms we hold so dear including the freedom of religion.

We have the freedom to worship and proclaim Christ. While we currently have this freedom legally, we are evermore frequently persecuted for standing firm in our faith. The most recent example (as I write this) is the Miss USA pageant. Here the contestant from California has been ridiculed for her response to a question about gay marriage. She responded that her beliefs were that it was between a man and a woman. She did not impose her position on others or raise the issue, yet many publicly rail against her.

This helps mark how far the winds have changed. They have also changed in Washington. Not only have there been efforts to remove the Ten Commandments from courtrooms and the removal of "In God We Trust" from our currency, but there are active efforts to make calling homosexuality sinful a crime. This is a direct attack on the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are tied together. Our new director of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, has even put Pro-Life advocates on her Terrorism Report (along with returning G.I.s !!).

Looking at all this can be depressing and lead to a desire to withdraw and wait for Christ. However, I encourage you to look at as an opportunity. The first Christians faced persecution and lived in a sinful society as well. Our society is sinful and fallen but we know why and what the ultimate solution is: Christ. We need to proclaim Him now as they did then. In addition to exercising our freedom by sharing the Gospel to this fallen world, we can honor our military and those who died defending our Constitution by being politically active in doing the same.

In Christ,
Vicar Appel


MAY
NEWS & NOTES


SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICE
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
Divine Service
Thursday, May 21st
7:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social to follow

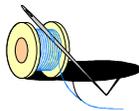
WOMEN'S GUILD

MEETING

The Women's Guild Meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 5th, at 12:30p.m.** The program will be a book review by Barbara Mannes. Devotion will be given by Pat Stelzer who will also host with Carol Abbott.

CARE & SHARE

Care and Share will meet on **Thursday, May 28th, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**



AFFTON EVANGELISM OUTREACH

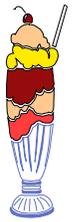
On May 21st Christians will celebrate Ascension Day. Shortly before Christ ascended to heaven

He made the following statements to the apostles: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 28:19); "and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Members of Reformation will soon have an excellent opportunity to follow these words of Christ. On **Saturday, May 9th from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**, brief visits will be made to the recent home buyers in Affton. They will be invited to Reformation and be given information about our congregation and the beliefs of Missouri Synod Lutherans. For information contact Deb Gawlik at 631-7355.

Ice Cream Social

All are welcome to come and enjoy ice cream sundaes or cones with a variety of toppings in the parish hall immediately following the Ascension of Our Lord Service on **Thursday, May 21st.**



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the June newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, May 18th.** Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed to (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



RETIREES MAY MEETING

The Retirees will meet on **Tuesday, May 26th at 12:00 noon.** Lunch and program to be announced in upcoming church bulletins. All are invited!

SUMMER OUTREACH SATURDAYS



Have a skill to share? During the months of June and July there will be four Saturdays of community outreach in which we will offer craft classes for the young and the young at heart. If you know how to crochet or knit, make a birdhouse, or other wood craft, play a recorder, do quilting, or calligraphy, etc., please consider sharing that skill by teaching a 2 hour class. Not sure you want to teach but want to help? Come be an assistant or invite a friend to attend with you. Come to learn, and befriend those from the community who attend.



Our adult courses include jewelry making, beginning crochet, a quilted square, and photography. The dates are **June 13th and 27th; July 11th and July 25th from 10 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** The children's crafts will include a Bible theme and are being coordinated by the Christian Education Committee. For information please call Debbie Gawlik at 631-7355.



MAY FEED MY PEOPLE
MEAL-A-MONTH



Corned beef hash, canned tomatoes, fruit cocktail, Biscuit Mix, powdered milk (opt.)

Please take a bag out of the shopping cart located in the narthex 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!

“TAXES,
TIPS, AND TITHES”

Many people dread April 15th because it is the deadline for filing 2008 tax returns. Others may not be all that concerned because they had so much withholding tax that they will actually get a refund.

And how about tips when we go out to eat at a nice restaurant? 10% used to be the standard tip, but in most people’s minds it has moved up to 15-20%. We may grumble a little about this extra charge, but we pay it.

What happens when our pastor preaches and teaches about a tithe (10% of income) for the support of the Lord’s work through the local congregation? Some people view that as an impossible expectation. Others may view that as a good starting point and rejoice that they are able to move beyond the tithe because they want to respond generously from what God has graciously bestowed upon them.

Is giving a tithe of the financial blessings that God has given to us an impossible expectation? For most of us it probably isn’t if we practice discipline and good judgment in managing our financial resources. Some have learned to use the 10-10-80 plan. This plan involves giving the first 10% to the Lord, using the next 10% for saving and investing and then learning to live on the remaining 80%. It is not the perfect plan or the only plan, but it is a good one to start with if you find that you have not been disciplined in your handling of money.

Is giving a tithe a command for Christians? No, it isn’t, because to make the tithe into a command would make it more like taxes and

tips. 2 Corinthians 9:7 gives us this wise counsel: “Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (literally, hilarious) giver.”

They key is to talk to God in prayer, asking for His guidance regarding giving, and then moving forward empowered by His Holy Spirit to be free and joyful in our Christian giving.

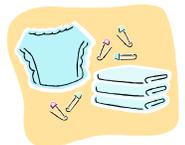
We want to commend you all and thank you for tithing your time and talents as shown by the turn out for the Easter activities, both Saturday and Sunday – and tithing your treasures as is showing in the weekly budget report in the Sunday announcement sheets! It’s great to see such participation.

Pat Stelzer,
Stewardship Board Chair

MISSOURI’S LARGEST
DIAPER SHOWER



Lutherans for Life of Missouri is once again sponsoring Missouri’s Largest Diaper Shower which began on **May 10th (Mother’s Day) and ends Sunday, June 14th (Father’s Day)**. Bring disposable diapers of any size to church as a way to thank your family for giving you life. A baby bassinet will be set up in the narthex for your donations. The total number (not packages) will be submitted to Lutherans for Life of Missouri. Disposable diapers seem like a luxury to those of us who laundered them in earlier generations. However, most of these recent mothers served by Pregnancy Resource Center are struggling with trials and tribulations far beyond reasonable. They need this one manageable thing in their lives. Please consider helping us overflow the bassinet this year with diapers.



OWLS Meeting

The next meeting of the “Older Wiser Lutherans in Service” (OWLS) will be on **Wednesday, May 20th at 11:30 a.m.** on the Laclede Groves Campus of Lutheran Senior Services, 723 S. Laclede Station Road. This is the “*Senior Service in Christ Awards Luncheon*” and they will honor a number of volunteers who have served their church and community in the Lutheran St. Louis Area. The speaker will be Dr.

R. Reed Lessing, director of Concordia Seminary's Graduate School. To make a reservation, please call Vicki Polk at 314-446-2403 or email vpolk@lssmo.org. Lunch is \$10. See the church bulletin board for more info.



FLOWERS & BULLETINS

You can "say it with flowers or a bulletin cover." Several dates are still available in 2009 on our 'Flower Calendar' and 'Bulletin Booster Chart.' Celebrate a birthday or an anniversary, honor a dear family member or friend, or remember a loved one by ordering altar flowers or sponsoring the bulletin for one week. Flowers are either \$20.00 (two \$10.00 bouquets) or \$25.00 (two \$12.50 bouquets) and bulletin boosters are \$18.00. If you have any questions – please call the church office, 314-352-1355. Thanks. *Church Office*

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Why settle for just a "good" marriage when you can have a GREAT marriage? You can make the leap from just good to GREAT on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. Couples who attend are gently guided into a method of sharing that greatly improves their communication skills and deepens their relationship. The vast majority experience not only greater depth and growth, but also rediscover the love they have for their spouse. You will learn how to put the spark back into your relationship.

The greatest regret that 98% of couples have is that they did not attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend sooner.

The next special Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend where you can upgrade your marriage will be June 12-14. It will be held at the ClubHouse Inn & Suites St. Louis (Westport). Registrations for this exciting Weekend are due by May 12th. For more information, please contact Tom and Kathy Von Behren at 636-343-9453 or email vonheg@attglobal.net. Your early registration is most helpful for the planning committee. Check out the website at stlmarriage.com.

CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Do you have a couple of hours to spare? Do you enjoy helping others? Are you



interested in museums and your own church history? If so, we have an opportunity for you! Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) is seeking volunteers to assist visitors and tour groups at the new CHI museum. The new museum, opening this summer, is located at the LCMS International Center in Kirkwood, MO. If you would more information or want to serve as a Greeting, place contact Barbara Huggins at 314-505-7900 or by email at chireception@lutheranhistory.org. For more information see the brochures in the narthex on the info table regarding CHI's Greeting program.

CANDIDATES FOR THE HOLY MINISTRY FROM REFORMATION RECEIVING CALLS



Russell Strimple (Melissa, Charity, Victoria, Isabella, Katie) - Trinity Lutheran Church, Corpus Christi, TX (Texas District)



Mark Steiner (Deborah)
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Gulfport, MS (Southern District)

VICARAGE ASSIGNMENTS



Erik Schmidt (Heidi, Ethan, Daniel, Katie) – Salem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO (Missouri District)



Duane Meissner (Elizabeth)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, LA (Southern District)



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Please call (352-1355) or email (reformationstl.org) the church office if you have a child(ren) graduating from junior/senior high school, college or university this spring. I would like to post their name, school graduating from; degree (if applicable) and future school or career in the June newsletter.