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All Saints Day Celebrated This Year on November 6th

This festival in the Church year has had an interesting development. Its beginnings come from a very early festival in honor of all Christian martyrs which originated in Syria in A.D. 360. Then, in Rome the Pantheon, which had been dedicated in 27 B.C. to all the gods of the seven planets, was rededicated by Bishop Boniface IV in A.D. 610 as a Christian basilica in honor of the martyrs.

The feast day recalls the memories of all the faithful departed and the triumph of Christ over all false gods. Following the Reformation the Lutherans and Anglicans continued to observe this day giving thanks to God for His work in the lives and witness of those believers who have physically died during that year in each parish, but who in faith we know are with the Lord, translated to the Church Triumphant and awaiting their final glory in the resurrection. (St Matt. 22:32) (*The Lutheran Liturgy*, Luther Reed, Fortress Press 1947)

Those from Reformation who've gone before us this year include: Ruth Moses, Jerry Schmidt, Oneita Kretschmer, Helen Matta and Elmer Soehlmann. God was at work in their lives encouraging us and others in the faith.

Thanks be to God for these saints who've gone before.

Last Things and The Last Sunday of the Church Year:

The last Sunday of the Church year (Nov. 20th) appropriately focuses our attention on what are called in theology, the "last things." You might think of them as the last things mentioned in the second and third articles of the creed:

"From thence He (the ascended Christ) shall come to judge the living and the dead." And, "I believe in ...the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting."

In a time of great interest and confusion on these issues, come hear what God has to say in His Word.

As we close the month Advent begins a New Church Year on November 27th as we prepare for Christ's Coming – in the flesh, in our hearts, and in the glory of the New Creation.

In Christ,
Pastor Pelsue

Vicar's Corner!



So Much To Be Thankful For!

Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 106:1

It is again that time of year where we think of all that we are thankful for. With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we start to reflect on all the blessings that God has given to us this past year. I know that I have a lot to be thankful for; the birth of a healthy and beautiful little girl, Sarah Ruth, a loving and supporting family, a great congregation to be able to serve with God's People here at Reformation, my health, the list goes on.

I came across a story about a thankful family. As they gathered around the table that was groaning under the weight of turkey and trimmings, they made it a practice to pray. Oh, they always prayed as a family, but the Thanksgiving Day prayer was different. On Thanksgiving Day, starting with the eldest, each person expressed some personal appreciation to the Lord for His hand in his life. Of course, they were a practical family, and not wishing the food to get cold, they condensed their words. Someone would say, "I'm thankful for health." Another would add, "I'm thankful for family."

Everybody understood the rule -- except their five-year-old. As this was his first year to really get involved, he came armed. First, he gave thanks for mom who had cooked the turkey and dad who had brought it home from the store. So far, so good. But the boy wasn't done. He gave thanks for the grocery checker, who had rung up the bird, and the store, which had sold the bird, and the company, which had prepared the bird, and the farmer, who had raised the bird. The lad had the life of that turkey covered with thanksgiving. When he came up for air, he asked, "Did I forget anybody?" His older brother replied, "The only person you left out was God." And the five-year-old replied, "I was just getting to Him." And the Lord was thanked.

Of course the thing that we are most thankful for is our Savior Jesus Christ and His perfect life and self-giving death on the cross for us all. It is because of what Christ did on the cross that God now stands before us with His love and forgiveness, not just on Thanksgiving Day but 365 days

a year. We also join the praising crowd in the fellowship of God's people gathered around this world where every Sunday is a thanksgiving before the throne.

I would like to invite you all in joining me this month in writing down what you are thankful for this past year and either e-mail it to me at vicar@reformationstl.org or drop it in the box in the narthex. We then will have a power point running each Sunday in the narthex sharing all the blessings that God has given to His people here at Reformation. I wish you all a wonderful month and look forward to worshipping with you each Sunday in God's House, praising Him for all the blessings that He has given to us!

In Christ,
Vicar Brett



NOVEMBER NEWS & NOTES



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

November 6th - All Saints' Day - Divine Service at both services. Thanking God for His goodness and grace in the lives of those believers who have gone before and especially remembering those whom the Lord called home from our parish during the last year. Please call the church office, 314-352-1355, if you have someone you would like remembered who passed away this last year.

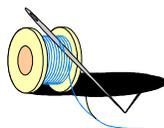
Thanksgiving Day
November 24th - 9:00 a.m.



**REMEMBER: We do not
change our clocks
until November 6th**

**then we "fall back" and gain the hour we lost
last spring!! (It's best to change your clock on
the 5th before you go to bed that way you
won't be late for church in the morning!!)**

CARE & SHARE will meet on Thursday, November 17th at 9:30 a.m. for the assembling of quilts, layettes, laprobes, etc.



SATURDAY NEIGHBORHOOD VISITS

Join the Board of Evangelism on **Saturday, November 12th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** as they visit new families in the immediate area of the church. They welcome them to the Affton community and share information about our church and neighborhood. No need to sign-up - just show-up! If you have any questions, please call Pat Stelzer.

SECRETARY ON VACATION

Sheri will be out of the office beginning **Thursday, November 24th thru Monday, December 5th.** Please keep these dates in mind if you need something from the church office. Thanks!



BIBLE CLASSES



Please join the Monday Night Bible Class as they continue the study of Galatians. The class is led by Vicar Brett and will resume on **November 7th at 6:00 p.m.** (please note the new time).

The Wednesday Morning Bible Class is currently studying Martin Luther (10/26 & 11/2). They meet at **9:30 a.m.**

LADIES CLUB NOTES!

"Shoebboxes for Children"

You may have noticed the "shoebox" display in the narthex. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



One way they do this is thru their "shoebox" program. Each shoebox is packed with items for a girl or boy in three different age groups (2-4, 5-9, 10-14). Simple everyday items that we take for granted, are a wonderful gift for these children. Samples are: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, school supplies, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, comb, hard candy, gum, t-shirts, socks, hair clips, etc.

You can help demonstrate God's love by filling a shoebox for a child. A flyer with a label for a boy or girl along with gift ideas is on the table in the narthex along with empty shoeboxes. Please take a box, fill it with the suggested items (the dollar store is great for this) and return it to the collection box. If you are unable to fill a shoebox but would still like to give, grab a shoe ornament

and buy the suggested item on the back and return the item to the collection box. Cash donations are also gladly appreciated (it costs \$7.00 per shoebox to ship). Please make your check payable to "Reformation Lutheran Church" and note on the memo line "Shoebox".

The shoebox collections will begin November 1st thru November 13th. If you have any questions, please call the church office, 314-352-1355 or Brenda Hargett.

Needed: Old Christmas Cards!

The Ladies Club needs old/used Christmas cards to make the ornaments for the "Helping Hand Tree" (see below). If you have some left over from last year or if you have Christmas cards you received from prior years - we can use them all! Please bring the cards and leave in the church secretary's office. Thank you.



"Helping Hand Tree"

The new Ladies Club has decided to carry on the tradition of the *Giving Tree*. They are asking members to help supply gifts for two families (one seminary and one local) through their "Helping Hand Tree Program."

The tree will be displayed on the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 20th) thru Sunday, December 11th. The gifts received will then be distributed to the families.

The tree is decorated with paper ornaments. Each ornament has a suggested gift noted. Please take an ornament and buy the gift indicated (not used or second hand) and bring it to church and place beneath the tree. No wrapping is required but it would be appreciated if you would send along the wrapping paper and/or gift bag with the ornament for each item. There will be boxes under the tree for the collection of gifts.

Please consider helping to make someone's holiday a little brighter with a gift. We need the help and support of generous people like you to make the Spirit of Christmas a happy and glorious time. Thank you!



FELLOWSHIP NEWS

REMEMBER WHEN RETRO POTLUCK!

Please plan to attend the Remember When Retro Potluck honoring COR Veterans on **Sunday, November 13th at 12:00 noon**. Bring a dish that was a favorite of yours when growing up or one that you served to your family. Drinks and ice cream for dessert will be provided. Come dressed in your favorite decade of the 20th century (1900-1999) and participate in the Retro dress contest. Voting for best dressed will be by cash

donations and all monies collected will go to the Lutheran Ministry to the Armed Forces. Prizes for winning best dress for each category (child, teen, adult) will be a gift card to a retail clothing establishment. Sign-up sheets (attendance/contest) are on the fellowship bulletin board. Bring pictures of your childhood or one of your family to be displayed. There will also be attendance prizes and trivia.

Hope to see everyone there!

RETIREES CHRISTMAS PARTY



Join the Retirees for their Christmas Party on **Tuesday, December 6th at 12:00 noon**. We will supply the Christmas ham and ask everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Also, please bring a wrapped Christmas gift for our Bingo game. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please indicate next to your name the dish you are bringing. No meeting is planned for November.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all articles for the December newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, November 14th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



LUTHERAN WOMEN ONE & ALL!



October is LWML Month - Rally's, Retreats, Special Sunday Recognition, etc. Since the Women's Guild of Reformation has disbanded, you can now become an "individual member" of the LWML. Application forms are available from the church office. Call 314-352-1355 to request one.

The "mite boxes" continue to be available and the Large Mite Box will be in the narthex on the last Sunday of each month for your donations. Please continue praying for and supporting Lutheran Missions. Thank you.

Pat Stelzer, LWML Rep



"CUSTOM CHRISTMAS CARDS"

Salem School Christmas cards continue to be available, while supplies last. Students in Jenny Gastler's art classes at Salem created the card designs which have been professionally printed. Cards, with envelopes, are sold in packages of 20 for just \$5.00. Jenny will have cards available on Sunday mornings.

NOVEMBER FEED MY PEOPLE
MEAL-A-MONTH



Main Menu: Canned salmon or tuna, packed in water; canned spinach, low sodium or no salt, Tuna Helper; canned fruit in light syrup or own juices; powdered milk or shelf stable boxed milk or soy milk.

Additional Items: Personal Hygiene Month! Shampoo/Conditioner; Soap, Deodorant.

Return the bag of groceries to the basket (narthex) or shopping cart (parish hall). Please - no glass containers or clothing. Thank you for your donations!

CPH WAREHOUSE SALE

Stock up on books and resources at the Concordia Publishing House Warehouse Sale on **Saturday, November 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.** Save up to 75% on a huge selection of materials for your ministry and/or mission. Use the materials you find at the Warehouse Sale for visitor and new member packs, outreach ministry, or the church library. Or give them as special gifts during Christmas or Vacation Bible School next summer. See the bulletin board for more info.



BOAR'S HEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



The 25th Annual Boar's Head Festival will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, **December 9,10, and 11.** There will be a 7:30 performance each evening with afternoon performances at 4:00pm both Saturday and Sunday. A dress rehearsal (tickets required) will be held at 7:30pm on December 8. Special Festivities will surround these Anniversary performances.

Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00am on Tuesday, November 1. Call 636-946-2656 or come to the Immanuel Church office. Get your tickets early! They go fast! There is no charge for the tickets (limit 5 per person).



A BAKE SALE THANK YOU!

Lois Uthoff and I want to thank everyone who helped make our Bake Sale a success. We were able to raise \$229.00 for Kamryn Perry. With Thrivent Matching Funds, the family will be getting a check for \$458.00 to help with Kamryn's medical needs. Thanks again for your support in our project! *Brenda Hargett*

ADOPT A VET

The St. Louis Veterans Home Committee seeks your support in an effort to provide every Veteran residing at the Missouri Veterans Home - St. Louis with a holiday gift. A \$30.00 donation will ensure that every Veteran receives a gift. Ten dollars will be placed in each resident's personal account to spend as he/she chooses. The remaining amount (\$20) will be used to purchase a gift.



Missouri Veterans Home - St. Louis is a 300 bed skilled care nursing facility. Donations of all sizes both large and small are always welcomed. This recession has impacted all of us within our community and we are grateful to those who still manage to allot a donation to those Heroes who ensured our nation's freedom.

Please "Share in the Spirit" by adopting a vet. Make your check payable to St. Louis Veterans' Home Committee and mail it to: 10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63136. Please note "Adopt a Vet" on the memo line.

Thank you for supporting our veterans.

EXPLORING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY

An eleven day tour of Italy (October 31 to November 10, 2012) will be led by Pastor and Stephani Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, Illinois. On our journey through Italy (including visits to Venice, Florence, the Amalfi coastline, Pompeii, and Rome), we will see its hilltop villages, magnificent ruins and timeless art and architecture. In Rome we will tour Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel and see Trevi Fountain. Roundtrip airfare from St. Louis, first class hotels, daily continental breakfast plus seven dinners, private coach, guides and admission fees are all included. For information and a tour brochure, you may contact the Meyers at (618) 377-9815 or zionmeyer@charter.net





**CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF
NEW AMERICANS FUND RAISER**

You're invited to a Trivia/Bingo/
Silent Auction/Chili Supper on **Saturday, November 12th**, at **Webster Gardens Church**. Doors open at 5:45 pm. \$15/per person; \$8.00 for ages 6-12; free babysitting. This is our family-friendly, fundraising event for refugee/immigrant evangelism in St Louis. Join the fun! Bring your friends! Questions: call Carol @ 314-517-8513, email: buckmancal@aol.com or go to www.cfna-stl.org to register and to see a sampling of AWESOME auction items. All donations are welcome and will be matched by Thrivent and Christ for Youth.

LHM CRAFT FAIR

Lutheran Hour Ministries would like to invite you to attend the 6th Annual Craft Fair on **Wednesday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The Craft Fair will be held in the Chapel Annex at Lutheran Hour Ministries, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive (near Hwy. 40 and Mason Road on the North Forty Outer Road).



Make plans to come and browse through more than 25 tables of all kinds of crafts ~ from jewelry, seashell crafts, Christmas ornaments, purses, table runners, aprons, homemade baskets, Native American beadwork, doll clothes, artwork and books to homemade cookies, cupcakes, cheesecakes, and apple butter. You may find just the perfect items for yourself or to give as Christmas gifts. There is no admission charge.

This is the sixth year LHM has hosted a craft fair, and we will have a wide variety of crafts for sale. We hope you will be able to attend. If you have any questions, please call 314-317-4119 or 4117. Thanks!



**12TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF
RENEWAL**

Women of all ages are invited to a Women's Day of Renewal on **Friday and Saturday, February 3 & 4th, 2012**, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL. The theme will be *Responding with Faith* (Joshua 1:9). How do we conquer our fears through faith in God? The keynote, Faith for our Freakouts, will feature two speakers, Phyllis Wallace and Dr. Melanie Wilson. Women attending on Saturday will be able to personalize their experience with two workshops. A continental breakfast and catered lunch

will be included in the cost of \$25. Registration for the Friday night event will be \$10. A \$15 late fee will apply after January 15th. Bring a friend and enjoy a day of fellowship and spiritual renewal.

Women may choose to attend Friday night only, Saturday only, or BOTH! For registration forms or more information see the church bulletin board or visit the website at www.goodshepherdcollinsville.org.

**LUTHERAN CONVALESCENT HOME
AUXILIARY MEETING**

The November Auxiliary Meeting is **Monday, November 28th at 11:30 a.m.** Linda Koenig will speak on "Historically Famous St. Louis Women - Part II" and there will also be a celebration of Grace Truemper's 25 years at Lutheran Senior Services and her retirement. The meeting is held at 723 S. Laclede Station Road. Bring a sandwich, dessert is provided.

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE
WIND ORCHESTRA CONCERT**



On **Friday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.**, the Concordia Wind Orchestra (Irvine, CA) will present a concert at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. The 35 member wind orchestra is comprised of the top woodwind, brass, and percussion students at Concordia. Under the direction of Jeff Held, it will present a program of reverent music focusing on God's grace and thanksgiving for our nation. This concert will also feature the bands of Lutheran High School South and Metro-East Lutheran High School. Admission is free.

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