



Church Of the Reformation - Lutheran

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

With Christ at the Heart

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Advent, the Season of Preparation

One kind of preparation has begun in the stores, malls, restaurants, and radio stations pumping Christmas hopes that you'll buy this or that gift or eat at this or that venue.

But, as believers in Christ, we focus on a different sort of preparation through reflecting on the prophecies of our Savior coming in the flesh, in glory at the Last Day, and into our hearts and lives - changing them for the better through His Word and Sacraments.

Here are just a few prophecies you could reflect on:

- Isaiah 7:14 fulfilled in Matt. 1:18-25
- Micah 5:1-2 fulfilled in Matt. 2:1
- Jeremiah 23:5 fulfilled in Matt. 2:5; Rev. 22:16
- Malachi 4:5,6 fulfilled in Matt. 11: 11-15

Reading the Book of Isaiah would be a profitable (very punny) venture to prepare for Christ's Nativity. Or how about reading through all the Advent hymns in LSB and looking up all the texts cited in fine print under each.

Our mid-week services (December 5, 12, 19 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.) will bear the theme: "My Eyes Have Seen . . ." with texts from Isaiah. Each will be done in character from the perspective of a different disciple of Jesus.

If you're coming to the evening services come early for a light dinner before each. I look forward to preparing with you. A blessed Advent to all.

Pastor Pelsue



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday Advent Services
"My Eyes Have Seen"
December 5th, 12th and 19th
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, December 16th - 4:00 p.m.
Service of Hope and Comfort



Christmas Eve - December 24th
5:00 p.m. - Candlelight
Service of Carols & Readings
10:30 p.m. - Divine Service

Christmas Day - December 25th
Divine Service - 10:00 a.m.
Bible Class/Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.



New Year's Eve - December 31st
Evening Prayer - 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - January 1st
Divine Service - 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER NEWS & NOTES



ADVENT DINNERS

Please join us during the Advent Season before each Wednesday evening service (December 5th, 12th & 19th) in the parish hall for a complimentary dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Each week a different church board or family will sponsor a dinner for all those attending the service. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

VOTER'S MEETING



On Sunday, December 2nd,
immediately following the late service
(12:00 noon). This meeting includes

election of new council members and elder as well as discussion and approval of the 2013 church budget. Please bring an appetizer or snack to share.

RETIREES CHRISTMAS PARTY



Join the Retirees for their Christmas Party on **Tuesday, December 4th 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 game. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please indicate next to your name what dish you are bringing.

TALENT SHOW AND POTLUCK



The Board of Fellowship is hosting a Talent Show and Potluck honoring our veterans on **Sunday, December 9th at 12:00 noon (immediately following the late service)**. The Talent Show is for the visual (art work, ceramics, sculpture, photography, etc.) and performing arts (singing, dancing, skit, etc.). Sign-up sheets (attendance/participants) are on the fellowship bulletin board. A freewill offering will be collected with donations going to the Adopt-A-Vet Program. Please sign up by December 2nd. *Hope to see everyone there!*



LADIES CLUB HELPING HAND TREE

The Ladies Club is sponsoring the "Helping Hand Tree" (formerly Giving Tree) program. They are asking members to help supply gifts for a seminary family.

The "helping hand" tree, displayed in the narthex, 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. You can donate to this program until **Sunday, December 9th**.

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!



POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY THE ALTAR

during the Christmas Season have been ordered. Each 6.5" red poinsettia has 5+ booms and costs \$6.00. Order forms for the poinsettias are in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING



On Saturday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. all members of the congregation, both young, old and in between are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas. Please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to help. **The Men's Club will provide a pancake breakfast to all those who help decorate.** Thanks!



From the Stewardship Board

This recent Church Council Meeting was the first time I had the opportunity to join the Council in reviewing the upcoming budget proposal for 2013. I must admit it wasn't the best meeting I have been to. Lee Thielker's passing earlier that day and Dale Thielker's absence created sadness and a very somber tone to the meeting. It was also a bit longer than I had anticipated. And, yes, the majority of the time was spent talking about MONEY. For someone who does good to balance a checkbook, this was like sitting through Finance 101...definitely not my forte! However I do thank God for Dan Kamp and everyone like him whose forte it is and who use their financial talents to make sure our congregation's money is where it needs to be.

So taking what I learned from that last Council meeting I have decided that it is really not out of my reach to create my own household budget for 2013. The key to making a successful budget is recognizing all of your expenses upfront, allocating your money accordingly, and sticking to it. One of my regular expenses that I need to make sure is figured into my budget will be my church offering. I know if I figure in a specific amount every month for my offering and pay it along with my bills; it will be a consistent giving throughout the year that I will be able to afford.

I challenge all of you to include your gifts to the church in your budget for 2013. By dedicating a specific amount every week, paycheck or month you can make your contributions upfront along with your other expenses. You will have a more consistent giving throughout the year and will know what you have left to work with at the end of the month when all of your expenses are paid. In this way you can give to God what is right.....not what is left.

Yours in Christ, Linda LaFlamme

"Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." -1 Corinthians 16:1-2



GIFTS FOR THE KING

Every Advent through Epiphany in memory of the Gentile Magi's gifts to the Christ Child, we at Reformation, gather a special offering to be used for mission work. A special "Gifts for the King" envelope will be included in the December 4th bulletin. This year's offering will be given to Emmaus Lutheran Church in Saint Louis, a struggling urban sister congregation.

BABY SHOWER FOR MICHELLE (KLEMM) STARNES!



The ladies of the congregation are invited to a baby shower for Michelle Starnes and baby Dominic on **Saturday, January 19th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Please r.s.v.p. to Grandma Debbie at 314-402-1822. Thanks and hope to see you there!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the January newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, December 17th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.

AFFTON CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



Please bring the suggestions items (listed below) and place in the grocery cart in the parish hall or the hamper in the narthex. Please not glass containers or clothing!

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

I would like to thank everyone for your outpouring of love and support. You filled the narthex basket AND the parish hall shopping cart to overflowing. This congregation is indeed a blessing to the community. Thanks again! *Brenda Hargett, Ladies Club*

ADVENT CONCERTS



ADVENT CONCERT at Messiah Lutheran Church on **Saturday, December 8th**. Please join The Concordia Seminary Chorus and the choirs and instrumentalists of Lutheran High School South for Advent Lessons & Carols at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2846 Grand Avenue, Saint Louis at 7:00 p.m. There will be a free-will offering to benefit Lutheran elementary education in the city. For more information, email rosebrocks@csl.edu.

Please join Concordia Seminary's mixed choir, Pro Musica Sacra, for **ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** on **Friday, December 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. The service will include readings for the season of Advent and favorite Advent hymns. For more information, email rosebrocks@csl.edu.

Lutheran High School South will host an **ADVENT BAND CONCERT** on **Friday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.** and will be performed at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. The concert of traditional Christmas music and other band literature will feature the school's Wind Symphony, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. A free will donation will be collected.



CRAFT FAIR



The Lutheran High School South is hosting a Fall Craft Fair on **Saturday, December 8th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** at Lutheran South, 9515 Tesson Ferry Road. Proceeds will benefit the Athletic Departments. For more information please call Carole Cox at 314-846-8048.



A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HOPE AND COMFORT

The following page is a one page flyer inviting your friends, family, neighbors and the community to a Christmas service of Hope and Comfort.

Sometime we forget that this season is not always a season of joy, hope and comfort to all. It may be a season of loss, discouragement and sadness. Loss of a loved one, job, home, marriage or even depression or loneliness.

This special service is for them! It is a quiet time of contemplation centered on God's Word, on hymns and prayer. There is also a "time of remembrance," where they are encouraged to bring their special concerns before God with a small lighted candle. **Please give this flyer to anyone you feel might benefit. More copies are available in the narthex.**

Christmas Service of Hope and Comfort

Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.

**Reformation Lutheran Church
7910 Mackenzie Rd., Affton, Missouri**



Is Christmas for you or someone you know a very difficult time of the year? We encourage you to join us for a special Sunday afternoon Christmas Service of Hope and Comfort.

This service is designed especially for those who suffer at this time of year from loneliness, or depression. Perhaps you have suffered some significant loss such as a loved one, health, employment or a marriage – and because of those losses, this Christmas season is just not the same.

This special service is for you! It is a quiet time of contemplation centered on God’s Word, on hymns and prayer. There is also a “time of remembrance,” where you are encouraged to bring your special concerns before God with a small lighted candle.

Following the service, seasonal refreshments and supportive literature for various needs will be available. Our goal is that the anxieties, sadness, and stresses people feel might be lightened, and ultimately replaced by the healing, hope, and comfort only God can give.

We hope you will join us Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.

“May the peace of God, which transeends all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7



UN-APPROVED MINUTES for CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION-LUTHERAN
Church Council Meeting, November 8, 2012

PRESENT: Mark Bliese, Julia Graudin, Brenda Hargett, Derek Hotzel, Jack Jeffcott, Dan, Kamp, Linda LaFlamme, Dan Reimler, Hal Uthoff, Pastor Pelsue. Dale and Lee Thielker were absent but excused.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. A quorum was present. Dan Reimler had the devotion. He read a selection from "Through Faith Alone", thoughts by Martin Luther on John 14:6 entitled, "Paths and Life". Pastor then led the church council in prayer regarding our council member, Lee Thielker, who died today very unexpectedly.

The minutes of the October 11, 2012 Church Council meeting were reviewed. Brenda Hargett moved to approve the minutes as read. Pastor seconded her motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Derek Hotzel asked for a memorial contribution in honor of Lee Thielker, which would be given individually. Council agreed to his suggestion. Mark Bliese will collect the money and turn it in to the church office. Derek read two letters from Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, dated October 22 and 24 respectively. The first was a thank you for our gift of \$8000 to the work of the Synod, the second was a thank you for our contribution of \$2000 to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Hal presented a written report on the October 28 meeting of the nominating committee. The current slate has candidates for each position, but now with the death of Lee Thielker we will have to fill the position of Treasurer. Pastor and Mark Bliese made some suggestions of people to ask. Hal asked them to work together to obtain a candidate.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dan Kamp reported on the monthly income summary for October 2012. A sub-total income toward budgeted expenses of \$15,190.75 was collected. He noted \$44.56 was collected from Thrivent Foundation and eScrip Electronic Funds Transfer. Total income for the month was \$16,363.71. The full reports can be viewed on the bulletin board near the nursery.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Kamp presented Dale Thielker's report. He noted that we are current on all obligations. We had budgeted expenses of \$18,057 for October. There were \$50,127 in non-budgeted expenses for October. Notable items from the expenses were \$538 for offering envelopes, \$908 for kitchen stove refurbishment and light bulbs, \$33,600 for payments #1 and #2 of 3 payments for the flat roof replacement, \$419 for the second of two payments on the sacristy windows, \$10,000 to the LCMS (\$8,000 to Synod and \$2,000 to LMI, see the president's report above) and \$5,000 to the LCMS Missouri District.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor reported on the funeral of Trudy McClees on October 11, John Fogg memorial service on October 27. A special thank you to the choir for singing at John Fogg's memorial. He has made numerous homebound visits. He continues to attend the pericope group meeting, which is sponsored by our church. This group is composed of 12 pastors. We will host the circuit meeting November 15. Pastor mentioned the upcoming installations of new pastors at Salem Lutheran Church and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Pastor received a letter from a visitor expressing his appreciation for our church and its Divine Service. Pastor showed the book, "One Lord, Two People" a Bible counting book, by Jennifer Elig. The number ten shows our stained glass window on the Ten Commandments. She had written and asked permission to use the image from our web site. Julie asked if copies of the stained glass window brochure could be put in the pews so if individuals have questions on the windows it would be readily available. The council did not object and Julie will see to their placement.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Linda LaFlamme reported that her display on medical health was well received and she will have it up for another Sunday. Linda was wondering if we were holding Advent Suppers. If we are the Board for Stewardship would like to sponsor one.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Vacant.

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP: Julie Graudin reported that the talent show was moved because of the installation of a new pastor at Salem Lutheran. She will still have a cake reception on Veteran's Day, with flowers for Vets. She will also have a door offering to given to the Missouri Veterans Home. The talent show will be held on December 9, with a free will offering to possibly Adopt-A-Vet. New Years Eve party is currently up in the air. The Council expressed their thanks to Julie for her five years of service as Chair of the Board of Fellowship.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Dan Reimler stated the elders approved the transfer in of James Fink from Salem Lutheran Church, Blackjack. Chia Hung will be his elder. They also approved the transfer in of Stephen and Marianne Cutt from Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AK. Rick Miller will be their elder. They approved the transfer out of Andrea Brunsvold to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Torrington WY. The elders received a request from Mark Graudin to step down from his elder position.

BOARD OF PROPERTIES: Jack Jeffcott reported two of the four windows in the sacristy have been replaced. All the light bulbs have been received, and the bulbs on the left side of the nave have been replaced. The tuckpointing firm will be called, as they have not come to do the work as of yet. Jack is checking on the fan reset switch issue, he will also check on light switches. He will also check on the recirculating pump on the hot water heater.

BOARD OF FINANCE: Dan Kamp presented Lee Thielker's report, noting we had a deficit of \$2,866 for the month of October, with a year-to-date deficit of \$630. We have \$167,926 cash available for budgeted expenses. We also have \$6,967 available in the vicarage fund. Dan noted that 83.3% of the calendar year has elapsed, and we have used 82% of the budget.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Brenda Hargett reported that we have three students in the elementary education tuition program as of Fall 2012. In Fall 2013 we will have two students. We will also have three students in Lutheran High School South.

2013 BUDGET: Dan Kamp presented the 2013 "Proposed Budget" Limit document and the proposed budget of \$214,686. After going through the budget and explanations on each line item, and after the council discussed various line items, Dan asked Pastor to excuse himself so the council could discuss various salary matters. After discussion, Dan Kamp moved to accept the salary recommendations for Pastor. Brenda Hargett seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously. Pastor was then invited back in to the council meeting. After some further discussion, Dan moved to lower the maintenance budget upon Jack Jeffcott's recommendation. Linda LaFlamme seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously. Dan Kamp then moved that we present a 2013 budget of \$215,179 to the Annual Voters' Meeting. Dan Reimler seconded his motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dan Kamp brought up the designated disposition of Jehoiada Chest funds. Hal Uthoff moved to apply the funds toward the Stove refurbishment and light bulbs, with Jack Jeffcott seconding his motion. Unanimous approval was given.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gifts for the King were discussed, with Pastor moving to apply the funds to Emmaus Lutheran Church in Saint Louis. They are a struggling, confessional congregation, being shepherded by Dr. John Hellwege. Pastor Hellwege is in the pericope group. Pastor made this motion because he sees this as a mission opportunity. Dan Kamp seconded his motion. Unanimous approval was given.
- A recommendation to hold the annual Christmas church decorating on December 15 was made. Hal Uthoff was asked to check if the Men's Club would sponsor a pancake breakfast before the decorating. He said he would check into that possibility.
- Church council recommended to hold the Annual Voters' Meeting on December 2 at noon.

ADJOURNMENT: Brenda Hargett moved to adjourn. Dan Reimler seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mark J. Bliese, Secretary

2012 Annual Board Reports

Board of Church Fellowship

I want to thank the members of COR for the support they have shown me from my first Fellowship event, the Retro Party in April of 2008, to this past year church picnic, August 26th. I couldn't have been this successful with the events without your support. Thanks for the memories.

Julie Graudin

Board of Christian Education

Members of the Board are Mark Bliese, Karen and Martin Liebmann, Tabitha Schubert, Marion Lewis and Sharon Burgeois. Enrollment is small, but the Sunday School is flourishing under the direction of Shelly Bliese, Superintendent. We had a great Sunday School staff of Mark Bliese, Sharon Burgeois, Danielle Hung, Joyce Schubert-Johnson, Bryan Jones, Diane Meyer, and Tabitha Schubert. Pastor Pelsue teaches the Confirmation Class. Adult Bible Classes have been taught by Pastor Pelsue, Vicar Brett Hartwig, and Dr. Dave Lewis. The Youth Group (middle and high school ages) are led by Karen and Martin Liebmann. They continue to enjoy their get-togethers which include meeting once a month on Sunday for pizza, wii games and fellowship; lock-ins; and participation in Venture Crew through the Boy Scouts of America.

For the 2012-2013 school year, 3 students will receive financial assistance through our Elementary Education Tuition Program. The 8th grade parents were advised regarding the Vera Gornet Fund available to LHSS students. Reformation participates in the Lutheran High School Association thus financially assisting our 3 students at Lutheran High School South.

This year for Vacation Bible School we decided to repair and make new Chrismons for the Christmas tree. It was a great success! The Sunday school collected money for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. I have enjoyed being your board chair this year and I'm looking forward to getting more involved with Sunday School. Thank you!

Brenda Hargett, Chair

Board of Stewardship Report

Members:

Linda LaFlamme – Chair, Diana Meyer, Amy Hotzel, Adele St. Mary

- January – ❖ Began updating church talent cards and working with Sherri to develop a more easily accessible computer data base to record information – this is ongoing...
- March - ❖ Started paperwork for e-Scrip program through Schnucks Market. Proceeds to go into PRIMP fund.
❖ Linda LaFlamme attended a “Kitchen Sink Workshop” at Missouri District Headquarters. Participated in “Assimilation: Caring for New members of the Body of Christ” and “Managing Conflict in the Parish”.
- April - ❖ Poster board display put up on bulletin board highlighting the 8 LCMS Stewardship Principles – this is ongoing...
- May - ❖ Held e-Scrip sign-ups in the Narthex a couple of Sundays in May resulting in approximately 20 families signing up.
❖ We were working on Stewardship PowerPoint and handouts for June Bible study.
- June - ❖ Stewardship Bible Study for two weekends in June, presented by Pastor Pelsue.
- August - ❖ Held voter registration sign-ups in the Narthex every Sunday in August. Registered 1 new voter and had 2 changes of address mailed in.
- November - ❖ Stewardship sponsored “Keeping COR Healthy” display educating the importance of medication compliance to the congregation. Displays were held in the fellowship hall on November 4th and November 11th. Free supplies were offered to help members maintain accurate medications and medication records as well as health records in the event of emergency. There was a drawing for 4 USB flash drives which contained templates for medication and health histories and could be carried on key chains. The winners of the 4 USB flash drives were: Marilyn Jones, Mark Eischer, Lisa Eaton-Adams and Debra Klemme.
- December - ❖ The Board of Stewardship will be planning a dinner before the December 12th Advent service.



December Birthdays!!

1st Rev. Ron Feuerhahn
Justin Valdes
3rd Ricky Lewis
6th Jana Brazeal
11th Jessica Miller
Courtney Lewis
12th Debra Klemme
14th Steven Bierman

15th Kenton Duneman
Grace Hotzel
17th Matthew Meier
Kara Meier
18th Madison Baker
25th Baby JESUS!
26th Carol Drechsel
29th Harold Uthoff

Carol Geiser
31st Lynne Borchelt

God's Blessings to You!



December Schedule

Altar Guild Schedule:

| | <u>8:15 Service</u> | <u>10:45 Service</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| December 2 nd | Inga Duke | |
| December 9 th | | Jill Pelsue |
| December 16 th | Inga Duke | |
| December 23 rd | | Jill Pelsue |
| December 24 th - 10:30PM | Jill Pelsue | |
| December 25 th - 10:00PM | Jill Pelsue | |
| December 30 th - 10:00AM | Inga Duke | |

Greeter Schedule:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| December 2 nd | John & Lynne Borchelt | Denny & Jan Schrader |
| December 9 th | Lisa Adams | Mary Lou Tucker |
| December 16 th | Shirley Ciegel | Norma Grau |
| December 23 rd | Sandy Townsend | Carol Geiser |
| December 30 th | Rick & Ann Miller | Denny & Jan Schrader |

Usher Schedule:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Daniel Bliese | Mark Graudin |
| Chia Hung | Bev Heermann |
| Mike Klemme | |
| Ron Paul | |

Acolyte Schedule:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| December 2 nd | Katie Meyer | Christian Liebmann |
| December 9 th | Philip Bliese | Haven Liebmann |
| December 16 th | John Schilling | Mary LaFlamme |
| December 23 rd | John Larson | Christian Liebmann |
| December 24 th 5:00PM - | | |
| December 24 th 10:30PM - | | |
| December 25 th 10:00AM - | | |
| December 30 th | Katie Meyer | Christian Liebmann |

