

Church Of the Reformation - Lutheran

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

With Christ at the Heart



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Christ is Coming - Are You Ready?

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart . . ." says David in Psalm 24.

"Who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire . . . He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." says Malachi the prophet.

Who is ready for that - to stand before the Holy God on the fearful and awesome Day of His Coming? "There is none righteous, no, not even one." Rom. 3:10

This is why God came ahead of time.

"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. . .the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High.'" (Luke 1:26ff)

God came meekly in the person of His Son to bear our sin and be our Savior. Those who trust in Him will not be put to shame on the Great Day of His Coming.

If You O Lord kept a record of sin, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, therefore You are feared. (Ps.130:3)

Every Sunday we gather as Christ comes to us through His Word and Sacraments. He calls us to faith and keeps us in faith in Himself - all in anticipation that we will be with Him at "His coming again to judge the living and the dead."

Therefore, "let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

Advent is all about preparing for the Lord's coming. Why not make a new commitment to worship and Bible study. This year there will be four Sunday and midweek Advent services. I look forward to seeing you every week as we worship together.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to all!
Pastor Pelsue



Vicar's Corner!



Wait, Pray, and Live by Faith: Waiting with the Old Testament Church.

This is the title of the sermon series that we will be using as we prepare for the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day! We will be focusing on passages from the book of Isaiah and 2 Samuel that deal with waiting. The first week focus is on "waiting with prayer." We will look at Isaiah's prayer where he longs for God's presence among them and to rescue them from their enemies. What a great way to start off the Advent series focusing on prayer. It is a great reminder to us all to spend time in prayer each day with our heavenly Father. For on that wonderful night, the Heavens were opened wide and our Savior came into this world to save us from our enemies and to give us all forgiveness of sins!

We then will look at "waiting with comfort" and God giving comforting words to His people. We will read the words that God gave to Isaiah and His people during their time of their captivity in Babylon where there was no temple to worship and hear the word of God. God then told His people, "Comfort, Comfort, my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned." We all can be comforted each time we come to church and hear the Words of God to His people and we all can take comfort in those words and know that He is with us always.

Our next theme will be on, "waiting with joy!" Society today has taken out the true joy of this time of year and made it into a holiday of presents and commercialism. They have taken the Christ out of Christmas. We will focus on the true joy of this season that the "spirit of the Lord is upon us" that he has come to this earth, to dwell among us, and to bring the Lord's favor to us all. The joy at this Advent season is in Jesus, who is the Christ.

Our last theme will be on "waiting with worship." We will look at the text from 2 Samuel where David wanted to build a house for the Lord to dwell in but God

instructs Nathan to tell David that he is not permitted to build the temple. He tells David that He will make a house for him, one that will last forever. That promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. We have the wonderful opportunity each and every Sunday to come into His house and be fed with His Word and His sacraments an to be reminded that the House that God promised David through His Son Jesus will last forever! Our Savior came to this world and has brought us righteousness, holiness, and life eternal! Let us remember the true joy of this season: CHRIST. I look



forward to worshipping with you this Advent season as we wait for the birth of our Savior.

In Christ, Vicar Brett

whole grains, braised Swiss chard, chicken sausage, red peppers and shallots all simmered in a ham hocks and Guinness beer broth and served with bread and dessert.



VOTER'S MEETING

On Sunday, December 4th, 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 2012 church budget. Please bring an appetizer or snack to share.



RETIRES 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 what dish you are bringing. No meeting is planned for November.



LADIES CLUB 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 COR) through their "*Helping Hand Tree Program*."

The tree will be displayed in the narthex from now until Sunday, December 11th. The gifts received will then be distributed to the families.

The tree is decorated with 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



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday Advent Services

"Wait, Pray, and Live by Faith"

November 30th, December 7th, 14th and 21st

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Sunday School Christmas Program

December 18th - 10:45 a.m.



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.

Sunday School/Bible Class - 9:00 a.m.



DECEMBER NEWS & NOTES

ADVENT DINNER

Please join us as we prepare to begin our Advent Season with a complimentary dinner on Wednesday, November 30th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Dinner is

you to make the Spirit of Christmas a happy and glorious time. Thank you! *Brenda Hargett, Reformation Ladies Club*



POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY THE ALTAR

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



CHRISTMAS DECORATING



On **Saturday, December 17th 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. Thanks!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School will have their **Christmas Program**, "A Shepherd's Christmas" on **Sunday, December 18th at 10:45 a.m.** Please join them in worship!! Everyone is invited!

Rehearsals will take place on **Saturdays, December 10th at 9:30 a.m. and December 17th at 12:00 noon** following church decorating.



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 split between the University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis, MN and the Rev. Michael Paul's Evansville Chinese Christian Fellowship.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the January newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, December 20th**. Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



RING IN THE NEW YEAR!!

What better way to celebrate New Year's Eve than to worship and have fellowship with your COR family. After the 7:00 pm service we will gather for movies and games for all ages. Bring your favorite card/board games and a snack item or appetizer to share. There will be attendance prizes, but no trivia this year. Look for more information in Sunday's announcements.

Julia Graudin, Board of Church Fellowship



WE CAN HELP WITH A GREAT MISSION!



The Reformation Ladies Club will be collecting food for the Affton Food Bank. All the 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. Just think of how many needy families in the Affton area you will be helping! 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: 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

The church pictorial directory draft has been mailed to Life Touch and we are waiting for the proof to arrive any day now! A lot of work went into the preparation of the directory and we would like to thank everyone for their time and effort.

Amy Hotzel headed up the directory committee and got the ball rolling with organizing and planning the directory. Several members gave up their personal time during the photo sessions to sit up at church as the welcoming committee. Andrea Brunsvold spent many hours and did an outstanding job on the layout of the directory and future stained glass window flyer.

Once the proof has been approved and sent back to Life Touch and the final changes made, copies will then be sent to church and distributed. We hope to receive them before Christmas. Thanks again! *The Church Office*



RESOLVE TO RING ... IN THE NEW YEAR!

Considering your "New Year's Resolutions?" "**Resolve**" to join the Bell Choir! Our "New Year" begins with rehearsal on Wednesday, January 4th. Our first "ringing Sunday" in the New Year is January 15th. If two or three new ringers join us, we can ring all the Reformation bells (3 octaves). We rehearse each Wednesday evening from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Interested? Please contact Jenny Gastler, bell coordinator.



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH ACTIVITIES

ADVENT BAND CONCERT on Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. and will be performed at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT will take place in the Kuhlmann Center at LHSS on Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

The community is invited to both performances and a free will donation will be collected.

"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.



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.



Merry Christmas and have a
Blessed New Year!