



The Reporter

The Monthly Newsletter of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America
Organized Feb 5, 1956

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December 2011

Our Mission

*Through God's grace, we
commit ourselves as
disciples to heal hurts, to
teach God's word, to
discover God's joys, and
share the light, love, and
peace of Jesus Christ.*



Reformation Lutheran Church

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lutheran.net](http://www.reformation-lutheran.net)

Kids, Inc.

Ph: 302 422-9099

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8am-
4pm

Worship Services

Sept.-May

8:30am & 11:00am

Memorial Day- Labor Day
10:00am

Christian Education

Sept-May

9:45am-10:45am



Occupy Wall Street? Occupy Our Street!

As I write these words, the Zucotti Park has been cleared of the Occupy Wall Street protests. Greece and Italy are in dire financial straits. The economic picture does not look particularly rosy in the United States, either. While I find many of the sentiments expressed by the "Occupy" movement to be entitled and immature, I do wholeheartedly agree with the idea

that our financial, governance, and social system is profoundly broken. In the name of free market capitalism (which, historically, is an economic theory grounded on the conviction that "You shall not steal" is a fundamental truth to be obeyed), individuals and corporations, often with the cooperation of elected officials, created an unstable system that profited them immensely while adding nothing of true value to the economy. It then crashed, causing vast economic damage to others, and then got bailed out. Name the issue, and whether you look at things from "the left" or "the right," you will find cracks and flaws.

Zoom the focus in on our own lives, our own community. We see, and sometimes experience for ourselves, deep needs and hurts. And looking at all this, I think we can resonate with the cry in Isaiah 64: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence... that the nations might tremble at your presence! No eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him" (Is. 64:1-2, 4). Oh Lord, that you would come and shake things up and make things right! Come down, O Lord, and fix it all! Ever feel that way? Well, then Advent is the season for you.

The four weeks before Christmas, called the season of Advent, capture the longing that is part of living by faith in this world. And in this season, that longing for things to be made right is given its proper focus. We are to wait for the God who acts. We are to wait for Christ. And that often does not sit well with us. We want to do, to act, to fight and change! But before that, we must wait. Because the problems are not all "out there" for us to fix. They

Pastor's message continues on page 2.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Our Church Leaders:

Head of the Church: Jesus, the Christ

President: Neal Richard	249-5380
Vice-President: Chris Antonik	430-7616
Secretary: Susan Emory	422-3115
Treasurer: Lisa Mallard	422-2844

Council Members:

Gary Johnson	398-4744
Kevin Oldland	752-7130
Lezlie Eustis	422-3742
Joan VanGorder	422-9589
Jill Racz	645-0969
Dharma Luiken	422-9005
Dale Leyden	

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The Reporter is published monthly, and mailed to all member households. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is the **10th day** of each month. Please send, as early as possible, your articles, notices, photos, etc. to the editor, Linda Helm. The Reporter is assembled on the Monday of last full week of each month and mailed that week. A full color downloadable PDF version is posted on our website: www.reformation-lutheran.net.

Pastor's message continues

They are also "in here," in our own hearts and souls. And so we need Christ to come, and to come to us. We need his Word, his Meal, his Holy Spirit and his grace.

We need God to come down and occupy Wall Street, Main Street, and our street. We need God to occupy our hearts and minds. Advent is a time to take our dissatisfaction, our longing, our conviction that things are not as they should be, and bring them to God. It is a time to look beyond all the "fixes" the world offers, and look to the Savior whose birth we will soon celebrate.

Advent is about waiting and longing, but doing so with confidence. The Christ child has been born. God has, indeed, torn the heavens open and come down. Jesus will come to us. And finally, he will come again to renew the heavens and the earth, and all will be made glorious. That is where we can find the hope and strength to live longingly, but also joyfully and expectantly. The celebration of Christ's birth is coming. We will never fully grasp all the goodness of this gift. But every Advent, we can begin again to try. The Savior will come. He is with you now. Trust in him, long for him, and prepare to celebrate his birth!

In Christ,
Pastor Evers

The Women's Devotional Group

will meet on Wednesday,
December 7th in the *Church
Parsonage* at 7 PM. As
always, we welcome all
women to join us—the more
the merrier! Don't worry if you can't make it every
month, drop in whenever you can—there's always
someone to share devotions with and enjoy some
fellowship. See you there!! If you have any
questions, call Karen Oldland at 752-7130 or
245-1805.



Faith Formation:



Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home, and when you are away, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Celebrating Advent and Christmas: At Baptism, parents promise to nurture their children in the Christian faith. We as a congregation also promise to support and pray for the newly baptized in their new life in Christ. One way we can support one another in nurturing faith is by sharing practices that have been meaningful in our own faith formation. Last month several families shared traditions from childhood and activities they do in their homes today to keep their Advent and Christmas celebrations Christ-centered.

- Our youth group held Bible studies in each other's homes. At Christmas we helped shut-in members of the congregation put up their decorations and we caroled at their homes. Their joy of being included filled us with Christmas spirit. (John Crockett)
- With a school teacher in the house, decorating for Christmas always came late in the season. But when we opened the Christmas box, it was always a joyous rediscovery of our family and Christian heritage. Age old ornaments were an opportunity to pray for others as they were unwrapped. (Kristin Schlegel)
- When our children were small, we enjoyed taking them to a live nativity pageant at Christmas time. It made the Christmas story more real to them and easier to understand. We enjoyed it too. (Ronda Weber)
- At my grandparents' and my home no Christmas tree appeared until Christmas Eve after church. They had real candles! (My grandparents didn't have electricity until I was 10!) (Dharma Luiken)

- When I was a child, we had Advent devotions after dinner by the light of the Advent wreath. Each child lit a candle from the wreath and said a Bible verse. We continued the tradition with our own children. (Bethel Crockett)
- We have cupcake and candle for Jesus' birthday on Christmas Eve. (The Evers Family)
- Our girls always enjoyed the "Baby Jesus Birthday rug" that they could do. I made a large felt wreath and a donkey, stable, manger, animals, etc. They pinned them on as we read the Bible story. Later years we changed and I made a ceramic set that they could arrange. Christmas was eating breakfast and then open presents. If we didn't it was hard to get them from playing to eat. As a child our father took us children to the woods for a tree to decorate. Every Sunday we walked to church six miles up and down some high hills. One was called one mile hill. Christmas we went and got a big candy cane, an orange, and our weekly Bible leaflet which we saved and used each year at Advent. Rule: "Breakfast first, then presents." As a family of six children on Christmas presents were small as we preferred to have on our birthdays because Mother baked a special dessert and meal. We all looked for a big meal Thanksgiving and Christmas. We all pitched in to make it. (Mary Ellen Hall)
- When the children were young, we read the advent devotion, lit the candle and sang "Light the Advent Candle One"....they were sick of it by Christmas but can all still sing the whole song. Many Christmas Eves were spent with my husband's family in North Jersey where a traditional, meatless, Polish dinner was served complete with Communion bread that had been blessed by the priest. There were often 30+ family members. Our children still look forward to (and have learned to make) "real" pierogies. We would get back to Milford by midnight and the children would wake up to watch for the star that used to be on top of the Milford Water Tower. (Karolyn Hayes)



Advent and Christmas Celebrations

Faith Formation Continued



- When I was growing up our greatest celebration was Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Mother would always cook for those in our neighborhood who were ill or unable to cook a meal. On Christmas Eve Daddy would always say, “Come, Eva, it is time to go cut our tree” which we cut down on our farm. We always decorated our tree Christmas Eve, never before. Dad always clipped little candles on the tree for lights. Mother always made donuts for Christmas Eve and cooked a large dinner for her four brothers and families. Yes, we said grace before our meals taking turns. We read the Christmas story from the Bible. Gifts were very few because we were poor (farmers) but very rich in the ways that counted. For Christmas money, Dad and Mother made Holly wreaths and sold them and I helped. I wouldn’t trade my growing up years for anything. (Eva Wolter Farlow)

Faith Formation - Sharing our Stories: Do you have practices in your home that help bring God into daily activities? What traditions do you remember from your childhood? How are you nurturing faith in your children, grandchildren, and godchildren? In January, we will be focusing on ***Baptism and Baptism Birthdays***. Do you have an idea to share? Write it on a card and pin it to the Faith Formation bulletin board in the narthex. Join us also at the [Baptism Birthday celebration on January 8 at 9:45](#) in the Fellowship Hall.

Happy Birthday, Jesus Party for the younger children will be held during the Sunday School hour on December 18.

Advent Breakfast for High Schoolers, College Students, and Young Adults: Attention Classes of 2007-2011: You are invited to a Reformation class reunion. Catch up with your church friends and classmates over breakfast, and share your post high school experiences and wisdom with our high school youth. Look for us in the parsonage on Sunday, December 18 from 9:45-10:45. Questions? Please call the church office 422-9117.

Parents of Young Children: The new group for parents of young children has had a great time this fall talking about the joys and challenges of parenting toddlers and preschool-aged children. We've enjoyed getting to know each other as fellow parents and as friends. We will begin a new study on January 15. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Paige Evers at 422-5128 or paige.g.evers@gmail.com so materials can be ordered for you. The group meets every Sunday during the Sunday School hour, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Child care is provided in the Nursery.

Looking ahead to 2012- Save the Dates!

- January 8 – Baptism Birthday Intergenerational Event 9:45-10:45
- Middle School Parent Group continues after a break in December. They will meet in January on the Wednesday during Confirmation time.
- Christian Parenting Group (beginning January 15) – “Raising Rock Solid Kids in a Pleasure Driven World” with Dr. Kevin Leman, a Christian child psychologist.
 1. The Ten Best Gifts You’ll Ever Give Your Kids
 2. How to Listen so Kids will Talk and how to Talk so Kids will Listen
 3. Discipline isn’t spelled p-u-n-i-s-h-m-e-n-t
 4. Ten ways to Improve your Child’s Self-Confidence
 5. Caution: Anger Ahead!
 6. Birth Order – What you need to know about it
 7. Standing up to the New Goliath



Spark Bibles: If you would like to order a *Spark Bible* for your child age 2 through Grade 2, please let Pam Ferguson (745-3288) know. These bibles contain 150 of the most popular Bible stories with engaging graphics. This is the Bible used each

Sunday in your child's class. We will order these together and get a discounted price.

If your child is in Grade 3 through 6 and has not received the *Spark Bible* presented by Reformation Lutheran Church, please let us know and we will see that they receive one.

Pray with the PAC in Advent: "Parents of Adult Children" will meet in the narthex at 10 a.m. on Tuesday mornings during Advent (November 29, and December 6, 13, and 20). All are welcome.

Additional TVs and DVD Players are needed for Christian Education programs and parenting classes in the parsonage. If you are upgrading your system at home please consider donating your old set to the church. Thanks!

December Youth Happenings



Sat. Dec. 10 Parents Day Out: Activities will be provided from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for children ages 1yr. – 12 yr. Please bring a \$3.00 donation toward the pizza lunch. Activities will include crafts & games. Adult and youth volunteers are needed for this and other activities.

Sun. Dec. 18 Caroling Hay Ride: Sign up on the youth bulletin board. More information will follow.

Children's Christmas Pageant: This year's pageant is called "Christmas Letter: The Musical" which incorporates children reading letters to Joseph, Mary, the Innkeeper, a Shepherd, an Angel and the Baby Jesus. This pageant also includes six original musical selections. If your child or children would be interested, please contact Hilary Emory, 270 2616 or the church office 422-9117.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (WELCA)

All ladies are invited to join us for our meetings. We are currently studying the women of the Bible.



DECEMBER MEETING:

December 1, 2011 - at noon at the home of Susan Romansky

Covered Dish Luncheon Please sign up on the WECA covered dish luncheon sheet in the Narthex so our hostess will know how many to set up for.

Reminder: Bring cookies to be distributed to our shut-ins

2011-2012 OFFICERS:

President	Joan VanGorder
V. President	Gesine Abrutyn
Secretary	Dot Willis
Treasurer	Peggy Gallego
Devotions	Maggie Haggerty
Program	Helene Reed

MISSION STATEMENT: "To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."



Christian Service Committee

By the end of November, the mittens should be on our Christmas tree. Please be as generous as you were last year and take one or two of them. This year there seems to be so many people in need.



UD's Campus Ministry Happenings

During September's Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) leadership retreat our students described LCM as "a church family and Christian community", "a faith sustainer and nurturer", "a place to meet people congruent to ourselves", "an accepting place where we can share our faith and be ourselves", and "a vehicle for service".

LCM is again blessed with strong student leaders to help coordinate our various ministries and actively live up to LCM's mission "To express our faith in God through fellowship, outreach and service."

Fellowship In Serving the Hungry (FISH) continues as the major service project, as this student-run program provides supplemental groceries on a monthly basis to 60 families in the Newark area. Many thanks to all supporters who participated in the October FISH fund-raising dinner, which helped raise funds to support this program through another year. This semester our students also did some heavy lifting (literally) and framing work at a Habitat for Humanity build site in Wilmington. Additionally, LCM will again support the Thanksgiving Basket Brigade.

Fellowship is an important aspect of Campus Ministry. Every Tuesday night students look forward to catching up with friends and sharing a home-cooked meal that has been prepared by members of area congregations. The meal is always followed by a worship service. This semester students have also been visiting area congregations, not only learning from those members, but also sharing their faith and helping raise awareness of Lutheran ministries available at a college campus.

LCM offers a Lutheran ministry on campus – it is not just intended as a ministry to Lutherans. If you are aware of students who might like to become involved in Campus ministry, we would welcome having them!! Please call 302-368-3078 or visit our website at www.lutheransatud.org for more information.

Significant financial cutbacks to campus ministry funding by the ELCA and Synod have made individual and congregational financial contributions even more critical to this ministry's ongoing success. But there are many ways in which you can help support this active ministry at the University other than through monetary donations. Support us by bringing a meal to Pauls' Chapel on Tuesday evenings and engaging with the students. Support us by sharing your time and talents on the Directing Committee or on a sub-committee supporting the ministry. And please, please support us with your prayers.

Peace and Blessings,
LCM Directing Committee



Sunday (Public) Prayer List

Jay Konesey
Joseph Ouge
Faye Andrew
Cheryl deLuca
Blue & Lee
Jim Simone
Penny
Marilyn McDonough
Susan Barry
Anne Hurd
Eddie

Susan Ward
Bill Moore
Marshall Martine
Nicole
Hank Brewer
Madison Dodge
Liesl Voosen & Family
Bill Gillis
Pat Medillion
David Daino
Richard End



E-Mail Prayer Chain

Dear Friends in Christ,

Your Email Prayer Chain primarily gets prayers requests for health concerns, but these are not the only things for which we are willing to pray. Consider the following suggestions and, if any of these - or any others - sound like topics for which you'd like us to pray on your behalf, please contact me. And if you'd like to join the Email Prayer Chain, all communications are forwarded by email and easy to incorporate into your daily prayer routine. We also encourage feedback and follow-up, if you so desire. Prayer concerns are only kept on the list for one month. This is not the same list as is used on Sundays in the worship service. If you want to be on both, please so request.

- addictive behavior
- comfort / grief
- depression / anxiety
- family issues (you need not share exact concerns unless you want to)
- finances / job
- God's will
- healing
- marriage / relationship
- life transitions
- salvation
- travel



In Him,
Trish Boyer
2trish@comcast.net



Birthdays

2 Iva Reed	17 Anna Rose Batchelor
2 Mary Lu Wilson	17 Evelyn Young
3 Tammy Mook	17 Susan Winters
3 Amy McPherson	17 Taylor Burkett
4 Emily Johnson	18 Joanne Walmsley
6 Mary Anne Hodge-Gornall	19 Pr. Eric Evers
7 Justin Konesey	20 John Eustis, Jr
9 Mia Wright	23 Lezlie Eustis
9 Susan Romansky	25 James Nielson
10 Karolyn Hayes	25 Michele Postles
11 Trish Boyer	26 Alexander Huey
14 Bethel Crockett	26 David Williams
16 Liz Johnson	27 Raymond Engelsiepen
	29 Terry Hutter

Anniversaries

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Crawley
- 9 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ryan
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Venett
- 19 Mr. & Mrs. John Crockett
- 19 Pastor & Mrs. Wes Hamlin
- 21 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Peterson
- 21 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Whitman
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Coherd
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Postles
- 30 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Kost

Friday Morning Bible Study

During December our theme will be "The Light will Shine," an Advent and Epiphany study led by Georgene Endy at 10:00 am. Join us for learning and fellowship.



Scouting for Servants

Stewardship Team Prepares for a New "Season" at Reformation

During the winter months, known as the "off season" to baseball fans, major league teams prepare for the next season and spring training. In the same manner, the Stewardship Committee here at Reformation will begin work in preparation for strengthening our mission "teams" here at Reformation. During the months of December and January, the Stewardship Committee will begin a program of reconnecting ourselves to Reformation's mission:

*Through God's grace,
we commit ourselves as
disciples to heal hurts,
to teach God's word,
to discover God's joys,
and share the light,
love, and peace of
Jesus Christ.*

We will meet with each ministry committee to help them recognize the gifts unique to that ministry, how God's mission for us as the congregation of Reformation Lutheran church is being accomplished through each ministry group and, most importantly, what other gifts and talents are needed for that ministry to grow and prosper as we move forward in faith. Our goal is to report our findings of this "ministry survey" at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. From this report, the Stewardship Committee will then formulate a Time and Talent Survey that each person in the congregation will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider how their gifts are matched to the needs of Reformation.

In an article by Mark Allen Powell entitled, "Stewardship for the Missional Church," Mark describes **Stewardship** as an act of mission that moves the church from creed to practice. The word *Stewardship* refers to what people who belong to God *do*: how they think, how they act, how they live. In the church, *Stewardship* describes the practice of faith by which we move from an acknowledgement that we belong to God to a transformed existence in which we live out our faith in real and obvious ways. In other words, we act on our mission by living as *stewards* rather than as *owners*. The *missional church* is a community of stewards rather than a collection of owners.

So the vision of this "Scouting Report" is to celebrate how God is at work at Reformation Lutheran, begin to understand our mission as a congregation, and to find ways that the people of Reformation can rejoice in the privilege of being a participant in God's mission. So if you're currently serving in a ministry here at Reformation, be on the lookout for a Stewardship "scout" to visit a committee meeting this winter. And if you're a "player" waiting to be called up for service, get ready because a new season is beginning and we want YOU on our team!!

Kevin B. Oldland, Stewardship Chair



Christmas Worship Schedule

Worship and Music

Sun. Dec. 18 At the 11:00 am service, the Cherub Choir (children through grade 3) will be singing.

Tues. Dec. 20 Hanging of the greens at 6:00 pm - Pizza and

desserts supplied.

Sat. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 pm - Children's Christmas Pageant and Nursery Care provided at 7:00 only.

Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Day, one service at 11:00am.

Sun. Jan. 1 One service at 11:00 am.

Fri. Jan. 6 Epiphany service at 7:00 pm "Send God's Light to all the Children in War Torn Countries"

Decorations will be removed after the service.

Sun. Jan. 8 Worship and Music Meeting following 11:00 am service

TBA January and February Lay Eucharistic Ministers Training



Merry Christmas

