



The Reporter

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

Volume 56 Issue 1

January 2012

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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Kids, Inc.

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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



New Year's Faith Check Up

Well, according to the calendar, the "holiday season" comes to an end as January arrives, and according to the world, January 1 is the time for New Year's resolutions. Often, the point of these is to undo the effects of all our celebrating from Thanksgiving through Christmas! (For the church, of course, the

New Year began back on the first Sunday of Advent, and Christmas extends for a full 12 days, until January 5, with the festival of Epiphany on the 6th.) Is there any way we as Christians, who depend on God's grace and not our own efforts, take advantage of New Year's resolutions?

The "normal" things for this time of year are the new gym membership, the diet, the pledge to quit smoking, the new budget plan, or the promise that our procrastinating will finally stop (tomorrow). This is all great stuff (except putting off quitting procrastination until tomorrow). But how about taking care of our spiritual health? Let me offer you some ideas; perhaps one or more of them will work for you, or maybe they'll inspire you to come up with your own "faith resolution."

Consider forgiveness. Is there someone who has wronged you, hurt you, or let you down? Are you carrying bitterness or resentment? Ask God to give you a forgiving heart towards that person. Resolve to pray daily for that to happen, and when the forgiveness does come into your spirit, act on it. Reach out to forgive. Or how about worry? Sit down and make a list of the things that make you anxious. Pick one. Cross it off your "worry" list, and put it on a new list of things you're praying about. Ask for God's peace. As you start to feel yourself more able to put the situation in God's hands (and that may take a while, be patient), then go back to your "worry" list, cross another thing off, and add it onto your "pray about this" list.

Think about worship. Praising God, praying together, hearing the Word, and being fed at Communion are some of the most important ways our faith is

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

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Vice-President: Chris Antonik	430-7616
Secretary: Susan Emory	422-3115
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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

built up. These are the ways God has promised to come to us. Are you coming to receive? It's not about guilt for not showing up; it's about knowing that this is where faith is nurtured. Make it a priority. Finally, consider taking some steps to increase your knowledge of the faith. In this month's Reporter, you'll find information about a weekday Bible study on living our faith in the real world and an adult Sunday School class on getting the most out of Bible reading. In February, our Lenten soup supper Bible study will be a survey of "the Bible's big picture." These are all ways you can learn and grow, so consider coming!

A last word on this topic: so often, New Year's resolutions are all about self-improvement. But these suggestions I've made aren't for becoming "a better Christian." They are pointers to where the Holy Spirit has promised to come for our blessing. This isn't self-improvement; it is simple trust in God. He wants to give you so much more than a "new year." He wants to give you a new life. Consider the list of "resolutions," and seek Christ's gifts!

A Ministry Opportunity

In February, on Saturday the 11th and 18th, Pastor Evers will be offering training for people who would be interested in bringing Holy Communion to the homebound. Lay Eucharistic Ministry does not replace pastoral visitation, but supplements it and strengthens the congregation's connection with those unable to be in worship on a regular basis. There will be more information in the February Reporter. If you're interested, contact Pastor Evers!

Picture Directory Correction

Please correct the entry in your Picture Directory for Bernie and Charlotte Moreland to show their address as 94 Gardenia Drive, Greenwood, DE 19950.

Adult Sunday School Class Screens *Fireproof*, The Movie!



Strong marriages help make strong churches. Please consider joining the Adult Sunday School class on January 29th and February 5th at 9:45 AM for a screening of the award-winning film – FIREPROOF! The movie will be shown in two parts.

FIREPROOF, is an action-packed love story that will have you laughing, crying, and on the edge of your seat as you are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife ... and a marriage worth rescuing. FIREPROOF is the third movie from Sherwood Pictures, the hope-filled, heartfelt moviemaking ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church that continues to touch the world from Albany, Georgia.

At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules.

Growing up, Catherine Holt always dreamed of marrying a loving, brave firefighter...just like her daddy. Now, after seven years of marriage, Catherine wonders when she stopped being "good enough" for her husband.

Regular arguments over jobs, finances, housework, and outside interests have readied them both to move on to something with more sparks.

As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment: "The Love Dare." Wondering if it's even worth the effort, Caleb agrees-for his father's sake more than for his marriage. When Caleb discovers the book's daily challenges are tied into his parents' newfound faith, his already limited interest is further dampened.

While trying to stay true to his promise, Caleb becomes frustrated time and again. He finally asks his father, "How am I supposed to show love to somebody who constantly rejects me?"

When his father explains that this is the love Christ shows to us, Caleb makes a life-changing commitment to love God. And with God's help he begins to understand what it means to truly love his wife.

But is it too late to fireproof his marriage? His job is to rescue others. Now Caleb Holt is ready to face his toughest job ever...rescuing his wife's heart.

DON'T DELAY! NO RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED in the RLC Private Screening Room (Fellowship Hall). We'll have a seat, some popcorn waiting for you!

The Christian Service Committee



would like to thank all of you for your generosity. The mittens on the tree disappeared very quickly, and you have made a lot of people feel that they are loved this Christmas. We also want to thank you for all the clothes and food you have donated this year. Our hands doing God's work. It feels right. It feels good.

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.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

January 5, 2012 - 1:00 PM @ the
home of Alice Daino

February 2, 2012 - 1:00 PM @ the home of
Joan VanGorder

2011-2012 OFFICERS:

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



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



Happy New Year!! The Women's Devotional Group

will meet on Wednesday,
January 4th 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.

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





Sunday (Public) Prayer List

Jay Konesey
 Laura
 Susan Barry
 Marian
 Nicole
 Hank Brewer
 Madison Dodge
 Barbara
 Jim Simone
 Jerry
 Mark
 Anne Hurd

Bill Gillis
 Eddie
 Jan Evans
 Marilyn Stone
 John Eustis
 Alice Webb
 Sally
 Ben
 Cheryl deLuca
 Kathy K.
 The family of Penny
 Andrew



Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Bobby Capece | 14 James Bahder |
| 2 Neal Richard | 14 Scott Steele |
| 3 Susie Antonik | 15 Ian Smith |
| 4 Matthew Schlegel | 16 Dixie Johnson |
| 4 Daniel Haggerty | 16 Donna Johnson |
| 4 Richard Hascup | 18 Charles Johnson |
| 8 Richard Hayward | 19 Robert VanGorder |
| 8 Cynthia Peterson | 21 Nicklas Capece |
| 9 Diane Fleming | 23 Stephanie Kehler |
| 9 Kim Short | 24 Nancy Raihall |
| 9 Melyssa Ryan | 25 Jennifer Miller |
| 9 Melinda Dingess | 25 Peg Steele |
| 10 James Fleming | 25 Pete Hutter |
| 11 Daniel McPherson | 26 Pat Batchelor |
| 12 Brooke McKenzie | 27 Richard Luiken |
| 12 Meghan Hayward | 29 Laura Hobbs |
| 13 Carole Warrington | 29 Wendy Sue Weimer |
| 13 Kristin Smith | 30 Bret Fleming |
| 13 Pamela Ferguson | 30 Simon Mumford |
| 13 Scott Allen Fleming | 31 Kenneth Bock |

Knit and Pray



The Knit and Pray group will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 during January. You are welcome to join them or pick up a pattern for the various projects and work on your own as your schedule allows

Anniversaries

- 17 Mr. & Mrs. John Ferguson
 18 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Sohn





Christian Parenting Groups

will resume in January 2012

Christian Parenting Group for Parents of School-aged Children

will begin on Sunday morning, January 15 during the Sunday School hour. We will be utilizing the DVD/discussion program "Raising Rock Solid Kids in a Pleasure Driven World" by Dr. Kevin Leman, a Christian child psychologist. Invite a friend and join us upstairs in the parsonage. Topics include:

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 – the Internet

Child Care is available in the church nursery on Sunday mornings for children too young for Sunday School. For more information please contact Bethel Crockett, bcrockettde@yahoo.com or 335-4264

Parents of Young Children (Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers)

will begin on Sunday morning January 15 from 9:45-10:45 during the Sunday School hour. The group meets in the church library with Pr. Paige Evers, facilitator. The group will share the joys and challenges of daily life with young children. Each week there will be a Bible devotion and a discussion of the book "Stop Reacting and Start Responding" by Sharon Silver. This book is a collection of 108 very do-able, parent-friendly tips that help you think and respond to your child, instead of reacting out of the frustration and

exhaustion that is common to parents of this age group. Each week we'll discuss a few of the tips and situations from the book and encourage one another in our spiritual journeys as parents. To learn more or to make sure a book is reserved for you, please contact Paige Evers, 422-5128 or paige.g.evers@gmail.com.

The Middle School Parenting Group

will continue meeting in January on the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm. It can be tough if you have to be the foundation and the roof for someone who seems dedicated to break out of the mold. Please join us to share, laugh, groan and grit your teeth as we face the challenges that the teen years bring to our families. If you need more information, please contact Kristin Schlegel at kschlege@msd.k12.de.us or 745-4978.

This group is also creating a list of ways to spend time with your child that are encouraging and bonding. It can be a challenge to really communicate parent to teen.

A list of Parent/child connection opportunities.

Help us make the list grow. Please, share your ideas.

- Read with your child
 - Read aloud
 - Join a book club together
 - Read the same book separately and discuss
- Join a community service project together
- Chaperone a field trip
- Care for a pet/get a pet
- An old-fashioned picnic
- Day trip with friends
- Take a class together – computers, crafts, art
- Trade a class with other parents – trade talents
- Bake or cook together
- Family scrapbook
- Create a "Book of Me"
- Family movie night or game night
- Craft together
- "Journal tag"

Parents of Adult Children

will meet in the church library at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. All are welcome. This small group discusses the issues that we all face as parents of adult children. When and how do we step back and trust God to care for them?

Bible Study Opportunities



Living Your Faith in the Real World: A Bible study with Pastor Evers: We hear it on Sundays: Jesus calls us to follow him with our whole lives. But how do we actually do it? How do we serve God in our homes, in our neighborhoods, or on the job? Does he expect us to spend all our time at church? Can we be “faithful” while still being “real people?” This will be the topic of our **Friday morning Bible study** on January 13, 20, and 27. We meet at 10:00 AM for about an hour and a half. Come and join us! (Interested in the topic but can’t come on Friday mornings? Let Pastor Evers know; if there’s enough interest, we’ll also run this class in the evening sometime soon.)

How to Read the Bible: We know that the Bible is important. But we’re often intimidated or confused by what we read. How can we make the most sense of it? How can we understand how it matters *for me*? Come to **Adult Sunday School with Pastor Evers on January 15 and 22** for a hands-on “how to” on getting the most out of the Bible! Bring your Bible and something to write with. We’ll be in the parsonage (main level) at 9:45 am. *This will be a great “warm up” and introduction for this year’s Lent Bible study series on Wednesday nights.*



Mark Your Lenten Calendar

Coming in Lent: The Bible’s Big Picture: So what is the Bible about, anyway? How do all the different books tell a big story? Do you ever wonder, on Sunday mornings, where our Bible readings fit in to the big picture? Then this Lent, mark your calendars for our Wednesday night soup suppers and Bible studies (starting February 29)! Over six weeks, we will have an overview of the Bible’s whole big story. Pastor Evers has taught this several times in his previous congregation, and it has been one of his best-received Bible studies. Look for more information in the February Reporter

The **Offering Envelopes for 2012** have arrived. Please pick up yours the next time you are in the church.

The **Flower Chart for 2012** is now available. If you would like to donate flowers for one of the upcoming services, please sign up.

Choir Rehearsals Resume: After having the opportunity to sit with their families and friends during the Christmas and New Year’s Day services, the **Choir** resumes rehearsals on Thursday, Jan. 5th. Please consider joining them.



An Invitation

We're having a party!
Sure hope you can come,
Whether you're 90
Or whether you're one!

It's a "birthday" party
For you and for me
For mom, dad, and grandma –
The whole family!

It's not a party
To brag that we're older,
Or stronger or smarter,
Or taller or bolder.

It's a Baptism party!
A big celebration
That Jesus has made us
His own new creation.

By water and word
He changed who I was.
(I may not remember
But I know Jesus does).

And now I'm forgiven,
I grow in his grace,
And someday in heaven
We'll meet face to face.

So celebrate with us
This new life we share
9:45 on the 8th –
See ya'll there!



Parent and Family Events at

