



The Reporter

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

Volume 55 Issue 11

November 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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Milford, Delaware 19963

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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



Hitting the Mark

Consider a bow and arrow. You pull the string, aim the arrow, and let it fly, hopefully to connect with a target. But what if the arrow misses? What if there's not enough pull on the bowstring to get it there, or the feathers on the arrow are crooked, so that it doesn't fly true? And no, this isn't an article about bow hunting.

"Missing the mark" is the idea carried by the Greek word *hamartia*, which in the New Testament means "sin." When we don't hit the target God has set, it is like an archer's shot missing the target.

This is something for us to consider during the month of November, when we will have our annual financial stewardship campaign. (We will be looking at stewardship of time and talents later.) When it comes to our individual lives and our life as a church, hitting the mark is all about God's power. Jesus doesn't need us to get his work done; we need him. However, our stewardship, which is a "churchy" way of saying how we use the time, energy, abilities, and money that God has given us, is one of the ways God provides the strength for hitting the mark. If we think of the church's mission like a bow and arrow, our members' stewardship provides the pull on the bowstring that launches the arrow. How each member gives time, energy, commitment, and money determines how far the arrow can fly towards the target.

If we desire to be the church God has called us to be, one that passionately passes the Christian faith on to new generations of disciples and lovingly reaches out to the world around us, we need the arrow to fly. And God has given us, the members of Reformation Lutheran Church, the gifts needed to pull the bowstring back, and let the arrow of mission fly far! So I encourage you to pray about how you can be generous in your support of Christ's work at Reformation. It isn't a matter of "paying the bills;" it is a matter of having the resources to worship, teach, inspire, and serve, all for Christ's sake. Ask God to challenge and show you how much you can commit to give; even if it seems like a risk, he will prove to be faithful and will always provide you with more than enough!

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

And then, if we think of our personal lives as the bow and arrow, the question of stewardship looks more like the feathers on the arrow. If those feathers are crooked, then the arrow will never hit the target. The Bible never teaches that money is evil; it does, however, warn us that money can get an evil hold on our hearts: "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). God wants us to use our financial resources in a way that honors him. We can certainly enjoy the use of money, but we always want to be asking: does our money management line up with God's will? If not, then it will be like the feathers on the arrow are bent, and the mission and purpose of our lives will miss the mark God has set. It is incredibly easy for our attitudes and beliefs about money to get twisted and skewed. This leads to stress, heartache, and missing out on so much! This is one reason why I believe God calls all of us to sacrificial generosity. I have found that when I commit to give away more money than feels comfortable, my attitudes get reformed. I discover I don't "need" as much as I thought. And since this leaves me less focused on "getting more," my eyes get opened again to how much I truly have! What started as a burden ("Gulp! Lord, you want us to give *how* much?") becomes an opportunity to thank and praise God for how he provides.

We don't want to miss the mark, for ourselves or our church. Stewardship is all about hitting the target God has set. On November 6th, we will begin our financial stewardship campaign, including an adult Sunday School time. On November 20th, we will all have a chance to complete pledge cards during worship and offer them to God as steps of faith. I encourage all of you to come on this journey together! Let's find, and hit, the targets God has set for us!

In Christ,
Pastor Evers





A Special Welcome to Our New Nursery Worker!

Kisha Henry is now working in our nursery on Sunday Mornings, including during the Sunday School

hour. We'll still want volunteers to help out, so watch for that opportunity. Welcome Kisha!

Childcare Available

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:

November 3, 2011 - 1:00 PM at the Church Parsonage

Hostess: Pat Nilsson

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

Covered Dish Luncheon

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."



Thanks from the Christian Service Committee



The Christian Service committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Community Pantry during October.

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Women's Devotional Group

The Women's Devotional Group has *changed the meeting time* to the first Wednesday in the month to coordinate with the Confirmation class time. This month the meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd 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.



Knit and Pray

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





From Worship & Music

Due to a lot of misconception and misunderstanding about how altar flowers were to be signed up and paid for, the committee has decided that as of January 1, 2012 the people that are signed up for a particular Sunday will be billed by Gooden's Florist. Sharon will be notified of this change and will notify Gooden's of the names and addresses of donators. We tried to make each donator responsible for their payments to the church, but this did not work out. Any questions, please feel free to talk with me.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day

Needed: lay workers for all positions for the 3 services on Saturday, 12/24 and the 1 service on Sunday 12/25 and 1/1. Please email me at mkonesey@comcast.net or call at 302-423-7599.

Thank you.
Yours in Christ,
Mary K. Konesey

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us again this year for the Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 pm. There will be a pie fellowship after the service, and canned goods will be the offering for the Food Bank. See you there!



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Katie Speicher | 17 Tacy Cresson |
| 3 May Martin | 18 Margaret Gallego |
| 3 John Crockett | 18 Thomas Postles |
| 7 Theda Blackwelder | 20 Erica Ortiz |
| 8 Ashley Webb | 22 Brett Hamstead |
| 9 Melody Olsen | 23 Matthew Hayes |
| 10 Kerwin Boyer | 24 Donn Steele |
| 12 Bill Farlow | 24 Tiffany Talbott |
| 12 Wendy Dodge | 27 Barry Carlino |
| 13 Donald Abrutyn | 27 Bryan Bullock |
| 13 Susie Bennett | 28 Brittany Batchelor |
| 14 Beth Neeman | 28 Kenny Lewis |
| 14 Brock Huey | 28 Dakota Cousins |
| 14 Michael Mallard | 28 Mark Razzano |
| 15 Ed Kost | 29 Carol Troisi |
| 16 Nancy Yost | 29 Shannon Moore |

Anniversaries

- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Engelsiepen
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hayes
- 22 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Hamstead
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Osborne Reed
- 24 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Daino



Christian Education

November Calendar Items

Sundays 9:45 Sunday School for all ages
9:45 Toddler/Preschool Parent Worship

continues

Fridays 10:00 Bible Study

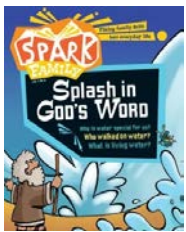
Nov. 1 7:00 Parent Group Facilitators Meeting

Nov. 5 & 12 10:00 Holy Communion Instruction

continues

Nov. 13 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts due

Nov. 16 7:00 Middle School Parent Group



Families with Elementary Children

Be on the lookout for *Spark Family* magazines. These devotional materials are designed for busy families and utilize the Spark Bibles

we use in Sunday School. Each lesson includes Bible stories, ideas, pictures, and questions for families to explore together. New issues will be sent home quarterly with Sunday School children. We hope you and your child enjoy discovering the Bible together.

Parents of Recent High School Graduates

(Classes of 2007ish-2011): Please be sure the church office has a current mailing address and e-mail address for your graduate. We would like to keep in contact with our graduates while they are away from home. We are also planning a welcome home breakfast for them on Sunday, December 18 during the Sunday School hour.

A new group, **Praying for Your Adult Children**, is forming. Please contact Bethel Crockett if you would like more information. bcrockettde@yahoo.com or 302-335-4264.

Middle School Parent GROUP

Is there a stranger living in your house? If you have a middle school age child in your family, you may feel like this is so. A new parenting group will be starting focusing on the joys and challenges that middle school brings to your child, to you, and to the whole family dynamic.

Join us on November 16 at 7pm for fellowship, sharing, questions, laughter, and information. The group led by Kristin Schlegel, a veteran middle school teacher, will meet generally on the third Wednesday of the month, during confirmation time. Come in Peace. Share the good news!

Operation Christmas Child Deadline Extended to November 13

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good News of God's love. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, November 13. If you have any questions, please call Heather Konesey at 302 270-6107.



Parents of Young Children: New Ministry Update

When Sunday School started in September, a new group for parents of young children also began to meet. The parents have children ranging from under a year old to five years old, and they are discussing the book *For Heaven's Sake: Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully*. Along with reading this great resource, they are connecting Bible stories and real-life experiences to the joys and challenges of parenting young children.

So far, the participants have shared ideas for having caring conversations with their children, reading the Bible together at home, recognizing God's presence in daily life, and serving in the wider community as a way of giving thanks to God for all of His blessings. The parents in the group are also having a good time enjoying fellowship with other moms and dads and asking questions about the issues that arise as parents of young children.

The group will continue with its current book through mid-December. Nursery care is available for children who are too young for Sunday School. If you are interested in joining a new session of the group in early 2012 (with a new book to discuss), please contact Paige Evers at 422-5128 or paige.g.evers@gmail.com.



Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully

Mark you Calendar November Youth/Family Events

Sunday, November 6 1:00 pm Flag Football
Bring a snack to share.

Sunday, November 13 12:00 pm Youth meeting

Sunday, November 19 6:30 pm Movie Night
Includes pizza and soda

See you at the Church!



**Friday
Morning Bible
Study Is
Continuing**



Join us for Bible

Study on Acts led by Georgene Endy at 10:00 on Friday mornings. These small group sessions give us the opportunity to study, learn, and fellowship together.

Sunday (Public) Prayer List



Jay Konesey
Joseph Ouge
Gladys Ouge
Cheryl deLuca
Blue & Lee
Charles Johnson
Joan Coverdale
Eleanor Loderhose
Susan Barry
Bill Evans

Marilyn Stone
Bill Moore
Marshall Martine
Nicole
Faye Andrew
Hank Brewer
Madison Dodge
Frank Horsman, Sr
Liesl Voosen & Family
Georgene Endy

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



From the Music Pews...

The fall months find us busy preparing for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent seasons. You'll notice that we have rearranged a bit in the choir loft so that we can accommodate and welcome any new members who would like to join us! Please consider sharing your time and talents, whatever they may be, with us on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. We'd love to have you 'Make a Joyful Noise' along with us!

Also, thanks so much for the warm welcome and wonderful food during my 'Meet and Greet' after church on Sunday, October 16th. Everyone has been so friendly and it's great to finally put a name with many of the faces! Thank you!

Peace!

Gail

In Him,
Trish Boyer
2trish@comcast.net





Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Lutheran African peace activist

Excerpted from the ELCA News Service, October 7, 2011

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Leymah Roberta Gbowee, a Lutheran Liberian peace activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The announcement came Oct. 7 from Oslo, Norway. Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, is responsible for organizing a non-violent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia.

Gbowee was awarded a scholarship from the International Leadership Development Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2006-2007 to support her study in peace building at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

The ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Liberia are members of The Lutheran World Federation -- a global communion of 140 member churches in 79 countries, representing more than 70 million Christians worldwide.

And Her WELCA Connection...

Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director for Women of the ELCA, said Gbowee's call "to be a peacemaker came when she was president of the women's group at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Monrovia. Today that call has taken her to a Nobel Peace Prize." Women of the ELCA is the women's organization of the WELCA .

"Women of the ELCA has been privileged to walk with Leymah in this journey, first publishing her story in our magazine in 2004. She inspired so many at our Triennial Gathering this past July as a featured speaker. Her call there to move out of our comfort zone, rise up and reclaim our space will continue to inspire Lutheran women for years to come. We are so pleased for our Liberian sister," said Post Bushkofsky.

Update for the Picture Directory

Available in the Narthex is an update to the picture directory that includes the pictures and contact information for our new Nursery Worker, Director of Music Ministry & Organist, and the members who joined us this fall. You may add this to the back of your Directory.



We Give Thanks