

REFORMATION TIMES

VOLUME 32 No. 12

DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent -- St. Nicholas Sunday

Theme: Preparing for Christmas – The Spirit of Giving (Pastor Smoose preaching)

Bishop Nicholas will be at Reformation to help children learn the true spirit of giving and to bless the gifts we have brought for low income families and area institutions. A memorable worship experience. Traditional worship - 8:30 a.m.; Contemporary worship – 11:00 a.m.

December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

Theme: Preparing for Christmas – Getting Your House Ready (Pastor Smoose preaching)

Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.; Contemporary worship – 11:00 a.m.

December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Caroling Sunday

Theme: Preparing for Christmas – Traditions that Matter (Pastor London preaching)

After our worship service we will decorate the church for Christmas with the traditional Hanging of the Greens. In addition, we invite everyone to join us for caroling to homebound members and to residents of Elwyn. Caroling groups will leave at 12:45 p.m. A light lunch will be available after worship. Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.; Contemporary worship – 11:00 a.m.

December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. – Children's Pageant with candlelight communion. Our traditional family service with a delightful children's pageant and the wonder of communion and candlelight.

8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. – Festival worship with candlelight communion. The chancel choir will lead these services as traditional carols, communion and candlelight create a memorable worship service. Pastor Smoose will be preaching

December 25 – Sunday – CHRISTMAS DAY – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 a.m.

There is no better way to help children understand that Christmas is about celebrating Jesus' birthday than to bring them to worship. Pause from gift unwrapping and give Jesus the gift of your presence at church. Pastor Smoose will preach on "This is What We've Been Waiting For!" A birthday party for Jesus follows the worship service.

January 1 – Sunday – NEW YEAR'S DAY AND FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Regular worship schedule – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as we celebrate The Name of Jesus day. Pastor London will be preaching.

BRING JOY TO YOUR LIFE!

AND

TO THE LIFE OF ANOTHER!

Christmas Caroling on

December 18 – 12:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Great for children and youth – as they learn traditional carols

And discover the joy received in bringing joy to our homebound members.

Don't miss this opportunity!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 18

After the 11:00 am Service



Join us after the second service on December 18th for the "Hanging of the Greens". Able-bodied people are needed to bring things down from the attic, climb ladders, hangup large wreaths, string garland, etc.

A small lunch will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Dave Helms or Carol McAllister.

C H U R C H L I F E

COUNCIL NOTES

- Voted to elect Bill Grauer to fill the vacancy left by Stacey McKeague's move.
- Appointed Eric Lucas and Joe Mirarchi as council members to the Nominating Committee. They will join Ron Brzowski, Katie Cotter, Sandy Niss and Laura Reiter who were elected by the congregation to the committee.
- Received a report from Financial Secretary Gary Kamin that \$38,885 has been received as 60th anniversary "Being on the Cake" gifts. An additional \$3985 has been committed.
- Voted to contribute \$5,000 from the Endowment Outreach Account to Philadelphia Seminary to help initiate an effort to match \$80,000 from the estate of Grover Wright, and establish a scholarship fund. Dr. Wright, a Philadelphian, was a pioneer in African-American leadership in the Lutheran Church.
- Established the Young Adult Ministry and appointed Jen Troutman as the council liaison for that ministry.
- Noted that an agreement has been reached with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purchase of land necessary for the Rose Tree Road widening.
- Announced that Dr. Rolf Jacobson will return as our 2012 Scholar in Residence
- Pastor Smoose announced his retirement in June, 2012.

Know Your Church Council

President: Carol Steinbrecher

Vice-Pres.: Kathy Ewens Secretary: Sally Helms

Treasurer: Tom Conroy

Members: Ron Bingemen, Deb Felton, Bill Grauer, Gary Kamin, Eric Lucas, Joe Mirarchi, Wilson Moffett, John Prichard, Jen Troutman

Newsletter Submission

Articles for the Reformation Times should be emailed to Sandy Niss at reformationnews@gmail.com by the second Friday of each month.

ADULT FORUM

Adult forum in December will combine with the bible study group for Nancy Clark's Advent bible study

9:45 a.m. – December 4, 11, and 18

Choir room

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE



Monday, December 21

7 PM in the sanctuary.

The one-hour service consists of prayerful songs to guitar accompaniment, scripture readings, responsive prayers and a period of meditative silence. Please plan to come and experience this hour of serenity.



CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS
is returning to Reformation!

Holiday Concert

Friday, December 9 at 7:30 PM

The 100 young singers of the Chester Children's Chorus will fill the sanctuary with the sounds of angels, Ave Marias, and other Christmas delights when they perform Friday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

The varied program will include a Renaissance *Ave Maria* by de Victoria and the famous Gounod *Ave Maria*, whose melody is superimposed over a Bach prelude. Other featured works will be special arrangements of "Silent Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High", and an original gospel setting of Gloria in Excelsis Deo, all by director John Alston. The P.D.Q. Bach favorite "Throw the Yule Log on Uncle John" will add a note of humor.

To learn more about the chorus link to
www.chesterchildrenschorus.org/ or
www.facebook.com/ChesterChildrensChorus



CITY TEAM BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

4:00 P.M.

At Reformation Church

With

Media Brassworks

Enjoy traditional Christmas carols and holiday music

This is for the entire Media Community, so bring friends and neighbors

Free Will Offering Benefits CityTeam Ministry.



Media Chamber Chorale

2011 Winter Concert

December 10 at 4:00 pm

St. Francis in Fields Episcopal Church
689 Sugartown Rd., Malvern

The Media Chamber Chorale, under the direction of John Stroud, Jr., and with Bill Gatens at the piano presents its 2011 winter concert. The first half of the concert features **John Rutter's Magnificat**, a beautiful and melodic rendition of the Christmas story. Following an intermission, the chorale will sing traditional holiday songs. Delicious refreshments will be served after the performance! Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for students *in advance* or \$15 at the door. See or call (610-566-9241) Edna Bogert for advance tickets.

PASTOR SMOOSE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

At the November 8 meeting of the Congregation Council, Pastor Smoose announced that he will retire on June 10, 2012. In his letter to the council, he noted that June 10 will mark the end of forty years in the ordained ministry, of which nearly half, sixteen years, have been at Reformation. "My tenure at Reformation has been satisfying not only for the expansion of ministry we were able to accomplish, but also for the tremendous support I received from the congregation during times of crises and joy in my life," Pastor Smoose said in the letter he then sent to the congregation.

The council expressed appreciation for his years of ministry and acknowledged the early notice of retirement provides time for the congregation to begin working with the synod toward a transition of pastoral leadership.

TRANSITION TEAM REINSTATED

On November 8, Council approved the reinstatement of a Transition Team to manage the changeover process after Pastor Smoose submitted a letter planning his retirement in the summer of 2012. The team will work closely with our synod to assure that all the steps are taken to find the best replacement candidate and that the congregation's needs are covered through the transition. John Pritchard will lead this team. Six other congregational members will comprise the group. Their immediate task is to consult with the synod and set a process timeline to complete the search as quickly as possible while managing the other aspects of change. Council will name a Call Committee, separate from the Transition Team, to interview and recommend a candidate to the Congregation. The two teams will work in concert.

We will certainly miss Pastor's guidance but Reformation is a strong congregation with very competent lay leadership. Putting this team in place early provides for assurance of continued success as Pastor Smoose moves on to his new career of leisure.

PARISH NURSE



Pat Woerheide

Did you know December is National toy safety month? According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission many serious injuries can result from toys. Parents and other relatives need check every new toy they buy around for hazards.

The following suggestions can help you keep Christmas a safe, fun time.

Seven Toy Dangers

1. Sharp edges: Toys made of brittle plastic or glass can break easily, exposing sharp points and edges. Wooden, metal, and plastic toys sometimes have sharp edges due to poor construction.
2. Small parts: Tiny toys and toys with small, removable parts can be swallowed or become lodged in a child's windpipe, ears, or nose. The squeakers in some squeeze toys can be removed and possibly swallowed. The seams of poorly constructed stuffed dolls or animals can break open and release small pellets that also can be swallowed or inhaled.
3. Loud noises: Toy caps and some noise-making guns and other toys can reach noise levels that can damage hearing. The law requires the following label on boxes of caps producing noise above a certain level: "WARNING - Do not fire closer than 1 foot to the
4. Staples on dolls' clothes, hair, and accessories can easily puncture an unsuspecting child. Even a teddy bear or stuffed toy can be assembled with wires that can cut or stab.
5. Propelled objects: Projectiles - guided missiles and other flying toys - can be turned into weapons and can injure eyes in particular. Children should never be permitted to play with adult lawn darts or other hobby or sporting equipment with sharp points. Arrows or darts used by children should have soft cork tips, rubber suction cups or other protective tips to prevent injury.

You are invited to The Winter Reformation Library Book Club Meeting



When: Monday, January 23, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Reformation Lutheran Church

Our winter book selection is

-Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet-

by Jamie Ford

We had a great inaugural Book Club meeting in September with great company, food and conversation. Won't you join us for the next one in January? All are welcome! See you there!

RSVP to: Laura Reiter at
lreiter101814@comcast.net or Sue Bianco.

6. Electric toys: Electric toys that are improperly constructed, wired, or misused can shock or burn. Electric toys must meet mandatory requirements for maximum surface temperatures, electrical construction, and prominent warning labels. Electric toys with heating elements are recommended only for children over age 8. Children should be taught to use electric toys cautiously and under adult supervision.
7. Wrong toy for the wrong age: Toys that may be safe for older children can be extremely dangerous in the hands of little ones.

Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - Permission is granted to reproduce these materials in whole or in part for educational purposes only (not for profit beyond the cost of reproduction) provided that the author and Network receive acknowledgment and this notice is included. NNCC. Smith, C. A. (1987). **Toy safety**. [Extension Publication MF-643] Manhattan, KS: Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service

C H U R C H L I F E



**The deadline for ordering poinsettias is
Sunday, December 11.**

Poinsettia plants may be ordered by filling out this form and placing it on the offering plate or in the church office. The plants will **cost \$6** per plant. **Checks should be made out to Reformation Lutheran Church and given when you place your order.**

The names of those persons ordering plants will be printed in the Christmas Eve worship folders. Plants may be taken home after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas morning following the 10 AM worship service. (The church office will be closed on Dec. 26 & 27).

Please PRINT clearly

I/we would like to reserve _____ red poinsettias @ \$8.

I/we would like to reserve _____ white poinsettias @ \$8.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

or

In memory of loved ones"

or

To the glory of God

I/we would like to donate my/our plant(s) to others.

Yes No

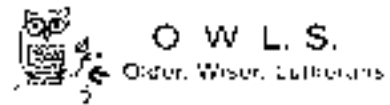
Instead of purchasing plants, I/we would like to donate toward the trees, wreaths, etc. \$ _____

Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin



My heartfelt thanks to Pastor Smoose, Pastor Anita, Pat Woerheide, RN and members of Reformation for visits communion, prayers, cards, food, and flowers. My recovery has progressed so well, I am sure, because of your many kindnesses. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Sonia Fantau



At the November meeting, the OWLs were able to follow up on the Thrivent "Money Matters" forum of the previous day, after an enjoyable lunch together and a remembrance for Veteran's Day.

At our next meeting on December 12, the OWLs will have a Christmas party! There will be food, songs, games, and, yes—presents! Everyone should bring a small, wrapped gift—something someone gave you that you never used, but still have stowed away in the emergency gift box. It might be a puzzle, a piece of jewelry, an ornament, a knick-knack—anything that you have, but never used. Now, here's the thing: the gifts aren't for each other; they're for residents of Fair Acres! And we (whoever wants to go) will deliver the gifts to Building One, which is where Older Wiser Lutheran Jeannette Brown resides. She can help us distribute the gifts on her hall—right after the meeting!

Here's a "head's up" for January: Barbara Smith found two excellent, exciting speakers who have traveled the world! They (seniors like us) take a bicycle ride through Europe each summer. And one of them has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro twice—the second time *after* her cancer surgery! Don't miss either of these meetings!

C H U R C H L I F E



DECEMBER 2011

December 4

Middle School Bring-a-Friend St. Nicholas Day Party!
Join us for fun and treats as we celebrate this wonderful day with you and your special guest. 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

December 11

Senior High Gathering Mixer at Holy Trinity Lutheran, (Wallingford).

All those going to the *National Gathering* in New Orleans next summer are asked to attend. Get to know our new friends and traveling companions. Meet here at 6:15 p.m.

December 18

Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Caroling.

All youth are invited to help decorate the church at 12:15 p.m. (lunch will be provided) and then sing your favorite Christmas carols to the homebound.

December 25

Merry Christmas!

December 27

Senior High Bring-a-Friend Christmas Dinner.

Join us for an evening of good food and conversation at your favorite restaurant (TBA) with your special guest. Meet here at 6:30 p.m.

ECO MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE! Friday, February 3rd (snow date February 10th). The Eco Committee is planning its annual Pot Luck Dinner and Movie Night. Dinner will begin at 6 PM; the movie at 6:45. This year we will feature "Gasland". Watch for more information next month.

Save the date!

**Saturday, March 17, 2012
at 5:30pm**



**Reformation
Spring Auction**

Benefitting the Youth Mission Trip and
Scholarship Fund

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Creighton
Hall at church.

Enjoy a great auction, eat delicious food, and
support our youth mission programs!

BOOK REVIEW by Edna Bogert

The Gospel in Disney: Christian Values in the Early Animated Classics

by Philip Longfellow Anderson

Philip Longfellow Anderson was a minister in the United Church of Christ. In this book from Augsburg Books he looks at 18 of Walt Disney's animated classics, all of which were created and produced during Disney's lifetime.

Most of us are familiar with these films. Some of us saw them at the movies when they were new and we were children. Others, like my grandchildren, know them from watching on TV, video, or DVD. Wherever we saw them, most of us, I suspect, watched to be entertained. Certainly, they contain some of the most entertaining fare there is for children!

Philip Anderson, however, has done something more with these stories: He has looked at them for their moral lessons, and he has found a Biblical analogy for each one. In Chapter 1, for example, he begins with the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They are forbidden to eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, commonly depicted as an apple. Anderson looks at the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and finds parallels in it. The tempter in Snow White is the queen, who is jealous of Snow White. She, just as the serpent in the Garden persuaded Eve, persuades Snow White to eat the delicious fruit. Anderson's exegesis of the story is followed by questions which may be used for discussion, such as, "Who are the poisoners in society today?"

Anderson goes on to examine the rest of the films created by Walt Disney. In Bambi, for example, he sees the promise of God's creation. "Everything born is beautiful," he says, but also vulnerable. God's plans for creation keep getting sabotaged, because "man was in the forest."

This is an extremely accessible book, an excellent

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

As you may know, our Reformation Church Library has more than just books! We also have videos, DVD's and audio cassettes which can be checked out. Just in case you don't have one, a generous donor has given us an audio-cassette *player* which may also be checked out when you borrow cassettes. Thank you!

Remember: anyone can check out items from the library at any time. Please don't forget to sign the card, though, so we know who you are. (Just in case you forget you have it—we will remind you!)

Oops! The bookcart didn't make it to Sunday School grades 3,4,5, and 6 on November 6th because the Library Committee member who signed up to do that job—forgot! Our apologies to the Sunday School classes who were expecting to take out and/or return books. The cart will come on November 20th.

Good news! There are openings for membership in the Library Committee! If you love books, and if you love people who love books, and if you have two hours on the second Friday morning of each month to spend with both, we would love to have you! Speak to Sue Bianco, or any member of the committee.



book for Bible Study groups to use. It lends itself to discussion of both the biblical texts and the Disney stories. Youth groups could also view some of the films, following reading and discussion.

I recommend this book either for group or individual use.



THE ASSOCIATE EXAMINES... *The Blessings of Christian Community*

*“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil
is that good men do nothing.”*

Edmund Burke

*“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,
but instead expose them.”*

Ephesians 5:11

Last week the world was reminded once again about the depths of human carnality and the lengths to which people will participate in order to preserve the status quo. The reports of pedophilia at Penn State University by one of its senior coaches were shocking. But even more disturbing were the reports of those involved in the repeated denying, ignoring, excusing of criminal...*evil* behavior. How do people who, no-doubt consider themselves “good” willingly participate in a 15-year conspiracy of silence that allowed the ongoing sexual assault of young boys by one of their senior coaches? How do “good” people become so blasé about the basic rights of others that doing nothing becomes more important than speaking up on behalf of the victims?

In the parable of the talents, Jesus described a man who did nothing. When he received his Master's money, he went and dug a hole in the ground hid his Master's money. When his Master returned, he returned to him just what he had been given. The servant didn't do anything outright evil such as stealing the money, but he refused to do something good. He did nothing and therefore nothing good accomplished. Jesus said he was a “wicked and slothful servant.” (Matt. 25:26)

Jesus reprimanded the church at Laodicea for doing nothing. “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.’” (Rev. 3:15-17) Jesus was not only disturbed by their lack of good deeds but their “lukewarm-ness” or indifference to the problems of others.

When good men and women sit on the sidelines and do nothing, they are no longer being good. Many believe that being good is simply not doing what is wrong. But that is not so. One is good not merely because he or she does no evil, but because he or she is actively involved in doing good. “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.” (James 4:17)

When good men and women do nothing, evil triumphs. Evil gains a foothold in the battle against the good we are called to defend. We must not be indifferent. Rather, God tells us to stand up and be counted, to speak up against the evil that is for now still present in our world, to “fight the good fight.” Doing nothing is *not* an option.

~ Pastor Anita

*Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people, **SERVE** our neighbors, **BUILD** a living Faith*

REFORMATION TIMES

Volume 32, No. 12

DECEMBER 2011

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m.

Traditional Family Service with our Children's Pageant
and Candlelight Communion

8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Festival worship with candlelight communion.

December 25 – Sunday – CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Come celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

