

2010 LEIBIG MEMORIAL CONCERT

Sunday, May 2, 2010

3:00 p.m.



EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO



**DANIEL LUCAS AND
DARREL DARKOW**

AT CEREMONIES ON MAY 22

*CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS
SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT!*

[Type a quote from the document or the summary of an

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter on our website or have it e-mailed to you rather than through the mail? If so, please send an e-mail to Carol McAllister at rlc@relcmedia.org with the word "Newsletter" on the subject line with your preference of receiving it as an e-mail or notification of the posting on the web site. If you are already receiving it via e-mail and want to continue, no need to respond. *Thank you.*

SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Join us for worship as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am/Contemporary 11:00 am

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

3:00 P.M. LEIBIG CONCERT

May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

We honor women of faith and the women of our congregation.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am/Contemporary 11:00 am

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Music Sunday

You will not want to miss this opportunity to enjoy the music of our Chancel Choir, Soul's Afire, Children's Choir and Music Directors Duncan Stearns and Bill Lafty. Celebrate the gift of music and its importance in worship.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am/Contemporary 11:00 am

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

May 23 – THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Easter Season ends with the festival of Pentecost as we remember God's gift to the church of the Holy Spirit. Join us as we celebrate this third major festival of the Christian Church Year.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am/Contemporary 11:00 am

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

May 30 – Holy Trinity Sunday – Memorial Day weekend

We invite you to join us as we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity and remember those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy freedom of worship and all of our freedoms.

Worship-Traditional 8:30 am/Contemporary 11:00 am

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

COUNCIL NOTES

Noted with gratitude that envelope giving by members to the Current Fund was slightly ahead of the budget and encouraged continued faithfulness as we approach the summer.

- Reported that we are behind in our Building Mortgage payments due to a delay in receiving matching funds as a result of the real estate decline. The council will work with Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA to determine how best to meet the obligations.
- Approved plans for Stay n Play and Nursery School to renovate the playground using funds that they have saved and special gifts received over the past several years. It will be the Beth Miller Memorial Playground and construction will be coordinated with the sewer connection project.
- Noted that Al Martinson, head of the sewer connection task group, is receiving bids for the project which will take place this summer. Council will be considering ways to pay for this important project.
- Received a \$5000 grant from a local foundation and friend of the congregation to help defray the cost of upgrading the church computer system and voted to proceed with the upgrade when special gifts have been received to complete the cost of the \$11,000 project.
- Voted to be a sponsoring organization for the Healthy Communities Initiative Fund-raising breakfast.
- Noted that Bob and Jaime Lowden, our missionaries from Tanzania will visit us on June 13 and encouraged members to make every effort to attend on that Sunday.
- Thanked our choirs and our Music Directors for their excellent music during Holy Week and Easter.



Sundays at 9:45 AM

Choir Room

The Adult Forum is a weekly educational program at 9:45 a.m. with a variety of topics and emphases. The group meets in the choir room.

May 2, 9, 16

ELCA DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT ON GENETICS will be the topic for the Adult Forum on May 2, 9 and 16. This is the opportunity to learn about what the statement will cover, and to provide direct input to the committee working on the statement.

MAY 23

BIBLE STUDY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PENTECOST. This will be a look at the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit as it jumpstarts the church after Jesus' death and resurrection.

MAY IS WORSHIP ATTENDANCE MONTH!

**Evangelism Ministry and Worship/Music Ministry
Are encouraging**

EVERYONE to attend Worship Services in May

We want to be a Magnet Church in Media

So all who attend will receive a Car Magnet

To invite others to join you at Reformation!

Know Your Church Council

President: Debbie Felton

Vice-Pres.: Gary Kamin

Secretary: Kathy Ewens

Treasurer: Tom Conroy

Members: Cynthia Atwood, Andy Benzing, Ron Brzowski, Carol DeLuca, Joe Mirarchi, Wilson Moffett, John Prichard, Connie Richardson, Carol Steinbrecher

Youth Rep: Lizz Baldwin

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Articles for the *Reformation Times* should be emailed to Sandy Niss at ssmlniss@verizon.net by the second Friday of each month.



FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Duncan Stearns, Music Director

On Sunday, May 16, Reformations different group of singers-- SOULS, the CHANCEL CHOIR and CHILDREN'S CHOIR-- will all be making music together. Two very special pieces will be highlighted that day, an anthem for both kids and adult voices called "Come, Join Your Hands" will combine all of our groups together. The groups will be led by Liz Eynon, Bill Lafty, and Duncan Stearns. In addition, a member of our congregation has written a setting of the "Kyrie" for adult voices, electric bass and keyboard, which we shall introduce as well. The composer is our own Thomas Hench, Professor at Del.Co. Community College, who, in the past, has offered other attractive works that he has written for our services.

We are truly blessed to have so much talent and willingness within our own congregation. For as the Psalmist writes, "*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing!*" -Psalm 100:2



Special Music

PREACHING CONFERENCE



Pastor Smoose will be attending the National Preaching Conference in Nashville, TN from May 17-21. The event is the premier continuing education program for homiletics and includes many of the finest preachers in the United States.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly will be held May 7-8 at Franconia Mennonite Center. In addition to our pastors, Reformation will have two voting members. Tom Conroy and Kathy Fuller have agreed to fulfill that responsibility.

The assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Synod and in addition to electing members to the Synod Council, will elect voting members to the 2011 ELCA Assembly. It provides reports on the work of the synod, a variety of worship services and educational forums. Visitors are welcome to attend any or all sessions. Call the church office for visitor registration information.

MISSIONARIES TO VISIT REFORMATION!

Save the date – June 13

On that day Bob and Jaime Lowden, the missionaries we help support in Tanzania, will visit Reformation to tell us about their vital work.

The Lowden's will attend both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services and give a special presentation in Creighton Hall during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School time.

A CHURCH PICNIC – honoring the Lowden's and celebrating the close of Sunday School for the summer – will be held with plenty of fun for all.

Bob and Jaime are stationed in Arusha, Tanzania, the second largest city in Tanzania and the headquarters for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Their work also takes them to other African nations and we will be able to see the value of our missionaries and the support we provide to them

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

We have recently realized that part of the reason for the shortfall in flower contributions compared to expenses is that we are charged a delivery fee in addition to the cost of the flowers. Consequently, we have decided to request that flower donations be in the amount of \$25 beginning in June and going forward. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and we certainly appreciate your cooperation.



ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to all who helped with the Palms and Easter plants and to Janice and Dave Bevan for delivering plants to our shut-ins. We would also like to thank Minutella's for their donation of the two large lillies.



ECO-MINISTRY NEWS

The Eco Committee is planning the **Spring Road Clean Up for Saturday, May 15th at 10 AM**. With help we can get this done in one hour. Trash bags, gloves and reflective vests are provided. Hope you can come and help. Remember there are signs indicating that Reformation is responsible for cleaning up Rose Tree Road. We want to be sure that this is done.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 6th. We are planning a trip to the Heinz Refuge led by Tom Reeves. Our trip in the fall was rained out. Look for more details next month.



FROM THE LIBRARY

April 25th was Ecology Sunday, and the library featured a table of ecology themed books, videos, and DVDs. The book cart in the Narthex, launched on Library Sunday, continues to be a feature between services on one Sunday a month. Watch for Betty Bell or another committee member who can help you find what you need.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book reviews are always welcome! Past reviews are available for your perusal in the library, which is across from the Alice Thompson Room.

DONATIONS

Thanks to Pastor Smoose for his donation of autographed books from the Berenstain Bear series, and to Erika Brooks, Jane Umstead, and other donors. The donation box is under the shelves in the hallway opposite the choir room.

C H U R C H E V E N T S



O. W. L. S.
Older. Wiser. Lutherans

Following two monthly meetings featuring musical entertainment, the OWLs had a change of pace at their April meeting. Lois Elman, a local psychologist whose specialty is The Aging Brain, presented a program about ways to keep our aging brains functioning well. Tom Gibson led the devotion, and Arlene Moyer again picked up hoagies for those who did not bring their own sandwiches. Phyllis Frieberg continues to take care of finances

At the May meeting we will have a video presentation on Longwood Gardens, given by a friend of the Biancos. In June we have been invited to join *The Prime Time* senior group at Middletown Presbyterian Church for some musical entertainment! Watch for details on all these events!

Save the Date

Media Chamber Chorale Concert

Sunday, June 6 at 4 pm

The Media Chamber Chorale will perform their spring concert at Reformation again this year. Why, you may ask, does this group which rehearses across the street at Unitarian Universalist Church come to Reformation to perform in the spring? The answer is one (hyphenated) word: air-conditioning! This year the group will perform the *Four* Requiem, as well as *A Prayer for the Planet*, and other pieces. The concert will be held at 4 PM on June 6. Tickets are \$12 ahead of time and \$15 at the door. See Edna Bogert if you would like to purchase tickets.

BAOBAB

What is a Baobab? Good question and here is the answer: Baobab is a gigantic tree found in Africa that creates its own ecosystem. A baobab tree's hollowed out trunk, leaves, foliage, nectar, fruit and bark provide basic life needs for many different creatures. The enormous tree can grow to 98 feet tall and 36 inches wide. Baobab trees are one of the world's oldest life forms.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 11 – JULY 15

Baobab Blast is the the theme for 2010's Vacation Bible School which will be held beginning on July 11th through July 15th.

Stay tuned for more news about VBS 2010.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 8

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Creighton Hall

Paul Cheng will be our guest speaker. Paul will be talking about combining martial Arts and community outreach. Come out to hear Paul's exciting story.

The food is always great and there's plenty of it. This month, to cap off our first year of men's breakfast fellowship, our expert team of chefs will be whipping up a raft of fresh, hot waffles. We will also have fresh fruit (so Pastor Smoose can try to keep his New Year's resolution), some bagels to honor the people of our treasurer, and Dave Black's famous coffee.

Local stream reports will also be available for any of you fishermen who may be heading out after breakfast.

All are always welcome so bring a friend. Free will offering will be taken. For more information contact:

Bill Grauer at billgrauer@comcast.net, Eric Lucas at eric@lucii.org or Joe Mirarchi at jmirarchi@msn.com

... or subscribe to the Men's Breakfast announcement list by sending an email to: rlc_mens_breakfast-subscribe@yahoo.com

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP 2010

Last year Kate and Kristin Chorney spent a day rehabbing houses in New Orleans. They were there with other youth members as part of the ELCA National youth gathering. Kate and Kristin saw how much work remained to be done in New Orleans to rebuild from Hurricane Katrina. They proposed to the youth ministry that a group go down to New Orleans and rebuild houses for a week as part of the St Bernard's Project.

.The lower ninth ward in New Orleans is still in recovery mode 5 years after Katrina devastated the area. The St. Bernard's Project has received national recognition for their work in providing assistance to flood victims. In the last five years they have rebuilt 275 houses. However many families are still in need of assistance. The St. Bernard's Project (SBP) rebuilds homes for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and families with children who cannot afford to have their homes rebuilt by contractors. SBP rehabs the house for approximately 15,000 dollars using mostly volunteers.

During spring break week, five members of Reformation Lutheran (Karen Chorney, Kate Chorney, Kristin Chorney, Thao Nguyen and Larry Filtz) traveled to New Orleans to work on the SBP. After a week-end of sampling some of New Orleans finest food, we reported to work on Monday and were assigned to a house in the lower ninth ward. We were approximately a half mile from where the barge smashed through a levee and flooded the area. The owner of the house, Kenneth, has a broken back and has suffered multiple strokes. He is currently living with a daughter and two grandchildren far from his neighborhood. The house he lived in when Katrina hit was completely destroyed. On his own, he bought another house in the lower ninth ward and attempted to rehab it himself. Unfortunately building inspectors found that the building had mold problems and needed to be gutted and undergo mold remediation. St. Bernard's agreed to help him restore the house

REFORMATION ALL STARS

The following students received awards for attendance at Sunday School and worship services:

25 Stars - Certificate

Robert Schaub
Kylie Jane Polito



50 Stars - Certificate

Jillian Emery Hacik
Chad Bumstead

225 Stars - Certificate

Alexis Bingeman

325 Stars - Certificate

Michael Burns

.During the week, our team installed dry wall, applied tape, and spackled (aka mudded) four rooms in the house. Our team was directed by two AmeriCorps workers. We had an opportunity to meet and talk with Kenneth. One of his on-going concerns is the slow progress in restoring the neighborhood. The local Catholic elementary school was closed because the number of students who returned after the flood was so small. The local church has been demolished. Three out of four houses on his block are gone.

Our trip was funded through the Youth Ministry. This spring's silent auction/live auction made it possible for the five of us to spend a week helping someone in need. We hope to organize a project for next year as well as looking into opportunities to do similar work closer to home. Our housing arrangements were made possible through the Lutheran Peace Mission Center outside of New Orleans. The goal of the center is to provide food and housing for volunteers at a minimum cost.



THE PASTOR PONDERERS... *New Life through Easter*

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: That Christ was raised on the third day in accordance with scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, then to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive . . . Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles . . . last of all, he appeared also to me.” (I Cor. 15:3-8)

Jesus resurrection changed everything. This early account, written by Paul to the Corinthians about 20-25 years after these events occurred is our earliest account of the resurrection. But already, in those brief years, the apostles and the other followers of Jesus could not stop talking about the life and death and resurrection of their Lord.

It did not matter if they were arrested and put in prison, beaten up, laughed at and ridiculed, the story did not change. God was at work in and through Jesus. Jesus' entire ministry suddenly was understood, his miracles, his love and acceptance of all kinds of people, his wisdom and teachings were God-powered, Spirit-infused events that were not always understood during his ministry, but after the resurrection, everything fell into place. Their lives were changed and others noticed by their actions and their words.

Today, we Lutherans and most other mainline Christians are more conspicuous by our lack of enthusiastic sharing of what God has done for us through Jesus. Do we miss the connection that our commitment to serving and helping others is because Jesus said that would be the mark of his followers? Do we lose sight of the fact that in places like New Orleans, if it wasn't for church volunteers there would be very few workers? Do we close our eyes to the amazing amount of work the ELCA and Christians around the world have accomplished to help alleviate World Hunger?

We still have plenty to talk about when it comes to the way in which the risen Christ inspires the church and guides our mission. We have plenty of stories we can tell about the work of our ministries and the dedication of our members to serve others. There are people all around us who do not know what we do and who might want to be part of a congregation that helps to make a difference in our community and the world.

This month we are encouraging everyone to come to worship to hear the impact of the Easter gospel on the lives of the early followers – and then to imitate their enthusiasm by telling others about what we are still doing, with an invitation to join us and discover the joy and meaning that comes from being part of our community of believers.

~Pastor Smoose

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

REFORMATION TIMES

Volume 31, No. 5

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