

AUGUST SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

July/August, 2011

Volume 4, Issue 7

Altar Guild 9:00 a.m. Elisha Barnett

Bulletin Helpers the week of:

Aug. 7 Joanne Reinhart (Thursday, August 11)
Aug. 14 Linda Centofanti (Thursday, August 18)
Aug. 21 Jane Farrell (Thursday, August 25)
Aug. 28 Linda Centofanti (Thursday, Sept. 1)

Greeters 9:00 a.m.
Aug. 7 Dale & Carole Miller
Aug. 14 Fantilli Family
Aug. 21 T. Trumbauer & S. Barnett
Aug. 28 Jim & Nancy Rhoads

Acolyte 9:00 a.m.
Aug. 7 Emily Moser
Aug. 14 Annie Ryder
Aug. 21 Maddie Miller
Aug. 28 Sarah Galbraith

Assisting Minister/Communion Assistant 9:00 a.m.
Aug. 7 Cal Booser
Aug. 14 Kathy Galbraith
Aug. 21 Lisa Sokoloff
Aug. 28 Carole Miller

Nursery 9:00 a.m.
Aug. 7 A. & E. Fantilli
Aug. 14 Muffy Reinecker
Aug. 21 A. & E. Fantilli
Aug. 28 D. & K. Helm

Counters for August are Shirley Harner, JoAnn Smith and Jane Farrell

Ushers 9:00 a.m.
B. Rutherford & R. Hawk
Charles & Jen Weaver
Austin Family
Bob & Kathy Galbraith

Reader 9:00 a.m.
Harriet Clauser
Jenny Ryder
Andrew Claycomb
Elina Fantilli

9:00 a.m.

Tape Ministry 9:00 a.m.
Eric Blackburn
Mike Kern
Andrew Claycomb
Scott Galbraith

Church Office Hours—9 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Monday—Thursday 610-779-0534
Email: mail@reformationlutheran.org
Website: www.reformationlutheran.org

Reformation's Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
revclay1@comcast.net

Organist: Donald Hinkle

Sexton: Mike Schneeberger

Custodian: Margaret McDevitt

Part-Time Secretary: Pam Schneeberger

Treasurer: Rod Kline

Rod.kline@reformationlutheran.org

Web Master: Dawn Mohn—dcmohn@gmail.com

Director of Youth Ministries—Matthew Odenwelder
Youth.leader@reformationlutheran.org

Director of Music: Joshua Glasner

Interim Choir Director: Julianne Seiz

Music Office: music@reformationlutheran.org

Congregation Church Council Members

President: Teri Stoddard
Vice President: James Rhoads
Secretary: Jane Humbert
Financial Secretary: Steve Barnett

Alan Blackburn
Debra Dombroski

Karen Hawk
Cheryl Hadley

Kurt Kohler
Tony Lambert
Becky Schaeffer
Lisa Sokoloff
Gerry Wegman

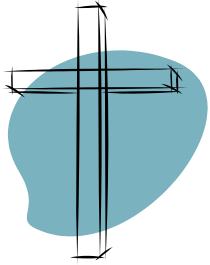
Other Links:

West Berks Mission District
www.westberksmissiondistrict.org

NEPS Website: www.godslove.org

ELCA Website: www.elca.org





2011 LIFT EVENT

It was our privilege and honor to represent Reformation at the 2011 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly as your lay delegates. The assembly was held in conjunction with the 2011 LIFT (Lutherans in Faith Together) event and the LYF (Lutheran Youth Fellowship) assembly, at Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA, June 17th and 18th.

In addition to the plenary sessions, we were given the opportunity to attend workshops, worship, concerts, and fellowship events. It was energizing and encouraging to worship and work with Lutherans of all ages (from 6 month-old babies to rostered leaders celebrating the 60th anniversary of ordination).

At the assembly, voting members:

Adopted two resolutions calling the church to speak and act to prevent bullying, harassment and related violence, especially with higher risk populations; one is directed to the synod and the other memorialized the ELCA church wide assembly to take similar action.

Adopted a resolution to encourage the church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies to consider making positive economic investments in those Palestinian projects and businesses that peacefully strengthen the economic and social fabric of Palestinian society while at the same time opposing any movement towards boycott, divestment and/or economic sanctions against Israel.

Adopted a resolution urging members of the assembly and the congregations of this synod to prayerfully consider taking the "Don't Bottle It Up! Pledge," which seeks to reduce the use of disposable bottled water.

JULY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Altar Guild 9:00 a.m. Nancy Hemberger

Bulletin Helpers the week of:

July 3 Ruth Blatt (Thursday, July 7)
July 10 Evelyn Keller (Thursday, July 14)
July 17 Joyce Osborne (Thursday, July 21)
July 24 Patti Kline (Thursday, July 28)
July 31 Harriet & Russ Clauser (Thursday, August 4)

Greeters 9:00 a.m. **Ushers 9:00 a.m.**
July 3 Scott & Brenda Haag Bryan Reichelt & Gerry Wegman
July 10 Tony & Sara Lambert Ted & Val Wickert
July 17 J. Farrell & B. Claycomb Haag Family
July 24 J. & A. Gochnauer Rich & Patty Matijasich
July 31 Randy & Elyse Miller Jim & Nancy Rhoads

Acolyte 9:00 a.m. **Reader 9:00 a.m.**
July 3 Tyler Lambert Tony Lambert
July 10 Eric Blackburn Alan Blackburn
July 17 Adam Gochnauer Jayne Phillips
July 24 Brian Rothbard Richard Noble
July 31 Michael Fost Brenda Haag

Assisting Minister/Communion Assistant 9:00 a.m.
July 3 David Russell
July 10 DeeDee Werner
July 17 Elisha Barnett
July 24 Alan Blackburn
July 31 Bonnie Claycomb

Nursery 9:00 a.m. **Tape Ministry 9:00 a.m.**
July 3 Sara Lambert Mike Kern
July 10 S. Galbraith & E. Moser Andrew Claycomb
July 17 Patty Matijasich Scott Galbraith
July 24 Robyn Shaffer Tim Austin
June 31 Moser Family Jerry Centofanti

Opportunity House—July 21st

Food Preparers: Please meet at the church by 2:00 pm -- JoAnn Smith, Bonnie Claycomb, Ted Wickert and Gloria Gerhart.

Substitute: Brenda Haag

Servers: Please meet 6:30 pm at church or 6:45 pm at the shelter-- Jerry Centofanti, Tom, Beth and Paige Brizek.

Substitute: Kathy Austin

Bakers: Harriet Clouser, Gloria Gerhart, Muffy Reinecker and Beth Brizek.

Substitute: Cheryl Larson

Opportunity House—August 18th

Food Preparers: Please meet at the church by 2:00 pm -- JoAnn Smith, Bonnie Claycomb, Ted Wickert, Scott and Brenda Haag.

Substitute: Nancy Hemberger

Servers: Please meet 6:30 pm at church or 6:45 pm at the shelter-- Jerry Centofanti, Angela Fonte, Kathy and Meghan Austin.

Substitute: Jane Hinkle

Bakers: Cheryl Larson, Jennifer Weaver, Melissa Howell-Clarke and Kathy Austin.

Substitute: Nancy Rhoads

Volunteers, please call JoAnn Smith at 610-779-4031 whether you can or cannot serve.

Pineapple Cake

MIX TOGETHER:

2 Cups sugar 2 t baking soda
2 Cups flour

ADD:

2 eggs 1 can 20 oz. crushed pineapple (and juice)

Bake at 325 degrees for 45-50 minutes in a 9 X 13 ungreased disposable pan. When cool, dust with 10X sugar.

There was some lively discussion on the last two items. The bishop graciously allowed for people to express their opinions and kept order using Robert's Rules. We were both impressed by the thoughtful presentation of arguments from both sides and the mutual respect shown by all.

A couple of the highlights of our experience was the workshop given by Marty Haugen and Mary Preus for Worship Leaders and Musicians and the concert.

We found this was the most spiritual synod assembly that we've ever attended, and we really encountered the presence of God there. Bishop Zeizer's pastoral nature and his message certainly contributed, as well as the musical contribution of Marty Haugen and Mary Preus in worship. The absence of real controversial issues helped attendees focus on our worship and praise of God and our fellowship with one another. We felt as if we are all one body of Christ.

It is exciting to be a part of Lutherans working together to do the business of spreading God's love across the world. It is something we encourage every member of this congregation to experience at least once.

Your servants in Christ,
Steve and Elisha Barnett

Youth Laser Quest

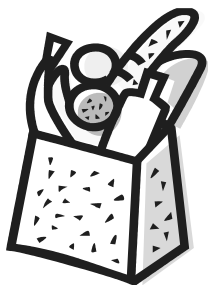
Grades 6-12! Come join us for a night at **Laser Quest!**
Friday, July 29th. We'll meet at the Church at 5:00 p.m.

Cost is \$8.00 plus money for food.

Call (717-380-8030), text, facebook or email Ody to sign up!

Deadline is Sunday, July 24th.

Exeter Area Food Pantry News



Last June, Reformation adopted a long-term strategic plan that identified local community outreach as a primary goal. In January, a community group formed independently to explore the need for and the logistics of opening a food pantry in the Exeter area. Reformation has agreed to join this effort to begin the **Exeter Area Food Pantry**.

This exciting new ministry is a partnership among 4 churches (**Reformation, Schwarzwald Lutheran, St. Catherine's RCC and Northstar UMC**) as well as members of the community. An independent steering committee has been formed to operate the pantry and **Reformation has agreed to serve as the distribution site for pantry days**.

Plans are underway to open the pantry on the **3rd Friday of each month from 4:00-6:00pm, beginning on Friday August 19**. The food will be delivered from the Greater Berks Food Bank that morning. Any food remaining at the end of the pantry will either be donated to another organization or stored offsite for the next month.

How can you support this ministry?

--Assist during distribution times.

--Help set up that morning

--Donate food to food drives supporting the pantry

--Join the steering committee (the next meeting is Wednesday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Reformation)

--Pray for the people who need this service and the organizers of the project

God's Work . . . Our Hands

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Melissa Howell-Clarke at 610-779-7999.

Prayer List for June

Please keep the following in your prayers for the coming month. If you would like to place a name on the prayer list, please call the information to Pam Schneeberger or e-mail her at Lpm33@verizon.net. To place someone's name on the list, please be sure you have their permission to do so. We will keep their name on the list for one month. If the name needs to remain on the list for the next month, just call Pam with an update.



Reformation Family: Patti Kline, Jayne Phillips, Marion Henne, Dorothy Oswald, Skyler Reed, Dorothy Arndt, Genevie Cloak, Joyce & Jay Yerger, Mae Hall, Helen Luckenbach, Catharine Reed, Jean Ross, Barbara Regar, Zeke Murray, George Stamm, Kallie Karafel and the family of Joan Biting.

Friends of Reformation: Ann Schaeffer, Dolores Hilbert, Michael Yeager, Matthew Tobias, Rita McHale, Bob Korn, Krista Stone, Terry Keiser, Elvia Cataldo, Kate Schimmel, Karen Heck, Melissa Bennett, Maureen Manzella, Andrea Bolger, David, Jean Brodt, Stephanie Ernst, Sharon Bingamon, Dale Reinecker, Shirley Scheinhart, Toung Phung, Denise, Nancy McDermott, Mary Morici, Cody Stephens, Karen Slyman, John Himmelreich Jr., Sophie Gray, Cindy Wright, Judi Stufflet, Diane Naugle, Clarke Larson, Jenny, Dave Grisemer, Jim Allen, Charles, Tim Clemmer, Albert & Theresa Steuer, Ann & Eric, Carl Harter, Molly Vonfeldt, Jeff Downey, Doris Antonacci, Alyssa Bray, Monika, Carl Harter, Judy Walger, Cyndi Algiero, Pok Strause, Joan Hinkle, Woodrow Warren, Margaret Lawrence, Sandy Eschelbach, Erika Wattrich, Cherly Reinsel, Tucker Irwin, Caden & Mason Beisker, Lorraine Blanski, Joan DeBlasi, Cook Schrafer, Jane Alena, Joe Matthews, Karen Young, Mary Tagger, David Hafer, Megan Paparella, James, Pastor Susan Flicher, Marlene Claycomb, Larry Claycomb, Barbara Casey, Paul H. Anne Smith and the family of Richard Grumling.

The Prayer List Coordinator is Pam Schneeberger. Please call the church office at 610-779-0534 or Pam at 610-370-0790 for prayer requests.



AUGUST'S

From My Heart to Yours

Have you ever had a “God Appointment”?? You might not be sure what I even mean, so I’ll give you my definition. For me, it is an encounter with someone and an instant bond and understanding takes place - kindred spirits brought together by God usually for a specific reason. That happened to me not long ago when I attended a Circle of Life Coalition Meeting. The speaker was Chaplain Joyce Christman, Coordinator for Congregational Health Ministries, Adventist Whole Health Network.

Her topic that day was Miscarriage and Perinatal (death of a baby in the first weeks of life) Loss. In my GriefShare experience I haven’t known anyone yet who has suffered this kind of loss. I had given support to a young woman I met at JOY Bookstore some time ago, however.

It was a “God Appointment” because He has plans to link us together, and it is already starting to happen! In talking with several people who saw my picture in the newspaper article about this event, I learned of several people who have been touched by this loss.

Chaplain Joyce has formed a special grief support group called Heart Prints to meet the special needs of people who have experienced “baby death.” The loss may be recent or long ago. Many times these losses aren’t viewed as significant, so the grieving is often silent and lonely. Heart Prints seeks to provide understanding, support and care for this special need.

I have packets of material that she gave to me which I can pass on to you. Just speak to me or give me a call. 610-775-0524

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica



Produce Collection for Hope’s Pantry

July 24, August 21, and September 25



We will again be collecting produce to benefit the patrons of Hope’s Pantry. Fresh produce is a much appreciated, healthful addition to the standard Pantry items provided.

Please note that, due to spoilage, we will **only** be able to accept produce brought in on the above dates.

Home-grown or store-bought items are acceptable. Items with a longer shelf life such as celery, carrots, cauliflower, onions, potatoes, and yams are suggested, as well as produce typically grown in home gardens, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini.

Thank you for your participation. Please call Heather Hinnershitz (610-779-4190) or Nadine Blackburn (610-582-9897) with any questions.

Vacation Bible School

As I am sure you have heard, Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 25th through July 29th again this year. Thank you to all who have volunteered so far!

Volunteers are still needed!

We are in need of teachers for every age level except 5th and 6th grade. If you are willing to teach any level (age 3 through 4th grade), please let me know.

In addition, we have two talented young ladies willing to support the Music portion of the program and two energetic young men willing to support the Games portion. If any adults are willing to help coordinate the music or games with the teens, please let me know.

I can be reached at 610-779-2507 or cwrichards1@msn.com, if you are looking to volunteer or have any questions. Thank you for your support! Wendy Richards

The Day Between

As the sun rises o'er the East mountains
As the sun sinks in the West
We know that between there has been
A wonderful day, - - - the best.

A day of gladness, a day of cheer
A day to serve another, alleviate their fear
A day to grow, to dance, to sing
A day to appreciate just everything.

A beautiful experience each day can be
If we look about us it's beauty to see;
Stones abound on every side
May we appreciate ever abide.

By Catharine Reed



JULY'S

From My Heart to Yours

Have you ever been on a “silent retreat?” You can go away to places like Maria Wald Retreat Center or the Jesuit Retreat Center and experience a rather formal, disciplined silent retreat. Or - - - you can “do your own thing.” I recently did my own “silent retreat” at my daughter’s home where I was alone for several hours with no “to do list” or commitments or deadlines. It was a gift I decided to take advantage of and spent time on her sun porch looking out in her wooded backyard as hummingbirds flitted between her two feeders, and bird song filled the air. The atmosphere was restful—perfect for retreating into my relationship with God. As I normally do, I used my Jesus Calling devotional (there’s one in the library if you’d like to look at one). The words of Sarah Young’s messages always wash over me in such an awesome way! She focused on Jeremiah 31:3 “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.” This is an ancient message from the Lord to the people of Israel—but ALSO a word of LOVE for YOU and ME TODAY! In my “silent retreat” I soaked those words deep into my heart just by being STILL and reflecting on them. What a joy and blessing to KNOW that God’s love is PERSONAL for us and won’t ever fade because it is EVER—LASTING! I invite you to go off by yourself (NO cell phones!) and get QUIET and retreat for a time with these ancient words. I find mini silent retreats to be very beneficial and refreshing. Perhaps you will, too!

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica

P.S. Want to know more about God’s incredible love for you?
Meditate on Psalm 139:1-18.



Newsletter

September Newsletter Deadline is August 14th, 2011.

For handwritten and E-Mail Articles

Please use the green forms for newsletter and bulletin articles. They are available in the narthex and library or e-mail us:

mail@reformationlutheran.org. Articles received after the due date will not be able to be included in that newsletter.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Deadline for bulletin announcements is Tuesdays at 12:00 noon.

Deadline for Council reports is Tuesday, August 10th.

Knitters & Crocheters

We usually have a small supply of prayer shawls here at Reformation. These shawls are given out to people in times of distress, grief, illness or celebration. Our supply is very limited and we are asking for your help. Please consider making a prayer shawl and donating it to our supply. We would see that they are blessed and on the shoulders of someone in need. Call Pam in the church office, 610-779-0534, if you can help or have questions. Below are the directions for the basic shawls.

Basic—Knit Prayer Shawl (needles size 11 or 13)

Yarn—3 skeins of Homespun yarn

Cast on 57 stitches for size 13 needles, or 63 stitches for size 11 needles.

Row 1: Knit 3, Purl 3, Knit 3, Purl 3 continue this pattern until you finish the row, ending with Knit 3.

Row 2 and all other rows: Repeat row 1.

Basic—Crochet Prayer Shawl (hook size M)

Yarn—4 skeins of Homespun yarn.

Chain 54 stitches.

Row 1: Chain 1 turn, single crochet in each chain to end.

Row 2: Chain 3 turn, double crochet in tops of each single crochet.

Row 3 and 4: Repeat row 2.

Row 5: Chain 1, single crochet in tops of each double crochet.

Continue crocheting rows 2—5 for pattern. End with row 5.



The Youth Ministry Committee is very pleased to share exciting news about a new fundraising program for our youth call 'Scrip'. It is a fundraising program that works while you shop!

What Is Scrip?

Scrip is a term that means “substitute money”. When you purchase scrip, you’re purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue for our Reformation’s youth!

How scrip generates revenue for Reformation’s Youth

The Great Lakes Scrip Center acts on behalf of churches, schools and other non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from grocery stores, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. While the certificates are sold to Reformation families at full face value, Great Lake Scrips sells the cards to our youth group at a discount from two to fifteen percent or more!

Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"

Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don’t have to sell anything. You will help produce revenue by making regular household purchases you would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with scrip.

Find Out More

Order forms with the latest participating retailer list are available in the narthex. Simply complete the form and return it with payment to the church office, the offering plates at worship or a member of the Youth Ministry Committee following worship on July 31st. Your cards will be available for pick-up the following Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Richards at 610-779-2507.

Thank you for putting your shopping dollars to work for Reformation’s Youth!



Highlights from the Congregation Council Meeting—June 21, 2011

RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE! is the theme of the Triennial Convention to be held in Spokane, WA, July 12-14. This same theme continues to be the focus of our summer Bible Study. Saturday, July 9th at 9:30 a.m. Reformation women, led by Lisa Sokoloff, will meet to contemplate how we RESPOND to the many needs we see around us by using the story of Mary the mother of Jesus, and the story of the widow's mite. On Monday, August 1st at 6:30 we will explore the REJOICE part of this cycle of faith by keeping in mind the question, "How does rejoicing spring out of responding and lead again to renewal?"

Lutheran World Relief Quilt tying will not meet during July, but will gather for an evening session on Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates and plan to join us:

WELCA EVENTS:

July 9, 2011—9:30 a.m. Bible Study

August 1, 2011—6:30 p.m. Bible Study

August 11, 2011—7:00 p.m. LWR Quilting

Join us for the 1st Annual Reformation Lutheran Miniature Golf Tournament being held at Evergreen Miniature Golf (next to Blackwood Public Golf Course) on Saturday July 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. There will be low score age group prizes and time for Fellowship and Ice Cream afterward. Directions will be posted and available on a hand-out. (It's off Rt. 724 just east of Birdsboro). Any questions see or call Rich Hawk.



The search committee for the Director of Music recommended Joshua Glasner to fill the position and the council approved the recommendation. Josh is a new graduate of University of Delaware in music. He begins graduate study at Westminster Choir College in the fall. He has directed the music program at a UMC church while completing his degree at Delaware. The transition will be worked out over the next few weeks. Council wishes to recognize and thank Julie Seiz for her service as the Interim Director of Music this year.

Council agrees that, directionally, communion should be a part of all Sunday worship services. At this time, however, it will be important to integrate the 2 new staff members into worship planning and to recruit additional volunteers for the Altar Guild to prepare for that change. It is anticipated that the change may take place within the next year.

The work of the church office and staff is increasingly dependent on computers. The church's current computers are aging and there have been recent system failures. As a result, a recommendation was made and approved to upgrade the church's computer technology. It will provide new computers for the office staff and Pastor, a separate file server for the storage of data and the wiring to provide a faster access for the Music Office. The upgrade will provide stability for the technology used daily by the church. The Educational Ministry Committee will determine possible uses for the older, but still serviceable computers.

Reformation's Notes of Thanks

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you ...

Many thanks to the following people who helped make the food portion of the church picnic a great success!!

GRILLERS: Rich Hawk (head chef), Tate Dewalt, Scott Haag, Bruno Fantilli (grilling apprentice), Chris Richards, and Dale Miller

FOOD AND BEVERAGE BUYERS AND GATHERERS AND RETURNERS OF ALL THINGS NEEDED: Gerry Wegman, The Haag Family, Jane Humbert, Dale and Carole Miller, Candy Fantilli, Bob and Shelby Rutherford, Rich Hawk, and Kathy and Pat Austin

ORGANIZATION: Joanne Scattergood and Shirley Harner

GREAT COOKS AND BAKERS OF THE CONGREGATION:
Thanks for the terrific salads, snacks and desserts!

A Big Family Promise Thank You to all who helped with Family Promise this past June. Thanks to all who put up and took down beds, set up rooms, did laundry, brought in breakfast, lunches and snacks, donated time and money, cooked and served dinners, were evening hosts and stayed overnight. Without your help we would not be able to do this worthwhile mission. Many thanks, Pam Schneeberger.

Flower Chart

There is a flower chart where you may sign up to sponsor sanctuary flowers for Sundays, in the hallway just up from the narthex. A vase is \$25.00 and you only sign up for one vase unless you want both. Please fill in your name and in honor or in memory of who you would like. We have many openings in July, August and September.



WEGMAN Memorial Library:



You all know we have a small, but extensive, library here at Reformation. However, have you visited it? Have you taken out any books? Basically, the library is divided into two distinct areas: adult and youth. In the adult area, you can find books on the following subjects: the Bible, History of religion, Devotional literature, Martin Luther histories and biographies, Religious histories [other], and much more. In the Youth section we have Videos and DVDs for young adults, Children's books on religion and the Bible, and much more for the young adult or child. Take the time to stop by and "check-out" the books.

Book Review: **Heaven is for Real** –Author Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent From the New York Times Best Seller List comes another attention getter. Over a period of months and years, Colton Burpo relates, in typical child-like fashion, facts and stories from his "3-minute visit to heaven" during a near death experience [NDE] he had at age 4-years. Much like another book "**90-Minutes in Heaven**", this story amazes and provides hope and joy for all believers and nonbelievers alike. There is no purpose in saying much more. You need to read the book and decide for yourself. Both books are available in the Church library.



"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven"

Jesus of Nazareth

Children's Library Books

Methuselah's Gift and Methuselah's Heart

by Mary Elizabeth Edgren

These two children's books have recently been donated to our library by Sarah Hawk and come highly recommended by Sarah and several of us adults who have also read them. The reading level of these books is suitable for ages 9-12.

The author weaves Christ-like concepts easily understood by children, concepts about God, forgiveness and love by using a family of Christian raccoons and their interaction with a girl ("upright") named Sarah. Here is a sampling of the members of this family of raccoons: Methuselah, the grandfather raccoon, Posie, Thrasher, Puddly, Furry-Ball, Tidy-Paw, Seeker and Aunt Serenity. The captivating illustrations also help to draw a reader into all the adventures in this world of make-believe.

Look for these books in the Children's Library on the shelf labeled new books.

Shelby Rutherford



Fun & Fellowship in July & August

Please consider coming to our Fun & Fellowship card club, for all ages, on July 10th and August 14th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bring your favorite card game and a snack to share. Any questions call Ruth Blatt (610-777-3928) or Jane Humbert (610-478-4030).

GriefShare

GriefShare is a support group for people who are grieving the loss of someone close to them. The loss may be fairly recent or one that happened several years ago. Each week we watch a DVD together. Topics covered are wide ranging from loneliness to anger or guilt to asking the difficult question "why?"

If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, I encourage and invite you to come to GriefShare for comfort and support during this difficult time of life.

There are now TWO opportunities for GriefShare! We will meet on Thursdays in the Rehearsal hall. Please enter from the rear parking lot.

Afternoon session meets 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

And

Evening session meets 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The last session for this cycle will be August 18th.

A new cycle will begin on September 8th.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 610-775-0524 (home) or 610-914-9021.

Come and journey with us from mourning to joy.

Serving Jesus,

Judy Plica

"Hack Away at Hunger"

A **golf tournament** to benefit the Exeter Area Food Pantry will be held **Friday July 15th**, at the Reading Country Club. The format is a four person scramble with a shot gun start at 8:00am. The cost is \$65.00/person and includes golf, cart, prizes and buffet lunch. Individuals or foursomes are welcome!

Registration forms and sponsor sheets are available in the church narthex or call Melissa Howell-Clarke at 610-779-7999.

Together Time

Sponsors

Summer Together @ 9's – Beginning on Sunday, July 3rd, we will be gathering weekly before and after the 9 A.M. service for a time of fellowship and of course, some food. Please plan on joining us.

July 3 rd	Tanzania, Property, Personnel and Stewardship
July 10 th	Education Ministry
July 17 th	Social Ministry / Hospitality
July 24 th	Youth
July 31 st	Finance
August 7 th	Mutual Ministry
August 14 th	Parish Outreach
August 21 st	WELCA
August 28 th	Worship and Music
Sept. 4 th	Regular Together Time

Music News

Karen Hawk, Sarah Hawk, and Julie Seiz will be participating in the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Festival which is being held at Kutztown University July 7th – 10th. All are welcome to enjoy the handbell concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 10th at the university. Building is unknown at this time. Look in the bulletin for further information.

Summer music is underway. Singers 7th grade on up are welcome to join Summer Choir on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. If you play a musical instrument and would be willing to play during the offering or a prelude, please sign up on the music bulletin board across from the music office.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Questions and Answers

Question: Where or how can **8 people donate \$1138** to Reformation and not have it cost them one cent out of their pocket?

Answer: These 8 people designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars be given to Reformation for calendar year 2011.

Question: What are Thrivent Choice dollars?

Answer: They are funds, equal to the amount of taxes Thrivent [a non-profit fraternal organization] would normally pay on investment profits. They were formerly distributed to organizations on request or as matching funds.

Question: How are Thrivent Choice Dollars distributed now?

Answer: Qualifying Thrivent members must register on the Thrivent Choice Dollars website. Once registered, they can direct their portion of the funds to a qualified group or organization, such as Reformation.

Question: How do I know if I qualify for this program?

Answer: You should have received a letter from Thrivent advising you of your eligibility. However, if you cannot remember if you received the letter, contact your Thrivent representative or check their website for eligibility requirements [see below].

Question: If I qualify for the program, how do I enroll in it?

Answer: There are several ways to enroll in the program:

Contact your Thrivent representative

Visit the Thrivent website; <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/>

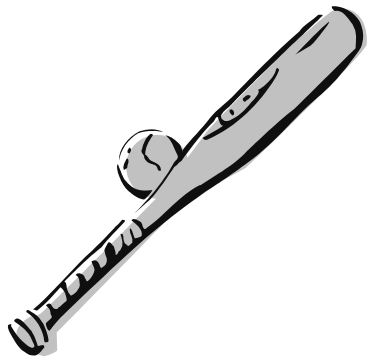
Contact the Church Treasurer for assistance; or

Contact Mr. Kurt Kohler a member of Reformation.

Question: Once I designate my Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization, do I have to assign them every year?

Answer: No, you can assign them to your chosen organization on a recurring basis. However, you may evaluate and change them as often as you want.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are an easy, cost free way to support your Church and its programs. We encourage you to sign up today and directly participate in supporting our missions.



A Night Out at the Reading Phillies

August 18th, 2011

Game Time—7:05 p.m.

Enjoy a baseball game with your church family and friends!

A block of seats have been reserved for this night. Fireworks will conclude the game.

The cost is \$9.00 per ticket; however, if you want a voucher that will include the All-You-Can-Eat Buffet, the cost is \$21.00.

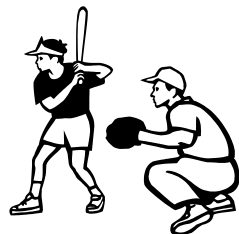
A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

Money needs to be in by July 10th.

Make check payable to Reformation Lutheran.

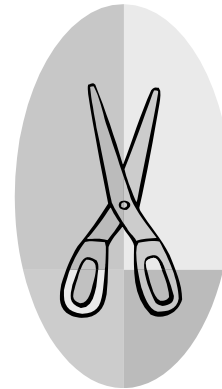
Give your payment to Jane Humbert or Pam in the church office. Any questions contact Jane Humbert (610-478-4030).

Carpooling from the church parking lot will be available.



Scrapbooking Retreat

You are invited!!!



Our Youth will be hosting our semi annual Scrapbooking Retreat, here at church on Saturday, August 13, 2011. We will be “Scraping” from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The cost is \$30.00 and this includes lunch, dinner, snacks, drinks, and a special class or two. Oh, and lots of table room!

We will have vendors there, in case you want to buy supplies and/or need ideas.

The proceeds of this fundraiser will be used by the Youth of Reformation for their trip to New Orleans!

Please call or see Linda Bechtel (610-582-4569) to reserve your space.

Everyone is invited (experience not needed). Bring a friend or two and have a fun day scrapping together.

If you have never scrapped before, we would love to introduce you to this great art. Please let Linda know, and we will arrange special beginner classes that morning for you.

This is a great opportunity for Teens to scrap their Prom or Moms to scrap graduation.

We hope to see you there!



West Berks Mission District
OPERATION BOOK-BAG 2011

Once again, during VBS, we will be collecting school supplies to be donated to the elementary and intermediate schools in the Reading School District. Each year many students arrive on the first days of school without the essential items they need. Our Book-Bag Ministry is greatly appreciated by the students, their families, and the school staff. All items should be brought to the church during the week of Vacation Bible School by **Friday, July 29th**. Monetary donations are also appreciated; please make checks payable to: West Berks Mission District – memo: **“Operation Book-Bag”**.

Please contact Wendy Richards at 610-779-2507 with any questions.

The following items are being requested:

Elementary -

- Crayons
- Erasers
- Primer Tablets
- Ruler
- #2 Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Construction Paper
- Safety Scissors
- Pencil Box or Bag
- Small packs of Tissues
- Backpack/ Book-bag

Middle School -

- 3 or 5 Subject Notebooks
- Notebook Paper
- Highlighters
- Small packs of Tissues
- Calculator
- Erasers
- #2 Pencils
- Pens (Blue or Black)
- Colored Pencils
- Backpack/ Book-bag

Thanks for your support of this important ministry!

Vacation Bible School 2011



SonSurf Beach Blast – It’s All About Jesus!

Monday, July 25th – Friday, July 29th

9:00AM – 11:45AM

On those HOT summer days, there’s only one place to go – THE BEACH! Children age 3 through grade sixth are invited to join in the fun in the ‘Son’! During this exciting week as our children explore ‘the wonders of the beach, they will also discover the Big Answers to Big Questions about Jesus: Who is Jesus? Why can I trust Jesus? Why do I need Jesus? How can Jesus help me when I mess up? What does Jesus want me to do?

Please complete a registration form for each child and return it to Wendy Richards or the church office. Be sure to tell your neighbors and friends! Additional copies of the registration form are available in the church narthex. Also, please feel free to pick up a music CD for your family.

Leaders and helpers are needed! Please contact Wendy Richards at 610-779-2507 if you are interested in supporting this special ministry.

We will be in need of snack donations again. We will need juice (except purple grape), lemonade, and iced tea. We will also need snacks like pretzels, goldfish crackers, animal crackers, cookies, etc. You can drop off any snacks in the kitchen the week of or prior to Vacation Bible School. Thank you so much for the snacks and beverages - we appreciate your donations!