

**Greeters**      **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      Chris & Michelle Karasek  
 Dec. 11      M. Howell-Clarke & R. Kline  
 Dec. 18      need someone

**10:45 a.m.**  
 J. & A. Gochnauer  
 Tony & Sara Lambert  
 Tammy Huber

**Ushers**      **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      R. Donachi & A. Fonte  
 Dec. 11      Tom & Beth Brizek  
 Dec. 18      Greg & Teri Stoddard

**10:45 a.m.**  
 Charles & Jen Weaver  
 Randy & Elyse Miller  
 J. Centofanti & B. Rutherford

**Acolytes**      **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      Kolby Haag  
 Dec. 11      Emily Moser  
 Dec. 18      Kolby Haag

**10:45 a.m.**  
 Annie Ryder  
 Tyler Lambert  
 Maddie Miller

**Reader**      **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      Elisha Barnett  
 Dec. 11      Linda Centofanti  
 Dec. 18      Brenda Haag

**10:45 a.m.**  
 David Russell  
 Tyler Lambert  
 Chris Rothbard

**Assisting Minister/Communion Assistant**

**8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      Carol Kohler  
 Dec. 11      Cal Booser  
 Dec. 18      - - - -

**10:45 a.m.**  
 DeeDee Werner  
 - - - -  
 need someone

**Nursery**      **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dec. 4      Nastya Fantilli  
 Dec. 11      D. & K. Helm  
 Dec. 18      Elina Fantilli

**10:45 a.m.**  
 Chris & Wendy Richards  
 Sara Lambert  
 Tammy Moser

**CD Recording Assistants**

Dec. 4      Bruno Fantilli      Dec. 11      Andrew Claycomb  
Dec. 18      Brian Blackburn

**Counters:** Harriet Clauser, Gerry Wegman and Patti Kline

**December 2011**

**Volume 4, Issue 11**

**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  
 jdglasner@gmail.com  
**Music Office:** music@reformationlutheran.org

**Congregation Council Members**

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

Alan Blackburn	Kurt Kohler
Debra Dombroski	Tony Lambert
Karen Hawk	Becky Schaeffer
Cheryl Hadley	Lisa Sokoloff
	Gerry Wegman

**Other Links:**  
**West Berks Mission District**  
 www.westberksmissiondistrict.org  
**NEPS Website:** www.godslove.org  
**ELCA Website:** www.elca.org





**Opportunity House—December 15th**

**Christmas Eve Services**

Saturday, December 24th at **6:30 p.m.**

**8:30 p.m. with Holy Communion**

**11:00 p.m. with Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day Service**

Sunday, December 25th at **10:00 a.m.**

No Sunday School

**New Year's Day Service**

Sunday, January 1st at **10:00 a.m.**

No Sunday School

**Annual Congregation Meeting**

Sunday, January 22nd at **9:30 a.m.**

**Food Preparers:** Please meet at the church by 2:00 pm -- JoAnn Smith, Bonnie Claycomb, Ruth Blatt, Shirley Harner and Joanne Scattergood.

Substitute: Nancy Hemberger

**Servers:** Please meet 6:30 pm at church or 6:45 pm at the shelter--Jerry Centofanti, Advisors and members of the Confirmation Class.

**Bakers:** Shirley Harner, Linda Centofanti, Deb Dombroski, Karen Hawk and Kathy Austin.

Substitute: Ginny Shultz

**BAKERS -- Please substitute 1 1/2 -2 dozen cookies for the pineapple cake this month**

**DECEMBER SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

**Look for Sign- Up Sheets**

For greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, assisting ministers and nursery.

**December 24th—Christmas Eve Services; 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

**December 25th—Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.**

**January 1st—New Year's Day at 10:00 a.m.**

**Altar Guild 8:00 a.m.**

Muffy Reinecker

Audrey DiGuardi

**10:45 a.m.**

Judy Plica

Jane Farrell

**Bulletin Helpers the week of;**

Dec. 4 Jane Farrell

(Thursday, Dec. 8th)

Dec.11 Patty Matijasich

(Thursday, Dec. 15th)

Dec. 18 Ruth Blatt

(Thursday, Dec. 22)

## Reformation's Notes of Thanks

Reformation Family, Thank you very much for thoughts, prayers and well wishes. Recovery has been slow but the prognosis is good and that is what counts. Hope to be back to seeing everyone soon! Cindi Fiucci

Reformation Congregation, Thank you for your generous support and donation to Exeter Ambulance Association.

Reformation, Thank you notes were received from the staff for Staff Appreciation Day. The notes will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Dear Rev. Claycomb, As your Berks SW Chapter Thrivent Builds specialist, I would like to thank you and your church for your support in building a shed and obtaining funding for the 2011 Habitat for Humanity Project. We have an ambitious target this year, three Thrivent built homes and \$36,000 to be raised by Berks County Lutheran churches. Thanks again. Sincerely yours, Dennis L. Heimbach

## Congratulations To

Heather Hinnershitz and her new husband Chris McHale. They were married on November 12, 2011.

## Church Directory Changes

Catharine Reed's address should read P. O. Box 1495.

Evelyn Keller's phone number is now 484-269-3635.

## Annual Reports

The annual congregation meeting is coming up on January 22nd, and annual reports are due. Please have them in to the office by January 4, 2012.

## **Members of Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church,**

The amended Constitution of the Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reiffton was approved at the 2011 annual meeting of the congregation. This approved constitution was then forwarded to the synod for their approval. This synod review has yielded several recommendations which the Congregation Council has approved. The recommended changes, as listed in a letter dated November 7, 2011 from Catherine A. Ziel - Executive Associate of the Bishop, are as follows:

C11.02 contains a minor typographical error. "Acclimation" should be "acclamation".

C12.10 The next to last sentence ("Emergency meetings may be called...") is redundant; same meaning as the second sentence. The last sentence is unclear and should be omitted.

C13.05 Modify to agree with C9.01 by removing departing pastor from involvement with call committee.

CR4.05 Clarify by adding "of this congregation".

In addition, another typographical error was noted in CR4.06 (Oversite should be Oversight) and will be changed.

As described in C17.04 of the constitution, this amended constitution must be approved "by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation".

At the annual congregational meeting in January 2012, a motion will be made to approve this new constitution. **The Congregation Council recommends voting for approval of this new constitution.**

The new amended constitution and the previous constitution may be reviewed by:

Borrowing copies of each from the church office, or

Requesting the church office to e-mail you copies of each

Logging onto the website [www.reformationlutheran.org](http://www.reformationlutheran.org) go to the 'Forms' link under the "about us" tab.

If there are any questions related to the constitution, please feel free to contact Alan Blackburn.

Yours in Christ, Jane Humbert Council Secretary (November 16, 2011)



## Volunteer needed: Council Secretary

After 20 years, Jane Humbert has announced that she will no longer be able to serve as Council Secretary with transition occurring after the annual meeting in January. Time commitment required is 5-6 hours a month which involves two meetings and preparation of the Council minutes. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be able to serve in this important position. Contact Pastor Steve or Teri Stoddard if you are willing to volunteer or if you have questions.

## Caution Needed

Three wallets were taken from Sunday School rooms on Sunday, November 6th while the classes were in the sanctuary. Please be cautious about leaving your personal valuables unattended, especially during the times the church is open to all. Currently, we are working on a locked closet that will be available to leave your personal belongings in. Please see Pam Schneeberger about this closet.

## Church Office Change

The week of December 25th the church office will be closed. If there is a pastoral emergency, you may call Pastor Steve on his cell phone, 484-824-9628, or call the church office and leave a message.

## Prayer List for November

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](mailto: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, Barbara and Dave Regar, Zeke Murray, Kallie Karafel, Ralph DiGuardi, and the family of Erika Waldman.

**Friends of Reformation:** Ann Schaeffer, Dolores Hilbert, Michael Yeager, Matthew Tobias, Rita McHale, Bob Korn, Terry Keiser, Kate Schimmel, Karen & James Heck, Melissa Bennett, Maureen Manzella, Andrea Bolger, David, Jean Brodt, Stephanie Ernst, Sharon Bingamon, Dale Reinecker, Shirley Scheinhartz, Toung Phung, Denise, Nancy McDermott, Mary Morici, Cody Stephens, Karen Slyman, Sophie Gray, Cindy Wright, Judi Stufflet, 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, Cheryl Reinsel, Tucker Irwin, Caden & Mason Beisker, 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, Lynn Weis, Bill, John Haag, Bryant Domina, Reverend Rodger A. Krause, Elizabeth Adukaitis, Lois Binder, Pastor Wendy Orzelek, Steven Wickert and the family of Wilmer Faber.

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.



## From My Heart to Yours

Our secretary, Pam Schneeberger, extended grace to me when I called her two or three days after the newsletter due date to tell her I had completely missed it this time. She gave me permission to be really late with this. As a result, I am writing on the morning after Thanksgiving in the quiet of my daughter's kitchen and I'm reflecting on the many "God Moments" I experienced yesterday as one of the volunteers at Reformation's Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated and the tables heavily laden with food, drink and dessert.

The "God Moments" happened as the people came, several people all by themselves, but once they came inside, they became a part of a large "family" all enjoying a meal together. It was beautiful to see. There was even one Reformation family who all ate together, and then most of them served in whatever way needed. Beautiful! The Gift of Hospitality and welcoming was very much evident. I was blessed to be able to witness it and hope to be able to be a part of it for many years to come.

And now I look forward to ADVENT—a time of preparation for celebration of Christmas! I'd like to invite you to look at preparing in a NEW WAY by preparing your HEART to RECEIVE the "INDESCRIBABLE GIFT" St. Paul writes about in II Corinthians 9:15 which reads "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

Gifts! Gifts! Gifts! Isn't that where a lot of the focus is for the next few weeks? I invite you to commit some time daily to reflect on the INDESCRIBABLE GIFT of Christmas: "Emmanuel" God with us! I heard a song at a Woman's conference I attended recently that truly says it all: *A Cradle in the Shadow of a Cross* by Dorothy L. Smith. She wrote: "Just a cradle in the shadow of a cross. Little Jesus born in a manger; just a cradle in the shadow of a cross. 'twas the night that God looked down upon His Son, Little Jesus born in a manger."

Have you ever reflected on that? Our Heavenly Father intentionally sent His Precious Son to us knowing full well what the outcome would be some 33 years later! AMAZING GRACE!

Be sure to pick up an Advent Devotional booklet to use through out this Season of Preparation so that you will be truly ready to celebrate His INDESCRIBABLE GIFT to you! Hallelujah!



Serving Jesus,  
Judy Plica

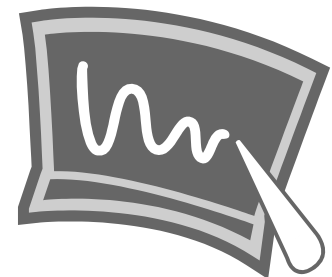
## Got God Sightings?!

Have you heard Pastor say "God is on the loose!?"? A challenge to us as Christians is to learn to stay aware of God's activity in our lives and the world around us. One way is by inviting us to share stories about our God Sightings.

A God Sighting is a story about where and how you've experienced the presence and activity of God. It takes practice and intentionality for most of us to pay attention to what God is up to. And paying attention to what God is up to is an important first step in learning to live and work in renewable ways.

It's also helpful for us to have a few guidelines when we're trying to discern what God is up to. Is it God at work when all of a sudden a parking spot appears in the middle of a full lot? Maybe, but probably that was just you being lucky. We can be pretty sure God is at work, for example, whenever we see evidence of what the apostle Paul called "the fruit of the Spirit." It doesn't matter where you are or who you're with, you can be pretty sure God is at work whenever you see love, patience, kindness, faithfulness, self-control, generosity.

The welcome board in the narthex is being transformed to a graffiti board – for us to identify and share the God sightings that you have had. Think about: **Where have you seen God at work lately? How has God been at work in and through you lately?** You can write it on the board – share your experiences so that we can all learn to recognize God's activity when we see it in our everyday lives.



## Scrip Gift Cards Make Great Holiday Gifts!

Whether planning your holiday meals or your Christmas gift list, please keep the Scrip fundraiser in mind throughout the holiday season.

Through the Scrip fundraiser, you can order gift cards to many retailers, both local and nationwide. The gift cards are purchased and used at the full face value – meaning there is no additional cost to you! Just order a \$25 gift card to Boscovs to give to a friend or relative, and they get to spend the full \$25. Or order \$100 to Giant for a holiday meal and spend the full \$100. For every gift card you order, a percentage of the purchase is earned by Reformation Youth! Currently, any dollars earned will go towards the 2012 Youth Gathering – an expensive but life-changing event that over ten of Reformation’s youth plan to attend.

As normal, any orders submitted by November 27<sup>th</sup> will be available for pick-up on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Orders will then be collected through December 11<sup>th</sup> with cards delivered to you on the 18<sup>th</sup>. No orders will be submitted on Christmas Sunday; therefore, the next order will be placed the last Sunday in January.

Thank you for taking a little extra time to plan ahead and order your gift cards through the Scrip fundraiser!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER: please log in to [wgal.com](http://wgal.com) or [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com). If it is a very bad storm, they will put them on Channel 69 news broadcast scrolling across the bottom of the screen. That is decided by Channel 69 news. Also, if Exeter declares a State of Emergency, church will be cancelled.**

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## What Matters

God sometimes speaks to me by bombarding me with a word. The first time he did this it took me a long time to notice. But now I’ve come to know that when one word keeps popping into my thoughts, I need to open my eyes, ears, and heart to God’s message. The word that has been haunting me lately is “charity”. When I was asked to share a writing piece about “What Matters”, I knew I needed to write about charity.

When I looked up the definition of charity, it said: the love of God for man or of man for his fellow man; an act of goodwill or affection. Some synonyms of charity are benevolence, compassion, tolerance, kindness. During this Advent season, those are all attributes we should be striving to attain.

It’s important that we help those in need. There are big things we can do, such as donate money to a charity, give food to the food bank, volunteer at a shelter, donate clothes, buy gifts for needy children or send girls in Utanziwa to school. But there are small things we can do, also. Like smile at a stranger, hold the door for an older person, or greet a neighbor. According to the editorial by Harry J. Deitz, Jr. editor of the Reading Eagle, “These little things could make all the difference in another person’s life.”

I was in my mid 20’s when I met my friend, LaRue, who was in her 60’s. LaRue lived a meager life, but she put others’ needs before herself. In October, Pastor Wickert visited our church and spoke about putting God first in our lives. He said that we should put God in every dollar we spend, in every hour we live, in the work that we do and in every dream that we have. LaRue did just that.

According to Harry Dietz, "Our success in life will be judged by how we have treated people and the impact we’ve had on their lives. The real value of our own lives will be reflected in the lives of others." So, I ask all of you to take a few moments to consider ways that you can share some love, goodwill, affection, benevolence, compassion, tolerance, kindness, or “**charity**” to someone in need.



## Exeter Area Food Pantry News

The Exeter Area Food Pantry has been growing with each distribution. In September, we served 10 families. By October a total of 44 families were served and in November 67 families visited the pantry for a total of 251 people.

It is clear that the need is great in our area. Yet it is also clear that this partnership of churches and community members is ready and willing to respond to that need. We have been blessed with strong financial and volunteer support. Reformation's facility has been very functional to operate the pantry as well as convenient for our clients.

The next pantry date is **Friday December 16 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Clients are asked to pre-register by Monday, December 12th, by calling 610-572-2344.

### How can you support this ministry?

- Assist** during distribution times. (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—can serve partial times)
- Help set up** that morning (10:00 a.m. to noon)
- Donate food** to food drives supporting the pantry
- Join** the steering committee
- 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.

We are gathering for a **cookie exchange** on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bible Study will follow at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookie as well as a copy of the recipe. Include any special details about the history of your cookie if you would like. Bring your own container to take some cookies home. There will be joyful singing of Christmas Carols and if you have a favorite Christmas poem or short story to share we would love to hear it.

Our Bible Study for December continues from the *Gather* magazine. This session is entitled "To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark...Beyond the Boundaries".

If you are looking for a wonderful Christmas gift for a woman in your life, consider giving a yearly subscription to *Gather*. Just call 800-328-4648 or go online to [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org). A subscription is just \$12 a year, so get one for yourself too.

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE** that our January meeting will be on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, which is the second Monday of the month, not the first Monday.

Reformation Writers continue to meet Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. We will meet December 19, 2011 to tell the Advent story. This is an experience we are adapting from a WELCA resource entitled, "A Different Kind of Journey—Telling the Story". The resource has other ideas on how to experience Advent. You can download it from the Women of the ELCA website.

### WELCA EVENTS:

- December 5, 2011—6:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange**
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study**
- December 13, 2011—9:30 a.m. LWR Quilting**
- December 18, 2011—Telling the Story**
- January 9, 2012—7:00 p.m. Bible Study**



## Jumping Juniors & Youth Group

### **Christmas Party**

**December 11, 2011**

**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

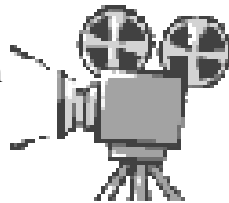
**In the parish hall— games, pizza, snacks and a movie!**

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will be having a LOCK IN on January 6th to the 7th. See Ody for more details.

## Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie, share in fellowship and good conversation. The December 16th movie is “Holiday Inn”. This is an engaging movie with popular music by Irving Berlin, and where audiences first heard “White Christmas” Staring in the movie is Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Marjorie Reynolds, Virginia Dale and Walter Abel. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be in the classroom next to the parlor.



## **Fun & Fellowship in December**

The Fun & Fellowship card club will be discontinued until April 15th, 2012. It will then be on the 3rd Sunday of the month. More information will follow.



## **Highlights from the Congregation Council Meeting—November 15, 2011**

We continue to look for someone who will be the next Council Secretary to replace Jane Humbert who has resigned the post after many years of service.

Parish Concerns: 1) Sunday School Teachers will have access to a locked space for purses and the rear doors will remain locked on Sunday morning as a result of the thefts of 3 wallets that occurred on Sunday Nov. 6. 2) The thermostat timers will be adjusted to provide a more comfortable space for worship.

Participants who attended the Do What Matters! synod workshop reported on the experience. A plan was developed including a focus during the worship services in January. Key messages are:

Look for God Sightings throughout the week and share them with others.

Engage in those activities that are energizing versus those activities that no one has energy for. It’s okay to stop doing something even if we’ve always done it in the past.

When discussing how God is leading us, engage as many people in conversation and collaboration as possible. Use God’s Word to start those conversations.

A proposal to approve the use of our building during the week by the Dayspring program was introduced. A small group will work over the next three weeks to answer questions and concerns so that the proposal can be addressed during the December Council meeting.

A security system including intercoms at the office entrance and the kitchen entrance and a magnetic lock on the office entrance is being installed this week. It is to be activated during office hours so that there is some control on the traffic in the building.

The members of the Property Committee (Kathy Austin, Bob Rutherford, Mike Schneeberger, Dave Shirey and Ron Donachie) were recognized for all the behind-the-scenes work that they do that maintains the building and property in good condition.

The Youth hosted a 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter gathering in conjunction with Schwartzwald after the last home game and it was a resounding success. Plans are underway for next year to continue this effort for many home football game evenings.

The Youth have also agreed to coordinate the Yard Sale next year as part of the fundraising for the Youth Gathering in July 2012.

## New Offering Envelope Program

Usually this time of year, tables are set up in the narthex with your offering envelopes for next year. This year we will be trying something different! Beginning the first of the year, members will be receiving their own set of custom, individually addressed offering envelopes mailed directly to their homes. You will receive a new set of envelopes each month.

We hope that this will be convenient for you. You won't have to stand in line after service and search for your envelope among all the others. You also don't have to worry about misplacing your envelopes and asking for another box.

Watch for your January set in the mail – it will be packaged in a window mailer envelope. Please don't hesitate to contact me (Steve Barnett) if you have any questions or concerns about this new program. If your address changes, please be sure to inform me 610-301-9900.

## Newsletter

**January Newsletter Deadline is December 18th, 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 Wednesday, December 14th.**

**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 in to 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:



**Judas and the Gospel of Jesus**

Author N.T. Wright Joining other recently found and publicized "gospels", the Gospel of Judas has found its way into the limelight. The ancient manuscript appears to be genuine, so what are we to make of the claims therein? Claims such as:

Judas was doing what *Jesus* asked him to do when he betrayed him;

*Jesus* came to offer secret knowledge of how to escape this earthly realm, rather than to usher in the Kingdom of *God* on earth;

Jesus felt no pain on the cross; and

Many more ideas and concepts foreign to traditional Christianity.

Rather than an in-depth look into the actual writings of the alleged gospel, the author takes us on an extensive study of Gnosticism. Gnosticism, being derived from the Greek word gnosis [knowledge], which forms the basis of a religious sect called the Gnostics. If you are inclined to learning about Gnosticism, an early form or offshoot of the Christian religion, this is a great primer and education. If you expect an easy to understand study of the actual document, called the Gospel of Judas, you might want to find another book to read.

**"For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in *Christ* as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in *Him*, things in heaven and things on earth"**

**Ephesians 1: 9-10**

## GriefShare

December GriefShare topics will be:

December 1st—Stuck in Grief; are you or aren't you?

December 15th—Top 20 Lessons of Grief; find out what helps the most!

December 22nd—Heaven; our HOPE for eternity!

December 22d is the end of this session. A new Session will be starting February 2, 2011

Please Note: **NO** GriefShare on December 8th.

Come! Let's walk the Journey TOGETHER!

Serving Jesus,  
Judy Plica

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Reformation has just finished hosting our 3rd annual Thanksgiving Community Meal, and it was a great success. This year we fed almost 100 folks from the community, including several local ambulance and fire responders. The volunteers came from Reformation, Bethany Lutheran, St. Catherine's, and from the local community to help with the cooking, serving, and clean-up. This was all possible due to the generosity of our members who donated the turkeys and roasted them, made the pies, did the prep-work, serving, and clean-up. It takes many hands to do a project like this each year, and I thank you all for your hard work and devotion to this meal. Our members also got the message out about the meal beforehand by advertising to the local communities and to our schools. Thank you all for being God's hands!

Bonnie Claycomb

## Dinner Out

The November-December dinner out will be a combined event on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Reading Country Club at 6:30 p.m. Please call the office with your reservations, 610-779-0534.

## Sunday School News

Please join us as the children of the church lead us in worship during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>. The program, "Every Perfect Gift", will involve the children of the Sunday school as well as the congregation. We hope you will join us for this special program.

Refreshments following the service will be in the social hall. We invite you to join us after the program.

We wish all of the Sunday school families and teachers a wonderful holiday season. We thank you for all the support to the program as well as the outreach support to the community. We were able to provide financial gifts to the Potato Project and many canned good items to local food projects.

Blessings to all,

The Educational Committee

### 2012 Flower Chart

The 2012 Flower Chart is up and there are many available Sundays for you to sponsor a vase in memory of a loved one, or in honor of someone. Vases are \$25 and you only sponsor one vase, unless you want both.



### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

#### Questions & Answers

- Question:** How can people donate money to Reformation and not have it cost them one cent out of their pocket?
- Answer:** People can designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars be given to Reformation.
- Question:** What are Thrivent Choice dollars?
- Answer:** Thrivent Choice Dollars are funds, equal to the amount of taxes Thrivent [a nonprofit fraternal organization] would normally pay on investment profits. These funds 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.
- 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.