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The Beacon

We are a Christ-centered community; a light to the world through our response to God's Word.

Spiritual Leadership * Retreat: * *Reformation Working on God's Agenda*

On the weekend of November 21 and 22, the Elders of Reformation sponsored a "Spiritual Leadership Retreat." It was led by the Reverend Dr. David Wendell, Assistant to the Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church. The Elders felt that it was vitally important for our present and future leaders to come together in the study of the Word, and an opportunity to grow in faith. And that hope was definitely accomplished!

On Friday Evening, Pastor Wendell focused on our own personal discipleship. We talked about differing aspects of our lives including Word, Witness, Prayer, Stewardship and Fellowship. In small groups, we personally shared about our strengths and non-strengths in these areas.

Friday night set the stage for Saturday, as we spent all day on Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions (what we believe as Lutherans). Dr. Wendell gave an extensive overview of the Bible, taught portions of the Augsburg Confession (main confessional document for we Lutherans) and showed a DVD featuring Seminary Professor James Nestigan, as he provided us an overview of all the Lutheran Confessional Documents.

Continued on page 7



RLC ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, Dec 6 @ 12:45 pm

Afterward, stay for a

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP

Immediately following Annual Meeting

Please bring a dish to share

Sign-up sheet on round table in Sanctuary



Rev. Dr. David Wendell, Assistant to the Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) preaches at our Saturday night Worship service.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Special Worship Services

See page 3

Hanukkah and the Light of Christ!

On the weekend of December 12 and 13, Reformation is going to welcome a familiar guest. David Liebman from Jews For Jesus will be present at all of our Worship services sharing with us the connection between Hanukkah and the Light of Christ. In the past, Mr. Liebman has lead us in a traditional Jewish Passover during Holy Week and shared with us the "Feasts of Israel." In this presentation, he will be teaching about the connection between the Jewish Festival of

Hanukkah and Christmas. Hanukkah, known as the "Festival of Lights," goes back to the time of the Macabees, when their lamps never ran out of oil when fighting against the Greeks. As the Jews celebrate this festival of lights, we celebrate the true Light of the World, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He is the light who will be born as our Savior and King! *Please join us for Worship this weekend, and hear about this interesting connection between Hanukkah and Christmas!*

WHILE THE
PASTOR'S AWAY...



Pastor Brad will be taking vacation from Monday, December 28 to Friday, January 1.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care only, please contact Elder Dewey McDonnell at 540-272-4393.



On Sunday, December 20, at 6 pm, we will be Christmas Caroling in the neighborhoods around the church. After our time of singing and witnessing Jesus to the community, we will come back to the church for some yummy Christmas treats. *Contact Tish Smyth at (540) 717-5144. Invite your friends!*



**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

Special Worship Christmas Weekend

On the Sunday after Christmas, we always enjoy the "Service of Lessons and Carols." This worship opportunity is focused on the reading of the scriptural texts about

Jesus' birth and singing beloved Christmas Carols. Holy Communion is also offered. Please note, this services will be offered both at 8 and 11 am on Sunday, December 27. *If you are interested in being a scripture reader for either service, contact Janet McDonnell (540) 272-4395.*

O Come, O Come,

* Emmanuel *

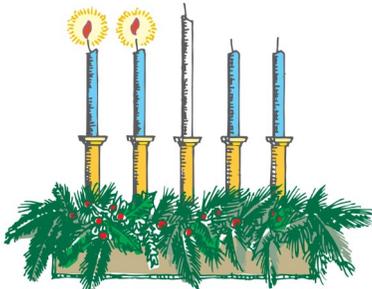
Special Advent Services

Wednesday, Dec. 2	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 9	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 16	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 23	6:30 pm

During December, we celebrate the Church Season of Advent. Along with being the beginning of the Church year, the word Advent (Adventus in Latin means Coming.)

Simply, it is a time of watching, waiting, looking forward to, and preparing for, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Second Coming.

The Church Sanctuary is adorned with greenery and blue. Blue paraments are the color which symbolizes the Advent season. In front of the Church, there will be an Advent Wreath with blue candles and



a white candle in the middle of the wreath.

Each weekend we will light one of the candles as we

come closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

On Christmas Eve, we will light the middle white candle which signifies that Christmas has come - the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ of Nazareth!

Advent is a wonderful time of the year to grow in our devotion to Jesus. Like last year, the Church will be offering special Advent devotional booklets to draw us closer to the Lord and His coming.

A Babe is Born in Bethlehem!

Special Christmas Services

Sunday, Dec. 20 11 am
Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Caroling 6 pm

Meet at the Church - Dress warm!
Enjoy a hot beverage & treats afterward!

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship

at 4 pm, 6 pm, & 9 pm

Carols, Children's Talk & Communion

Christmas Day

Enjoy your day with family!

Jesus Christ is Born!

Worship Services resume Sat, Dec 26

Saturday, Dec. 19 6 pm

Service of Prayer & Healing
Held after the Worship Service
Contemporary Praise Worship

Saturday, Dec. 26 6 pm

Christmas Praise Worship

Sunday, Dec. 27 8 & 11 am

Service of Lessons and Carols
No Sunday School

Holy Communion at all Services



* Can you help Children's Church?

At the beginning of 2016, we need some volunteer help for the 11 am Children's Church. Our dedicated and sacrificial ministry volunteer, Miss Fran, can only do Children's Church on Saturday Evenings because of work, and needing that opportunity to worship Jesus herself. So we are looking for volunteers to help staff our 11 am Children's Church in The Place. Children's Church is a great opportunity for our children to grow closer to Jesus in a relaxed setting. Curriculum will be provided. *If you can help in any way by giving just one Sunday per month, please speak with Pastor Brad. Thank you!*



Fun with Miss Fran on Saturday night

There will be no Sunday School on December 27 and January 3 for the Christmas and New Year's break. It will resume on January 10.



Sunday School Schedule

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact Jennifer Wilson @ (540) 937-5699

DATE	LESSON #	TEACHER	PHONE #
Nov 29	Christmas Program Prac	All who can help	
Dec 6	Christmas Program Prac	All who can help	
Dec 13	Christmas Program Prac	All who can help	
Dec 20	Christmas Program	All who can help	
<i>Dec 27</i>	<i>No Sunday School</i>		
Jan 3, 2016	11	Joyce Cohoon	540-827-4845
Jan 10	12	Jennifer Wilson	540-937-5699
Jan 17	13	Carrie Waltz	734-678-9653
Jan 24	Winter – Lesson 1	Tish Smyth	540-717-5144
Jan 31	2	Sarah Pendleton	540-538-0392



Poinsettia Sign-Up

As has been the tradition at RLC, we will be enjoying beautiful Poinsettias at all of our Christmas Eve services, again this year. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for all to enjoy for that evening, please sign-up on the sheet on the round table in the back of the Sanctuary. **Last day to sign-up is Sunday, December 13.**

The cost of the Poinsettia is \$10. For payment you may use your tithing envelope or pew envelope. Write Poinsettia & check flowers and write the amount.

* You may take your Poinsettia home after the 9 pm Christmas Eve service. *

Thank you all for your support. Contact Nancy Aitken – nancyandal@vabb.com or (540) 729-0423.

* All Saints Weekend *

What a beautiful celebration of the Saints of God: those living, those yet to come and those who now "rest from their labors."

I am very grateful to Pastor Brad and the members of the Worship and Music Committee for their continued support, encouragement and suggestions that make this time so meaningful to all.

There were many who said "yes" (some at the last moment) when asked to help and/or participate in making this observance a special part of our worship services.

Thank you to: Ingrid Gormly, Laci Potter, Ken Tomayko, Diane Kelly, Susi Potter,

Becky Delf, Fran Simms, Dewey and Janet McDonnell, Dawn Harwood, Jennifer Wilson, Amy Harwood, Jeanine Oglesby, Alda and Mark Ward, John Mazuch, and Juba Trippi.

A special thank you to Ada Foster for taking care of the altar parament and fair linen.

I thank the congregation for submitting Memorial Names of loved ones, both family and friends.

May God continue His blessings on each of us and may we all walk in the Light of Jesus, serving Him.

Jerrie Rosenfeld



Elder Ada Foster places her candle during All Saints Worship.



Dawn helps parishioners light candles.



Prayer Time

Each Sunday morning there will be prayer in the Chapel from 10 - 10:45 am

Prayer and Song

This has been discontinued as we are frequently offering prayer after the 6:30 pm Weds. Service.

Wednesday seems to be the Lord's choice!

Healing Service

Saturday, December 19
(every 4th Saturday of the month)
Following Saturday Worship

*Everyone is invited to the monthly Prayer Ministry meetings
On the 2nd Saturday of the month
10 am in the Fellowship Hall*

Next meeting is Sat, Dec 12 @ 9 am
*(Time change only for Dec.)
We continue our new study
"A Powerful Joy: Lessons in Healing"
And will focus on the battle
in our minds.*

Contact Nancy Crow at (540) 825-2642



Reformation is excited to announce our new
Dance Ministry
led by Joyce Cohoon.

Dance Ministry will begin Monday, January 11 and will meet each Monday thereafter at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Who: All 5th -12th graders

When: Mondays @ 6:30 Pm

Where: RLC Fellowship Hall

Cost: Free

Attire: Children should wear a comfortable t-shirt and leggings or sweat pants.
(Clothing must be comfortable and give good range of movement)

A sign-up sheet is on the round table in the back of the Sanctuary.

Contact Joyce Cohoon (443) 517-7023 or joycecohoon@outlook.com

About Joyce...

Joyce began dancing at the age of three. She learned ballet, tap and jazz. She continued her studies through high school where she was president of the modern dance team, and choreographed, taught and performed. Through college Joyce was involved in ballet, modern, improve, and African dance studies, as well as Ballroom Dance club, where she taught ballroom dance. She graduated from the University of MD with a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Dance. Joyce has a life time of experience with dance and is excited to join her love for her church with her love of dance!

Spiritual Leadership Retreat - continued from the front page.

We ended Saturday as Pastor Wendell provided us a teaching on Church leadership. He used the four Core Values of the NALC to teach us about this leadership as they include Mission Driven, Christ Centered, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Centered values. It was an intensive and exhausting weekend. So much was learned, as we con-

tinue to grow more leaders for our congregation. Even after all these presentations, Pastor Wendell preached at all of our weekend Worship Services!

A special thank you goes out to Ingrid Gormly and all who helped with the Fellowship during the event!



More than 60 members of RLC's congregation participated in the Spiritual Leadership Retreat. Photo by Diane Kelly.



Dear Reformation Family -

Lisa and I would like to thank everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We are excited to report we collected 84 Shoeboxes this year! Many people offered additional monies for the cost of shipping, in addition to the fee per box donated. We are quite sure that you brought smiles across the miles to the faces of many children this year.

Again, thanks for your generosity and kindness. It is appreciated very much.

In His Service -

*Mickey Miller & Lisa Hales
Social Ministry*



Our Reformation church family filled 84 Shoe Boxes this year for donation to Operation Christmas Child.

it's
**Cookie
time!**



A quick reminder...

**The Annual Cookie Walk
Is Saturday, Dec 5
From 9 am - 12 Noon**

Please Drop off your Cookies

Friday from 12 - 3 pm

Or Saturday by 8:30 am

You can leave them in the kitchen

Clearly Marked "Cookie Walk"

Thank you so much!

We couldn't do this without you!

**Next meeting ~ Sat, Dec. 19
From 9 - 11 am in the Fellowship
Hall at church! Come join us!**

**Get ready for a
New! Photo Directory
for our
Reformation Family!**

The Women's Ministry is sponsoring a new Church Photo Directory for 2016. We have contracted with a new company, LifeTouch, who promises us a beautiful Directory with no high pressure sales to buy photos.

WE NEED YOU to participate in order to make the Directory a success. The more families that participate, the more products we can order and receive for FREE!

The purpose of a Photo Directory is to help us get to know one another. We have so many new faces since our last photo directory in 2012! We need help putting names and faces together.

Women's Ministry Rocked 2015!

Our benevolence giving inward was to VBS for snacks, and Social Ministry for postage for the Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. Outreach included Culpeper Food Closet, Trinity Lutheran, Omega Partnerships, Living Word Lutheran, and the American Bible Society which provides Bibles for Troops.

We hosted fun events at church: Faithbooking, Square Foot Gardening with John & Dianne Vanderhoof, and The Art of Floral Arrangements with Harriett Hickman. Our 5th Annual Tea Party was lovely this Spring! In the Summer we took a group to the Marine Corps Museum, and hosted a tour and picnic at Montpelier. We went offsite to Graves' Mountain Lodge this Fall for a day Retreat.

Three Bake Sales, the Belk Charity Sale, and our Annual Cookie Walk & Jewelry sale round out our year. All this and we've increased new members by 29%! ***It's all about Jesus! We can't wait for 2016!!***



**Church
Photo
Directory**

**Our sitting dates are:
Monday, January 4, 2016 and
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
From 2 - 9 pm on both days**

Start looking for sign-up sheets in the Narthex to schedule an appointment. Online sign-up will be available or you can call Lois Brobst @ (540) 829-0585 to schedule an appointment. Remember, a family photo needs to have all our family and friends represented.

**We are Counting on YOU To Help
Make This Exciting Project
A HUGE SUCCESS!!!**

MEN'S MINISTRY

Join us Saturday, Dec 12th
@ 8 am at Country Cookin'
Breakfast, Bible Study,
Business and Brotherhood!

*
**HEARTS
AS BIG
AS THE
GREAT
OUTDOORS**



The Yard Crashers!
Pictured Left to Right: Pete & Jethro, Dawn, Al, Tyler, Wayne, Carl, and Steven.

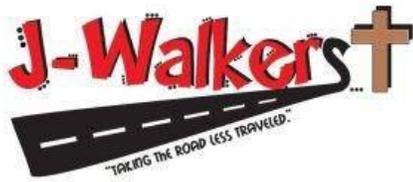
When you are in need, there is a group I'll call the "Band of Brothers in Christ" who can come to your rescue. These men gathered at the Harwood's home Saturday, November 21 and took over the land. The yard got crashed! Together with Pete and daughter Dawn, Men's Ministry collected all the leaves from their almost 2-acre yard.

Having been ill with cancer for almost 3 years, Pete didn't have the strength or stamina to tackle this job. It weighed heavy on his mind. But his friends, his brothers in Christ, came to his rescue.

The Harwoods would like to thank Al Swan, Wayne Baker, Carl Barb, Steven Baker and son Tyler, for their kind assistance.



*
Al Swan (left) and Wayne Baker (right) drove tractors for over 2 hours collecting leaves at the Harwood's home.



J-Walkers are reaching out to local youth in the community that have a parent or parents that are incarcerated this Christmas!

The RLC youth are partnering with Elder Brent Keith to help with the coordination of Angel Tree this year! Angel Tree Ministry is a ministry that allows for the congregation to sponsor a child of someone who is incarcerated so that they can get a gift at Christmas time. This year the J-

Walkers will be helping with putting all of the tags on the tree that will be displayed in the back of church. Our church family may then take a tag of a child and purchase a gift. We will also assist in the delivery of these gifts to the children on Christmas Eve. Last year this really helped our youth be the "hands and feet" of Jesus. It also is a great way for those of us who have much to remember those our own age who don't have as much.

Sounds like fun? contact Pastor Brad or Ms Lorraine @ (540) 827-7168.



***Some recent fun at Youth Group...
Bobbing for donuts?***



From Brenda Barb, Church Financial Secretary: I'm in the process of making a list for 2016 offering envelopes. You do not have to be a member of RLC to use offering envelopes.

If you are a regular contributor or wish to receive a statement please contact me at (540) 547-3457.

In order to have your contributions posted on your 2015 statement, all donations must be in the offering no later than December 27.

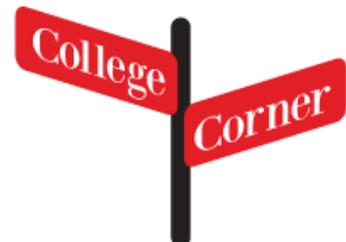


New College Students



Parents with kids in college! Please send The Beacon their mailing address, email, etc., so their church family can keep in touch!

Isaac McCauley
EMU, 1200 Park Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2462





SHARE THE WARMTH

Reformation Will Host The Heat Shelter

**at St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Jan 14th through Jan 17th**

Please see sign-up sheets in back of the Sanctuary to help, **WE NEED YOU!!**



*A warm place to spend the night
A hot meal for dinner and breakfast*



Check in is 5:20 PM at bus shelter near the Culpeper Food Closet, located behind **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**, on Commerce Street, next to the town parking lot and across from the The Pier

GUESTS MUST BE SOBER. MUST NOT HAVE ANY ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS OR PETS

The Culpeper Shelter Ministry is provided by Culpeper Area Churches and their Congregations with the support of Culpeper Department of Human Services, Piedmont United Way, and other community organizations.

In Memory of Randy Koller



In the sure and certain hope of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we must report the death of Randy Koller.

Randy was the brother of our own Deb Koller, and a decorated, career member of the United States Marine Corps. He valiantly fought the battle of a deteriorating liver, and with his loving family around him, went home with the Lord on early Wednesday morning, November 18.

Services and burial were held at the National Cemetery in Buford, South Carolina right outside of Paris Island. Our love and compassion goes out to Deb and all of her family.

Reformation Lutheran Church

509 South Main Street, Culpeper, Virginia 22701
Phone: (540) 825-1376 Fax: (540) 825-8124
www.CulpeperLutherans.org



December

Bill & Lilja Powell
Dewey & Janet McDonnell
Darryl & Becky Stewart
John & Rose Kendrick
Tim & Cindy Meadows

*Due to the Annual Meeting Potluck, there is
NO 1st Sunday Breakfast in Dec.
We resume Sun, Jan. 3. Thank you!*

Join us in December!

Full Holiday Worship Schedule Page 3

Saturdays at 6 pm

Praise & Prayer Worship with
Children's Church
Spirit-filled, Casual dress

Prayer & Healing Service
Sat, Dec. 19

Sundays at 8 & 11 am

Spirited Traditional Worship
Children's Play Practice at 10 am

Wednesdays during Advent at 6:30 pm

30-minute Traditional Worship
Holy Communion at all services



- 2 Gabriella Saunders
- 3 Mary Ann Rinker
- 5 Abigail Hales
Mary Daigle
- 7 Mary Anctil
- 9 Carolyn Shuey
- 14 Katie Carter
- 15 Marty Schwenzer
- 17 Dewey McDonnell
Isabella Whited
- 19 Joseph Gamble
Brandon Arnold
- 20 Donna Pettie
Charles Powers
- 23 Madyson Bauer
- 25 Natalie Beasley
Lindsey Graham
Macenzie Greene
- 28 Victoria Demaier
- 29 Becci Hunt
- 30 Philip Parker

stephen
MINISTRY

Contact our Stephen Ministry Leaders

Lorraine Carter (540) 825-4647
Deborah Koller (540) 222-8688
Or 825-7069

If you need someone to talk to, we can help. Please give us a call. If no answer, leave a message. We'll call right back.