

RE-FOCUS

A Publication of Reformation Lutheran Church
August 2007

Volume 27

Number 8

Welcome soon-to-be Associate Pastor Kristin Neitzel!

As many of you already know, Kristin Neitzel has accepted the call to become our Associate Pastor. This is an exciting time for the life and mission of our congregation. Kristin will be ordained on August 25th in Beloit, Wisconsin by our Synod Bishop, Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt. She plans to begin her service with us on September 1, 2007.

As we prepare for another called minister, let us do so with careful consideration and due diligence. First, let us remember that this will be Pastor Neitzel's first call. Second, let us remember that bringing another called pastor on board takes time and energy from everyone, and especially our present staff. Be patient during this time of transition. Having gone through it before, I know that it does take much effort to make a staff ministry work.

I am confident that Pastor Neitzel will be an excellent and enthusiastic addition to our life of grace in Christ. She brings wonderful skills and a maturity not readily seen in someone just graduating from Seminary. We pray for her and with her as we carry on God's call in this place and for this time. May God bless and keep Kristin as she prepares for this next venture in her faith journey, and may we, as the people of Reformation, pray that we continue to respond faithfully to God's call.

Please note that members of Reformation have received an invitation to Kristin's Ordination at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beloit, Wisconsin. Sheryl Johnson, Marlene, and I are planning to attend. If there are others who wish to attend, please let the church office know and we will provide all the appropriate information.

+ Pastor Helstrom



By the grace of God and
the call of the Church

Kristin Marie Neitzel

will be ordained
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church

on Saturday, the twenty-fifth of August
in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven
at ten thirty in the morning

at St. Paul Lutheran Church
617 Saint Lawrence Avenue
Beloit, Wisconsin

the Reverend Gerald Mansholt
Bishop of the Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presiding.

Your prayers and presence are requested.
All ordained, consecrated, and commissioned
ministers are invited to process.
The color of the day is red.

Thank You!

† Thank you to Pastor Tom for his prayers and hospital visits and to our Parish Nurses, (aka Angels) Jette & Barb, for their visits and calls. I truly appreciate all the cards and calls I have received and I will be forever grateful for all the meals lovingly prepared and delivered to our home during my recovery. As Billy Graham said: Just as we need a balanced diet to be strong physically, so we need a balanced "diet" to be strong spiritually – and part of that "diet" is the Church. I am blessed to belong to the church family of Reformation.

Thank You & God Bless You,
Linda Hoepner

† Kudos to Barb Lee and Lotus Gerards for the new 2007 Pictorial Membership Directory. Thank you for all the hours and hard work you both spent organizing, planning, scheduling and proofing the directory. It looks great!

† We would like to thank the members of Reformation for the overwhelming support given to our parents and us. Your prayers and cards helped us get through a difficult time and with joy we can say that our prayers were answered. Dad is on the road to recovery and should be back in church. Our special thanks to Barbara, Jette and Pastor Tom for being with us during those long hours they spent with us at the hospital.

Linda Terrill, Louise Smith & Leanna Pavlinski
(the daughters of Howard & Virginia Leikvold)

† To my Reformation Family,

Thanks so much for the prayers, visits, and cards, especially to Pastor Tom for his prayers and Barb Lee for her visits and encouragement. I am progressing well and will be there with you soon. God bless each of you.

Love,
Shirley Anderson

† I wish to thank the person that found and returned the LBW Hymnal that was purchased in memory of my daughter, Jo Ann.

May God Bless you,
Sylvia Stevens

Youth Worship Assistant Training

Young people in grade 4 and older who would like to serve as worship assistants (acolyte and crucifer) are invited to attend a short class on Wednesday, August 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Seventh and eighth graders who have not yet received this training should be sure to attend since this is included in confirmation expectations.



Orientation will be held on Sept 5 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet for a light supper followed by orientation. It is very

important for both students and parents to be present at this meeting to confirm our class schedule for the year.

Churchwide Assembly

The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois, August 6-11. The theme is "Living in God's amazing grace:

Thanks be to God!" Marlene Hallstrom will be attending as a voting member representing Area 5 of the Central States Synod. Preceding the Churchwide Assembly both she and Pastor Tom will attend *Worship Jubilee 2007* which is a celebration of the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.



E-mail Communication

If you would like to receive important or last minute church information/announcements by e-mail, please send an e-mail to debbie with "Church e-mail Communication" in the subject line and be sure to include your name. By this means we will be better able to keep you informed of church events in a timely manner.

Women of Reformation

CIRCLE MEETINGS

No Circle Meetings will be held this month.

WELCA Board will meet Monday, August 13, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library.

Blanket Makers will meet Monday, August 6 & 20 at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

Monthly Outreach Ministry: We will meet at Cornerstone Assisted Living on Tuesday, Aug. 14 from 3 - 4 p.m. Dorcas Circle will be supplying the refreshments. Please join us for fellowship with their residents.

The **WELCA Summer Luncheon Meeting** will be at noon on Thursday, August 30 at the church. We will have an overview of the bible study for the next program year. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a **Women's Retreat** on Health and Wellness, Oct. 13. Watch next month's Refocus for more details.

Pictorial Directories (one per family) are available to all members through the church office. They will be on display in the Narthex before and after worship services through August 5. Many thanks to Kimberly Lindemann for arranging the lay-out for the activities section of the directory and to our several photographers who contributed pictures for this section. We appreciate your work!

— Best Times —
B.T.O.L.
— Of Life —

will resume meeting
on September 10th.
See you then!

Yellow Bag Food Ministry

The Food of the Month for August is Boxed Dinners and School Supplies. Thank you for your gifts of dried beans in July. Our Yellow Bag gifts go to the United Methodist Urban Ministry Food Ministry. There is a list on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall of all the food items that are included in the emergency food boxes distributed by the Food Ministry. Any of these items are always welcome.

Yellow Bag Food Ministry for August

Boxed Dinners
and School Supplies
Pencils/Pens
Erasers/Rulers
Notebooks/Paper
Crayons/Markers

We all scream for ice cream!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 26th at 6:30pm for our annual Ice Cream Social. This year we will gather in the church. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an evening of fellowship on one of the last lazy summer days. Reformation ROCKS will provide the ice cream; you can sign up to bring sweets to savor (check in the narthex for the sign-up sheet). Hope to see you!



Thrivent Financial

The August meeting of the Northeast Sedgwick County Chapter of Thrivent Financial (Fraternal) will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 600 N. Greenwich Rd., Wichita, KS. The meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Sunday August 5th. All Thrivent members are welcome to attend.

Chapter leadership election will be held in November. It is not too early to be thinking about candidates. There are 10 elected positions. It would be nice to fill them all for next year.

Butch Amey (President)
316-744-3653

“Avalanche Ranch”

Vacation Bible School this year was called Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride Through God’s World. The first day they learned that “God is Real” from Buc the Horse. Their bible verse was, “The Lord is the only true God” Jeremiah 10:10. The second day they learned that “God is With Us” from Shadow the Dog. Their bible verse was, “The Lord your God is with you” Jos. 1:9. The third day they learned that “God is Strong” from Ranger the Buffalo. Their bible verse was,



learned that “God is Awesome” from Skye the Eagle. The bible verse was, “For the Lord most high is awesome” Psalm 47:2.

The last day they learned that “God is in Charge” from Boss the Bull. Their bible verse was, “Obey my commandments” John 14:15.



There were 40 kids that attended Vacation Bible School this year.

The kids were assigned a crew and crew leader. Each day they went to stations where they learned more about the bible point and verse. In Wild Bible



Adventure, a different bible story was acted out in a skit each day. In Chadder’s Wild West Theater, they

watched a video about Chadder the Chipmunk. In Horseplay Games, the kids played games that reinforced the bible point or verse. In Cowpoke Crafts, they made horses, bird feeders, hats, bandanas, and nametags. At Chuck Wagon Chow, they had a treat that tied into the bible verse or Avalanche Ranch character for the day. At Sing and Play Stampede, the kids heard the bible story for the day, met the Avalanche Ranch character and learned the bible point and verse.





They also learned several songs. At the end of the evening, they went to Showtime Round up. Here they watched a skit, sang the songs they learned earlier, reviewed their verse and bible point, and took home a daily challenge. During Wild Bible Adventure, the kids stuffed bears for Operation Kid to Kid. These bears will be sent to needy children in Africa. On the last day, the kids put on a



program for their parents, grandparents and friends. They sang some of their favorite Bible School songs and talked about the things they had learned. Overall, this was an awesome year for VBS.

Thanks, Jenny Larma



Monthly Community Breakfast Update

This past month of July, the volunteers from Reformation again hosted and served breakfast for approx. 105 – 110 less fortunate brothers and sisters from the community. It was again a great time. Some of our volunteers were there for their first time and it was wonderful to see them, including Nancy Watkin’s mother. All the help is so much appreciated. I will republish our “need” list again next month, but know that we have added snacks or food stuff to the list. In the past few months, aside from clothing and monetary donations, food has been donated, for example; individual bags of chips, breakfast snack bars, peanut butter & cheese crackers and small cups of applesauce. This has proven to be fantastic as these individuals, most of whom live on the street, can take these snacks (and they do) and put in their pack for later hunger. What a joy to see them help themselves to such a blessing from you, the giving members of Reformation. Believe me, they do remember who “we” are when we show up on the 3rd weekend of each month. Again, thanks to all those who volunteer their time (especially the youth), those who continue to donate needed items and money and lastly, but most importantly those who pray for this ministry.

In His Service,

Bob Livingston
Community Breakfast Volunteer
Susan Martin
Coordinator

“But those who
hope in the LORD
will renew their STRENGTH.
They will SOAR on
wings like eagles;
they will RUN and
not grow weary,
they will WALK
and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31



Choir Rehearsals Resume



Choir Rehearsals for the 2007-08 season will begin on Wednesday, September 5.

- Youth Handbell Choir (grades 5-8)
5:45 - 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Handbell Choir (high school - adult)
6:30 - 7:20 p.m.
- Parish Choir (high school - adult)
7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Interested persons who did not participate in these choirs last year are encouraged to contact Marlene Hallstrom for more information.

Church: 634-0586
Home: 687-3135



Youth Handbell Choir

All 5th through 8th grade musicians are invited to join a Youth Handbell Choir for the 2007-08 school term. Ringing bells is a great way to increase musicianship, make friends, and share your talents. The choir will rehearse at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings preceding confirmation classes which will begin at 6:30. A minimum of six-eight ringers who will commit to regular attendance are needed for this group. For more information, please contact Marlene Hallstrom at the church (634-0586) or home (687-3135).

Learning Board Welcomes...

Tina Alstrom and Katie Johnson have volunteered to be the new Sunday School Superintendents. Running the Sunday School and Adult Education programs requires many volunteers and parent involvement, so please offer to help them out.

Lynette Wetta has volunteered to be the new nursery coordinator. Call Lynette if you have items to donate to the nursery or would like to help her.

Thank you Tina, Katie and Lynette for giving so generously of your time. It is greatly appreciated.

Red Cross Blood Drive

It's time again. Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. – noon on the Red Cross Donor Coach, located in our parking lot. Red Cross appreciates your willingness to donate. Let's see if we can increase our numbers.

Thrivent® Builds



One Down and One to Go! The second 2007 Thrivent/Wichita Habitat House construction project will begin September 11 with completion expected by September 29. Watch for the sign up table in the narthex. This home will be located at 33rd St North and Arkansas.

Once again, as part of the agreement for the home, 50% of volunteers must be Lutherans and 25% of those volunteers must be Thrivent members.

Thank you to all the Reformation volunteers! The dedication of the first 2007 home will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, August 9th at 917 S Pattie. All are welcome.