

# The Messenger

Newsletter of Lebanon Reformed Church

May 2013

## What is the Missional Church?

The missional church is made up of the covenant people of the God of mission. These people participate in God's mission and bear witness to the reign of God as disciples and as a congregation.

This understanding of the church is liberating because God's people don't have to manufacture the work of God. God is the one doing the heavy lifting. This means they can quit trying to create inspiration through frenetic church activity and instead hoist their sails to catch the wind of the Holy Spirit that's already blowing.

At the same time, this understanding of who believers are as the church carries immense responsibility. Their job is not to do church well, but to be the people of God in an unmistakable way in the world. Christians are to be the aroma of Jesus. They are light in the world, yeast leavening everything around them, and salt seasoning life with the very life of God. They are different in the hope they offer, in the grace they exhibit, in their obvious loving sacrifices, and in the blessings they pour out for others.

### **The missional church is primarily people.**

Wherever missional followers of Jesus are, the church is present—at home, at work, at school, in the neighborhood, at the ballpark, at the dance studio, at the homeless shelter—wherever followers of Jesus take their identity as the people of God seriously.

### **The missional church is a covenant community.**

The Bible insists that God's work is to be done in and through the covenant community that God forms, calls, and sends through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit. This covenant community reflects the nature of God, who exists in perfect community as a Trinity. The mystery of God as Trinity is that God exists in a community of intimacy, equality, collaboration, and self-giving love. The oneness of God isn't the oneness of a distinct, self-contained individual. It is the unity of a community of persons who love one another and live and work together in harmony. Missional followers of Jesus can't conceive of their spiritual identity outside of being in accountable and encouraging relationships with other baptized people of God and followers of Jesus. The church is not a part of life for missional followers of Jesus; it is a way of life with others who are on a similar journey.

This is what it means to be on mission with God. It is not a mission that is pursued as something extra to daily life—something outside the normal range of activity—a request to do something beyond one's life assignments. It is a way of seeing oneself as partnering with God in daily life, doing the mundane as well as the sublime, intentionally blessing people and sharing the life of God with them.

## Characteristics of a Missional Church

Kim Hammond, John Mark Ministries (<http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/567.htm>):

The missional church goes back to the life of Jesus. It submerges itself into the culture it is reaching. He did not construct a building or start a service. Rather he walked among the poor and hurt and lost. He incarnated himself. He became flesh; God came down from heaven and lived among us. He was born poor and grew up in a despised town called Nazareth. He had a questionable birth and in all likelihood lost his earthly father at an early age. He became close friends of sinners and was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard (Luke 8:34).

This was the only model the early church knew. Those that had been his disciples saw how he pulled away from the crowd and wanted no fame or fortune for his ability to lead and heal. His purpose was to build into the lives of a small group of people so that his mission to bring the kingdom would be carried on their shoulders.

The missional church understands that it is primarily a missional community of people being trained and equipped to live among the world as missionaries. The same principle as overseas missions is applied in the first world. We speak the language, wear the clothes and submerge into the culture we want to reach.

From "Missional Church," an article published on the *Christianity Today* website ([www.christiantoday.com/article/missional.church/22760.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/missional.church/22760.htm)):

A person that goes missional does not measure how well they are doing spiritually by how often they attend church, and missional churches don't judge their spiritual health by how many people fill the pews on Sunday. Instead, missional individuals think about God and the world and arrange their whole life—every aspect of their life—around their faith convictions and put their faith into every day actions...

The three major shifts in thinking and behavior seen in a person or church that goes missional are: from internal to external in terms of ministry focus; from program development to people development in terms of core activity; and from church-based to kingdom-based in terms of leadership agenda...

## A Prayer for the People

Gracious God, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, and help us to show your love to others. Amen

# Mission and Ministry

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## Grace Reformed Church

### Grace Reformed Donations

Donations of gently used clothing and household items can be placed in the storage shed. Please see Melanie or Dale for the key. Our donations go to the people in the Newark community and are also donated overseas to Haiti.

### Church Building Repairs

A group of volunteers from LRC went to Grace Reformed in February to assess repairs needed to their church building. Below are the most immediate needs and the areas LRC can help. They include:

- a new vinyl floor in their vestibule.
- a new steel door in the kitchen
- re-attach their church sign.

Dale Webb has been working with local businesses for donations of vinyl flooring and a steel door. We thank, Mill Direct Carpet and The Rug Mart of Flemington for both donating pieces of vinyl. A date to return to make the repairs will be decided within the next month. If you would like to be part of the team that helps with the repairs please let Dale know.

Dale is also assisting Grace Reformed to secure a contractor that will be willing to do the work on their steeple that was damaged during Storm Sandy.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

## Open Cupboard Food Pantry Ministry

The next collection is **Sunday, May 19**. Put all donations in the brown basket located in the rear of the church. Most needed are **canned fruit and vegetables**. Please speak to Melanie Ikenson or Dale Webb with any questions.

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## Family Promise

Thank you to all the volunteers at LRC that either hosted and/or provided dinner and dessert for the families staying with Family Promise of Hunterdon County on April 15, 16, 22 and 23. The families were very thankful for your compassion and generosity!

LRC is scheduled to host again on September 2, 3, 9 and 10. A sign-up sheet and details will be provided closer to the date.

## **Soup, Stew and Chili on March 9th**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, talents and treasures to make the Soup, Stew and Chili such a success!!



Gussie & Leroy taking a break from setting up to dance as we listened to Nancy & Jamie's wonderful music as they rehearsed.

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## **Volunteers Needed to Help Keep LRC Looking Beautiful**

Please help the Building and Grounds Committee by volunteering one or two days over the summer to cut the church lawn. The sign-up sheet is posted on the small bulletin board next to the coffee bar.

Questions, please speak to Bud Van Doren

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**Please mark your calendars.....LRC's Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic will be June 30 at 10:00 AM.**



## **June 1 Workshop**

The Lebanon Reformed Church presents a brand new workshop:

### **No Fear Here!**

This new workshop, presented by Jennifer Silva, a Certified Life Coach, is for anyone who wants to break through what's holding you back both spiritually and emotionally from the best life you can live. Even though fear is a natural human response to danger, very often we let it get the best of us. In this new experiential workshop you'll discover insights that will help you understand what Fear really is and what its purpose is for us, Healthy Fear vs. Toxic Fear, Fear-based thinking and how it limits us, and how to begin to break down the walls that fear creates in our lives.

Come join us as we explore this topic and learn how to move through the limits that fear puts on our lives. As a result you will experience less stress and anxiety while feeling more at peace in your life.

**When:** Saturday, June 1, 2013  
**Where:** Lebanon Reformed Church (in the Fellowship Hall)  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 1:00pm  
**Cost:** \$39

**To Register: Please call Jennifer Silva, CEC at (908) 752-5287 by May 27, 2013**

Seating is limited to 10 so register today!

Questions, please contact Deana Van Doren.



## **Annual Community Volleyball Night at LRC**

Community Volleyball will be held every Wednesday evening starting May 29 thru Aug 28 from 6:30-8pm on the lawn at Lebanon Reformed Church. All ages and abilities are welcome to play or watch. There is also supervised activity for children and ice pops and water for all. For information, contact Robin Giordano (908) 399-5016 or [lebanonreformedchurch.org](http://lebanonreformedchurch.org).

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## **Vacation Bible School**

Wednesdays evenings from July 3 - August 28, 2013

Lebanon Reformed Church will hold Vacation Bible School for the surrounding community on Wednesday evenings in July and August from 6:30 -8pm.

The theme for July is "Times in the Bible".

The August theme is "Bugs in the Bible" where students will raise Monarch butterflies..

Children of all ages are welcome. Ice Pops and water will be served.

For more information, contact Melanie Ikenson.

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## **Family Film Night on the Green**

Get ready to grab the lawn chairs and a blanket, and join us for a community family fun night at the movies! Lebanon Reformed Church will feature The Bee Movie starting at 7:30 PM on Friday, June 14. Please invite your neighbors.



Outreach Ministry ideas either planned or discussed include:

- Card Ministry
- LRC to get more involved with the three Girl Scout Troops using the Skunk House for their monthly meetings.
- June worship service dedicated to local firefighters and EMS volunteers.
- Donations collected for Dale Webb's son's unit serving in Afghanistan.
- Town Wide Yard Sale on September 21.
- Halloween Rest Stop – serve hot cider, coffee and hand out candy bags
- WE Faith Dinner – intergenerational bible study/dinner for the whole church.
- Additional workshops.
- Summer progressive dinner (LRC fellowship)
- Quarterly potluck luncheons beginning in the Fall (LRC fellowship)

To get involved, please speak with Deana Van Doren.

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## Welcome to Consistory



Pictured L to R: Dale Webb, Mary Duk and Ginger Twardy – 2/24/2013



## Summer Worship Schedule

Starting June 23

Sunday at 10 AM

### Consistory Members

#### Deacons

Melanie Ikenson  
Michelle Quinn  
Ginger Twardy  
Deana Van Doren  
Dale Webb

#### Elders

Mark Duk  
Andrea Hoffman  
Rod Robinson  
Steve Slutter

### Just For Laughs

#### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Mild mannered Joe Christian knows that when trouble arises... THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR... The HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD is here! **Ro 8:26-27**

#### Lebanon Reformed Church

100 Brunswick Ave, Lebanon, NJ 08833  
(908) 236-6176

[www.lebanonreformedchurch.org](http://www.lebanonreformedchurch.org)

#### *Join us for Worship*

Sunday 11:00 AM  
Fellowship 12:00 PM

The Messenger is a monthly publication for the families and friends of Lebanon Reformed Church.

Editor – Deana Van Doren