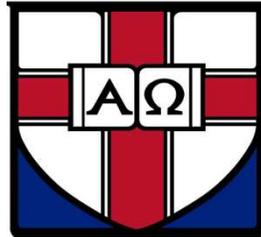


**PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH
IN CROATIA AND SERBIA
(A jurisdiction of the Reformed Episcopal Church)**



**NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012**

WEDDING IN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD – OSIJEK

As you know from our earlier newsletters, our church of the Good Shepherd in Osijek is growing not only in size but in quality as well. So far, we have had confirmations of new believers, admitting new members into the church, and on October 16th we had a wedding of Miroslav and Janja. The two of them have been married for years and have lovely children but now they have decided to crown their married life with a church wedding as well. This was a very joyous and significant occasion for our church to see how the Lord is working in lives of believers He brings into our church.



You can see the photos here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.4917713739403.199740.1195021429&type=3>

BAPTISM IN CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD - OSIJEK

Last summer we admitted to our church two new believers, Erik and Andreja. On December 23, 2012 their children, Emilia and Natun, were baptized. It truly was a great blessing to see the whole family serve the Lord.

More photos of the event here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137394519750352.29625.121465764676561&type=1>



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST IN OSIJEK

On Saturday, November 03, 2012, in the hotel Osijek, an interdenominational "Women's breakfast" event was held, organized by the women's department of the *Protestantsko Evandeosko Vijeće* (The Protestant Evangelical Committee).



180 ladies attended the event and the theme was "Life's gains and losses". Many of the sisters from our churches in Tordini and Osijek attended the event and were greatly blessed by spending time with sisters from other denominations.

You can see the photos of the event here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.548353121848512.139935.100000214879541&type=1>

REFORMATION DAY

Our churches marked Reformation Day with special celebrations. The church in Osijek had a very lovely celebration of the occasion. A celebration of the Reformation Day was held in Belgrade, Serbia as well.



Photos of the event:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.5000926299665.201509.1195021429&type=3>

Video of the sermon:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mQV4YXXVHh4

On the occasion of Reformation Day, representatives from churches of various Protestant traditions had an audience with the president of Croatia, Dr. Ivo Josipović. Bishop Elect Jasmin Milić was invited and attended the audience.

BLESSING OF THE FAMILIES (AND INDIVIDUALS) DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

Every year, during Advent, we give blessings upon the homes and families of church members. For many years, our church in Croatia has kept the tradition of the Advent blessing. It is the time of the year when a priest visits all of the church members in their homes. This is a wonderful opportunity for a priest to meet with all of his parishioners (throughout the year priests visit the sick and elderly and those in need, but this is an opportunity to visit all believers in their homes), to get to know them better, learn about their problems and to thank the Lord for the year behind us and to pray for blessing in the year ahead. This year's guiding thought has been, "To have permanent fellowship with God", not to view God only as someone we call upon in our hour of need, but to see God as our permanent support, as someone we can safely rely upon in this new year ahead of us.

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN OSIJEK

The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek hosted a fair of Christian literature from October 22 – 26, 2012. Every day, different publishers would present books from various authors. Visitors to the fair also had the opportunity to get acquainted with literature we publish. On Friday, October 26th, bishop-elect Dr. Jasmin Milić introduced his new book *Blagoslovljeno Kraljevstvo Njegovo* [Blessed be His kingdom], an interpretation of the Eucharist according to the BCP. You can watch the 53-minute video of the presentation (English translation is available).



More photos here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.122204031269401.24879.121465764676561&type=1>

You can watch the video here: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/26443682>

SCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT OUR MISSION CHURCH IN ZAGREB

On Tuesday November 27th, a group of junior high students from the Croatian region, Podravina came to visit the Reformed Episcopal Church in Zagreb. The reason for their visit was educational (to learn about other church traditions). Seminarian Almir Pehlić gave a short and interactive lecture on the Central European and Croatian Reformation in the 16th century. Students and their teachers had the opportunity to ask questions in order to better understand the Reformation and the Reformed churches. They were pleased with the presentation and they asked the Reformed Episcopal Church for further cooperation in the form of religious education of youth.



EVENING OF SPIRITUAL POETRY

The Reformed Episcopalians from Zagreb and Karlovac organized An Evening of Spiritual Poetry. This event took place in the church in Zagreb on the evening of November 30, 2012. There were about 10 people who came to enjoy a poetic way of expressing God's love to His people, and individual efforts of understanding God's will in everyday life. Even though there weren't many people present, the church enjoyed a time of peace and worship through Croatian, American, and English poems. It



was especially interesting to hear from the Puritan prayer book *The Valley of Vision*. For the promoter, Almir Pehlić, this was just a start of this season's poetry readings, and an opportunity for other people from the cities of Karlovac and Zagreb to hear the Gospel through spiritual poetry in a different venue.

Photographs of the event:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151503007013989&set=a.10151503006978989.597527.12209853988&type=1&theater>

CHURCH SERVICES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN ZAGREB

Since many English speaking foreigners live in the capital of Croatia, our mission church in Zagreb has started providing, once a month, church services in the English language. So far we have about 10 English speaking foreigners that attend regularly.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN OUR CHURCHES

We had very festive Christmas celebrations in our churches. The most festive celebration was at the church in Tordini where we had over 100 people. Children prepared a special Christmas program for the church, which was a great blessing for all.

Thanks to the humanitarian organization, *Team Hope* from Ireland, our children received Christmas gifts from their peers in Ireland.



Photos of the event here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137559239733880.29683.121465764676561&type=1>

You can watch the video from the church service in Tordini here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=j1aZFSwzHbs

Video from the church service in Osijek:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=k2DNaQS6PyA

If you want to help us in any way,
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