

**Thursday, April 2, 2009—12:00 noon**

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**The Rev. Dax Jordan, Pastor / Developer  
Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection  
Brambleton, Virginia**

*“Field of Dreams, or Dances with Wolves?”*

The Rev. Dax Jordan is the pastor / developer of Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection in the Brambleton Community of Ashburn, VA near Dulles Airport. He has received his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Princeton Seminary, and was ordained as a pastor in the ELCA in November after completing his Vicarship with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Centerville, VA.

Pastor Jordan grew up in Orange County, CA where he met his wife in junior high school. His wife, Terri, moved to Bowie, MD after graduating from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA. After Dax began his studies at Princeton in the summer of 2002, the two reunited and were married in 2004. They just recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on Valentines Day.

Both Dax and Terri are committed to the mission of the church and have experienced a great sense of call to bring the Gospel and to introduce the Lutheran tradition to the people of Brambleton.

\* \* \*

We invite all Lutherans and their friends to join us for this luncheon meeting of **Lutheran Lay Fellowship**, scheduled for the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 noon till 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive in Silver Spring, one mile south of the Capitol Beltway at Exit 30. Ample off-street parking is available. Interested persons can make reservations for a delicious lunch by calling **Harlan Oelke at 301-545-1910** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 31**.. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.50, payable at the door.

**LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP  
LUNCHEON MEETING  
March 5, 2009**

Our meeting began with a devotion and prayer by our speaker, Rev. Daniel Biles.

**Announcements**

Birthday greetings were sung to our March celebrants: Daniel Biles 3-3; Ellie Wegener, 3-20; Jerry Lucas, 3-21; and Doris Schneider, 3-28.

President Larry Schmidt reported that 61 persons presently have responded to our 2009 membership letter by sending dues and donations. He also noted that \$5,675 has been generated through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 1,2,3 Campaign for the Wegener Chaplaincy.

President Schmidt and John Priebe are in the process of finding **25 corporate members to serve a 3-year term with Fellowship Square Foundation**. They will be elected at the April 2 meeting of LLF and invited to the **FSF Annual Meeting on April 18, 2009 at Hunters Woods Fellowship House**. Members will be receiving an invitation to the annual meeting this week.

Ellie Wegener reported that we plan to have the new LLF brochures ready to distribute by the FSF Annual Meeting. Some donations for the cost of printing have been received but more are needed.

**Speaker Notes**

**“A Slow Resurrection: Rebuilding the Lutheran Church In Russia”**

**The Rev. Daniel Biles** who is presently the pastor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, PA, was a guest lecturer at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosaratovka, Russia from 1997 to 2003 and coordinator of the USA Appeal for Lutheran Churches in the Russian Far East from 2002 through the present.

Lutherans have been in Russia since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They were first invited by Peter the Great and also under the German-born Catherine the Great (d.1796). German farmers were invited to settle along the Volga region. Lutherans were required to worship in their ethnic language, and until 1905 it was a criminal offense to accept as converts ethnic Russians, all of whom were Orthodox Christians.

Lutherans prospered in Russia. Many served in government and the military, even commanding Russian armies against Germany in World War I. Germans helped found the city of Vladivostok in the Russian Far East during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church, is the oldest church in the city.

All this changed in the 1920’s when Russia descended into the darkness of Communism. Under Stalin’s Reign of Terror in the 1920’s, churches were closed. German Lutherans were exiled to Kazakhstan and Siberia, often herded into cattle cars, dropped off at a distant station, and left to fend for themselves. The Church went underground, surviving as informal faith communities led by laity who baptized their children, meeting in secret prayer and study groups, as they were able. Catechesis often fell to the grandparents who were left to take care of the grandchildren while their parents were required to work in the Communist system.

The “Resurrection of the Church” began in the 1980’s under Gorbachev. Lutherans were allowed to reform congregations. Of course, in the beginning there were no pastors; these had to be imported from Germany and the United States. Great sums of money were needed to repair churches and most of that came from Germany. Another paramount need was theologically-trained clergy education for laity. In response to this

need, Dean Gerhard Krodel of Gettysburg Seminary launched a drive to provide seed money for a new seminary. Seeking to raise \$50,000, Krodel and his wife raised nearly a million and a half dollars. A small group of Lutherans in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East was discovered by Pastor Manfred Brockmann of Hamburg, Germany. A group of Lutheran Christians is now worshipping in the old church building, formerly used as a museum for the Russian Navy in the Far East.

Pastor Biles concluded, "Thrones and crowns may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus, constant will remain." The Kingdom's ours, forever.

Those who wish to support the Lutheran Seminary in Novosaratovka may do so by sending contributions to the Lutheran Endowment for Novosaratovka Seminary (LENS), c/o Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101. Support for Lutheran congregations in the Russian Far East can be sent to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 S. Main St., Spring Grove, PA 17301, attn. Pr. Dan Biles.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Schmidt

## **HELP US SAVE \$\$ AND THE ENVIRONMENT!**

In our attempt to be eco-friendly and save on postage, we'd like to send this newsletter electronically as much as possible. If you're willing to receive our Newsletter by email, please contact the editor, Rev. David Berg at this address: [dgberg@erols.com](mailto:dgberg@erols.com). Put "LLF" in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET**

The LLF Executive Committee of LLF will meet again on Thursday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring.

## **WHAT IS THE LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP?**

*"As early as 1936, feeling there was a definite need for closer cooperation between Lutheran laity and clergy, a group of laymen in the Washington, DC. Metropolitan area, organized to hold meetings that would bring pastors and laity closer together. Due to jurisdictional differences as well as ministerial difficulties, very little success was achieved until the fall of 1941. Then the group met and decided to hold a luncheon once a month, invite their friends and bring visitors. The first luncheon was a success, and within three months every Lutheran judicatory was represented..."* [From a **Lutheran Directory of Metropolitan Washington, DC**, published in 1999.]

Today, more than 70 years later, the Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington takes pride in knowing that every night, 365 nights each year, more than 700 low income seniors and disabled persons live in safety and friendship in four high rises owned and managed by Fellowship Square Foundation, Inc. By means of annual scholarships and grants, LLF also supports various college and seminary students; it also provides ushering services for major inter-Lutheran events. But most of all, LLF is known far and wide as a place to hear stimulating speakers on timely topics and to make friends from other Lutheran congregations—friendships that last for decades!

Won't you join us?