

Thursday, September 3, 2009—12:00 noon

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

**The Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Scherer
President Emeritus, Southeastern District, LC-MS**

“Ministry in the 21st Century: Emerging Trends”

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Scherer is President Emeritus of the Southeastern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He previously served as Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Northern Region of the Southeastern District and was a parish pastor in the Southeastern District for 28 years, serving initially as a mission developer, then as sole pastor and later as senior pastor of multiple staff congregations.

Pastor Scherer’s topic for our September 3 meeting is, *“The Church in the 21st Century: Emerging Trends.”* He maintains that the Christian Church is entering a transitional period of challenge and opportunity marked by certain emerging developments. Some of these developments are:

- ... from denominational / ecumenical to missional
- ... from attractional evangelism to incarnational evangelism
- ... from Northern / Western hemisphere domination to Southern / Eastern hemisphere
- ... from program development to people development
- ... from growing the Church to building the Kingdom

Since his retirement as District President, Pastor Scherer has served as a regional consultant for Capital Funding Services of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and serves the larger church in various capacities, including the Board of Regents of Concordia College—New York, an “Ablaze! Ambassador” for the LCMS, and as chair of the Development Advisory Group for Augsburg Lutheran Home, Baltimore.

He also has been called upon as a presenter and facilitator for workshops, seminars, and conferences in many LCMS Districts, and consults with congregations in the areas of stewardship and policy-based governance. *“Becoming a Trustee of Lutheran Values,”* an orientation guide for governing boards, was published in 2005 by Lutheran Services in America. *“Consecrated Stewards: A Stewardship Program to Grow in Proportionate Giving”* was developed for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund in 2006 and is currently being made available to congregations through LCEF.

Pastor Scherer graduated from Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, IN, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. His Doctor of Ministry was earned at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA, in the area of the ministry of the laity. He also holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Concordia College, New York.

Art and Linda Scherer live in Catonsville, MD, a suburb of Baltimore. They are members of Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Arbutus, MD. They have two grown and married children.

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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 Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive in Silver Spring, one mile south of the Capital 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 **Tuesday, September 1**. The cost of the luncheon is \$9.00, payable at the door.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

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| October 1 | The Rev. Ralph Wiechmann, Our Savior's Way, Ashburn, VA: <i>"47 Years of Doing the Same Thing, or Was It the Same Thing"</i> |
| November 5 | To be announced |
| December 3 | The Rev. Connie Miller, Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD |

LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING August 6, 2009

Our meeting began with a devotion based on 1 Samuel 3 by the Rev. Amy Sevimli. The speaker spoke of the work generations can do together.

Speaker Notes

The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli
Assistant to the Bishop, Metro DC Synod, ELCA

Challenge and Opportunity: Our Ministry with Young Adults"

The Rev. Amy Sevimli received her Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School received a Fulbright Scholarship and taught in Germany. She received as Master of sacred Theology in New Testament from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2008. For the past 18 months, she has served as assistant to Bishop Richard Graham of the Metro DC Synod.

"The Young Adult Puzzle" was the topic of Rev. Sevimli's talk. Adults 18-35 comprise the target group, as defined by this synodical program. She provided much demographic information about the Millennial Generation, those born from 1980 to 2000. Some of the characteristics of this group include:

- They assume technology.
- Institutions are useful but loyalty is lacking.
- They grew up with the highest level of wealth ever.
- 32% have been raised in a single-parent family.
- 89.4% have a mother who works outside the home.
- They have been told that they are "special."
- They have grown up in "child-centered" families parented by ambitious achievers.
- They are confident and optimistic.
- They are team- and work-oriented.
- They remain very connected to family and friends.
- They use lots of technology gadgets.
- They are very sheltered and safety-oriented.

Rev. Sevimli noted that the old markers of adults—that one has left home, is married, has children, finished school, has a full-time job, and achieved financial independence by the age of 30 have all changed. Today's 18-35 year olds have delayed all of these traditional marks of mature adulthood.

Our speaker concluded with some ideas from *"After the Baby Boomers"* by Robert Wuthnow. This professor at Princeton Seminary states that religious leaders need to develop creative plans and programs for unmarried young adults. Many changes will be necessary for this ministry for young adults, but, more than that, for generations working together more effectively.

Suggestions: 1) People should be authentic. 2) Teachers, parents and grandparents often are the inspiration for today's generation of young adults. 3) Avoid telling young people what they should do; treat them as adults. 4) Enter into mentoring relationships. 5) Connect them into service opportunities, both in the US and abroad. 6) Make good use of technology for congregational information and outreach.

Announcements

August birthday greetings were given to **Dan Bella, Helen Rebholz** and **Faye Coddling**. **Lola and Bernie Boehm** are celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary on August 14.

Dan Bella presented a \$1,000 LLF Scholarship check to **Stephen Zeller**, of Cumberland but now on the youth ministry staff of Saint Luke. Stephen will begin his Master of Divinity studies at Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH starting in September. Dan thanked all who helped with this effort, especially **Harlan Oelke** and **Bill Wegener**, members of the Scholarship Committee.

First time attendees were **Pat Schuster** and **Betty Leizear**, friends of Helen Rebholz.

Ellie Wegener encouraged participation in the Employment Support Center. Faye Coddling provided copies of *Prime Times*, a publication of Fellowship Square.

LLF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of Lutheran Lay Fellowship announces the following schedule of meetings for its 2009 – 2010 year: October 1; December 3; March 4; May 6; and July 1. All meetings are scheduled at Saint Luke.

HELP US SAVE \$\$ AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

In our attempt to be eco-friendly and to 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 G. Berg at this address: dgberg@erols.com. Put "LLF" in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation.

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?