

Thursday, February 4, 2010—12:00 noon

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

“The Way of Faith”
The Rev. Jessicah L. K. Duckworth, Asst. Professor
Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC

“We have a way.” This is the response some ELCA congregations give to newcomers, seekers, and other engaging the faith. *“We have a way to welcome you. We have a way to explore your questions about Jesus and the Christian faith. We have a way to help you discern God’s calling and live out that calling in daily life.”* Come explore, re-imagine, and practice faith formation that nurtures discipleship and renews your commitment to evangelism outreach in the 21st century.

The Rev. Jessicah L. K. Duckworth is an ordained member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod) and serves as an assistant professor of Christian Formation and Teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the Wesley faculty, she taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She serves on the Catechumenate Task Force of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Professor Duckworth earned her bachelor’s degree from George Washington University, her master of divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and is currently working on her Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is married to her husband Christopher, associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington.

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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 Capitol Beltway at Exit 30. Ample off-street parking is available. Interested persons can make reservations for a delicious lunch by contacting **Vicki Porter at 301-229-9884** or **VICKI.PORTER@Longandfoster.com** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 2**. The cost of the luncheon is \$9.00, payable at the door.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

March 4 The Rev. Dr. Roy Enquist on his new book, *"The Courage to Believe"*

LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, January 7, 2010—12:00 noon

Our meeting began with a devotional by our guest speaker, Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, who read Psalm 46

He then asked everyone to think of an instance last year when they experienced the presence of God and share with their neighbor. The president, Bob (Sarge) Sargeant, hoped everyone had prayerfully considered what they should do for the new year and then did the announcements.

Announcements

January birthdays recognized included Betty Frederick, 8th; Betty Shanklin, 16th; Rodney Smith, 22nd and Norm Larson, 31st. Anniversaries: 41st for Larsen's on January 26th.

There were no first time visitors this month.

There is a new website being developed for LLF and someone is needed to help with the content. Dave Lambert is handling the technical end as the new LLF webmaster. Dave can be contacted at webmaster@DavidRobertLambert.com.

Dan Bella read a thank you letter from Stephen Zeller, the recipient of the scholarship this year.

John Priebe encouraged everyone to renew their LLF membership.

Larry Schmidt passed on Jim Garrett's thank you for the overwhelming response on the winter gift boxes and 1-2-3 campaign.

"Being Church in a Post-Christian World"

The Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane

The Rev. Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane serves as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Mission Director for the ELCA's Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) unit, serving as Church-wide deployed staff in both the Delaware-Maryland and Metropolitan Washington DC synods.

Trained as a journalist in his native Germany, he has also served as the executive director of the Good Samaritan Center, an ecumenical social-services agency serving the poor and homeless in Camden, New Jersey; as the administrative director of the five-church Camden Lutheran Parish; and as Mission Director in the New Jersey Synod. Ordained in 2001, Pastor Wolfgang planted a new, multicultural congregation, Bridge of Peace Community Church, in Camden. He was instrumental in the founding of several community organizations, including the Camden Lutheran Housing Corporation, which is building affordable housing in one of America's poorest cities. He holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Rutgers University and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in

Philadelphia. Wolfgang is married to The Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Camden, NJ; they have two sons, Kyle (24 and newly married) and Josef, 22.

He was in the post WWII generation and had to come to grips with what his country had done in the Holocaust and WWII. His family was unchurched but a friend took him to altar boy training in the Catholic Church. He rose to be the senior altar boy and was very involved to include founding a Catholic youth organization at a new church. He then dropped out at 17 since the church seem disconnected from the rest of his life. He became an agnostic and ultimately a conscientious objector so had to perform alternative service for 18 months. He chose service with the Lutheran Church of Germany that had risen out of the Confessing Church where they would work in countries affected by the war as a sign of atonement. He went to the U.S. in 1975 to work in Grace Lutheran Church in Camden, NJ for 18 months. He fell in love with the people in Camden (poorest city in US) and the church which was the last remnant of voluntary social service in the black and Latino neighborhood and was the center of the community.

Pastor Herz-Lane cited the book, **Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation** (Lutheran Voices) by Dave Daubert as an excellent source which talks about the changes. A key point is that churches that grow have clear goals but flexible ways to achieve them. It is a worthy touchstone for church leaders who have been wishing for a way to embrace a new way, rather than focusing uselessly on diminishing returns for established mainline churches. Daubert articulates a sensible approach which ends up involving letting go of empty patterns of operation in favor of life-giving clarity about doing those things that we are convinced God wants us to be doing, which are faithful, and which end up spurring the laggards to catch up to those in the church who have started having so much fun being and doing stuff which actually fits within what our confession says is most precious to us.

He believes the church is challenged with a whole new paradigm, Post Christian World, where it is at the margin of society rather than the center. It is no longer relied on for citizenship training. 70% don't attend church in DC metro area, about 5 million. Post Christian world is similar to the Pre-Christian world therefore we have guidance from the Bible on how to proceed and he cited Acts 2:36-47 (see below). The early Christian church was a movement, not an institution; we need to move from membership to discipleship (transformation; living differently the rest of your life), transformation of self leads to transformation of church to transformation of community; move from maintenance to mission. Membership is comfortable, discipleship is not.

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Rodney Smith
Secretary

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?