

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



Thursday, May 3, 2012 – 12:00 noon

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

Bob “Sarge” Sargent opened the meeting of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship (LLF) by asking for those who were celebrating birthdays during the month of May. There was no one present celebrating a May birthday. Reverend Faye Coddling will be celebrating her 16th wedding anniversary during May.

Devotions were led by the guest speaker of the day, Dr. Barbara E. Solt, who led devotions on the subject of Jethro’s well, which she visited on her trip to the Holy Land in June of 2011. In Exodus, Chapter 2, Moses fled Egypt after he killed an Egyptian overseer who was beating one of the Hebrew slaves. He came to Jethro’s well in Midian, where he helped Jethro’s seven daughters water their father’s flock against a number of aggressive shepherds who tried to prevent them from doing so. Jethro was grateful for Moses’ efforts and gave one of Jethro’s daughters, Zipporah, to Moses in marriage. Moses worked for Jethro tending Jethro’s flock. In Exodus, Chapter 18, Jethro appears again. Jethro was concerned that Moses was a judge for all the cases brought to him by the Hebrew people and this was taking too much of his time. Jethro counseled Moses to delegate the routine cases to honest, wise men and for him to only decide major cases. Moses followed his father-in-law’s advice and he was much better able to handle the workload. We closed the devotional time by singing the Doxology as a thanksgiving prayer before lunch.

Announcements following lunch were as follows:

1. Bonnie Priebe mentioned Swedish Folk Fest to be held at Augustana Lutheran Church at 2pm this Sunday, May 6th.
2. Dave Lambert announced that today is National Day of Prayer. A local National Day of Prayer event will be held this afternoon beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper Senate Park between the U.S. Capitol and Union Station. See <http://www.CapitalRegionNDP.org> for more information.
3. Rev. Faye Coddling thanked the LLF for their generous donation of \$800 given to Fellowship Square Foundation, with half going to reserve funds, and the other half going to the Chaplaincy Fund.
4. Rev. Coddling also handed out a flyer about Gifts of Hope and highlighted volunteer opportunities for Conference Coordinator, Congregation Coordinator and Website Developer.

5. Sarge announced LLF will be electing LLF officers at the June 7 LLF meeting. We are still in need of LLF officers. Please let Sarge know if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

Sarge introduced Dr. Barbara E. Solt, our guest speaker for the day, for part two of her presentation of her visit to the Holy Land. At our March 1st LLF meeting, Dr. Solt presented part 1, which comprised the Israel and Gaza portion of her trip. Part 2, to be presented today, was the Egypt portion of her trip.

BARBARA E. SOLT, PhD, LICSW, ACSW

“The Holy Land, Then and Now -- Part 2”

Barbara gave a brief overview with a map of the Holy Land, pointing out how her group started in the northern part of Israel, then went to the southern part of Israel through the Sinai Desert to the gulf at Eilat and then proceeded on to Egypt. They had a difficult border crossing going from Israel to Egypt. Due to ongoing strained relations between the two countries, crossing the border from Israel to Egypt required changing buses and a tedious crossing process. Due to the trip occurring only three months after the March 2011 Egypt political uprising, this tour group was one of the few present in Egypt at the time, since the situation was still unsettled. The Egyptian Constitution was in the process of being re-written during the time of her visit. All tourist buses were required by Egyptian law to be accompanied by Egyptian police protection, so she was always aware of the ever present security force on this part of her trip.

Barbara then began her photo show presentation:

Their tour guide for their trip to Egypt was Romani, a Christian and Egyptologist.

The group crossed the Sinai Peninsula on the way to Cairo, stopping on the way at St. Catherine's Monastery, which is at the base of Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments. The original burning bush is under the altar at the monastery. A cutting was taken from the original bush and planted on the grounds of the monastery, where a bush now flourishes.

This area is also where the Hebrew people established a Baal altar, where Moses came down from Mt. Sinai following his encounter with God in the burning bush, saw the people worshipping Baal, and he broke the original commandment tablets by throwing them to the ground in anger.

Jethro's well is located at St. Catherine's Monastery, which is connected to the Greek, not Egyptian Orthodox Church. It was founded in the 6th century, and had been under Islamic and Christian protection at various times during the Crusades. Father Justin, an American with a degree from the University of Texas, is the Librarian at the monastery who gave the tour of the monastery. As an aside, Father Justin was also a guest lecturer at the *Byzantium and Islam* exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City that focuses on the commonalities of art and artifacts of the three major religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The Egypt area of the Sinai Desert is mountainous and very craggy-looking, unlike the sandy desert seen in Israel.

The group proceeded to a tunnel that went under the Nile River and entered Cairo, Egypt. In Cairo, they went to the Muhammad Ali mosque, which was very clean compared to the very dusty city. This mosque was built by Muhammad's grandson, (and not named after the American boxer). Looking out across the Cairo skyline were many minarets, just as we see many church steeples in our cities. Water buffalo walked the streets of Cairo undisturbed and very aggressive children were selling things to the few American tourists actually in Egypt at the time.

The group went through Tahrir Square, where they saw buildings that were burnt out during the recent uprising. Tahrir Square is a gathering place for political discussions and prayer. They also went to the Cairo Museum in which are the things buried with King Tut in his pyramid, as well as many artifacts found in Egypt's many archeological digs. Then the group went to a rug-making factory/school. Children were observed working at the factory, and it was questionable how many were children of the owner learning the family business vs. children who were working there simply to help their families economically.

They then went to the Giza Pyramids outside of Cairo, including The Great Pyramid. Up close, the rocks of the pyramids were rough hewn and not all the same size or squared. The Sakkara Pyramids are the oldest pyramids, where the architectural design of the pyramid as a burial site was first developed. The Sphinx's face was almost totally gone due to the city's pollution. They were allowed to walk into the interior of the pyramids, where they saw ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Then the group went through "the garbage district", which is where the 15% of the Egyptian population who are Coptic Christians were relegated to living and picking through the garbage in order to make a living. Everywhere there were piles of paper, garbage and old vehicles. When the group came out of the dump, they arrived at St. Simon Coptic Church, a church hewed out of the hewn rock from the sandstone mountain nearby. The sanctuary seats 10,000 people in a huge amphitheater, with all stone seating. An artist from the worshipping community carved Bible stories into the rock around the chancel area St. Simon.

There followed a question and answer session, where Dr. Solt was asked about the recent 60 Minutes exposé about how the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands caused large numbers of Christians to flee the area. Based on what she saw during her 2011 trip to the Holy Land, Dr. Solt said this report was a consistent and fair representation.

Following the presentation, Sarge mentioned the following upcoming meeting speakers:

June 7: Dr. Maria Erling on "Whatever Happened to Luther League – Part 2"

July 5: Mr. Greg Roemer, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

August 2: Dr. Michael Kurtz, Assistant Archivist of the United States (retired)

September 6: Mrs. Jana Broughton, Executive Director, Fellowship Square Foundation

Rev. Larry Schmidt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah S. (Dee) Lambert

2012 Capital Region

Together Again at the Capitol Region National Day of Prayer as followers of Christ
Proclaiming "His" Greatness Majesty, Lordship and Sovereignty
Every Person a participant

We Welcome you!

Quick Facts Sheet

Capital Region National Day of Prayer

- 2012 Theme from Psalm 33:12 is
"One Nation Under God"
- Presidential Proclamation: First Thursday of every May is the National Day of Prayer
- When: May 3, 2012
- Time: 4:30pm – 8:30pm
- Place: Upper Senate Park: US Capitol
- Metro Stops: Capitol South, Federal Center South and Union Station (closest)
Paid parking is available at Union Station

Significance (Massive Prayer Assembly)

- **Great troubles shake our World**
- Therefore, we will release on CRNDP God's Word with urgency and desire for God's mercy upon America.

Pre-Gathering (CRNDP)

- **Thursday, May 3, 2:00pm - 4:00pm**
- Open to ALL pastors and associates, ministry and church leaders
- Location: Rayburn Building, Room 2168.
Check website for RSVP information and requirements for entry to the building.

Financial Contributions

- AN ACT OF WORSHIP
c/o ICHC/NDP
P.O. Box 92765
Washington, DC 20090



Who Will Participate?

- **Senior pastors with their entire church**
- Pray-ers, intercessors
- The entire assembly, led by anointed musicians and singers
- Youth and young adult ministries

What to Expect

- **Anointed Worship**
- Revelatory Prayers
- Prayers of Repentance
- Words of Life
 - Proclamations by Senior Statesmen.
- Intergenerational bonding
- Small Groups (corporate prayer)
- Acts of Praise Ministry
 - Prophetic decrees using state and international flags the theme: All nations bow to "His" Lordship ...

Who Sponsors this Gathering?

- Pastors and leaders like "you" with conviction that honoring the only corporate prayer day sanctioned by congress, at the U.S. Capitol, the highest seat of government.
- International Christian Host Coalition
Phone: 202-526-1760 Ext. 2
E-mail: CRNDP@CapitalRegionNDP.org
Website: www.CapitalRegionNDP.org



Gifts of Hope

Gifts of Hope

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA

305 E Street NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20001

(202) 417-3678

E-mail: metrodcelca@metrodcelca.org

Facebook: "Gifts of Hope Metro DC Washington"

Twitter: "GiftsofHopeDC"

Year-round gift giving opportunities with special emphasis at Metro DC Synod congregations during Advent season. More than 45 gifts available via Gifts of Hope website:

<http://www.giftsofhopemetrod.org>. Merged with **United Lutheran Appeal** in 2011.

Contributions support 10 social service agencies, 2 church camps, 2 educational institutions, and 3 companion synods:

Community Family Life Services
Fellowship Square Foundation
Good Shepherd Housing Foundation
Lutheran Social Services of the
National Capital Area
Lutheran Volunteer Corps

N Street Village
Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO)
Southeast Ministry
The Village at Rockville
Transitional Housing Corporation

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp
Mar-Lu-Ridge Lutheran Camp

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
Roanoke College

Lutheran Church in El Salvador
Lutheran Churches in Namibia
Lutheran Churches in Slovakia

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Conference Coordinator:

Three year commitment with flexibility in volunteer hours

Communicate with Congregation Coordinators—email and phone

September: Pick-up Materials for congregations

Oct/Nov: Distribute materials to congregations in the conference.

Jan/Feb: Remind congregations to send reports and checks to Synod and GoH

March: Annual Meeting

Congregation Coordinator:

Each congregation in the Synod has a Congregation Coordinator. Makes GoH catalogs available at congregation for orders during Advent.

Website Development:

Volunteer to update the Gifts of Hope website, using Dreamweaver software. 2-3 hours/month.

Contact: Carolyn Sowinski, Director

carolyn.sowinski@giftsofhopemetrod.org