

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, February 7, 2013 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

Bob Sargeant opened the meeting at 12:09. He noted that the last several years of highway construction has now been finished and travel is now much shorter. Our first-time person, George Davies, Acting Director of Fellowship Square, introduced himself. He also is administrator of Hunters Woods. Wallace Knudsen celebrates his 48th anniversary. There were no birthdays to celebrate, other than those of President Lincoln and Washington.

There was discussion of the meeting date for July, which this year falls on the 4th. Hearing no objections it was agreed to not meet in July.

The membership year begins in January, so calls will be made to those who have not yet paid dues for 2013. John Priebe announced that there are currently 40 members. A new Membership Directory is being prepared, with a deadline of the end of February.

The Annual Meeting of Fellowship Square is April 27, and LLF must present 25 Corporate Members for election.

A sheet of "Great Resources" from The Lutheran Hour was provided for members on the table.

Melissa Graves, E.D. invited members to take the Lutheran Social Services Compassionate Tours. LSS is now providing services to caregivers of seniors.

Gifts of Hope provide another opportunity to give a gift to "your sweetie" this Valentine's Day.

Pr. David Berg announced that Dr. Maria Erling from Gettysburg Seminary will speak next week on "Whatever Happened to Luther League, Part 2." Dr. Clarke Lobenstein of the Washington Interfaith Network will speak in April. President Denninger of the Southeastern LCMS will speak in June.

Devotions

Chaplain Schmidt led devotions focusing on the passionate Love celebrated on Valentine's Day. "Passionate" readers read verses of "Christ Be Our Light" while the assembled sang the refrain. He read from the Gospel about The Transfiguration which is being celebrated this Sunday. His remarks focused on the role of women in the church, noting that the hymn-writer is one of few women hymnists. The "veiling" of women is so much a part of our current international cultural concerns, and we can be grateful for this freeing Gospel message.

Introduction of Speaker

Rev. Amsalu Geleta became a pastor of St. Mark's (ELCA), Springfield, VA six years ago. He hails from Ethiopia, studied theology in Norway, and has a D Min from Wesley Seminary, and an M Div from LSTG. He is a member of the ELCA Church Council. His presentation focuses on "missional congregations."

Presentation

Dr. Geleta was influenced by an article "the Return of the Congregation." His position is that the congregations have always been here, but people are now returning to it as a vital instrument of the Church. God is a missionary God – who calls and sends. We are gathered and sent to "serve the Lord." What is God up to now, in our missional context?

The talk was organized around a theoretical framework that includes the descriptive, the pragmatic, the theological, and normative. What is a congregation? Members were invited to share their definitions. It is the body of Christ, the center of God's action, where God meets the people and they meet Him. They are reflective of the communities in which they reside.

What is Mission? Mission is wide and deep = (for example) sending missionaries overseas, working in inner-city, a category in the church budget for work outside the church, a statement in the Sunday bulletin that tells why we exist as a church.

What is Missional? It refers to alternative imagination for being the church. It is to be aware of what God might be up to, and it is to partner with God.

Missional imagination, opportunity and resources came together for a mission start that became St. Mark's. In May, 1953, Augustana Lutheran Church in DC helped start the mission congregation first with a Sunday School, then by June began a worshipping community, led by an intern from Augustana. The charter service was in December, 1954. They broke ground for the building before they had a called pastor. Thus one congregation "gave birth" to another. Pr. Geleta then related an overview of the next six

decades in the life of St. Mark's. Mission growth included starting a Montessori school, having the first woman on the church council in the 1070's, starting community young people (before Confirmation). The 1980's focused on ministries to meet members' needs, and began a long-range planning process. In the 1990's they called their first female pastor, formed endowments and renovated the building. A "parking lot ministry" began to care for neighborhood children who played in the church lot at a time when a lot of dangerous highway constructions was going on. The 2000s saw the beginning of a Latino ministry to reach that growing population in the area, and built a geo-thermal HAVC system, a "clean" energy innovation.

Next, a theological missiology was presented, a Trinitarian one: Missio-Dei, Missio Jesu, and Missio Ecclesiae, which both receives and channels God's grace in relationship with others. Pr. Geleta says we are good at gathering and worshipping, but we need to reclaim the "Evangel" part of our name – the outreach, the sending, the sharing of the Good News with others. St. Mark's now has some 120 ministry endeavors. It is important that congregations celebrate what we have. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the congregation's relations to the church catholic. The model can be used for any congregation to look at itself, its present, and its future.

The meeting ended at 2:05 with Pr. Geleta offering the Benediction with one of Ethiopia's language, Amharic.

GREAT RESOURCES *from* Lutheran Hour Ministries



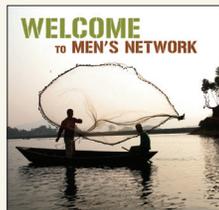
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The Lutheran Hour radio program with Rev. Greg Seltz proclaims the clear message of salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It airs on more than 1,400 stations in North America and also on the Internet. **Para el Camino** (For the Journey) is a Spanish-language version of the program that is broadcast in selected radio markets and also on the Internet. Visit www.lutheranhour.org or www.paraelcamino.com.



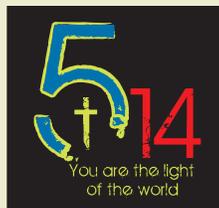
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If you're looking for a Web site loaded with rock-solid Christian content, go to the **Men's NetWork** at www.lhmmen.com. You'll find relevant video-based Bible studies, a lively Forum and Blog, How-to instructions for everything from hosting a fish fry to starting a men's Bible study or group—and national, local and regional events to get your men involved! Visit www.lhmmen.com.



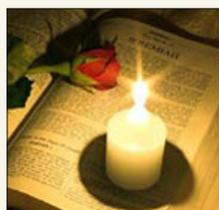
International Ministries Partnerships offers congregations, groups and individuals opportunities to build deep, ongoing relationships with LHM international ministry centers. A variety of options for personal involvement and financial support are available—including opportunities to travel and work side-by-side with LHM ministry center staff on projects such as outreach events, ministry to children, construction, healthcare training, etc. Visit www.lhm.org/partner.



Lutheran Hour Ministries' **five14** is a dynamic experience that combines interactive Web media with high-energy presentations, music and video to motivate teens for outreach and provide them with the skills they need to share their faith effectively with their peers. Congregations can incorporate a **five14** experience into a teen event or build a teen event completely around **five14**. Visit www.lhm.org/five14.



Lutheran Hour Ministries' **Regional Outreach Conferences (ROC)** provide opportunities to share cutting edge ideas and learn methods for reaching out with the Gospel as individuals, groups and congregations. Each dynamic event features presentations and other activities designed to inspire, equip and energize you to share your faith. Visit www.lhm.org/roc.



Looking for daily hope and encouragement? Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**, writes **Daily Devotions** (available in both English and Spanish) that can be sent directly to your e-mail address. An audio version is also available on the Web. Visit www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp.



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Through more than 400 **Equipping to Share** workshops, LHM has provided solid practical training in personal witnessing to more than 20,000 people. Now LHM is offering still more to Christians looking to share the Gospel—an expanded curriculum and a new program title: **MISSION U**. This multi-tiered program features in-class interaction, outside-class assignments and virtual office hours held by presenters. Visit www.lhm.org/missionu.



Project Connect displays offer a variety of topical LHM booklets written from a Christian perspective. **Project Connect** booklets are designed to help church members share Christ. There are more than 50 booklet titles to choose from, plus 20 booklets in Spanish. They can be purchased whether you have a **Project Connect** display or not, and are also available to download online for free. Visit www.lhm.org/projectconnect.

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