

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, April 4, 2013 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening

President Bob Sargeant called the meeting to order at 12: 10. He reflected on this year's Easter services. John Greyson was a guest, accompanying our speaker. Bonnie Priebe celebrates her birthday this month. There were no Anniversary celebrations.

Devotions

Chaplain Larry Schmidt led us in devotions on "Today You will be with me in paradise." But that's not what the thief asked for – he asked to be remembered when Jesus came into His kingdom. The Persian word for "paradise" is "garden." It refers to a walled garden in which one is invited to walk with the King. He read from the hymn "There in God's Garden, "which ties the Eden garden with that of the one referenced in the Book of Revelation.

Business Meeting

As creators of the Fellowship Square Foundation, each year LLF presents a slate of Corporate Members. A minimum of twenty-five members must be presented. A slate of 26 persons was presented to those present for voting on at this meeting, with the possibility of a 27th pending. John Priebe, Fred Klein, Bob Sargeant, and Larry Schmidt, Chair, formed the nominating committee. The Corporate Members elect the Foundation's Board of Directors at the annual meeting. The slate was approved unanimously. The LLF board meeting is the last Saturday of April, beginning at 9 a.m.

The LLF election of officers is to be held in June. We will likely be asked to extend the current slate of officers for six months, during which there is to be a plan for a different corporate leadership structure.

Announcements

Announcements included Ellie Wegner reminding us of the Employment Services program at First Trinity Lutheran Church. The memoir writing program continues at Georgetown Lutheran. Ellie will be leading a tour of Great Britain in October.

Carolyn Swolinski announced that Gifts of Hope checks are being distributed this month. More than \$100,000 was raised this year. It is down 7% from last year, but the online sales more than doubled. This allows for more year-round giving. Her blog is up and running with contact info on her business cards.

Fred Klein announced that at least one member of Fellowship Square staff will be attending LLF luncheons each month. Religious services are now being held at the high holy days at the Fellowship Square houses for those who are not able to get out to community church services.

Melissa Graves announced that Lutheran Social Services is giving a breakfast on April 30 which will feature a presentation of a woman who is raising the children of her sister who died of AIDS. (*see attached flyer*)

Introduction of Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Clark Lobenstine, Executive Director of the InterFaith Conference of Washington D.C., is a Presbyterian minister. He serves on the DC Mayor's Interfaith Council. He is the grandson of a missionary to China and the son of a US Foreign Service officer. His wife is an Episcopal priest. His family is blessed with a number of sets of twins.

Presentation

Dr. Lobenstine spoke on "Something of God." He provided background on the Conference which was founded in 1978. It was the first time that the Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant Communities came together in a metropolitan area both to deepen understanding and to work for social justice, and has since been joined by seven other faith groups – Baha'I, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Latter-day Saints, Sikh and Zoroastrian. Each sees its own path to God. Our questions about various differences will only be answered when we come face to face with God. Jains, for example, do not believe in the Creation, they believe that everything always has been.

Who of us ate food recently that our grandparents didn't even know about? Most of us. In the same way, we now live and work with people of diverse cultures and faiths. What Christians have understood to be is not true of other religions. There are different languages, roles, prayers, worship styles, times, and places. Latter Day Saints (Mormons) have three congregations within their Stakes – one each for morning,

afternoon, and evening. A Swedish bishop (Krister Stendahl) asked us to consider “What is our Holy Envy?” Dr. Lobenstine asked us to consider “What is it that you wish you had in your tradition?”

The Fasting of Ramadan is similar in form but dissimilar in other ways from Lent. Many observe Ramadan who do not attend regular weekly prayer services. There are people who identify culturally with a faith group, but are not active/observant in corporate worship. Bahai’s worship usually in homes. Nine people are elected to be leaders. They do not accept donations from non Bahai’s for the building of their worship centers. Only the treasurer knows who has contributed what.

How giving and budgets are handled vary widely among the faith groups. In some, secrecy is of the highest value. In others, recorded giving as sign of member responsibility is held to be the highest value.

The InterFaith Conference is more diverse than many such interfaith organizations. Learning basic greetings in the language of a given faith group is an important relationship opener, e.g. Shalom, Peace be unto you, Namaste, etc. Early Christians drew a fish in the sand as a way of showing others they are meeting that they believed in Christ. Dr. Lobenstine brought a number of brochures describing the faith groups that participate as well as some programs, including an annual concert with combined choirs, as well as an exhibit that graphically displayed the member faiths and programs. Each faith group description is written by a member of that group.

A question was raised as to how homelessness is addressed. The InterFaith Conference publishes a directory of food and shelter programs in the DC Metro area that is widely used by social services agency personnel, congregational leaders and others. Another question asked about the geographic service area. The InterFaith Conference serves the metropolitan area. Although a few other similar organizations exist throughout the country, they are not members of the InterFaith Conference or vice versa. He noted there are “five Washingtons” – the International, the national, the metropolitan community, city and county, and the neighborhoods. Another question asked about what other faith groups might be welcome, and if there are some which are not. The founders in 1978 decided that faith community members must be historic (at least 100 years old and thus have survived their founders). Some religious groups might be problematic to others, but most are not 100 years old, or are so decentralized that their voting to become members would be impractical.

Chaplain Schmidt invited Dr. Lobenstine to offer a benediction to a diverse group, which he did in a prayer of thanks to God.

Fellowship Square Foundation
Class of 2014 Corporate Members Elected by LLF

Marcia Baumgartner	St. Paul's Luth, Falls Church, VA
Marva Benn	Bethlehem Luth, Fairfax, VA
Rev John Bradford	Christ the King Luth, Great Falls, VA
Rev John Denninger	Prince of Peace Luth, Springfield, VA
Elsie Draughn	Peace Luth, Waldorf, MD
Lillian Durodola	2 nd Baptist Church, Southwest, DC
Barbara Fielding	Christ the Servant, Reston, VA
C. David Hartmann	Bethlehem Luth, Fairfax, VA
Sidney Louise Johnson	St. Anne's Episcopal, Reston, VA
Judy Koucky	St. Paul's Luth, Falls Church, VA
Joan Loesch	Grace Luth, Woodbridge, VA
Shirley Metzger	Lord of Life Luth, Fairfax, VA
John Priebe	First Trinity Luth, DC
Bonnie Priebe	First Trinity Luth, DC
Rev. Richard Reichard	Emmanuel Luth, Bethesda, MD
Rev. Gary Rhinesmith	All Saints Luth, Bowie, MD
Muriel Rodgers	Riverdale Baptist Church
Rev. Suszanne Rudiselle	Presbyterian minister
Judy Rudolf	Peace Luth, Waldorf, MD
Mary Schmidt	Bethlehem Luth, Fairfax, VA
John Thillmann	St. John Newman RC, Reston, VA
Don Webb	Methodist
Bob Wilcox	St. Matthew Luth, Lake Ridge, VA
Allen Wild	Christ the King, Great Falls, VA
Charles Wortman	Reston Bible Church
Larry Zimmerman	LC of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD

Fellowship Square Foundation
Class of 2015 Corporate Members Elected by LLF

Walter Belter	St. Luke, Silver Spring, MD
Rev. Phil Carl	Christ the Servant, Fairfax, VA
Harold A. Deadman	St. Matthew, Woodbridge, VA
Dallas Evans	Baptist, PG County, MD
Richard Fisher	Christ the King, Great Falls, VA
Rev. Ivan Ives	Abiding Presence, Burke, VA
John Kelly	St. Mark's Roman Catholic, Vienna, VA
Rev. Thomas J. Knoll	First Trinity, Washington, DC
Deborah Lambert	Christ Luth, Bethesda, MD
Sara Leonard	Christ the Servant, Reston, VA
Rev. Aurelio Magarino	Cristos Senor de Vida, Rockville, MD
Cynthia Medvick	Covenant, Luth Church of the, Dale City, VA
Ron Morgan	First Trinity, Wash, DC
Michelle Moyer	Christ the Servant Luth, Reston, VA
Myra Niemeier	Good Shepherd, Reston, VA
Anita Nolen	Resurrection, Arlington, VA
Howard Oberheu	Our Savior, Warrenton, VA
Helen Rebholz	Georgetown Lutheran, Washington, DC
Barbara Solt	Augustana, Wash, DC
Jim Spedden	Gainesville United Methodist, Gainesville, VA
Lenore Stewart	Heritage Fellowship, Herndon, VA
Robert Thompson	Heritage Christian Fellowship, Herndon, VA
Mary E. Wilmoth	Peace, Waldorf, MD

Fellowship Square Foundation

Class of 2016 Corporate Members Elected by LLF

*May Al-Barzinji	Muslim
Rev Bob Allard (LRED)	Good Shepherd LC, Woodbridge, VA (ELCA)
Larry Bradshaw (CEO of NLCS)	Our Lady Of The Presentation Catholic Church, Poolesville, MD
Jorn Dalboe (HWED)	Christ the Servant LC, Reston, VA (ELCA)
Rev Phillip Gaines Sr.	Georgetown LC, Wash, DC (ELCA)
Rev Mark Hricko (PCAC)	St. Andrew LC, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
*Renee Jakobs	Unitarian
Rev Doug Jones (FIN C)	Holy Cross LC, Herndon, VA (ELCA)
Rev Fred Klein (Chaplain)	Living Savior LC, Fairfax Station, VA (LCMS)
Vernon Krueger (BoD,LLED,PC)	Ascension LC, Landover Hills, MD (LCMS)
*Rev. Andrew Lissy	Living Savior LC, Fairfax Station, VA (LCMS)
Rev Jan Lookingbill	Emmanuel LC, Bethesda, MD (ELCA)
Dr. John McCoy	St. Paul LC, Falls Church, VA (LCMS)
*Linda Merkle	Our Savior's Way LC, Ashburn, VA (LCMS)
Rev David Percy (BoD, PCAC)	Calvary LC, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
Rev Eric Peterson	Our Savior's Way LC, Ashburn, VA (LCMS)
Robert Sargeant (Pres LLF)	St. Mark's LC, Springfield, VA (ELCA)
Rev Larry Schmidt (BoD,PCAC)	Calvary Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
*Rev Carl Schuler	Grace Lutheran Church, Woodbridge, VA (LCMS)
Craig Swanson	Christ the Servant LC, Reston, VA (ELCA)
Rosemary Theurer	Christ the King LC, Great Falls, VA (ELCA)
Barbara Toppel	Emmanuel LC, Vienna, VA (ELCA)
Ellie Wegener	Georgetown LC, Community of Christ, Wash, DC (ELCA)
Kenneth Wilson	St. Matthew LC, Wash, DC (ELCA)
*Roger Wissman	First Trinity Lutheran Church, Wash DC (ELCA)
Phillip Woodruff (LLED)	All Saints LC, Bowie, MD (ELCA)

(* *first time members*)

You are cordially invited to

Expressions of Abundance 2013
Offering Hope, Rebuilding Lives
Annual Benefit Breakfast

celebrating Hope, Love, and Triumph of the Human Spirit with
Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area
through inspiring, personal messages from our neighbors

Tuesday, April 30

Founders Hall at George Mason University Arlington Campus
3301 Fairfax Dr Arlington, VA

Stories and inspiration will begin at 8 a.m. and end promptly at 9 a.m.

Registration and coffee begin at 7:30 a.m.*

Metro-accessible via Orange Line to Virginia Square; garage parking also available

RSVP to Summer Parrish by April 8

(703)698-5026 x.138

ParrishS@lssnca.org

Breakfast is free of charge

Guests will have the opportunity to support LSS/NCA's mission at the event



LSS/NCA's mission is to walk with those in need and provide services that offer hope and rebuild lives.