

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, June 6, 2013 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

President Bob Sargeant opened the meeting shortly after noon. A greeting card was available for people to offer best wishes for Dan Bella, who is recovering from surgery. Greetings may also be sent to Dan at his daughter's house. (*contact Bob for address*) Starting June 3, Dan will be receiving intensive outpatient treatments.

Birthday celebrants included Bob and Sue Schmidt. Anniversary celebrants included the Priebe's, the Schmidt's, and the Lambert's. Pastor Gloria from Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, an intern from Gettysburg Seminary, was a first time visitor. She gave testimony to her own recent health crisis, and her experience of being ministered to by people who cared, and God saving her from death.

After lunch, Bob reconvened the group with other announcements. There will be no meeting in July. Dr. Michelle Carlson from Gettysburg Seminary will speak in August and Victoria Wagner, Outreach Coordinator for Rainbow Via de Cristo, will be September's guest speaker. Bob talked about plans for LLF's future, noting that the regular "First Thursday" luncheons will continue. He entertained a motion to accept the election for six months of the current board. The motion was moved and seconded, and approved unanimously.

Bonnie Priebe shared news of Dan Bella, noting that he is staying with his daughter. He has asked Vicki Porter and Larry Schmidt to work with Bonnie on the scholarship committee. Other health news included notice that Rodney Smith is planning to have surgery in the new future. Next, Dave Lambert shared the healing he has experienced after an unexpected extended hospitalization. (*see attachment*)

Ellie Wegner thanked those who support the employment groups. The personal memoir group at Georgetown Lutheran is still meeting, and plans for her guided tour of Great Britain continue. Flyers on Tent Troupe 2013 are available for those who want more info on that ministry of St. Luke's. The opening performance is June 30, and performances run through July 17.

Devotions

A flyer with a packet of salt and a book of matches greeted each attendee as table place-settings. Deaconess Sally Hiller led devotions, focusing the theme for her presentation "we are called to be salt and light in this place and time." We read together from Matthew 5:13-16. Today there is simply no one type of salt, but several types, as is the same for light bulbs. People shared at table what these bring to mind. She noted that too much of either (salt/light) is not always beneficial, but some is not enough. We are called to be this wherever we are. This is a command from Jesus. The devotions concluded with a responsorial prayer. (*see attachment*)

Introduction of Speaker

Deaconess Sally J. Hiller is Executive Director for Congregational Outreach and District Operations of the LCMS Southeastern District . One of her priorities is lifting up the goal of 2.5 million faith sharing moments within the Southeastern District. Deaconess Hiller works with schools, disaster response and communications. In addition to her work within the Southeastern District, she has participated on several Task Forces and Committees for the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, including LCMS Outreach Task Force, Urban Schools Task Force, and developing guidelines for Reduction in Force. She and Chuck, her husband who is a retired school teacher, rejoice in a growing family now numbering two daughters, two son-in-laws, and four grandsons. A 1976 graduate of Valparaiso University from the Deaconess program, she served three congregations before being led to serve the Southeastern District in 1993. Sally completed a Master of Science in Administration through Trinity College, DC in 2001. She is a member at Ascension Lutheran Church in Landover Hills, Maryland. A 1976 graduate of Valparaiso University from the Deaconess program, she served three congregations before being led to serve the Southeastern District in 1993. Sally completed a Master of Science in Administration through Trinity College, DC in 2001. She is a member at Ascension Lutheran Church in Landover Hills, Maryland.

Presentation

A Vision of Connecting People with Jesus one neighbor... one neighborhood... one zip code at a time

Deaconess Hiller opened with greetings from LCMS Southeast District President John Denninger. Our mission is connecting people with Jesus. The Southeastern District includes Delaware, York County, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and North Carolina. There are 205 congregations, 91 schools, 45 missions (new ministries that are not yet congregations). Some 32 million people live in this territory, with only some 66,000 baptized members. 712,290 people die within a three year period in this area, aka "missed opportunities" of unreached people. The average congregational size is 135. Many congregations have fewer than 50 average Sunday worshippers, making supporting a pastor difficult. 62% reported no adult confirmations. 67% reported no adult baptisms. 124 people were baptized in one year. The average Bible study attendance is higher than average Sunday worship, yet 21% of the congregations do not offer Bible study.

Our goal (call) is to increase the Kingdom of God. The elements toward that goal include being inspired by pastors, church workers who lead by example, relating to the neighborhood not merely the church building, "becoming church inside out." Deaconess Hiller gave examples of her ministry in her neighborhood, by being present, visible, and offering skills and prayers as needs arise. This year she is offering vacation Bible school on her front porch. "Reaching our neighbors with the love of Jesus for kingdom growth." Jesus died for these people and cares for them in His heart.

Professional church workers are to refocus so that they model and actively lead their members to be a priesthood to others. Likewise our members are to help people to respond to God's call. Our ministry needs to begin with and be shaped by prayer. Get Off Your Donkey - the story of the Good Samaritan, by Reggie McNeal, provides examples of opportunities for reaching out to others.

Discussion affirmed the importance of building community. LCMS schools and child-care programs are prime ministries and "feeders" for potential members.

Chaplain Schmidt dismissed us with prayer reflecting on the presentation.

ON HEALING

by Dave Lambert

He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Psalm 107:20 (NIV)

Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

Proverbs 3:7-8 (NLT)

And if a town refuses to welcome you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate." So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.

Luke 9:5-6 (NLT)

They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

Luke 6:18-19 (NLT)

Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 4:30 (NLT)

And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

James 5:15-16 (NLT)

I have been in the hospital for an extended stay. The nurses, techs, doctors and other staff are doing all they can for me. Recently, one of my visitors said, in a cheerful voice on the way out, "We hope for a speedy recovery". I replied and said that I am quite happy to have slow but steady improvement.

I used to be able to touch my toes; now, I thank God that I can still touch my knees!

Lord, your Word tells me to pray for healing. I believe you hear this earnest prayer from my heart and that it is powerful because of your promise. I have faith in you, Lord, to heal me, but I also trust in the plan you have for my life.

Source: <http://lambertdrl.wordpress.com/2013/05/28/on-healing/>

SALT & MATTHEW 5:13-16 LIGHT

¹³“You are **the salt of the earth**. But if the **salt loses its saltiness**, how can it be made **salty** again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are **the light of the world**. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people **light a lamp** and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and **it gives light to everyone in the house**. ¹⁶ In the

same way, **let your light shine before others**, that they may **see your good deeds** and **glorify your Father in heaven**.

Salt...

Images, thoughts, questions



Light...

Images, thoughts, questions



Note: Look at how much trust Christ puts in us. He entrusts us to the mission of being his light shining in the world, the salt taste preserves and spices the world with the aroma of the gospel, the mission of being a city of light that connects people to him – salt, that flavors our community with the joy of knowing Jesus.

Prayer:

We are the salt of the earth

Called to flavor where we gather, live, and work with the taste of Jesus Christ.

We are the salt of the earth

Bringing Christ's saltiness to the very neighborhoods where we live.

We are the salt of the earth

Flavoring our conversations with the saltiness of grace.

We are the salt of the earth

Offering the salt of Christ for the healing of the wounds in the lives of his people.

We are the salt of the earth

Striving to live Godly lives right where we are.

We the light of Christ

Shining from our homes so that people may see that here dwells a disciple, a follower of Jesus.

We are the light of Christ

Shining into the darkness of our streets, cul-de-sacs, and driveways – scattering the darkness of a community without Christ.

We are the light of Christ

Sharing the hope that is Christ.

We are salt and light

Humble servants seeking to live incarnationally – just as Jesus did.

We are salt and light

Use us Lord – the not quite yet perfect, but people who love you.

Use us Lord

Salt and light in our lives, our communities, our relationships.

May your kingdom come.

Amen.

The Mission of the Southeastern District

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
our MISSION is connecting people with Jesus.

The Vision

Reaching our neighbors with the love of Jesus for Kingdom growth.

Mission Goals (Ends Statements)

- **Neighborhoods** are places for acts of love, mercy, and witness through the people of the Southeastern District.
- **Professional Church Workers** model and actively lead their members to be the priesthood of all believers in their neighborhoods.
- **Congregations** bless and send their members to build and extend the Kingdom of God in the community and receive them back with joy and thanksgiving.
- **Members of congregations** intentionally fulfill their call to help their neighbors receive the Kingdom of God.