

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, August 7, 2014 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

President Bob “Sarge” Sargeant convened the meeting at 12:15. This meeting was held in the "upper room" of St. Luke's rather than the usual meeting room. Bob announced that another change for this meeting is that the originally scheduled speaker is not able to present today, and so this is a meeting of "substitutes" in several ways. August is a month when many of our members are away.

Liz Murphy was a returning attendee. Bonnie Priebe presented her a check for \$2,000 for her daughter who is this year's recipient of the LLF Scholarship. She is attending Manhattan College majoring in communications. She thanked us for the award. Yvette Wy is a missionary to Muslims in the DC area on behalf of the DC Synod. Olivia Morgan is not affiliated with any church, but is glad to be with us. Kathy Bevard is a member of St. Luke's and is returning after some years.

Ray Hartzell celebrates his birthday on the 16th, and another person celebrates on the 14th. Carolyn Swolenski and her husband celebrated 30 years of marriage on the 4th.

Call for Ushers: Reformation Sunday is observed in October, recalling Martin Luther's posting of 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. The theses were theological issues Luther wished to debate with the hope that the church would reform its practice and preaching to be more consistent with the Word of God as contained in the Bible. The act sparked a movement in history known as the Reformation and laid foundations for the Lutheran tradition. This worship service commemorating the Reformation is sponsored annually by the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the ELCA and members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship serve as ushers at the National Cathedral. See Sarge if you are interested in serving as an usher this year.

Gifts of Hope: Carolyn Sowinski announced the 2nd annual Benefit Concert on Sunday, October 12, 2014, 3:00 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. There is no admission but a free-will offering will be taken at the concert. The Fairfax chapter of Thrivent will be matching \$1 for each \$3 contributed. The guest artist is Lizabeth Flood. She will play piano and sing songs from the Great American Songbook and will feature music from the following well-known composers: Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Harry Warren. It will be an afternoon of familiar music! For more information about the artist, see <http://lizabethflood.com>. For more info about the concert, the Gifts of Hope , or to donate online see: <http://www.giftsofhopemetrodcc.org> (*see attached concert flyer*)

Faye Coddling spoke as a representative of Fellowship Square Foundation. The Lake Anne Fellowship house is being redeveloped along with much of the neighborhood around it. At the same time their contract with HUD that provides rent subsidies is ending. So one of the buildings will be torn down and a new one built which will have 100 fewer apartments. Some will be subsidized by vouchers, others will be market rate. There are still some issues with the Fairfax Board of Supervisors who have concerns about the plan.

Faye next spoke on behalf of the LLF executive committee. There is an initiative to involve members of this group in advocacy of issues to the church. There will be a questionnaire as to members' current involvements, and information will be provided to us on several issues. See attached survey and begin to think about your answers to the questions. If you cannot make it to the September Luncheon, responses can be sent by E-mail to Sarge. (*see survey below*)

Next month Greg Roemer, the local Thrivent representative, will speak on Habitat for Humanity. October's speaker will be from George Mason University and will talk on OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In November, John Graf will present his program on the Ministry of the Laity which was originally scheduled for today. John Priebe suggested that we sing Christmas carols in December. Ms. Murphy suggested the Village of Hope in Haiti, which is a pan-Lutheran supported mission, would be a good topic of interest.

Opening Devotion

Sarge offered a prayer to bless the food.

Introduction of Speaker

A long-time member of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship, Dr. Solt, will give a brief introduction to the work of Bill Diehl, John Graff and others. She will explain what "ministry of the laity" means in the context of the "priesthood of all believers". This month's speaker will set the stage for John Graff's presentation "The Ministry of All God's People: Called to What?" which has been rescheduled for November.

As a Program Associate for the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR), Dr. Solt edited online research resource newsletters for social work researchers. She coordinated research methods training workshops and convened research findings conferences. Dr. Solt also represented the profession in national research capacity-building circles. She earned a PhD in Social Work at The Catholic University of America in 2002, an MS from the Columbia University School of Social Work and a BA in Sociology from Muhlenberg College.

Presentation

LLF member Barbara Solt agreed to substitute for John Graf's talk on the Ministry of the Laity, as he was unable, on short notice, to present as scheduled. She began by noting that her talk is "an introduction to, not a substitution for" Graf's talk which has been rescheduled for October.

Barbara related her experience in a "house church" group developed by Bill Diehl, then a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA. During this time and these meetings he developed his thinking on the church's call to supporting lay ministry, and during which he wrote his first books, *Christianity in Real Life*, and *Thank God It's Monday*. The group was called "Channel 2" as it was an alternative to "Channel 1" the traditional church's approach.

Barbara read passages from these books that describe what "ministry of the laity" is and is not. It IS an elaboration of Luther's "priesthood of all believers," and is NOT the inclusion of lay people in carrying out the functions of congregational life. Mr. Diehl's premise is that the church of late has been remiss in preparing members for bringing their Sunday learning and perspective into their work-a-day world. He posited that the lessening of attendance in worship services was a result of members' not feeling that the church was equipping them to deal with the challenges and ethical dilemmas of the "real" world. She also described Judith Diehl's book "A Woman's Place" as a look at women's vocations, whether paid, volunteer, or in the home.

She noted that all of these books are currently out of print, but some can be found via Amazon's used book selections. She also related having visited both Bill and Judith recently at their residence in Luther Crest in Allentown. She encouraged people familiar with their work to send cards of appreciation.

Ministry Discussion

Bob Sargeant distributed paper and asked attendees to write down 3-5 areas in which you find yourself in your life as an important player in an arena or an area which you feel is important to you in your life. He then asked us to discuss 1-2 of those in which we feel we are in ministry.

Bonnie related her work in making quilts for veterans throughout the country, thanking them for their service. Her two quilts so far have been for Quilts of Valor. She served as a "topper", making the tops of the quilts using red, white and blue fabrics. A "longarmer" quilted the quilts using a large machine. When the quilts were returned to her, she bound them and added a label and case. She plans to make at least one more. Her two quilts have gone to veterans of the Vietnam War, but the foundation awards many of them to people returning from Afghanistan. More than 100,000 quilts have been awarded by Quilts of Valor. Dave related how his in-laws' church in Quakertown, PA made him a prayer shawl last year when he was in the hospital for an extended period of time, and how much he appreciated receiving it. This sparked further discussion on quilt/shawl ministries.

Faye spoke to "the ministry of connections" as to how needs are identified and addressed through connections or networking.

Carolyn offered Gifts of Hope as "the hands and feet of our Lord." \$3 million has been disbursed over the past 10 years, plus the numbers of lives touched.

Barbara related an example of the "prophetic voice" or "change agency" in her work years ago. Sarge spoke to how the church can be the support and trainer and guide for such action.

John spoke to the concept of missionaries of old, and how we can participate today where we are situated.

Dave spoke to how he takes attendance at his church and asked members of the group how their churches do it. Most take a head count, some have pew pads for sign-in. His church has an attendance sign-in sheet in the narthex, one for each service. He takes care of the attendance database and develops reports to alert the pastor to periods of non-attendance so that the pastor can follow up with people in an appropriate manner.

Betty Fredericks is involved with Meals on Wheels for about 40 years.

Closing

The meeting closed with the group praying The Lord's Prayer.

Lutheran Lay Fellowship Advocacy Survey – 2014

1. I am active in public policy issues:

Yes _____

No _____

2. I am currently active in an organization that is involved in trying to influence public policy (advocacy).

Yes _____

No _____

3. I would like to have training in advocacy skills.

Yes _____

No _____

4. I have/will make phone calls or write letters to legislators about issues that I am concerned about.

Yes___

No___

5. I am most interested in learning about (rank 1- most interested, 3 least interested)

Federal issues _____

State issues _____

County issues _____

6. The top 3 legislative issues I want to learn about are:

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*Free Will Offering
supports
Gifts of Hope*

*Enjoy the music of jazz vocalist,
songwriter, pianist **Lizabeth Flood***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 3:00 PM

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, Virginia*



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