

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, September 3, 2015 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

Gifts of Hope is a consortium of 17 Lutheran-sponsored organizations who share a common mission of answering the Lord's call to aid people in need. Gifts of Hope increases awareness about our agencies and raises funds so that the member organizations may continue their work. They benefit 10 social service agencies, 2 church camps, one college, one seminary, and 3 international companion synods.

For more information about Gifts of Hope, visit <http://www.giftsofhopedc.org>

Please join us for our 3rd Annual Benefit Concert Sunday, October 18, 2015, 4:30pm at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 4th St., NW, Washington, DC. On street parking is available or use the Judiciary Square Metro exit. There is no admission; a free-will offering will be taken at the concert. This concert features the 18th Street Singers, named one of the best vocal choirs in the area!

For information about the concert, please contact the church office: 202-737-4859; office@firsttrinitydc.org or Carolyn Sowinski: director@giftsofhopedc.org

References

- 1) Business Meeting Discussion on November 7, 2013
Speaker List and Discussion Questions (attached)
- 2) Business Meeting Discussion on June 4, 2015
Meeting Minutes (attached)
- 3) Letter from LLF President, August 17, 2015
Letter to Membership stating options to be discussed in September (attached)

Background

Attendance at our first Thursday Luncheon Meetings has shrunken and there is no clear future for Lutheran Lay Fellowship.

The options given in LLF President Bob Sargeant's letter of August 17 were:

1. Dissolve effective with the end of the 2015 membership year (December 31, 2015). This requires that a motion to dissolve be presented to two meetings and to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the regular membership present. All assets remaining at that time would be dispersed to Fellowship Square Foundation per the LLF Bylaws.

-----or-----

2. Create an enlarged Executive Committee authorized to act in the name of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship. The Executive Committee would oversee the organization's finances; continue the Reformation Service ushering program; continue the Lutheran Lay Fellowship Scholarship; and maintain the LLF Website. The Executive Committee would be empowered to endorse new programs only if they are fully funded and fully staffed. Option 2 would require a majority vote for approval. Some desire to continue an enlarged ex comm to run usher and scholarship programs.

Discussion

A suggestion was made to meet 2 or 3 times a year and see if that helps.

Where would new officers come from? We would need a new person to find speakers and to perform other membership tasks. Are there any volunteers?

Last year the Executive Board was cut to 4 members but that didn't help because there were no new volunteers that stepped forward.

Although the current location at St. Luke Lutheran is close to the Beltway in Silver Spring, this is a problem for people coming from Northern Virginia.

Fellowship Square Foundation board would need a new way to get members. Currently, LLF is the body that elects the slate of candidates to serve as Corporate Members.

Recruiting ushers for the yearly Reformation Service at the National Cathedral is only a minor issue.

There was a Motion about scholarship money suggested, but not voted upon.

Only 7 people attended this September 2015 Business Meeting

57% voted for option #1 for total, immediate shutdown

43% voted for option #2 for limited activity including ushering and scholarships

In October after the guest speaker Dave Lambert is finished, there will be another presentation of the situation, then an Up/Down vote on option #1. If it does not carry with a two-thirds majority, option #2 will prevail.

GIFTS OF HOPE Third Annual

Benefit Concert

Featuring



THE 18TH STREET SINGERS

First Trinity Lutheran Church
501 4th St NW
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Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



Memo from: Robert Sargeant, President
Memo to: Members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship
Date: August 17, 2015
Ref: Membership Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015

Over the past few years, the Lutheran Lay Fellowship has experienced a marked decrease in monthly luncheon attendance. Securing persons willing to assume leadership positions has become difficult. The LLF Leadership interviewed opinion leaders to solicit ideas to address these problems. Some of the suggestions have been implemented. President Sargeant reported on these conversations at the June luncheon. If you did not attend that meeting, please read the June 2015 minutes which are attached to this memo for your convenience.

The Executive Committee has formulated two possible options for the future. They are presented below. The options provide the discussion points for consideration at the September meeting. Lutheran Lay Fellowship could do one of the following:

1. Dissolve effective with the end of the 2015 membership year (December 31, 2015). This requires that a motion to dissolve be presented to two meetings and to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the regular membership present. All assets remaining at that time would be dispersed to Fellowship Square Foundation per the LLF Bylaws.

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2. Create an enlarged Executive Committee authorized to act in the name of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship. The Executive Committee would oversee the organization's finances; continue the Reformation Service ushering program; continue the Lutheran Lay Fellowship Scholarship; and maintain the LLF Website. The Executive Committee would be empowered to endorse new programs only if they are fully funded and fully staffed. Option 2 would require a majority vote for approval.

A vote will be taken at the September meeting as to which of the two options to pursue. If number one option is chosen, a second vote would be necessary at the October meeting.

No matter which option is chosen, monthly luncheons will end with the December luncheon. The schedule for the remainder of 2015 is as follows:

September 3	LLF Business Meeting
October 1	Dave Lambert's Presentation on Pay-what-you-can Café Concept (Second vote on Dissolution if called for).
November 5	Celebration of LLF's History
December 3	Christmas Celebration

The Executive Committee hopes that you will consider these options prayerfully, attend the meeting in September and vote.

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, June 4, 2015 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

President Bob Sargeant called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. He announced that two LLF Scholarships were awarded to students who happened to be members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Churches, although one is LCMS in Springfield, VA, and one is ELCA in Gaithersburg, MD. One recipient is a male, one a female. Additional information was sent to the membership this month.

As is the usual practice, Bob asked for those present to share if they were celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month. Three birthdays and an anniversary were celebrated with our singing the “Happy Birthday Song” to “All Good Lutherans.”

Several members shared their experience attending the funeral of long time member Sue Schmidt, former note-taker and wife of former LLF Chaplain Larry Schmidt. The service included six eulogies interspersed with musical offerings. Both the service and the repast were full to over-flowing.

There was some discussion of this meeting’s small attendance (six) in relation to the luncheon reservations, so there was an abundance of food. Discussion included the matter of some members not receiving email notices, noting that the meeting is regularly held on the first Thursday of the month, so the purpose of the sparse attendance remained unclear. All present sat at one table, making the “round table discussion” of the meeting’s topic real as well as virtual.

Opening Devotion

Bob offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the food and many blessings of fellowship.

Speaker

No speaker was scheduled for this meeting which was scheduled to be a conversation regarding the future of LLF.

Discussion

After lunch, Bob convened the table into discussion. He hearkened back to the year-ago meeting which focused on strategic planning for LLF. Since then Bob has been holding discussions with people to gain feedback that would inform our future thinking. He noted that on some occasions we did not have enough food for all those attending, on other occasions, vice versa. One recent well-attended meeting brought a “following” of the speaker by people who knew her and her work. He suggested we think about doing joint meetings with other similar organizations.

Bob noted that he is a mission interpreter for the ELCA in this area. In a recent meeting with the ELCA Bishop, Bob felt a good measure of support for the LLF, especially as a vehicle for working across judicatory lines. The Bishop invited Bob to attend the Synod Council meetings. Bob also received an invitation from the Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, who is interested in finding ways for laypeople to be involved in the ministries of the church. LLF’s boundaries changed somewhat after the merger which formed the ELCA. It was suggested we send copies of our minutes to him.

Another conversation was with Summer Parrish of LSS/NCA, who was interested in helping families. She noted that the timing of the meeting is difficult for working people and families. She suggested we provide day-care, think about topics of interest to mothers, such as paid maternity leave. Someone raised the entire matter of family leave, for care-giving to older family members. There was a side discussion of geographic restrictions set by some resource agencies. Summer suggested we gather people of diverse age in a restaurant around a topic such as “Beer and Shakespeare.”

Faye Coddling, among others, is involved in advocacy at all levels: local, state, federal. The Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs (LOGA) is one possible program resource. The Cuba policy change is something that we might want to look at in terms of impact on us and opportunity for us.

Ellie Wegner’s discussion looked at the 2017 Reformation anniversary “doings.” Keeping a calendar of events and inviting people to attend a dinner and discussion around it. Another option would be a guided trip to Rome, or Lutherland (Germany), or England to explore Anglican and Methodist, or Bethlehem, PA, founded by Moravians. Another trip might be to Cuba.

Certain issues continued to arise:

- Communication
- Time of the Meeting
- Place of the Meeting

How far in advance should announcements come out? Do program announcements need to be tied to the past month's meeting notes? There is an online resource, DC Vine, that could be set up for members only, in which people could quickly go in and get the latest news. Between-meeting notices could be sent out, such as announcements of members passing and funeral details. How to maximize the LLF/Fellowship Square Corporate Membership relationship was also discussed.

Are there any special interest groups within LLF? Is there a possibility of doing a video for wider dissemination of our programs? One congregation, Augustana, DC, videos its services and posts them on YouTube for members who live or work abroad, and has attracted viewers from several countries.

The timing of the meeting is problematic for non-retirees or people who have children at home. The geographic boundaries separated by the Potomac River are a factor. The historic luncheon meeting might not be the future main offering of LLF. Evening meetings compete with congregation meetings and rush-hour traffic.

Fred Klein asked, "what is our target audience?" If we try to reach out to the general population we will miss everybody. Young families "simply don't have time." Older church groups are dwindling. Time usage patterns are changing. Women/mothers don't go out at night. What is the best time for which age group? How do we interpret our mission to congregations?

Bob thinks the next step is to look at the various suggestions or opportunities to gather new demographic groups. Approaching younger people should not include the word "Lutheran." Gatherings should include food (and some traditional Lutheran beverages.) Rather than individual topics, an overall topic/theme could be a series. Travel could be part of a series or travel as mission trips. Ministry in Daily Life and the concept of Discipleship was discussed. The Leadership issue – current officers have been in place for six years. How does that pass on? Finally, have we outgrown our viability?

Conversation turned to parallels between LLF and Lutheran congregational life in many places. Change is challenging. More discussion is to continue to build on the input we've received. There is a lot of competition of people's time and interest.

Closing

The meeting ended with no clear topic for a July meeting. An August meeting is to focus on Our Faith in Daily Life, for which the speaker is traveling from PA, for no remuneration. It is hoped that attendance will be worth his trip.

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington, DC

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Recent Speakers and Topics

8/ 11	Kathryn Baerwald	National Lutheran Communities and Services
9/ 11	Rev. Lloyd Gaines	SE District, LCMS
10/ 11	Deborah Rutt	VP for Fund Development, LCMS, Natl Housing Coalition
11/ 11	Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White	Preparing Seminarians for Ministry in Today's World
12/ 11	Dave Lambert	The Most Underutilized Church Resource
1/ 12	Dr. Maria Erling	Whatever Happened to Luther League?
2/ 12	Bishop Dick Graham	What I Know Now that I Didn't Know Then
3/ 12	Barbara Solt	The Holy Land, Then and Now
4/ 12	Rev. David Percy	Incarnation: Through a Variety of Ministries
5/ 12	Barbara Solt	Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs
6/ 12	Marilee Tollefson Ruth Manchester	A Parish Nurse for Your Congregation
8/ 12	Dr. Michael Kurtz	The Life of Rev. Robert B. Lantz No Miracle, Just Hard Work
9/ 12	Jana Broughton	Fellowship Square Foundation
10/ 12	Greg Roemer	What's Happening at Thrivent?
11/ 12	Rev. David Berg	Retired and Wired: Equipping Boomers for Life and Ministry
12/ 12	All	Celebrating the Stories and Carols of Christmas
1/ 13	Susanne Blume	Lifetime Partnership at First Trinity, DC

2/ 13	Rev. Dr. Amaslu Geleta	Youth Director, St. Mark's, Springfield, VA
3/ 13	Dr. Maria Erling	Whatever Happened to Luther League (part two)
4/ 13	Rev. Dr. Clark Lobenstine	Is Diversity Surrounding Us Something of God?
5/ 13	Rev. Carmelo Santos	St. Mark's, Springfield, VA
6/ 13	Deaconness Sally Hiller	Mission and Ministry Director Southeastern District, LCMS
8/ 13	Rev. Dr. Michelle Carlson	Director of Lifelong Learning, Gettysburg Seminary
9/ 13	Dave Lambert	Rainbow Via de Cristo
10/ 13	Rev. Fred Shilling	A Healthy Soul Provides Spiritual Energy

SOME QUESTIONS FOR TABLE DISCUSSION

1. Of the above speakers and topics, can your table select five that you found to be the most meaningful?

2. Would you like to continue our luncheon meetings at Saint Luke? How often should we meet?

3. As you dream together about our future, should we expand into Northern Virginia? When and where would you suggest we hold them?

