

## Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



### LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, November 5, 2015 – 12:00 noon

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

#### Opening Announcements

President Bob “Sarge” Sargeant opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. He gave a short review of the Reformation Service at the National Cathedral. LLF provided nine ushers. Service bulletins were available for those who didn’t attend. Attendance was about 240. There was discussion of the “Millennial” generation seeing no place for God in their life. Hopefully we can change that.

Bob reminded that All Saints Day calls us to remember those who died during the past year. Ms. Porter, who handles our meeting reservations, is celebrating her birthday this month. There were no anniversaries this month. Bob then asked what we are particularly thankful for this Thanksgiving. Members offered:

- That I can still get around
- New grandchild(ren)
- Falling leaves to keep us active
- Looking forward to visiting family not seen at other times during the years
- “adopting other people as family” for the Thanksgiving Day meal.
- Fairfax Food Council – a new organization working on a number of food-related projects, including gardening, pantries, etc.
- Montgomery County’s food programs
- The emergence of new congregational leadership during a pastoral transition, plus babies, babies, babies on the way
- The emergency of criminal justice reform on the national agenda

Faye Coddling announced that Fellowship Square is celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary next week. There will be open houses. Info is on the website. Barbara Solt shared that the Gifts of Hope benefit concert was very enjoyable; the choral group was excellent. Thrivent Action Teams as a way of funding service projects was shared. Several members related their use of this program, wherein \$250 is provided for supplies, while volunteers provide the labor for either raising more funds for a beneficiary or doing the labor of the project.

Bob shared info from the ELCA office on new church starts. 53 congregations in 29 synods. There are 26 ethnic-specific new starts. Five focus on “millennials” or young adults. Two new starts are in prisons.

### **Opening Devotion**

Dave Lambert offered devotions. He recalled the song “Turn, Turn, Turn” based on Ecclesiastes: 3, which he read. He related it to this time of transition in the organization. The organization will continue. New seeds will be planted. (see attached)

### **LLF Business**

Dave Lambert presented the slate of officers to be voted on next month:

- Bob Sargeant, President
- Dave Lambert, Vice President
- Angie Evans, Secretary
- John Corkill, Treasurer

### **Program**

The program was a collective “remembrance of things past” in the life of LLF as offered below:

John Corkill read a letter received from Jean Smallin in Annandale, VA in response to our request for people to provide reminiscences of their LLF experience. She recalled the Lay School of Theology, but lamented that time and work obligations have prevented her from attending meetings.

John Priebe, our most recent treasurer, recalled meetings at St. Matthew’s, when LLF had its own cook, “china” and silverware. Harlan Oelke would take the dishes and utensils home each month and wash them. He showed some brochures, plus “the Directory” which included a picture of Lutheran people and organizations in the Metro DC area. He read the names of people who were instrumental in putting together the programs and the

Directory: Phil Langehough, Phyllis Ulrich. The Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium paid for the data processing, Thrivent paid for the printing. Floyd and Louise Anderson, the Bowens, and Emily and Phillip Langehough and John and Bonnie Priebe did the editing. Betty Frederickson has done so many things behind the scenes. Vicki Porter has been assistant treasurers for so many years. Rev. William Wegener served as Chaplain for many years. Don Edwards served as Secretary, doing meeting notes and typing the entire directory. He thanked current leaders, Bob and Dave for their work. Finally, he thanked his wife, Bonnie, for all her work on the scholarship committee. Tom O'brien, the architect of our current by-laws, was remembered and news of his health was shared.

Faye Coddling remembered Larry and Sue Schmidt who led the campaign for a three year support of Fellowship Square. He served as Chaplain, and she as note-taker for many years. Faye has been attending for eight years, noting the warm welcome she received as an ordained ELCA pastor, which was not her experience in other church circles.

Lawrence Hayes who has attended regularly, offered a "cross-pollination" perspective, including an ecumenical historical review.

Bob announced that in the summer of 2016, the ELCA church-wide Assembly will be held in New Orleans. The Bishop has invited ALL members to attend a parallel event there, in an effort to bring the church together.

Faye commented on the The Theological Understanding of the Lutheran-Catholic Doctrine. "Women's Issues" are not part of the focus at all. Otherwise it is a progressive doctrine. Unfortunately, there is no more dialogue on these things. Some considerable discussion on this ensued during the meeting, lamenting the lack of movement in a number of church bodies on different theological understandings regarding women's role in the Church, gender identity, abortion, etc.

Betty Fredericks spoke of the LLF Logo design competition.

### **Closing Devotion**

Rev. Faye Coddling offered a benedictory prayer noting the strength we receive from each other in these meetings.

## "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)"

This song is often abbreviated "Turn! Turn! Turn!" and is a song written by Pete Seeger in the late 1950s. The lyrics, except for the title which is repeated throughout the song, and the final verse of the song, are adapted word-for-word from Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes, set to music and recorded in 1962. The song was originally released as "To Everything There Is a Season".

The song became an international hit in late 1965 when it was covered by the American folk rock band The Byrds, reaching #1 on the Hot 100 chart on December 4, 1965. In the U.S., the song holds the distinction of being the #1 hit with the oldest lyrics; that is the Book of Ecclesiastes dating back to the late 3rd century BC.

The lyrics are taken almost verbatim from the Book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 1-8 as found in the 1611 version of the King James Bible though the sequence of the words was rearranged for the song. Ecclesiastes is traditionally ascribed to King Solomon.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

The Biblical text says there is a time and place for all things: laughter and sorrow, healing and killing, war and peace, and so on. In our case, this is the next-to-last Lutheran Lay Fellowship Luncheon. Who knows what the future will bring for our organization? The lines are open to myriad interpretations, but as a song they are commonly performed as a plea for world peace, with an emphasis on the closing line: "a time for peace, I swear it's not too late." This line and the title phrase "Turn! Turn! Turn!" are the only parts of the lyric written by Seeger himself.

The song is notable for being one of a few instances in popular music in which a large portion of scripture is set to music. Another example of scripture set to music is The Lord's Prayer.

*Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turn!\\_Turn!\\_Turn!](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turn!_Turn!_Turn!)