

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



August 2016 Newsletter

In this Issue

Opening Devotion
Scholarship Update
Cooperation with Fellowship Square
Food Security
Caring & Sharing
Three LLF Meetings a Month
Meeting Schedule
Call for Ushers

Opening Devotion -- August and Augustine

The original Roman year had 10 named months Martius "March", Aprilis "April", Maius "May", Junius "June", Quintilis "July", Sextilis "August", September "September", October "October", November "November", December "December", and probably two unnamed months in the dead of winter when not much happened in agriculture. Augustus Caesar clarified and completed the calendar reform of Julius Caesar. In the process, he also renamed this month after himself.

Augustine (Aurelius Augustinus) was born in the year 354 AD and became one of the greatest theologians of Western Christianity. Augustine prospered in Rome, and was eventually appointed chief professor of rhetoric for the city of Milan, at that time the capital city of the Empire in the West. In Milan, Augustine met the bishop, Ambrose, and found him to have reasonableness of mind and belief, a keenness of thought, and an integrity of character far in excess of what he had found elsewhere. For the first time, Augustine saw Christianity as a religion fit for a philosopher.

By contemplating spiritual realities, directing one's attention first to one's own mind and then moving up the ladder rung by one to the contemplation of God, one acquires true wisdom, true self-fulfilment, true spirituality, and union with God, or the One. Augustine undertook this approach, and believed that he had in fact had an experience of the presence of God, but found that this only made him more aware of the gulf between what he was and what he realized that he ought to be.

Meanwhile, he continued to hear Bishop Ambrose. And finally, partly because Ambrose had answers for his questions, partly because he admired Ambrose personally, and chiefly (or so he believed) because God touched his heart, he was converted to Christianity in 386 and was baptised by Ambrose at Easter of 387.

After his conversion, Augustine went back to his native Africa where he was ordained a priest in 391 and consecrated bishop of Hippo in 396. It was not his intention to become a priest. He was visiting the town of Hippo, was in church hearing a sermon, and the bishop, without warning, said, "This Church is in need of more priests, and I believe that the ordination of Augustine would be to the glory of God." Willing hands dragged Augustine forward, and the bishop together with his council of priests laid hands on Augustine and ordained him to the priesthood. (The experience may have colored Augustine's perception of such questions as, "Does a man come to God because he has chosen to do so, or because God has chosen him, and drawn him to Himself?") A few years later, when the Bishop of Hippo died, Augustine was chosen to succeed him.

Augustine was a diligent shepherd of his flock, but he also found time to write extensively. His surviving works (and it is assumed that the majority did not survive) include 113 books and treatises, over 200 letters, and over 500 sermons. His work greatly influenced Luther and Calvin, to the point where for a while Roman Catholic speakers and writers were wary of quoting him lest they be suspected of Protestant tendencies.

Scholarship Update

Addie Block

Lutheran Lay Fellowship Scholarship awardee Addie Block graduated from the University of Texas this Spring with a degree in Arabic Studies and Geography. She is spending a capstone year in Morocco, polishing up her Arabic while living with a host family and attending school.

Natalie Heinitz

Lutheran Lay Fellowship Scholarship awardee Natalie Heinitz received the Joseph J. Gunn Alumni Medal on Thursday, May 19 at Manhattan College's Spring Honors Convocation. She graduated summa cum laude on May 22. The Gunn Alumni Medal is one of the College's highest undergraduate student honors. Since her sophomore year, Heinitz has been involved with the Lasallian Outreach Volunteer Experience (L.O.V.E.) program, participating on service trips to Haiti, Jamaica and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. She is a member of the L.O.V.E. executive board and led a L.O.V.E. trip to Florida that left the day after she received her Manhattan College diploma. "Natalie has all manner of possibilities ahead of her," says Thom Gencarelli, Ph.D., chair and professor of communication. "I am more than confident that she has the intelligence, the professionalism, the ambition, the work ethic, and the perseverance to achieve and accomplish whatever it is she sets out to do."

<https://manhattan.edu/news/natalie-heinitz-16-receives-joseph-j-gunn-30-alumni-medal>

2017 Scholarships

One of the five objectives of the LLF is "to initiate and support worthy projects of a religious, charitable, and educational nature." The promotion and encouragement of the pursuit of degree oriented education among Lutheran students is the purpose of the LLF scholarship program. As in past years, we will be offering one scholarship to an undergraduate; for 2017 we are also planning on offering an additional scholarship to a Seminary student. More information will be available in September.

Cooperation with Fellowship Square

At the June LLF Meeting in Tyson Corner, George Davies highlighted critical needs of the Fellowship Square Houses. We discussed ways that LLF might be able to help such as Gift Cards for food as well as to pay for medical needs at the pharmacy. Many times transportation is also an issue.

Three out of four Fellowship Square site managers attended the July LLF Meeting in Tyson Corner to gain more information about the needs of the fellowship houses. The combined total number of residents is just over 1,000; Lake Anne, with two buildings, has approximately 330 residents and the other three locations have around 240 each.

Stay tuned to hear more about closer cooperation between LLF and Fellowship Square and how to donate money to the upcoming effort to provide Gift Cards for distribution to Fellowship Squares residents.

Global Food Security Act Passes Congress

After long months of advocacy and policy negotiations, Congress has finally passed the Global Food Security Act, a landmark food security legislation. A top priority of ELCA Advocacy, this bipartisan legislation authorizes Feed the Future – a vital global food and hunger initiative, into law. Feed the Future works to bolster agricultural development, improve nutrition, and stimulate local economic growth, which in turn helps to reduce poverty. In addition, the Global Food Security Act strengthens transparency and accountability measures to ensure effectiveness and stewardship. Together we celebrate this great milestone; for it is because you raised your voices and took action that we were able to compel Congress to pass this legislation.

"Congress took an historic step by passing the Global Food Security Act, an important piece of bipartisan legislation that reaffirms the United States' commitment to ending global hunger, poverty and child malnutrition. As National Security Advisor, I've always considered food security to be not only a security imperative but also a moral imperative. And as the wealthiest nation on Earth, I believe the United States also has a moral obligation to lead the fight against global hunger and malnutrition and to partner with others to do so."

Ambassador Susan Rice, National Security Advisor

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/07/06/congress-passed-global-food-security-act-heres-why-thats-historic>

Caring & Sharing

Do you have news to share?

Is there something in your life or in the life of your congregation you would like to share with other members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship to be published in a future LLF Newsletter? Did you go on a mission trip? Is your congregation doing something new that might be of interest to others? Send articles to webmaster@LutheranLayFellowship.org.

Three LLF Meetings a Month

LLF Wheaton - The Executive Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at Panera Bread in the Wheaton Mall. All are welcome. Organizer: John Corkill

LLF Bethesda - Christ Lutheran Church is located at 8011 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. Join Dave Lambert for the "Lunch Bunch" on the second Wednesday of the month.

LLF Tyson Corner - Bob "Sarge" Sargeant invites you to a Northern Virginia meeting at Brio Tuscan Grille in the Tyson Corner Mall.

Meeting Schedule

1st Thursday	Aug 4	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Aug 10	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Aug 18	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30
1st Thursday	Sept 1	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Sept 14	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Sept 15	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30

For updated information see www.LutheranLayFellowship.org and click on "Calendar"

Call for Ushers

Reformation Sunday is observed on the last Sunday in October, this year it will be October 31, 2016 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. LLF supplies the ushers for this service at the Washington National Cathedral. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact us.

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/menu/contact.asp>