

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



December 2017 Newsletter

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Opening Devotion — How Martin Luther Preached about Christmas

In the theological tumult that was Martin Luther's life, the great reformer seemed to be heartened each year by the great festivals of the church, particularly Advent and Christmas. The man who "invented" the Protestant parsonage was also sustained by a blazing sense of humor and a happy home life. It was open house all year in the large converted monastery at the east end of Wittenberg where Luther, his wife Katie, and their six children lived, along with numerous students who stayed there as well. One of them wrote that as Christmas approached, Luther grew increasingly cheerful: "All his words and songs and thoughts concerned the incarnation of our Lord. Then he sighed and said, 'Oh, we poor people that we should be so cold and indifferent to this great joy that has been given us. For this is indeed the greatest gift, which far exceeds all else that God has created. Yet we believe so sluggishly, even though the angels proclaim and preach and sing, and their lovely song sums up the whole Christian faith, for 'Glory to God in the highest' is the very heart of worship."

Among his many roles—theologian, reformer, professor, scholar, exegete, hymnodist, and prolific author—Martin Luther probably considered his role as preacher to be most important. Biographer Roland H. Bainton writes, "Luther is at his best and most characteristic in his sermons on the Nativity," and then excerpts one of them in which Luther unfolds the familiar story of Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem:

The inn was full. No one would release a room to this pregnant woman. She had to go to a cow stall and there bring forth the Maker of all creatures because nobody would give way. Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem! The inn ought to have been burned with brimstone, for even though Mary had been a beggar maid or unwed, anybody at such a time would have been glad to give her a hand. There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed his linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!" Yes you would!

You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

Read more about how Martin Luther preached about Christmas at

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/december/celebrating-advent-with-martin-luther.html>

Membership Renewal

If you do not receive a membership renewal form in the mail, you may download the membership application form from our website. Please send to the LLF Treasurer, John Corkill, at the address at the bottom of the form, not Dave Lambert who sends out the newsletters. New members are always welcome to join!

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/info/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf>

2018 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 was done last year, we will be offering one scholarship to an undergraduate and one scholarship to a Seminary student.

For more information and to download a Scholarship Application, go to

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.org/scholarship/>

Reformation Service

On October 29 at the Washington National Cathedral we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Eight Lutheran Lay Fellowship members served as ushers. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop preached and unlike recent years, Holy Communion was shared.

Thanks go to John Corkill Jr, David Robert (Dave) Lambert, Deborah S. Lambert, Robert Luoma, Ruth Manchester, Mack Ott, John Priebe and Robert C. (Sarge) Sargeant for their service as ushers. This was no little task as 1,200 were expected but there was standing room only when 2,175 showed up! They were assisted by other ELCA & Metro DC Synod volunteers as well as members of the National Cathedral.

Hunters Woods Fellowship House

New safety products installed in residents' bathrooms

In a housing community with over 200 residents, one priority remains top of mind: safety for the seniors who live in those units. The Hunters Woods Fellowship House is continually looking for opportunities to ensure its residents are safe in their homes and -- because of a grant from SunTrust Foundation -- this opportunity was realized thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers. Staff at Fellowship Square coordinated with Rebuilding Together, a leading nonprofit in safe and healthy housing, to install grab bars, showerheads and sets of safety treads for nearly half of the residents living at the Hunters Woods Fellowship House.

Click on the link below for more info about Fellowship Square.

<http://www.fellowshipsquare.org/press-releases/>

Fellowship Square News

Executive Director and House Managers Discuss Programs for Residents

At the May 18 LLF meeting in Tyson Corner, the FSF House Managers discussed programs that would be of most interest to their residents. This conversation continued on August 31 and November 16.

Dave Lambert, LLF VP of Programs, has recently been in contact with Resident Service Coordinators at each of the FSF Fellowship Houses and the Giant Nutritionists who cover the areas where these buildings are located. It is hoped that the first programs will be offered after the first of the year.

Nutrition Education and Grocery Store Tours, by Giant Foods

<https://giantfood.com/live-well/health-and-wellness/nutritionists/>

- Grocery Store Tour
- Label Reading for Health
- Healthy Eating on a Budget
- Spice Up Your Life
- Eating for Diabetes
- Heart Healthy Eating
- Meal Planning for 1 or 2

Bob Sargeant, LLF President, is working with AARP to offer some of the following programs at FSF fellowship houses.

Fraud Awareness, an AARP Seminar

<http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2017/fraud-protection-ultimate-guide.html>

Wellness Training for Caregivers, an AARP Seminar

<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/>

Brain Health and Wellness, an AARP Seminar

<http://www.aarp.org/health/brain-health/>

Each Fellowship House has a Resident Advisory Committee. A Fellowship Square Program Committee is in the process of being formed. Stay tuned for more information!

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? Have you been on a mission trip or taken a special vacation? Is your church doing something new and different that might be of interest to other congregations?

Send articles to webmaster@LutheranLayFellowship.org.

Two LLF Meetings a Month

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

LLF Tyson Corner - Bob "Sarge" Sargeant invites you to Northern Virginia meetings at Brio Tuscan Grille in the Tyson Corner Mall. There will be no regular Tyson Corner meeting in December.

The January meeting will feature the Fellowship House RSC's.
The February meeting will feature the Fellowship House Managers.

Meeting Schedule

1st Monday	Dec 4	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
3rd Thursday	Dec 21	NO MEETING	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
1st Monday	Jan 8*	LLF Wheaton	2:00-3:30pm
3rd Thursday	Jan 18	LLF Tyson Corner	12:00-1:30pm
1st Monday	Feb 5	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
3rd Thursday	Feb 15	LLF Tyson Corner	12:00-1:30pm

(*) alternate date and time due to New Years Day holiday.