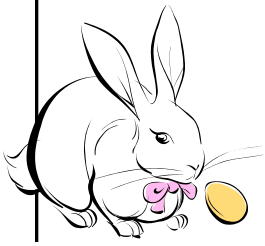


- Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHOMET

410 East Andover, Mahomet, IL 61853

Church Phone: 586-4786; Fax: 586-5618

www.lcofm.org

April 2015



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Reflections

A mother and her young daughter were driving to the zoo during Lent. On their way, the little girl began counting out loud the crosses on various church steeples. "Mom," she asked, interrupting her counting, "how many times did Jesus die?" "One time, dear," her mother answered. "Then why are there so many crosses?" the little girl asked. "To help us remember how much Jesus loves us," her mother replied, "He died on a cross for us." "Well," the child responded, "how could we forget something like THAT?"

It appears that many in our community of faith have done just that. For those who have gathered to worship at our special Lenten services and there reflect on what Jesus has done for us in going to the cross, are pathetically few! I wonder what Jesus must think about the choices we make?

Soon we will be entering into Holy Week. Once again we will be given the opportunity to worship our Lord Jesus at special services in that week. A special time in which to reflect upon what Jesus has done for us in His going to the cross and dying for us. A special time in which we are given an opportunity to draw closer to our Lord. I pray that Jesus will not have to ask of us the question that He asked his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Could you not even watch with me for one hour?"





There are many in our society who live with the mood of Macbeth: "Tomorrow and tomorrow creeps this petty pace from day to day, to the last syllable of recorded time; and our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death." Such a dismal view of life has as its theme verse: "If that's all there is, let's break out the booze and have a ball and keep dancing."

But that is not all there is! Faust was wrong when he said, "The end of everything is nothing." Life is not a dead-end street when death strides our way.

In our Gospel for Easter Sunday, we read that the women brought spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They were alarmed when the angel told them that Jesus was risen from the dead. "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid" (Mark 16:8). They were startled because they had believed the beautiful story of Jesus had ended. But the story hadn't stopped! The enemy death had been defeated.

When God created us, God made us for life, not death. God never starts anything that cannot be completed. As Scripture tells us, "For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ" (I Corinthians 15:22). Death tells us that we might run out of time before we have done all we hoped to do. Never mind. Easter proclaims that death no longer sets limits to our possibilities. As the Apostle Paul states triumphantly, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

Easter declares that we are not only children of time, but nurslings of immortality; created not to wither into dust and nothingness, but to be transformed from glory to glory, until we bear the very likeness of God.

Afraid to die! Perhaps. But because of the Good News of Easter, that Jesus has won the victory for us over sin, death and the devil. Our story goes on after death because Jesus' story is true. That is the good news that we celebrate in the Easter Season. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Vic Baderschneider, Interim



MARCH COUNCIL NOTES

Submitted by Andrew Scheele, Church Council Secretary

One of the priorities of the present council is to keep the members of The Lutheran Church of Mahomet more easily and better informed of actions taken and matters discussed at council meetings in a timely manner. For more detailed information as to the council meetings, you are welcome to take a copy of the minutes from the quad board after they are approved and posted. Minutes from the February 9th, 2015, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the March 9th, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

- We will do a group collection for the Mahomet Fire Benefit Fund through the month of March. At the end of March, we will bundle the giving and donate to the fund. This fund is administered by the Red Cross, and supports local victims.
- Lent service giving will be donated to the Mahomet Fire Benefit Fund as well.

Matters discussed or decided at the March 9, 2015 meeting were as follows:

- Continued discussion on the Building Use Policy (allowing alcohol in the fellowship area). A draft was presented, and with a few edits will be ready for Council vote in April or May.
- Discussed the Belarus Fundraiser. The evening was a complete success, and the expected net will be in excess of \$6,100, surpassing our goal.
- Discussed the need for a Music and Worship committee Chairman.
- Discussed the accountant position. The job description is complete, and interviews are underway.
- Still working to audit the 2011-2014 financial statements. Decided to wait until the accountant position is filled to perform this work.
- Discussed the Opportunity for Service Booklets. The names of the volunteers will be distributed to the Committee chairs over the coming month.
- Discussed the lighted sign out by the interstate. Bids are being collected to repair the sign, and we are looking for a volunteer to update the message on a regular basis.
- Discussed the Central Southern Synod Conference. We need to identify our delegates for this conference which occurs from June 4 through June 6th.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. If a member wishes to present an issue to the council for consideration at a meeting, a request should be made to the president, the church council secretary, or the church office by the Tuesday prior to the meeting so that the item can be placed on the agenda. The next council meeting is Monday, April 13, 2015, at 7:00pm.

the Confirmation PROJECT

The Christian Youth: Learning and Living the Faith Project (CY:LLF) seeks to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices (CEP) in five Protestant denominations in North America are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth. These denominations include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church in the USA, and the United Methodist Church all of which practice infant baptism. It seeks to provide Christian leaders with examples of good practice and with strategies that are effective in helping young Christians grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Strengthening the discipleship includes nurturing faith in Jesus Christ and facilitating youth encounters with Christian traditions (Scripture, creeds, confessions, and practices) to support life-long Christian vocation. The project is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

This project emerged out of a similar study on confirmation in Europe, which began in 2007. A preliminary survey of pastors in the United States was conducted in 2012, and as a result the current study was proposed to the Endowment and approved for funding in 2013. Currently the European confirmation study includes nine countries and is in the second phase of research. This project has been designed so the findings of the United States study can be put into conversation with the findings from both phases of the European study.

We ask the confirmation youth of Lutheran Church of Mahomet, their parents, the staff of our confirmation program (including pastors) to take the survey, individually, by accessing it on line. The link to the survey is:

<http://survey.walkerinfo.com/DU9WD79HG>

Please complete this survey by March 30, 2015. In a follow-up second phase this Summer, another survey will be asked of those participating in this first survey. We encourage full participation by everyone so that the research and findings will have the needed input for the best results.

Among the objectives of The Confirmation Project are the following: To offer new theological thinking about confirmation and equivalent practices, inviting congregations to think in fresh ways about the nature of Christian discipleship and young people ; to serve as a catalyst for discussion among practitioners and ministry leaders involved in confirmation and equivalent practices; to provide resources for the development of effective pedagogical approaches for confirmation that take into account contemporary and contextual challenges.

Submitted by Pastor Blobaum



* Your congregation can order up to 20 copies of "The Little Lutheran" for preschoolers or Sunday school students? Send an email to little@thelutheran.org or to learn more visit www.thelittlelutheran.org Individual subscriptions are \$24.95 a year.

* The two largest congregations in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod are both named St. John's? St. John's, Bloomington has 2,481 baptized members, while St. John's, Springfield has 2,073.

* The 20 largest congregations in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod have more than 500 baptized members each while the 20 smallest congregations have less than 100 members each?

* Earth Day is April 22, 2015 and your congregation can order a copy of the 2015 Earth Day resource? Email info@creationjustice.org or call (202) 827-3975 to receive your copy.

* A comprehensive ELCA stewardship resource called "Stewards of God's Love" is available at no cost to you? Go to www.ELCA.org/growingstewards to download your copy.

* There are five ELCA-affiliated full-time volunteer programs? They are: ALT Year, Border Servant Corps, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Urban Servant Corps, and Young Adults in Global Mission. More than 225 volunteers serve annually within the United States and around the world. Visit <http://ELCA.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Young-Adult-Ministry/Ministries> for more information.

* "A Brief Guide for Archives of Congregations" is available on the ELCA website? Visit www.ELCA.org/About/History/Archives and

For more information about the ELCA, visit www.elca.org For more information about the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, visit www.csis-elca.org

Pastor Bob Dealey

Coordinator for Communications and Networking Central-Southern Illinois Synod

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PARISH NURSE PAGE APRIL 2015

Congregational Care Team:

Our team especially needs more help to provide **meals** to LCM members. This is how it works:

1. The need is identified and an email is written to the **entire group**, asking if anyone is available to provide a meal to a particular family, usually within a span of a few days.
2. **The members of the team can choose to respond to that email or not to respond.**
3. A person on the team who can fulfill the need for a meal will email (reply back) to say they can provide the meal. They will follow up with the person in need to make the arrangements for the best day and time of delivery for all concerned.
4. An email is then sent to the team that the need has been met.

Simple—no pressure—no meetings—no committee. CAN YOU HELP? If so, please email me barbdeus@mchsi.com or 217-778-6546. Thank you!

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Between February 18 and March 19, The Congregational Care Team of LCM has done the following activities:

Provided 5 meals. Thank you to Nancy King, Cindy Erickson, and Steve DeReus.

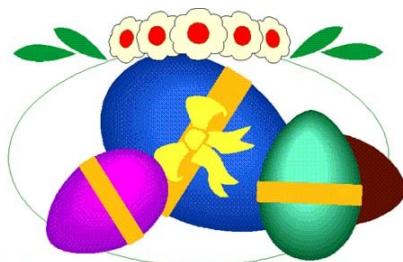
Provided 4 rides. Thank you to Bill Studley and Bill Moehring.

Made 9 visits/contacts. Thank you to Karen Ickstadt, Nancy Boma, Nancy King and Gene and Margaret Rinkel.

A special thank you to Nancy King who stood by Nancy Boma's side daily, during her terrible tragedy.

GODS'S WORK/OUR HANDS

Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse



Happy Easter

Bible studies & small groups

Following our Easter celebrations, Adult Sunday School class resumes on Sunday, April 12. We continue “Fearless Conversations” with “Why is Grace So Amazing?” A brief DVD, “Captured by Grace,” Louis Zamperini’s encounter with Grace, will be shown at 10:45 a.m. during Fellowship Time, followed by a brief discussion ending at 11:30 A.M. “He outran opponents and outlived a war, but he could never escape God’s Love.”

The “Fearless Conversation” series features discussions based on excerpts from Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and 1 Thessalonians. Again, the discussions relate to life issues and what the Scriptures say about our questions and doubts.

Several Supper Eight Groups have met, providing fellowship, fun and good food. You are invited to join a group or invite friends and newcomers to form a new group. Groups meet to fit the schedules of participants. For more information contact Pat Moehring, Noel1954@yahoo.com, Ph: 217-898-5777 or Nancy King, nkking@mchsi.com, Ph: 217-586-2696>.

Parkland College is inviting participants for “Project Read.” Volunteers are needed as Tutors to help adult learners improve their skills in Reading, Basic Math, or English as a second language. 15 hours of online and classroom training required for certification as a Tutor. Call: 217/351-2361 or email nknit-tel@parkland.edu to get started. All learning materials are free of charge. More information contact Margaret Rinkel, gkrinkel21@msn.com.

Co-chairs: Margaret and Gene Rinkel





Worship Assistants and Volunteers

Our Church depends on volunteers
to them we send out hearty cheers

Some do a little, some do a lot
Many folks give whatever they've got

While some do more than others
all are sisters and brothers

so for your service great or small
we really want to thank you all

Randa Plotner
Office Manager

Heaven Has Gained a Tireless and Extremely Valuable Volunteer

We at LCM Will Miss Her

In God's Peace: It is with a heavy and broken heart to provide an update for Linda. At 12:10 pm today, March 19, 2015 the love of my life, companion, best friend and mother to our daughter Christine passed from this earth to join God in heaven and her parents. The end was peaceful. Even though it was expected when the time came it was still a shock and sad time. We appreciate the thoughts, prayers, cards and visits that have come our way.

Martin Vogel



WORLD MALARIA DAY 2015



- World Malaria Day is April 25, offering us an opportunity to do something significant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Five years ago we started this campaign, dreamed big with our Lutheran companion churches and partners, and set out to raise \$15 million by 2015 for programs to fight malaria. The time to make this dream a reality is now.

Together, we have already raised more than 90 percent of our goal. We are looking to you and members of this church to help the ELCA Malaria Campaign reach the \$15 million mark.

Thanks to the faithful support of people like you, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is currently at work with Lutheran companion churches and partners in 13 African countries. We have had great success, but we're not done yet. We need your support to reach our goal and ensure all of the malaria programs will be fully funded.

Will you join thousands of ELCA members across this church and millions of people around the world in taking action? Please consider observing this day by taking a special offering for the ELCA Malaria Campaign **Sunday, April 26, 2015**. Special [World Malaria Day resources](#) will help you activate your congregation in learning about malaria and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Our time is now. Together, we can touch lives and make a lasting impact. Use this [bulletin insert](#) to announce your participation in World Malaria Day 2015.

- See more at: http://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-Malaria-Campaign/World-Malaria-Day?utm_campaign=wmd2015&utm_source



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



In Case You Were Wondering . .

.....

Q: What do you call a bunny with a large brain?
A: An egghead.

Q: Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?
A: It might crack up!

Q: What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes?
A: A funny bunny!

Q: Why didn't the bunny hop?
A: No bunny knows.

Q: What do you get if you pour boiling hot water down a rabbit hole?
A: Hot cross bunnies.

Q: How does the Easter Bunny paint all the Easter eggs?
A: He hires Santa's elves during the off season.

Q: Why do rabbits eat carrots?
A: Because they don't want to be nearsighted!

Q: What kind of music do bunnies like?
A: Hip Hop.

Q: What did the father Easter egg do when the mother Easter egg told him a joke?
A: He cracked up!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee and a bunny?
A: A honey bunny!

Q: Where does the Easter bunny eat breakfast?
A: IHOP.