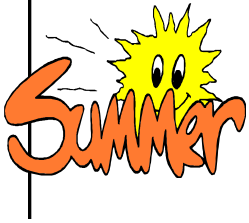


- Our mission is to invite people to know Jesus Christ so that we may all share God's love.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHOMET

410 East Andover, Mahomet, IL 61853

Church Phone: 586-4786; Fax: 586-5618 www.lcofm.org

AUGUST 2014

Community Service: Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer

#10: It's good for you. Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards. It: **Reduces stress:** report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns. Makes you healthier and promotes emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.

#9: It saves resources. Volunteering provides valuable community services so more money can be spent on local improvements. The estimated value of a volunteer's time is \$15.39 per hour.

#8: Volunteers gain professional experience. You can test out a career.

#7: It brings people together. As a volunteer you assist in:

- Uniting people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal
- Building camaraderie and teamwork.

#6: It promotes personal growth and self esteem. Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy.

#5: Volunteering strengthens your community. As a volunteer you help:

- Support families (daycare and eldercare)
- Improve schools (tutoring, literacy)
- Support youth (mentoring and after-school programs)

#4: You learn a lot.

Volunteers learn things like these:

- **Self:** discover hidden talents that may change your view on your self worth.
- **Government:** working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operation of our government.

#3: You get a chance to give back.

People like to support community resources that they use themselves or that benefit people they care about.

#2: Volunteering encourages civic responsibility.

Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it.

#1: You make a difference. Every person counts!



JULY COUNCIL NOTES

Submitted by Sherri Reifsteck, 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 more 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 June 9, 2014, meeting have been approved and posted.

The following motion was passed at the meeting: To pay the \$380 registration fee for the cost of Leadership Lab at Augustana College for Kenneth Buchanan, III, plus a \$100 gas card from the Youth Scholarship designated fund.

Matters discussed or decided at the July 14, 2014, meeting were as follows:

1. That the lit sign cannot be moved to the front of the church because of the village sign ordinance and that repair costs will be obtained
2. Renewing the interim pastors' contracts
3. That Sunday morning will consist of Intergenerational Second Cup time and fellowship time for both adults and children, and that Wednesday evenings will provide education time for both Logos and adults
4. Volunteers need to sign up for Mahomet festival booth times
5. That the contract for the Logos director should be renewed
6. That the building use policy needs to be reviewed
7. That we work towards continuing to support the Belarus church

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, August 11, 2014, at 7:00pm.



Stewardship Notes

Looking for some Stewardship activities this August?? The Lutheran Church of Mahomet has some awesome opportunities for you to grow your stewardship/ fellowship and share God's love! For starters, attending Sunday worship service is one way to show and share your stewardship. You can also participate, or volunteer, in LCMs ***God's Backyard Bible Camp*** (August 3-6) and the LCM booth at the ***Sangamon River Music Festival*** (August 22&23). If that's not enough, here are 25 more ideas!

25 (of 50) Things You Can Do To Improve *Your* Ministry

If there was just one thing that you could do to improve your ministry/stewardship, what would you do? The following list is offered as possible things that you can do to improve your ministry to others:

1. Pray for someone who needs your prayers
2. Feed the hungry. Make a contribution to help eliminate world hunger or to a local food pantry.
3. Share your faith. Tell someone what God is doing in your life.
4. Visit the sick or home-bound.
5. Read/study the Bible on a regular basis.
6. Invite someone you know to come to worship with you.
7. Reach out to someone with whom you have had a disagreement and seek to make amends.
8. Practice hospitality. Become acquainted with someone you do not know very well.
9. Thank someone who serves as your "role model" of the Christian faith for the influence that they have had on your life.
10. Volunteer to undertake a community service project.
11. Sign up to teach Sunday School.
12. Become a mentor for someone "new to the faith".
13. Give a hug to someone who looks lonely (with their permission, of course.)
14. Provide leadership for a group that would benefit from your knowledge and expertise.
15. Forgive someone who has wronged you.
16. Sponsor a youth to go to church camp.
17. Model the "godly" life.
18. Send a care letter to someone and let him/her know that you are thinking about him/her.
19. Serve as a greeter, an usher, a reader and/or an assisting minister at church.
20. Contribute to the needs of the saints. Give an additional offering to help someone in need.
21. Share your musical gifts. Join a choir or provide special music.
22. Spend time listening to somebody as they share their biggest concerns and their deepest fears.
23. Go on a spiritual retreat to "recharge your batteries".
24. Practice good stewardship of the Earth's resources as you reduce, re-use, and recycle.
25. Begin or join a bible study.

Watch for 25 **more** things you can do in a future LCM newsletter under *Stewardship Notes*.

*These 25 suggestions are from **Creative Parish Resources**, P.O. Box 663, Lockport, IL 60441.*

Just FYI - Pastor Bob Dealey is the person behind Creative Parish Resources, AND the Director for Evangelical Mission at our very own Central/Southern Illinois Synod!!

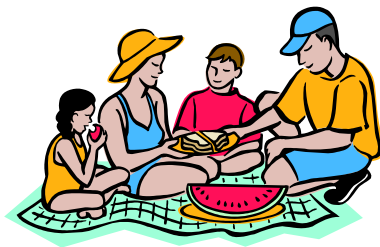
Enjoy August and show your Stewardship!

Cindy Erickson

Stewardship

erickson.cindy@gmail.com

217-586-3142



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

A new LCM care team called “Congregational Care Team” has been formed to provide meals for members who are ill, just home from the hospital, new mothers, or other situations where there is a need. We will also provide rides and short-term assistance when possible. We know many of you are already providing meals and rides and assisting others in the congregation in various ways. Hopefully, the coordination provided by the care team will make these efforts more efficient. The care team will be chaired by Jennifer Scheele and overseen by the pastors and parish nurse Barb DeReus. **The Congregational Care Team is looking for volunteers.** Members of the “Congregational Care Team” are volunteers in every sense of the word. There is no pressure. The need will be identified by parish nurse Barb D. or a pastor, passed along to Jennifer, then sent out to members via email (or phone if you have no email) and you can respond voluntarily, whenever you wish, as often, or as infrequently as you wish.

If you are interested in participating in this mission to help others in the congregation, please email back. If you are able to provide any **meals**, reply with your name and email address and phone number to: **Jennifer Scheele** jenn.scheele@gmail.com or call **260-243-0599**.

If you are able to provide **rides**, please reply with your name and email address and phone number to: **Nancy King** nkking@mchsi.com or call 217-586-2696.

If you are able to provide **short-term assistance**, reply with your name and email address and phone number to: **Barb DeReus** barbdereus@mchsi.com or call **217-778-6546**.



The Lutheran Church of Mahomet will have a booth on Main Street during the Sangamon River Music Festival August 22 & 23. Please see Pete Farm or any members of the Evangelism Team for details. There will be sign up sheets posted in the narthex. Please sign up for a time to be at the booth. At the festival, we will hand out bottled water, information about LCM, greet friends and neighbors, and invite them to know the Love of Jesus and worship with us on Sundays. Visit link below to see the Christian Artists we are sponsoring this year.

<http://www.mahometchamberofcommerce.com/pages/SangamonRiverMusicFestival/>

Adult Sunday School for Fall 2014

Fall is almost upon us as our public schools open again! Sunday School and Small Group activities resume Sept. 7th. Adult education planners are looking for ways to continue our adult Sunday classes following Fellowship time, while adding a weekly adult / senior youth Bible study on Wednesday nights to include adults and parents who might act as table parents or provide assistance for Logos in other ways.

Present members of the Adult Ed team (Dave and LuAnn Robberstad, Karen Ickstadt, Alex Paul, Brenda and Tim Lindsey, Margaret and Gene Rinkel) will join Peter and Jennifer Farm (Evangelism), Cindy Erickson (Faith in Action), Marty Vogel (Music and Worship), Kat Downs (Logos), Pastors Baderschneider and Blobaum to coordinate Fall schedules and activities.

Both congregational members and community parents are needed on Wednesday nights. Detail planning is scheduled for Sunday, July 29, after the morning service in the Adult classroom. Others who have suggestions are welcome to join the discussion. Please pray for guidance and solutions to scheduling, content (for both adults and youth), and management of a cross-generational, family style fellowship.

--Margaret & Gene Rinkel, Adult-Ed/Sm. Groups



Small Group Plans for Fall/Spring, 2014

Some Small Groups may continue throughout the year, while others are resuming or reorganizing for Fall and Spring sessions. Schedules will be reported in Sunday Bulletins and the monthly Newsletters. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and in the Fellowship Hall on the last Sunday in July (July 29). Sign up for one or more groups by contacting the following sponsors:

Bible Study #1 for Wednesday nights with Logos-- to be announced

Bible Study #2--Worship--Kat Downs (217-552-2608 or musikat00@hotmail.com)

Creative Card Ministry--Denise Dalton (217-841-7416 or dldalton@Illinois.edu) and
Leslie Knicl (217-586-5504 or lknicl@gmail.com)

Guys' Night Out--Pete Farm (217-590-0219 or peterfarm@yahoo.com)

Ladies' Night Out--Fran Koller (217-586-4239 or tfkoller@hotmail.com)

Military Prayer Ministry--Brenda Lindsey (217-586-3463 or htslindsey@mchsi.com)

Monday Morning Sewing Group--Fran Koller (217-586-4239 or tfkoller@hotmail.com)

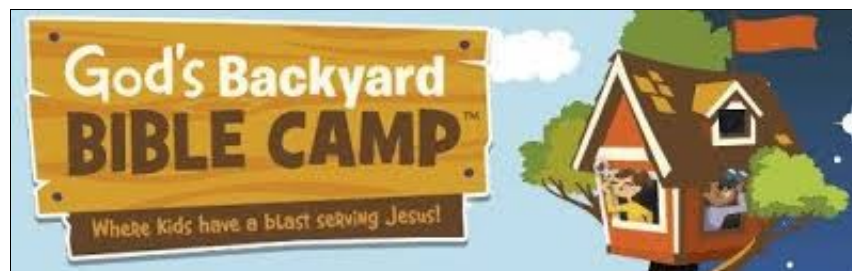
Sharing the Faith with Friends (217-788-6546 or barbdereus@mchsi.com)

Supper-Eights--LuAnn and Dave Robberstad (217-586-4936 or drobberstad@mmchsi.com)

--Margaret & Gene Rinkel, Cindy Erickson--Faith in Action



Leadership Lab at Augustana: Kenneth Buchanan participated in the Leadership Lab at Augustana College the week of July 21--26. Leadership Lab is a ministry of the Three Illinois Synods of the ELCA. It is designed to assist youth acquire skills that will be useful in congregational, synodical and national youth ministry settings in the local community and the world. It is structured to help participants progress in their ability to be responsible youth ministry leaders and help them grow in their awareness of God, self and others. Kenneth has been granted a full scholarship by action of the LCM Church Council to attend Leadership Lab.



JOIN US!!!

August 3-6 for Vacation Bible School (VBS) from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Ages Pre-k through 6th grade youth.
For questions, email us at milkman8471@gmail.com
or check us out on the website at: [//lcofm.org/vacation-bible-school-vbs.html](http://lcofm.org/vacation-bible-school-vbs.html)



Classes begin at All God's Children after Labor Day for 3, 4 and 5 year old preschoolers. We still have openings in our afternoon classes and would love for your preschoolers to join us!
Blessings~ Wendy Tomashek, Preschool Director

217-269-6727



All God's Children is excited to announce an **Enrichment Program for 4 & 5 year old preschoolers** that will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons from 12:30-3:00 in conjunction with our preschool year.

Current Pre-K students are welcome to participate. We have space for 8 students in this program. Space is limited, contact Mrs. Tomashek for more details.

(217)369-6727
agcdirector@lcofm.org

Parent Information Meeting:

Hope you are all enjoying your summer break! We're looking forward to the start of classes after Labor Day.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Parent Information Meeting, **Thursday August 7th** in the Sanctuary.

6:00pm 3's Class Families

7:00 pm Pre-K Class Families

You are welcome to bring school physical forms, emergency contact information and a \$30 school supply fee. This meeting is intended for just for parents to briefly outline our program expectations and to go through emergency contact paperwork.

WHY WORSHIP IS IMPORTANT

The story of the Bible is really not, first and foremost, about us. It is about God. He made all things to display His majesty. He made us that we might enjoy Him, and appreciate His magnificence. Early on we were alienated from our Creator by our sin and rebellion, so a great deal of the story of the Bible is about God's plan to make us His people. Worship is about the greatness of God- He is worth it, He made us, He saved us, He cares for us- Let us praise Him! If you read through the 150 Psalms you will see the themes mentioned. You will discover that many of them are poetry written in honor of God, some are about His glory in creation, some about His salvation, and some are about His care for His flock. The worship of God is important! We were made to know Him and enjoy Him forever.

Many people who believe in Jesus Christ would say, in effect, corporate worship is a waste of time. It's not worth any kind of regular commitment of my time and energy.

Some believers, seeing many flaws in organized churches, have chosen to check out of the church and the corporate worship scene nearly altogether. They worship privately at home, and find that the occasional visit at a local church is all they need for their Christian life. These folks consider corporate worship and life together to be a waste of time. There are many things in the New Testament to warn of such a self-focused approach to life.

Other believers have a less decided aversion to corporate worship. They just put it low on their priority list, below hobbies and recreation, sleep, or convenience. Some are just burned out from a hectic life, and choose to make corporate worship a low priority. These people are not like the first group, they have no principle involved in their neglect of worshipping with other believers. It just doesn't seem urgent or important and some get out of the habit altogether.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near". Hebrews 10:24-25

Meeting together is important to prepare us for the coming day of the Lord. But more importantly, all through the Bible the pattern of life for God's people has included gatherings for worship in large groups. We see this in the wilderness wanderings and in the pattern of festival's in the Old Testament. There were family aspects of worship (the Passover meal), but also large corporate worship elements built into the life then.

The New Testament church did not have access to facilities for gathering large crowds. Yet it is clear corporate worship, was built into the life of the church.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47

We were made for community worship. We were born into this new life in Christ to enjoy God together in worship. The worship in heaven that is pictured in Revelation 4 and 5 is massive corporate worship. That is the perfect church- all harmonious, in perfect unity, with great joy. In between now and the second coming, corporate worship is a part of God's plan for us. It's never as awesome as that which is to come, but is pretty special anyway!

Church life is sometimes messy, difficult, and painful. That affects our experience of corporate worship sometimes. Church life has always involved challenges and difficulties. We are not home yet. That's part of what makes us long for heaven, and cry out for redeeming grace now!

When I worship on Sunday morning, I can look out and see people whose stories of redemption I've watched God write. I've seen them carried by the Lord through heartache and loss, sin and repentance, and victory and celebration. I look around me and see God's redeeming love at work. If I worshipped at home, or changed churches every time there was a painful conflict or difficulty, I would have missed the glory of God in His people. I can worship God on Sunday and see that the words we sing are true by looking around me and seeing restored marriages, recovering addicts, and redeemed sufferers.

Let me encourage you to make corporate worship a commitment and a priority. Sometimes it will be like a rich family feast and other times it may feel like stale crackers. We were made for this. We were redeemed for this.

(The above article is adapted from a sermon by the Reverend Don Ward)



The Bible says: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" Have you ever thought about how you could praise the Lord as a part of a choir? Our church has many ministry opportunities in which you may be interested. As Director of Worship, Music, and Arts Ministries, I want to invite you to join one of our choirs. Ministry in music will not only be very rewarding in your own personal life, but you will also discover a new appreciation for the value of working in unison with others as you focus on glorifying God with "one voice". The following choirs will be starting up again this fall:

What?	Who?	When?	Starting?
LOGOS	Grades K-6	Wednesdays 5:15-7:30	Sept. 10
Suite Inspirations (chimes)	Jr. High - Adult	Thursdays 6:30-7	Sept. 4
Chancel Choir	Jr. High - Adult	Thursdays 7-8	Sept. 4

Thank You for Volunteering

A special thank you for the following who volunteered their time and talents for our Church the Month of July.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Greeters | Jon Howard Family, Scott Kingry Family, Jim Hitchins Family, Judy Ferdinandsen and Donna Lea.. |
| Ushers | Marty Vogel Family, Pete Farm Family, Mark Dalton Family, John Paul Family and Bill Studley Family. |
| Scripture Readers | Alex Paul, Fran Koller, Nancy Rosenbery and Sherri Reifsteck. |
| Communion Assistants | Fran Koller, Pat Moehring, and Sherri Reifsteck.. |
| Assisting Ministers | Chris Edmonds, Alex Paul, and Mark Reifsteck. |
| Celebration Leader | Nancy Rosenbery. |
| Sunday Shepherds | Margaret Rinkel, Marty Vogel, Stewart Ekhoﬀ and Ashley Rosenbery. |
| Acolytes | Breanna Bone, Isabelle Farm, Gretchen Scheele and Noah Schnepfer. |
| Fellowship Hosts | Ruth Studley, Jon LeGrant, Sheila Kingry and Theresa Edmonds. |
| Breadmaker | Theresa Edmonds. |
| Alter Guild | Alicia Ekhoﬀ and Nancy Rosenbery. |
| Offering Counters | Stewart and Alicia Ekhoﬀ, Dan and Cindy Erickson, Sherri Reifsteck Sharon Yeakel, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Chris and Theresa Edmonds, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant. |
| Martin and Linda Vogel | |
| Volunteer Coordinators | |



?? ...Did You Know That...??

Your congregation is one of 9,533 congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is divided into nine geographic regions and includes 65 synods? The Central/Southern Illinois Synod is one of twelve synods located in Region 5 (Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin).

The Central /Southern Illinois Synod is comprised of 130 congregations located in 76 of the 102 Illinois counties?

The synod territory covers the lower three-quarters of the State of Illinois—from Bradley and Bourbonnais to Metropolis and from Quincy to Danville?

Approximately two-thirds of our synod congregations are located in rural and/or small town settings, while one-third of our congregations would be considered urban and/or suburban?

The baptized membership of all 130 synod congregations is almost 43,000 and the confirmed membership is nearly 34,000?

The Central/Southern Illinois Synod relates to the Ambovombe-Androy and Faradofay Synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar?

The Malagasy Lutheran Church was established in 1950 as 1,800 Lutheran congregations united?

The Malagasy Lutheran Church is the third largest church body in Madagascar (with 3.2 million members) and the ninth largest church in the Lutheran World Federation?



Your generous giving

THANK YOU!

THANKS TO YOU AND PEOPLE LIKE YOU throughout our church, in fiscal 2013 (Feb. 1, 2013, to Jan. 31, 2014), ELCA World Hunger and its related ministries, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign, received more than \$33 million in total gifts to accompany our neighbors in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Your generous support of this church's ministries that provide relief in times of immediate need, sustainable development for more secure futures, advocacy to speak for and with people who live in poverty, and education for ELCA members about the causes of hunger and poverty shows clearly that, together, the people of this church act boldly on Jesus' call to love and serve our neighbor. And together, we are able to do so much more than any one of us could do alone. Thank you.

The charts on these pages show how you and people like you gave nearly \$18.7 million to ELCA World Hunger, nearly \$10 million to Lutheran Disaster Response and more than \$4.4 million to the ELCA Malaria Campaign – through your congregations and synods, through your direct giving, through your employers' matching gift programs, through your estate plans and through other means.

We are grateful for the support of many ELCA congregations and all 65 synods. Some include this as a portion of their annual budget, and many more offer special events and other opportunities for individuals to give. We believe that a great amount of individuals' direct giving is attributable to information and inspiration provided by congregations and synods. This vital partnership with congregations and synods helps keep our fundraising costs low (averaging about 4 percent across our three related ministries, as shown on the following pages). Thank you.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT