

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

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHOMET

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August 2015



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



1 Corinthians 12:4-11

*<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*



Greetings!

Thrilled to finally be among you, I look forward to both serving with you and being served by you as one body of Christ. You have blessed this place and this community with your own passions and talents, and it has been a great pleasure to witness the great variety with which this congregation upholds the mission of Christ! Your continued service will be necessary in order to further effect the love of God in the world around us. God has gifted this group of people with a variety of service, a variety of activities, a variety of skills and passions—all of which are activated in the same God. We are called to bless each other as we have been blessed.

I have been called to serve in a particular function, that of preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments. It will be my job to listen for God's voice in scripture, liturgy, music, and most importantly in relationships and all of you. I have also been tasked with administering the Sacraments, Baptism and Communion. Together, we make up a body of Christ that is at one time various in being and one in mission: though we each are different, we are loved with the same selfless, imperishable love of Christ. We are called, as one, to share that love with the world.

Thank you for warmly welcoming me into your Lutheran Church of Mahomet family. Let us be attuned to the Spirit moving in our interests, passions, and skills so that we might value difference and serve as one body united in Christ.

Peace,  
Pastor Nikoli



## “Fearless Conversation” to Begin in September

Fearless Conversation goes beyond lectures, digging deep into the Bible for what it has to say about our questions and doubts. Conversations will begin this Fall on “Why is Grace So Amazing?” This Bible study for Youth and Adults is based on passages from Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and 1st Thessalonians. Getting to know God and each other better are prime goals.

Alex Paul, our facilitator, will meet our group in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. in September following service.

Rally Day Sunday. Please join us as you enjoy your “Second Cup” and converse about issue-related questions and share our experiences. Watch for additional details in our Sunday Bulletins and our verbal announcements.

Margaret and Gene Rinkel  
Adult Ed/Small Group Co-Chairs



## Small Groups to Resume in Fall, 2015

The Lutheran Church of Mahomet is intentional about growing in faith together and sharing that faith beyond the confines of our groups. The Small Group provides the opportunity to connect with one another, draw closer to God and build community within and outside our congregation. Together we share good times, care for one another and serve others, remembering that Jesus’ ministry was primarily that of a small group leader.

Small Groups are open to congregation, parents, young adults, your neighbors and other community members. Childcare is available on request. Groups offered for Fall 2015 include Supper-Eights, Sharing the Faith With Friends (book study), Bible Study, Monday Morning Sewing Group, Guys’ Night Out, Ladies’ Night Out, Creative Card Ministry and Prayer Ministry to begin with. Other groups can be added where interest runs high. During August you will have opportunity to sign up for whatever group interests you. You may also suggest other interests and types of groups you would like to see added. Watch for announcements about group leaders, gathering places, times, etc. (Each group will be free to choose their own times and settings.)

Margaret and Gene Rinkel  
Co-chairs, Adult Ed and Small Groups



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 30, 2015

*"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the crucified and risen Christ.

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court rendered its decision announcing the right of same-gender couples to have equal access to marriage. For many members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this decision is a welcome sign of hope and a time for celebration. Other members of this church do not agree with the court's decision and remain deeply concerned because of their understanding of Scripture.

This decision affects each of us, some profoundly, and we are not of one mind. Let us continue to accompany one another with prayer, love and mutual respect as we reflect on this new reality and remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians about the enduring power of God's love.

The ELCA social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" (2009) neither endorses nor forbids same-gender marriages and recognizes that we have differing understandings and convictions on this matter. In its decision, the court stated that "the First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths."

According to this church's social statement on human sexuality, all decisions about recognizing, supporting and holding publicly accountable same-gender relationships are entrusted to congregations. Recognizing that the church is not of one mind on this subject, our 2009 actions provide that congregations and clergy should discern together whether to recognize such relationships and to what degree.

Pastors are to engage in conversation, discernment and partnership with the congregations who have called them prior to solemnizing or presiding over a same-gender marriage. On the other hand, no pastor is obligated to solemnize the marriage of any couple, same-gender or different-gender, whom the pastor cannot in good conscience marry.

As Lutheran Christians, we continue to be a church that engages in conversation and discernment in all aspects of our faith and life. Creating space for respectful conversation and dialogue continues to be an important part of our life together. A helpful resource for engaging in difficult conversations is "Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues."

In addition, the ELCA Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and their Families Working Group remains in the process of completing its work. A report of the group's findings and possible recommendations will be presented to the ELCA Church Council at its November meeting.

We seek to see our differences as a gift to be celebrated as we live out that which unites us: the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ who leads us into mission and ministry in the world. In the midst of this change, we are first and foremost church – a church that proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ. May God bless, guide and strengthen you each day as you go in peace and serve the Lord.

Your Sister in Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop



## JULY 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 June, 2015 meeting have been approved and posted.

At the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

Approval of a wheelchair lift. Total cost including installation is \$14,800. There is already over \$11,000 pledged or paid solely for the lift. Since the final amount came in at more than what was previously authorized by the congregation, another Congregational Meeting will need to be called to authorize this purchase.

Matters discussed or decided at the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. We are still looking at moving some of the Church's savings into Mutual Fund Accounts to increase the interest earned. Bill / Paula hoping to have a recommendation for the full council by the August Council meeting.
2. Discussed the roof on the Church. We did sustain hail damage from this summer's storm. We are awaiting feedback from the insurance company to determine next steps.
3. Discussed our parade float for the Sangamon River Festival in August. Our theme is "Fishers of Men". Looking to do the build at the church, and looking for volunteers to help with the build.
4. We are investigating working with other local Lutheran Churches to participate in a Habitat for Humanity Build in Gifford. This is in the early stages of planning; as it will take several churches coming together to make it happen.
5. Noted Vacation Bible School is almost here. Dates are August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Planning is coming along well, and we are expecting a great success.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 7:00pm.





PARISH NURSE PAGE August 2015

The July Parish Nurse Page gave you basic information about the Faith Community Nursing Program, how it began in the country by a Lutheran minister, what a parish nurse can and cannot do, and the goal and focus of our program here at LCM. In this newsletter, your nursing team members will tell you a little about themselves personally and what they plan to do here as a Faith Community Nurse (FCN). Please check out the Parish Nurse bulletin board which is at the entry to the kitchen to learn more about your Parish Nurses.

**Barb DeReus:** Nursing is my 3<sup>rd</sup> career. I graduated from college as a PE/Health teacher and taught in Arlington Heights. After becoming a mother, I copyrighted an aerobics program, taught, and directed a group of women who also taught my program in the Chicago suburbs for 10 years. After moving to Champaign, I returned to school and became an RN, working for 16 years. As much as I enjoyed that (now retired), I have always felt my true calling was as a parish nurse, which I have loved for 17 years and counting. The average parish nurse serves 4 years total, only 1 hour a week. I could do this full time, if I had the time. However, now my life has changed. Steve has gradually given up his accounting practice and will be completely retired Oct. 1. Then we will be even more “free” to be helpful for my mother (age 92), who we are trying to keep in her home, and our grandchildren, 6 total, who seem to come in “bunches” (5 in 3 months) with 1 more on the way! We have been married 45 years and have twin sons age 37 and our daughter is 34. All our children and spouses are CPA s living in Chicago except Ryan’s wife, who is a pharmacy executive.

Because we are out of town often, I will not be making the personal visits to members as I had been doing or the phone calls, emails, etc. When I am caregiving in Iowa or Chicago, the time just flies and it is impossible to do much else. My LCM focus will be on writing the occasional Parish Nurse Page (and I will be repeating some I have written in the past), weekly newsletters, changing the bulletin boards when I can, and leading and backing up the other nurses. I will be relying on the others to pick up the slack on what I have done in the past.

**Barb Buchanan:** I grew up in Philo and went to Zion Lutheran Church. Ken and I were married there in 1989 when we were barely adults. I worked as a hairdresser and then in customer service before I decided to go to college and become an RN. I graduated from Parkland in 1996. I started my career at Covenant as a nurse’s aide on the ortho unit. I then worked as an RN on the telemetry floor and cath lab recovery. I went to Carle in 1999 and worked on the cardiac floor. I also floated to just about every other floor on the hospital except peds and OB. I started working at Aetna in 2007 as a disease management nurse in which I talked to patients over the phone regarding their chronic health conditions. I then became a case manager and worked with patients and their doctors to help manage their care. I currently work as a project manager which requires a nursing degree although I do not have any patient interaction. I oversee delegates that approve and deny procedures for Aetna to make sure they are following state regulations and Medicare, Medicaid and NCQA guidelines.

Ken is the Code Enforcement and Building Inspector for the Village of Mahomet. He also volunteers as a youth football coach. Kenneth is a senior in high school and has many activities he’s involved in

including marching band, madrigals and drama. He loves language and would like to become an interpreter. Kenneth looks forward to attending Leadership Lab in August. Callum is a sophomore he plays football and lacrosse, he is also involved with FFA. He excels in math and science and would like to be an engineer. Seth will be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he plays Football and lacrosse and wrestles. They all are in chorus at school and sing with the church choir when they are able. Seth is currently in confirmation.

As part of the Parish nurse team I will keep the AED up to date and schedule CPR classes as needed. I will also keep the CareNotes up to date which are a great resource for health and spiritual needs. I will also be available for health questions.

**Sharon Taylor:** Before I ever started school I always wanted to be a nurse. Since my mother has never been able to tell me what prompted that desire, I have to assume it was by God's design. I have never wanted to be anything other than a nurse. I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at a time when degree nurses were just beginning. Since retiring from being a Labor and Delivery Nurse (truly my passion), I have been dedicating a lot of my time to my mother (who will be 95 in Oct.). My other passion besides nursing has been as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

Becoming a parish nurse has been calling me for several years but the timing was never right for the course. Finally this year I will be able to take the course. My hope is that I can continue to use my skills and education even though I am retired. I am looking forward to being a part of the parish nurse team and increasing my focus on the spiritual aspects of nursing, and being able to use those skills for those who need them. I have taken over the responsibilities as coordinator of the Congregational Care Team as well as reaching out to people on the Prayer List and Prayer Chain. I would like to be able to provide both medical and spiritual needs to those who may need it through hospital/home visits, transportation, meals, phone calls, etc.

Since both Bill and I are now retired, we have been spending more time on the road. We spend a month in Florida, some time in Arizona, and 4 weeks in our camper in Maine. We both love the ocean. In between that we travel to Virginia to see our daughter and her family, or go to Algonquin to visit our son and his wife. When I have time, I enjoy reading, cross stitch, knitting, Sudoku, going to lunch with friends. I enjoy volunteering at Crisis Nursery but haven't been able to do it that often due to being out of town.

I function best by going to bed late and sleeping late! If I had my way the world would function on a noon-midnight basis. But I am good at adapting! However, if you try to contact me before 9:00 AM I may not respond coherently.

**Ashley Rosenbery:** I graduated from Mahomet-Seymour High School in 2002 and decided to go to college at Parkland Community College. I graduated from Parkland with my associates in Surgical Technology. With this degree I worked at Provena Covenant as a Surgical Technologist. While working, I went back to school to receive my bachelors in nursing from Lakeview College of Nursing. Once I graduated, I worked for two years in the ICU at Provena Covenant and at St. Joseph's in Bloomington. While I enjoyed being an ICU nurse, I wanted to further my education and follow my true passion, so I decided to go back to school to get my masters. I went to Millikin University in Decatur and received my

masters in nursing and I am national certified as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). I graduated in December of 2013 with my masters and now work at Carle Hospital as a CRNA.

Though I am not a certified Parish Nurse, I have been helping out with our church's program for the last couple of years. I will be performing scheduled blood pressure checks for our members. I am also assisting in filling the Care Notes and taking care of the Church's Medical Equipment Room. I also am in charge of the Church's prayer chain and prayer list. Please feel free to ask me any medical question, either in person, by email or phone and I will gladly try to help.

**Congregational Care Team:**

Between June 19 and July 16, the team has provided the following services:

**3 meals** have been provided by: Georgia Isaacs, Robin Purgett and Cindy Erickson.

**1 ride** has been provided by: Bill Studley.

**14 calls/visits** have been made by: Karen Ickstadt, Sharon Taylor, and Gene and Margaret Rinkel.

Thank you to all the members of our team for helping in so many ways for reaching out to those in need.

**GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS**

Jesus said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12.

Written by Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse. and your Nursing Team.





## Stewardship Notes

### There's still time!! Member Photo Board plans continue!

We are working on a member photo board/mural for the hallway by the church office. This will be a place where visitors and members can go to see who's who! Our goal is to get photos up this fall. Thanks to many of you who have already submitted your photos! It's not too late for you stragglers to get your photos in! **Back by popular demand, Mark Dalton will be taking member photos on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.** Here's what you need to do:

Bring a 4x6 family photo to the church. Please label the photo and put in the church office mail box or the Stewardship mailbox by the church office. You can also email your photo to Cindy Erickson at [erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com)

OR

Schedule a photo sitting with Mark Dalton following worship service on August 16<sup>th</sup> or August 30<sup>th</sup>.

To schedule a time, please contact Mark Dalton directly at 217-202-6616 or [smdalton62@gmail.com](mailto:smdalton62@gmail.com). There will be no charge for the photo sitting.

Questions? Please contact Cindy Erickson at 217-586-3142 or [erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com)

Cindy Erickson  
Stewardship  
[erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com)





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# 100!



Thank You: Hilda Pfiester would like to thank everyone who sent cards and greetings for her 100th birthday.

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## Kogodus Retreat

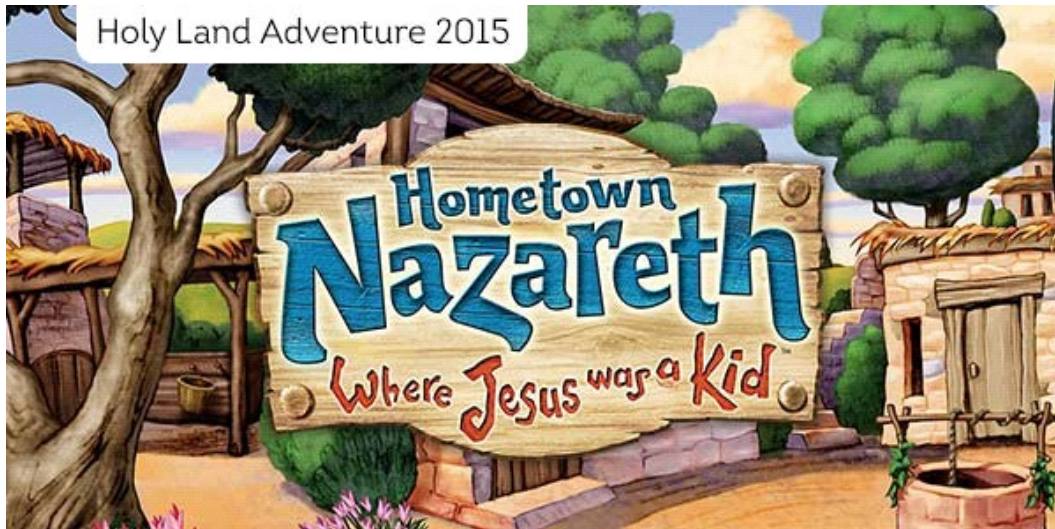
Jennifer Farm would like you to prayerfully consider attending the 2015 Kogodus retreat. What is Kogodus? It is a Christian retreat designed to help you revive your relationship with Christ. It is a wonderful chance to fellowship with other women! The women's retreat will be held September 18, 19 and 20th at Camp Griesheim in Lincoln IL. The retreat begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday morning. Families are invited to join the women for worship, closing service and potluck on Sunday. Below are links to the Kogodus and Camp Griesheim websites. Contact Jennifer for sign up information. 217-778-6643 or [jenfarm4@gmail.com](mailto:jenfarm4@gmail.com).

<http://www.kogodus.org/>

<http://www.campgriesheim.com/>



AGC Open House will be August 5th from 6—8 :PM. All God's Children currently has openings in our Pre-K program. Children must be 4 by September 1st in order to attend. Please



The Lutheran Church of Mahomet's vacation Bible school is just around the corner! This years program will be Hometown Nazareth. Come hear stories about Jesus' childhood from the best source of all... his mom, Mary! This years VBS will be held August 2,3,4,5 from 6pm to 8pm at LCM.



As we gear up for another year of school and fall activities, let us gather for a blessing of the backpacks on August 30. We will pray for children's safety, learning, and growth, and also for teachers