

- 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](http://www.lcofm.org)

February 2016



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



Pastor Nikoli Falenschek

Where to find me:

In the office M-TH: 7am-1pm

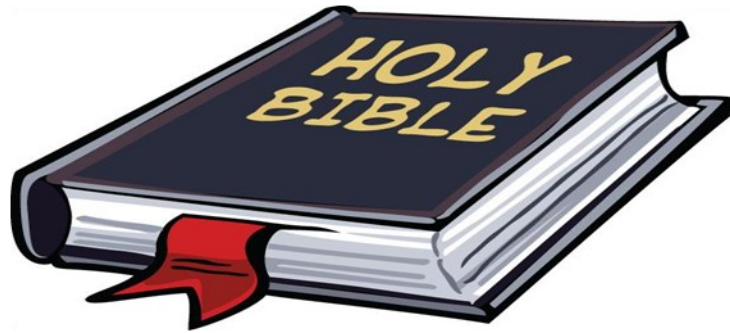
In the community M-TH: 1pm-3pm

2015 was a great year for this community. We were blessed by the hard work of our leadership, but also the hard work of everyone, recognized leader or no. Every Sunday morning, we sing songs and worship and learn together, and all of that is made possible by unsung heroes among us. I'm talking about Sunday School teachers, about people who helped at the campus work-day, the volunteers on the backs of bulletins, people who pray for our prayer list, our angel who shoveled the sidewalk, those who help with programming, etc.

There is no list comprehensive enough to adequately recognize the variety and quality of help this place has seen. Truly, the Lutheran Church of Mahomet is a community of people that care for each other without blinking an eye—our champions do not serve for recognition or compensation. Rather we serve each other and the world because we have been filled to the brim with God's mercy and compassion. Thank you for sharing your mercy and compassion this last year. The world, and indeed the people of Central Illinois are better off whenever you have volunteered your time, talent, and/or treasures.

We have concluded our 2015 year, and we've much on which to reflect. This last year has brought dramatic transitions, both in our communal life as well as in our individual and family lives. Whether we remember complicated illness/injury or even death, thanksgiving for Pr Baderschneider and Pr Blobaum and their work in this place, loss of jobs or student hood and the fear of what comes next, or excitement for new happenings at LCM—whatever is strongest in your 2015 reflections, know that God has been with you all year. And now, God goes ahead of us, even now, preparing our way for 2016, and God will accompany us through yet more transitions, many of which are unpredictable. In 2016, let us cling to each other, and in so doing cling to the God that dwells with us. Together, we will brave the unfathomable, using this coming year to spread the love and loved of God.

I would like to offer a couple of thanks, personally. Maggie and I have been blessed immensely in this last year. We graduated from Seminary and immediately found homes here in Central Illinois. Thank you for being a welcoming and familial presence for us in this transition. Your friendship and discipleship are an important spark that lights my life, and I cannot imagine doing anything else or being anywhere else. You have welcomed us with such generosity, and we are eternally grateful for all of your smiles, hugs, prayers, gifts, and kind words. Thank you.



[OBJ]

## ***Sunday School***

From that first day I sat in a Sunday School class, I was hooked. So long ago, as a four year old, I sat in my tiny chair. The activities, the teacher, and the lesson, have eluded me. But the impressions left that day have been lasting. Today, sitting in our Adult Sunday School class, I sometime add a thought to the conversation and experience the joy of sharing with others.

The Adult Class is following the “Together in Faith Series” from Augsburg Press. This series connects Bible, life and faith in a conversational format. Even if I simply listen without commenting, that’s fine too. The conversational format, led by a facilitator (Alex Paul), means no lectures, blanks to fill, or homework required, just sharing with friends as we explore questions about our faith and the Bible. This open discussion helps us to dig deeper into the Scriptures, challenging us to put our faith in action. Come, share the fellowship!

Margaret Rinkel



## **EASTER LILIES**

It is that time of year to celebrate the Easter season by brightening up our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies. There is a sign-up sheet located on the quad board in the Narthex. The cost is \$7.00 each. Please sign up by March 20th. Please make the check out to LCM and write “Easter Lily” on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your support.



## JANUARY 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 December, 2015 meeting have been approved and posted.

At the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

1. Council approved purchase of check scanner to facilitate record retention requirements for offering counting.
2. Council approved a continuing resolution to allow council votes via e-mail when required.

Matters discussed or decided at the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Discussed Simple Giving, which is an easy way to allow automated deductions for church giving. Plan to present to the congregation in early 2016. There are several modules available, such as credit card acceptance and / or online portal.
2. Discussed the 2016 Budget. Committees are hard at work planning their work for 2016.
3. Discussed important dates coming up.
  - a. Planning annual meeting for 2/14. (Official announcement to follow.)
  - b. Planning ELCA Stewardship Webcast on 2/27.
  - c. Planning first communion on 3/24.
  - d. Planning installation of new members in early April.
4. Discussed Lent Services. Planning a healing service for lent services, including "hands on" healing.
5. Discussed possibly changing confirmation to a (3) year program, but then offsetting the added year by not having class during Lent and Advent.
6. Discussed the need to update and/or create several policies for the church, that Council plans to address in the first half of 2016 including:
  - a. The personnel policy
  - b. The IT policy
  - c. The Safe Church Policy
  - d. The Social Media Policy.

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, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.



## Worship

### *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

Come, now is the time to worship,  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

-Brian Doerksen

This invitation is for each person. Amazing as it seems, Jesus calls us to come to Him just as we are. How accepting! How welcoming! How hard to do, sometimes!

In God's presence, we never have to be anything more than who we are. Satan works hard to convince us that we have to be more. Who hasn't, at some time, shunned God because of feeling unworthy? Thankfully, it's not our own merit on which we come. We come into God's presence by invitation. The blood of Jesus has stained the red carpet rolled out to us from God's throne. The One who paid for us to be cleansed invites us to come give our hearts to Him.

Satan will always tempt us to hide our true selves from God. He tells us to keep our doubts secret or hide our shame. He knows that once we realize that God accepts us as we are, his plan to keep us from God can't succeed.

As we tell God honestly how we feel, whether we're anxious about a difficulty, ashamed over our behavior, or doubtful of His love, he strips away our pretense and self-delusions. Then we can rejoice in our true identity - as God's beloved children.

You have no reason to hide. God invites you to come. Thank God for inviting you to come to Him just as you are. And then come - in worship, in praise- giving your whole heart to Him.



**All God's Children Preschool Registration** for the 2016-2017 year is now open for enrollment. As a church members or returning families, you have priority status during the month of February to enroll your child. Registration does not open to the public [until March 1st](#), at which point spaces are offered on a first come, first serve basis.

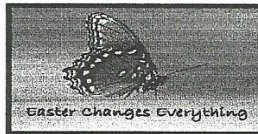


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### Congregational Care Team Report

For the month of December the congregational care team for food, rides, calls/visits provided the following : 2 meals, 1 ride, 21 calls/visits. These were provided by Karen Ickstadt, Gene and Margaret Rinkel, and 4 others. Thanks to all for helping those when they needed help. If any one else in the congregation provides these services but is not a member of the congregational care team please let me know so they can be included in the report.

### *The Lutheran Church of Mahomet*



*Invites you to join us this Easter Season*

Wednesday, February 10:	Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 16-	Mid-Week Lenten service at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16:	
Sunday, March 20:	Palm Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. Brunch following service
Thursday, March 24:	Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 25:	Good Friday Tenebrae service at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 27:	Youth sponsored breakfast from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Followed by Easter Sunday service at 9:00 a.m.



Thank You for Volunteering

A special thank you for the following who volunteered their time and talents for our Church in the month of January.

- Greeters Karen Ickstadt, Scott and Sheila Kingry, Robin Purgett, Youth and Eric and Kim Oslawski.
- Ushers Dan and Cindy Erickson, Tim and Fran Koller, Stewart Ekhoﬀ Family, Youth, John Paul and Karen Reifsteck.
- Scripture Reader Alex Paul, Kelly Strode, Fran Koller, Youth and Dave Robberstad.
- Communion Assistant John Paul, Nancy Rosenbery, Dave Robberstad, Youth and Tim Koller.
- Assisting Minister Mark Reifsteck, Alex Paul, Chris Edmonds and Youth.
- Celebration Leader Nancy Rosenbery.
- Sunday Shepherd David Alderks, Chris Edmonds, Theresa Edmonds, Alicia Ekhoﬀ and Pete Farm.
- Acolyte Logan Petro, Gretchen Scheele, Mikel Petro, Natalie Mitchell and Kylie Fuoss.
- Fellowship Hosts Congregational Life Committee, Birley/Wilms, Paula Jarrett, Robert's, Ade's, Cheeks', Mitchell's, Moehring's and McDonald's.
- Breadmaker Linda Hanslow.
- Alter Guild Alicia Ekhoﬀ and Nancy Rosenbery
- Offering Counters Stewart and Alicia Ekhoﬀ, Jon and Peggy Howard, Sherri Reifsteck, Sharon Yeakel, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Fran Koller, Dan and Cindy Erickson, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant.

Martin Vogel  
Volunteer Coordinator



**SPECIAL THANK YOU**

A special thank you goes out to the youth who participated in the Youth Service on Sunday, January 24th. They are Makayla Rosenbery, Mikel Petro, Jr., Natalie Mitchell, Payton Ade, Kayin Garner and Joseph Scheele.

**A GRATEFUL THANK YOU**

to Pastor Nikoli, Ashley Rosenbery, Sharon Taylor, the Prayer Chain Members and all members of the church for your prayers, cards and support during my illness. I am doing well now thanks to everyone's generous support.

Love in Christ,  
Elsbeth Hixon