

- 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

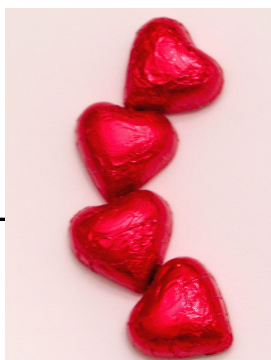
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[www.lcofm.org](http://www.lcofm.org)

FEBRUARY 2015



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



## REFLECTIONS

There are seasons in the lives of every one of us when the light of faith does not shine brightly in our hearts. It can even become difficult in those times to confess the Creed or to pray with confidence. In those seasons, we desperately need to be surrounded by the “communion of saints,” so we can rest in their confession of faith and their prayers when we ourselves cannot speak such words. The speaking and singing of the fellowship of believers surround us and strengthen us until the seasons change.

In my devotional reading this past week I read these words in Isaiah 42:3, “**a dimly burning wick He will not quench**”. A great promise is given to us in these words. That God who comes to us will do nothing to extinguish even the most dimly burning wick of faith in us, but instead will tend it with care until it can once again be rekindled. This gospel truth can bring comfort to us in dark times.

In our Baptism, we were given the promise that we are God's child. That our God will always be there with us in the best of days and the worst of days. We are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will sustain us in the Christian faith and we are offered the gracious forgiveness of all our sins. When God makes a promise, it is for keeps.

In the times that faith is a “**dimly burning wick.**” Let us remember that God is still there in the darkness, keeping the promise made to us at our Baptism. The great Creator who fashioned the heavens and gave breath and spirit to all people on the earth, is also very near to us, taking us by the hand and keeping us close. In due time, when the flame of faith has been rekindled, we will be sent back into the world to bring news of the light, life, freedom, and healing Jesus gives to us.

As we continue our journey through the Season of Epiphany. I am thankful for the light (Jesus Christ) that God has given to us in the darkness and that the darkness can never put it out!

Pastor Vic Baderschneider, Interim Pastor



## LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

On Ash Wednesday we gather to mark the beginning of Lent. On this day, we the people of God receive an ashen cross on our forehead, reminding us of our mortality. We contemplate anew the ongoing meaning of our being baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. We hear God's promise of forgiveness and taste God's mercy in the bread of life and the cup of salvation. From this day the people of God go forth on their journey to prepare for the great baptismal feast of Easter.

Our theme for the special Lenten Services is **"The Parables of Lent"**. Each service will focus on a biblical parable that connects to Lent in a special way. We invite you to come and worship at these services.

- Feb. 18 - "Receive Justification: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"
- Feb. 25 - "Receive the Word: The Sower and the Seed"
- March 4 - "Receive the Treasure: The Hidden Treasure, Priceless Pearl"
- March 11 - "Receive Mercy: The Good Samaritan"
- March 18 - "Receive Grace: The Workers in the Vineyard"
- March 25 - "Receive Forgiveness: The Prodigal Son"
- April 2 - "Receive the Meal: The Great Banquet"
- April 3 - "Receive the Sacrifice: The Landowner and the Tenants"

The Lenten Services will be at 6:30 p.m. The Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be in the Sanctuary. The five other Wednesday services will be in the Fellowship Hall.

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 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 December 8, 2014, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the January 12, 2014, meeting, the following motion was made and passed:

That based on reviews, wages will be increased by 2% for all staff effective 1/1/15.

Matters discussed or decided at the January, 12, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Proposed 2015 budget is close to completion. Still working through 2014 actuals. Planning to propose a balanced budget that includes four months of interim pastors, and 8 months of permanent pastor. Also decided to set the unrestricted and restricted Benevolence to be budgeted at 5% of giving.
2. Discussed adding a new line item to 2016 budget for local community giving.
3. Continued discussion on Building Use Policy (allowing alcohol in the fellowship area). Decided the policy is still not ready for a council vote.
4. Discussed the Belarus Fundraiser. We are still looking for a coordinator for the silent auction. The youth will work as servers for the meal.
5. Discussed the need for a Music and Worship committee Chairman.
6. Still working to audit the 2011-2013 financial statements.
7. The Task Force to Revise the Constitution is currently looking to begin work in March 2015.

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 9, 2015, at 7:00pm.



***Sharing the Faith With Friends:***

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 6:30-8:00 p. m.

1701 Whisper Meadow Lane, Mahomet

Chapter 6 of Erasing Hell, "What if God...?"

Please email or call Barb DeReus if you are able to come. [barbdereus@mchsi.com](mailto:barbdereus@mchsi.com) or 778-6546

See church bulletins and weekly newsletters for the March meeting date to finish the book.



**Belarus Fundraiser Coming Up:** On Saturday, February 21, we will have a long-overdue fundraiser to raise money to continue helping our sister churches in Belarus (see background below). It will also be a great opportunity to socialize with your LCM church family and friends in a fun setting. **So please mark your calendars. WE NEED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION TO MAKE THIS SUCCESSFUL. ALL HANDS ON DECK!!!**

**Here are the details for our Belarus Mission Fundraiser:**

- Date: Saturday, February 21
- Time: 5 pm.....auction starts at 5pm.....meal approx. 6:15pm
- A meal will be served. Meal Ticket Price: \$17.50 per adult; \$8.50 per child
- A silent auction will be held.
- A pie/cake/other baked goods call/out auction will be held.
- Fundraising goal: \$6,000 \$500/month is currently being sent to Belarus by Dia and Dennis Nuesmeyer (personally) – **This fundraiser is intended to transfer that financial support back to being the responsibility of LCM).**

**Tickets are on sale in the Narthex every Sunday both before and after church through February 14th, and also on the Belarus link from the LCM website – LCOFM.org . For more information, contact Pete Farm [pfarm14@gmail.com](mailto:pfarm14@gmail.com) or Cindy Erickson [erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com)**

**The items in the silent auction and the pie/cake/other baked goods auction will be extremely generous. Free will giving would also be appreciated. REMEMBER, IT IS ALL FOR A GREAT CAUSE!!!**

**A Message From Dia About Our Belarus Sister Churches:** We started our mission outreach with a trip to Belarus in 1999. Since then we have visited 13 times in the past 16 years taking various goods and funds to aid, first, Grace Church in Smilovichi, and then, second, a church plant of Grace Church in Cherven, Belarus.

We helped in Smilovichi to finish the initial construction of the church and later built the two story Fellowship/Sunday School Classrooms. In Cherven we assisted with renovations of an existing building. When I say we, I mean the members of the Lutheran Church of Mahomet and the members of New Beginnings Lutheran Church through funds raised over the past years.

When we visited we often took supplies for the classrooms, Vacation Bible School, the local Art School, and most recently clothing for the orphanages in both towns. The orphanage outreach was spearheaded by Sara Fridel and Alena Akulich. They visited with clothing and later also shipped many boxes of clothing to them.

On top of this, we have been supporting both pastors and our interpreter. Each pastor receives \$200 a month and our interpreter receives \$90 plus \$10 to cover supplies for her computer/printer. This alone amounts to \$6,000 a year for our sister churches.

We have been visited by Pastor Ryazanstev 3 times, once alone, second time with their Praise & Worship leader, Natalia Gorovaya, and the last time with his wife, Tanya. Also Pastor Shipula visited us once. Our interpreter, Elena Baranova, came on all the visits. And of course, we now have the Akulich family living here in Champaign. I first met Alena when she was 14 and here she is now married with two girls, (whom I had the honor of baptizing in our church) and her husband, Denis.

Thank you so much for your help in supporting this important mission of our church.



Adult/Youth Sunday School Class will continue the "Fearless Conversation" series for the coming weeks, digging into "God's Amazing Grace." facilitator is Alex Paul who brings scripture and discussions together into an energetic response.

We will be hearing more about Small Groups, in particular, the Supper-Eight groups. are meeting, others are still in process of arranging dates and times.

Gene and Margaret Rinkel  
404 N. Weathering Drive  
Mahomet, Illinois 61853  
Ph.-Gene 217-649-7173  
Ph.-Margaret 217 649-4366

## Stewardship Notes – February 2015

**2015 LCM Directories** will be available in the narthex this month! Please find your envelope in one of the baskets and take your 2015 directory home.

**Member Photo Board** - 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 facilitate us in putting names to faces, and for us to get to know each other a little better!

Thanks to those who have put their family photos in my Stewardship mailbox or else emailed them to me. We still need many more members to submit photos!!

*Here's what you need to do:*

1. 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)
2. Questions? Please contact Cindy Erickson at 217-586-3142 or [erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.cindy@gmail.com)
3. Look for more announcements.

**Belarus Dinner/Auction:** Be sure to sign up for the February 21, 2015 Belarus fundraiser!! The evening will feature a silent auction, delicious dinner, and pie and other baked goods auction. Come and participate in our sixteen years of "stewardship" legacy for our sister churches in Belarus!

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



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

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be celebrated in 2017? *"Freed and Renewed in Christ"* will be the theme for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; "500 Years of God's Grace in Action" will be the tagline that will be used? Information about featured events and congregational resources will be available at a later date.

The ELCA provided nearly \$400,000 in humanitarian assistance to help support ELCA partners who serve the thousands of unaccompanied minors coming to the United States from countries in Central America? The funds were disbursed through Lutheran Disaster Response to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran Social Services of the South.

As of November 30, 2014, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* has raised more than \$37 million in campaign gifts and commitments? In early February, congregations will receive the 2015 Annual Theme Toolkit designed to equip leaders with resource samples. Other materials are available at [ELCA.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA](http://ELCA.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA).

For more information about the ELCA, visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

For more information about the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, visit [www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org)



### *All God's Children Open House*

All God's Children will be having their open house February 21, 2015 from 10am-11:30am. If you are a church member and are interested in signing your child up for the 2015-2016 school year, please contact Chenoa Kuester at [agcdirector@lcofm.org](mailto:agcdirector@lcofm.org) or 217-898-2557. Registration is open to church members beginning February 1st. Thank you!