

- 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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January 2016



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Where to find me:

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

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

Genesis 1 [please look up this chapter and read it in its entirety]:

In the beginning when God created^a the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. [...]

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Another year has come and gone. As 2015 draws to a close and ends, 2016 brings a whole new year. It seems, sometimes, that things all around us are ending, that destruction rules the day amidst a broken world plagued with hunger, violence, and exploitation. Even the years die and are buried in the mausoleums of history. And yet, we hear these words from Genesis and remember that our God is a creating God. God looks upon chaos and destruction and sees not hopelessness but instead opportunity.

This January, I encourage you to greet the new year in optimism. 2016 is not dying, but just beginning its life and growth. With the passing of days, weeks, and months 2016 will find the complete range of the human experience: joy and sadness, hope and despair, abundance and poverty, sickness and health, love and hate. And yet, through it all, our God continues to create in a world seemingly fixated on death and destruction. Amidst the hardness, God's soft voice whispers to us of love and opportunities to serve God's creation.

January is a time for us to take stock of where we find ourselves in life. Look around you, at your family and friends, at your places of work and learning, at the world around us—the trees, the fields, the animals, the air. How do you see God creating in your life? How can throw our hat into that ring and be a part of that Creation?

May this new year be one of love, opportunity, and creativity!



Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God?
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see the deaf will hear, the dead will live again!
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding, is the great I AM!

This contemporary Christmas song is full of biblical references. Mary's son will walk on water, calm a storm at sea and cure the blind and lame. He was born to deliver us. All nations and all creation must acknowledge him as Lord. The song asks: Mary, did you know?

The short answer, of course, is probably "no." Mary knew what the angel told her. She knew the prophecies about the coming Messiah. She had a front-row seat as God's plan of salvation unfolded before her. She pondered these things in her heart (Luke 2:19). She was present when her twelve-year old son taught in the temple and was at his first miracle. She witnessed his crucifixion and came under the care of John. She met with his disciples after Jesus' ascension. She may have stayed with John in Ephesus. Imagine sitting with Mary in her later years and listening to her thoughts on what she had come to understand about her role in her son's life. We would want to ask: Mary, what did you come to know?

Did we know at our baptism all the wonderful things in store for us? Did we know the comfort, peace and joy that would be ours? The mysterious ways of God unfold in front of us each day - until the day when we stand with Mary and all the saints before his throne and sing the song of the Lamb. Imagine what we'll know then!



NOVEMBER 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 November, 2015 meeting have been approved and posted.

At the December 14th, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

- Council approved setting the benevolence amounts at 5% of non-restricted giving to the ELCA, 5% of restricted giving to Social Missions, and 1% of non-restricted giving to Social Missions for the 2016 Budget.
- Council approved a transfer of \$2,000 to the Youth Fund for the 2016 Budget.
- Council approved LOGOS support of \$4,230 for the 2016 Budget.
- Council approved the appointment of Marty Vogel to the chair of the Music and Worship Committee.

Matters discussed or decided at the December 14th, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Discussed the Updated Constitution and By-Laws. The team is working on the by-laws, to make sure they are consistent in intent of our current bylaws. Current timing is for draft to be available to council by April 2016.
2. Discussed Simple Giving, which is an easy way to allow automated deductions for church giving. Council reviewed a power [point presentation that explains the technology](#). Plan to present to the congregation in early 2016.
3. Discussed the Live Nativity. Execution was a tremendous success this year.
4. Discussed the 2016 Budget. Committees are hard at work planning their work for 2016.
5. Discussed the Belarus Fund Raiser which is being planned for February.
6. Discussed the ELCA Stewardship Webcast our church will be hosting on 2/27/16.

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, January 11th, at 7:00pm.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class is following the “Together in Faith Series” from Augsburg Press. These studies “Open Scripture” to share the Word and apply its message to our experiences and prepare us for doing God’s work. “God’s Word is life changing, church changing, and world changing.” This series connects Bible, life and faith in a conversational format. Adult Sunday School is also a Small Group. Come join the conversation!



Small Groups

The busyness of preparing homes and hearts for celebrating Christ’s birth has not slowed the pace of the Monday Morning Sewing Group, Guys’ Night Out, Ladies’ Night Out, Creative Card Ministry, Adult Sunday Bible Study, Military and other Prayer sessions. Supper-Eights will be re-scheduled in the New Year, following Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Blessings to all,
Margaret and Gene

Thank You for Volunteering

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

Greeters Jon and Barb LeGrant, Shannon and Kim Cheek, Nancy Rosenbery and Gene and Margaret Rinkel.

Ushers Chris Edmonds Family, Dave and LuAnn Robberstad, Tim and Fran Koller and the Andy Scheele Family.

Scripture Readers Bill Taylor, Georgia Isaacs and Pam Atwood.

Communion Assistants Jennifer Scheele, John Paul, Karen Reifsteck, Jon LeGrant and Pat Moehring.

Assisting Ministers Mark Reifsteck, Alex Paul and Chris Edmonds.

Celebration Leader Alicia Ekhoﬀ.

Sunday Shepherds Theresa Edmonds, Cindy Erickson, Pete Farm and Paula Jarrett.

Acolytes MaKayla Rosenbery-Hornbuckle, Noah Schnepper, Payton Ade and Izzy Farm.

Fellowship Hosts Congregational Life Committee, Bomas and Bottorff's.

Breadmaker Amy McDonald.

Alter Guild Nancy Rosenbery and Elsbeth Hixon.

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 Vogel





From the Staff of LCM:

We wish you a safe and Happy New Year and send you blessings and a heartfelt thank you for all you have done for us in 2015.

**Pastor Nikoli Falenschek,
Director of Music & Arts/LOGOS Director - Kat Downs,
Office Manager - Randa Plotner,
Custodian - Travis Ray and
Accountant - Deanna Atteberry**