

6 THINGS YOUR CHURCH CAN TEACH

Here are six things that you and/or your congregation can do to teach the world about the "good news" of Jesus Christ:

1. **To Pray** — God invites us to pray.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

What can your congregation do to help people learn how to pray?

2. **To Love** - God invites us to love.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (I John 4:7)

What would happen if your congregation earnestly taught people how to love?

3. **To Help** - God invites us to help others.

"Contribute to the needs of the saints; show hospitality to strangers." (Romans 12:13) How might your congregation teach people how to help others?

4. **To Heal** - God invites us to heal others.

"...and he (Jesus) sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:2)

What people are in need of healing and what can be done to share the gift of healing with them?

5. **To Give** - God invites us to give.

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (Luke 20:25)

What has God given to you and how does God want you to use those gifts, so that the world might come to know Jesus?

6. **To Forgive** - God invites us to forgive others.

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

Whom can you forgive and show that they are forgiven?

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Theses *6 Things* are from Pastor Bob Dealey, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod/ELCA. He has experience and resources in evangelism, stewardship, growing congregations, and many other church outreach and strengthening areas.

Anyone can receive, via email, **Daily Reflections** from Pastor Dealey. Every day, a short email is sent out which includes a *bible verse, reflection questions, and prayer topic*. The Daily Reflections is posted on our church website (lcofm.org), but you can also request to have it sent to you personally. If you'd like to be on the daily email, send Pastor Dealey an email at bob.dealey@csis-elca.org

In God's Peace,

Cindy Erickson
Stewardship Chair
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- 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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Contributed by Pastor Vic Baderschneider

"Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

Psalm 127:1

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington DC, are displayed two words: **Laus Deo**. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less. Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with others.

These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, un-noticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do these two words, in Latin, comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say **"Praise be to God!"**

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, **"Laus Deo. Praise be to God!"**

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant...a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north, the Jefferson Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. How interesting and no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who notice. Praise be to God!

Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th Landing is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th Landing a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6.

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When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy.. "One Nation, Under God."

I am awed by Washington's prayer for America. Have you never read it? It reads, "Almighty God; we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo!

As you probably guessed, over 92 percent of Americans like the idea that our Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase "under God." It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation, that Washington's America was one of the few countries in all the world established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations.

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look.

Though many try to disprove and reason, their arguments are weak and easily proven without basis. Their efforts will forever be in vain; God assures us of that. The truth is we have always been one nation under God! Laus Deo! Praise be to God!

You may forget the width and height of "Laus Deo", its location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: **"Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."**

Let each of us remember to do our part, through prayers and sacrifice, to be the watchmen who stand their guard.

Thank You for Volunteering

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

- Greeters: Youth, Donna Lee, Judy Ferdinandsen, Charlotte Hitchins, and Jon LeGrant Family.
- Ushers: Stewart Ekhoﬀ Family, John LeGrant Family, Rolf Vogen Family, John Paul Family and Tim Koller Family.
- Scripture Readers: Youth, Sheila Kingry, Sherri Reifsteck, John Bottorﬀ and Pam Atwood.
- Communion Assistants: Theresa Edmonds, Fran Koller, Laura Bottorﬀ, Jon LeGrant and Mark Reifsteck.
- Assisting Ministers: Kendyl Cummins, Alex Paul and Mark Reifsteck.
- Celebration Leader: Marty Vogel.
- Sunday Shepherds: Mark Dalton, Chris Edmonds, Cindy Erickson, Alicia Ekhoﬀ and Stewart Ekhoﬀ.
- Acolytes: Chatman Edmonds, Zack Schnepﬀer, Noah Schnepﬀer and Seth Buchanan
- Fellowship Hosts: Congregational Life Committee.
- Bread maker: Alicia Ekhoﬀ.
- Altar Guild: Pat Moehring and Amy McDonald.
- Offering Counters: Stewart and Alicia Ekhoﬀ, Dan and Cindy Erickson, Sherri Reifsteck, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Chris and Theresa Edmonds, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant.

Martin and Linda Vogel
Volunteer Coordinators



Did You Know?...

The Rev. Granger Westberg, a Lutheran pastor, is considered the founder of parish nursing; the ministry began in 1984. A parish nurse ministry helps the church to realize a connection of faith, spirituality and health.

Parish Nurses Ministry has been an important part of the Lutheran Church of Mahomet for many years. Former Parish Nurse, Barb DeReus, and others have served our congregation as Parish Nurses for many years. Parish nurses are members of the ministry team of the church whose major goal is to reflect God's love through professional and personal **caring and confidentiality**. Their ministry focuses on the body, mind, and spirit.

Parish Nurses may:

Help find **answers** to general health questions

Help members make **arrangements** with a health or social service agency, should the need arise.

Give **support** to congregational members and family during times of illness.

Coordinate health education and awareness programs within the church utilizing church members and qualified community providers.

To learn more about Parish Nursing Ministry, please visit parishnurses.org.

If you are an RN or LPN and interested in serving our congregation through Parish Nursing, please call Bill Moehring at 217-586-7036. Our congregation covers all costs associated with becoming a Parish Nurse, and continues to support this ministry both financially and spiritually. The parish-nurses.org website lists several upcoming Illinois trainings; online courses are also available.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed: LCM is participating in the church-wide Free Summer Lunch Program at Candlewood Estates again this year. Our week will be July 22 to July 26th. Last year we served approximately 35 children and senior citizens each lunch hour. This year we need help from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Monday through Friday. Please call Amy McDonald at 586-3944 if you could help on these days and attend a brief organizational meeting

Adult Ed/Small Group Activities

In a sermon on June 9th, the congregation heard the story of the poor widow of Zarephath who shared her last bit of meal and oil with Elijah the prophet. In a contemporary setting a grandmother passed a homeless man on the street who needed food, clothes and friends. She took him shopping. At the same time it taught her grandchild a valuable lesson: "You have two hands -- one to help yourself, the other to help others."

Both the Bible story of the poor widow and the grandmother's actions demonstrate random opportunities to show "**Faith and Love in Action,**" a theme our adult education ministry is pursuing during 2013-14. Once or twice a month, in a five minute slot of the Fellowship Hour, inspirational "Breaking News" stories from behind-the-scenes will report on congregational activities. Collecting your stories is part of our outreach mission. Share your experiences with any member of our Education ministry panel: Karen Ickstadt, Brenda and Tim Lindsey, Alex Paul, LuAnn and Dave Robberstad, and co-chairs, Gene and Margaret Rinkel.

Adult Sunday School resumes in September. Note that our weekly Bible study, led by Brenda Lindsey, has moved from Thursday nights to Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are studying *The Prodigal God--Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*, an in-depth discussion of the parable of the Prodigal Son. New members are welcome at any time.

--Margaret and Gene Rinkel

E-Mail Address Updates Needed: If you haven't been receiving the weekly email newsletters and email special alerts (and would like to), please send your email address to the church office at lcmoffice@lcofm.org with the subject "Add email" or phone 217-586-4786. Please encourage anyone you know who would also like to begin receiving our weekly e-mail newsletters to contact the office to have their address added. We have been working very hard to update our membership and with Larry Gibson's help we hope to update our e-mail address list as well.

Help Support LSSI 'Pedal for a Purpose' Cyclists

Join in the excitement of the first "Pedal for a Purpose" cross-state cycling journey from Quincy to Danville to raise money for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). About a dozen cyclists, led by two young pastors from Western Illinois, are doing the **four day ride which covers 282 miles across Illinois**. Riders are stopping each evening in Beardstown, Springfield, Champaign, and Danville. You can follow their journey from start to finish on their "Pedal for a Purpose" Facebook page.

The goal of the ride is to help raise money for two LSSI programs: Washington Place, a group home in Beardstown for adults with Prader-Willi syndrome, and the **Storybook Project**, a program offered in 16 correctional centers across the state that connects incarcerated parents and their children through reading.

LSSI is a not-for-profit social services agency of the **three Illinois synods** of the ELCA, including our Central/Southern Illinois Synod. It serves people of all faiths and walks of life, including children, families, and adults of all ages.

I had a chance to link up with the cyclists at Christ Lutheran in Monticello on Wednesday, June 27. Their passion for what they were doing was contagious!

To help them meet their goal of raising \$13,000, we would like to do a special LCM offering for the LSSI "Pedal for a Purpose" fundraiser on **Sunday, July 7**. Please make checks payable to "Faith Lutheran Church" with "Pedal for a Purpose" in the memo line. You will receive a tax receipt by mail.

Thanks for your interest and support of this wonderful, meaningful effort on behalf of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois! Bill Moehring

Bill Moehring
(312) 560-7044



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 May 20, 2013, regular meeting have been approved and posted. Council held two special meetings on May 29 and June 4 in regard to the call process, a congregational meeting, and the package to be presented to Pastor Pflibsen; and minutes of those meetings have been approved and posted.

Matters discussed or decided at the June 17 meeting were as follows:

1. Logos Director Kat Downs indicated that Logos will start on September 11 with a family night, and the regular schedule will start on September 18. Changes that are in the works were discussed.
2. Agreed to allow Lori Larson to use our church for storage and the organizing of the backpack food kits for local low income children during the school year.
3. Decided to pay the cost of any member(s) who qualified for and would be interested in taking the parish nurse class held at Carle.
4. Laura reported on information she received about adding a dishwasher to the kitchen and the other changes that would need to be done to the kitchen to add the dishwasher. Laura will get further information so that an estimated cost for the whole project can be determined.
5. Discussed ways to outreach to the community.
6. Discussed coming up with ideas for fund raising events.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. The meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month. 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 Thursday prior to the meeting so that the item can be placed on the agenda. The next council meeting is July 15, 2013, at 7:00pm.

