

- 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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www.lcofm.org

June 2015



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## Happy 100th Birthday, Hilda!! June 16th

.....

Hilda Kimble Pfister

Hilda is very grateful that she was born into a Christian home June 16, 1915, east of Shobonier, IL, which is southeast of Vandalia. She was baptized on July 4, 1915 using the German language.

Her parents were John and Bertha Schmidt.

Hilda had two brothers, Roland who lived only 13 days and Victor who died a few years ago. Her sister Gertrude Speakman lives in a nursing home in Taylorville.

When she was 40, she had her first and only child, Holmes Kimble. He gave her three grandchildren: Katie Gilbert (Chad), John Kimble and Mandy Taylor (Ben). She has four great grandchildren, Nicholas Gilbert, Marah Gilbert, Justin Kimble and Abigail Taylor.

Hilda and her siblings went to parochial school, the one out in the country. It was one large room with one teacher teaching German and English plus religion through the sixth grade. Hilda finished Junior High in Decatur, IL and later in life took the Life Reformation course to earn her diploma.

Hilda had many different jobs, starting with housework, restaurant, factory, office and her last was selling vacuum cleaners.

She married, nurtured and buried three husbands, They were Louis Nichols, Harry Kimble and Chester Pfister.

Holmes has been a great blessing for her. When he was still in pre-school he surprised his mother one day by coming into the house with a baby bottle full of milk. He had been in the pasture and milked it in the bottle. What a gentle cow! Other times he would bring in a baby rabbit.

Hilda has had many interests namely, evangelism, gardening, sewing, baking, teaching Sunday School, leading Bible Studies in her home and visiting shut-ins.

She is an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Lutheran Church of Mahomet.

*Thank you Hilda for your many years of loving service to our Congregation. We hope you have a blessed happy special day and hope for many happy years to come.*



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

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*This month I'm pleased to share a great article from our ELCA presiding Bishop. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Eaton is a wonderful leader for our nearly four million members in the ELCA family, and she was elected Presiding Bishop at our 2013 Churchwide Assembly. She has previously served as bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod and is graduate of Harvard Divinity School. We are blessed to have her joining us at our Synod Assembly next month (June 4-6), and Bishop Roth is working with her staff to have her record some On the Way Podcast episodes while she is visiting the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. The following article is her column from the April issue of the Lutheran, a magazine for the ELCA. She has great insights that really speak to our life as a congregation, and it is wonderful to invite everyone to reflect on these ideas*

*Pastor Vic Baderschneider, Interim*

### **"Changing with the Times" by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

When I'm out and about in the church, I'm often asked what I plan to do to save small congregations, reverse the decline in membership, bring young adults back to church, increase mission support, make the ELCA truly multicultural, boost our relevance in the culture and fix Congress (well, not that last one). I have no plan to do any of that by myself, but I wonder if there is a deeper concern in those questions that requires a deeper answer from all of us.

The world has changed and is changing. Residents of my mother's retirement community who waited weeks to receive letters from loved ones overseas during World War II are now on Facebook and regularly use Skype or FaceTime to visit with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Air travel that was once glamorous and rare for most of us is now, both in frequency and ambiance, a lot like taking the bus. It's not unusual, even in small-town America, to have Jewish, Muslim and Hindu neighbors or those with no religious affiliation at all. We are in a strange new world and don't really know how all this will shake out. We might be tempted to overdo our efforts, to work harder and harder developing innovative programming, reading every manual on church growth, jazzing up our websites, being present on every possible social media platform. Maybe we should discover our congregation's niche: young adults, theology on tap, justice and advocacy, care of creation, ethnic specific ministry, pet blessing liturgies, urban church, rural church, big church, small church, virtual church, home church. We have done some version of all this somewhere across ELCA. And good for us. We need to be brave and daring, God can us our best imagination and innovation.

Or we might be tempted to circle the wagons and hold ever more tightly to what we have left. There is much that is beautiful about our traditions and buildings and heritage. What will happen to all of that if our particular congregation ceases to exist? Who will bury our parents or us? Who will take care of the parish cemetery? This is when congregations begin eying visitors for their value as replacement parts.

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My daughter and her significant other, who was running for county commissioner, attended a church pancake breakfast where they were swarmed by parishioners who didn't realize he was a candidate. All they saw were *young adults! Potential members!* It was an uncomfortable experience.

Buy why do we want people to join our church? What does church mean to us? When I have asked that question, people often spoke about church as a community or family. People talked about the good and important work their congregation carried out to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless. Some said the best thing about their congregation wasn't programs but people.

It was rare that anyone mentioned God or spoke about an encounter with the transcendent. I don't believe our people lack faith or don't know Jesus, but I wonder if we have lost the language to speak about our love of God that has been given to us in crucified and risen Christ. Maybe we just assume Jesus. Maybe Jesus has become like wallpaper; We know it's there and everyone can see it, but we don't talk about it. The best thing about the church, the thing that is uniquely the church, is not programs or people, but Jesus. If we as a people, and as congregations, don't get that right it doesn't matter how many programs we come up with.

In Christ through the spirit, God has invited us into a deeply intimate and loving relationship with God and with each other. Being church is abiding in that love. We are God's beloved people gathered around word and sacraments. That's what gives us life. That's what shapes us. That's what sends us into the world to do justice and love kindness (Micah 6:8). And this must be the kind of community to which we invite others-not because we want to grow or pay for the boiler or attract young people, but because we have received this incredible life-changing gift and want everyone to be touched and claimed and transformed by it too.





Singing with the Lutherans  
By Garrison Keillor of Prairie Home Companion

I have made fun of Lutherans for years— who wouldn't if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We made fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness of macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively "Lutheranless" place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th or D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Lutherans, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad! If you laughed while reading this, you must be a Lutheran.





## MAY 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 April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

Paula to be paid for time spent performing the duties of accountant.

Matters discussed or decided at the May 11, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Continued discussion on the Building Use Policy (allowing alcohol in the fellowship area). There are still details we need to work through. This is close to being complete, and expected to roll out in June.
2. Discussed the need for a Music and Worship committee Chairman. Still looking for a member to lead this committee.
3. We are going to investigate moving some of the Church's savings into Money Market Accounts to increase the interest earned.
4. Discussed putting a new pad under the garbage dumpster. This will be done in May.
5. Discussed the need to repair the parking lot. The total cost is \$9,700, and will require a congregational vote to proceed.
6. Discussed the lighted sign out by the interstate. Bids are being collected to repair the sign, and we are looking for a volunteer to update the message on a regular basis.
7. Discussed the Youth Leadership Lab. We have two individuals planning on attending.
8. Determined the total amount raised and donated to the fire victims is over \$1,500. This money has been given to the Red Cross.
9. Discussed Hilda's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. We are planning it for June 14<sup>th</sup>, and will include a potluck.
10. Decided to prepare a parade float for the Sangamon River Festival in August.
11. 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.
12. Noted Vacation Bible [School planning is underway. Dates are August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.](#)

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, June 8, 2015, at 7:00pm.



## PARISH NURSE PAGE JUNE 2015 CHANGE

The school year has ended and children and teachers are “free”, leaving parents to adapt to a new routine. Young adults are graduating and stepping out into the unknown. Older people are retiring, leaving their long held jobs and “identities.” Here at LCM we anticipate new pastoral leadership but with that are sad to have to say good-bye to our beloved interim pastors.

Our daughter, every time a new school year came around, cried “I’m not ready” all the way until she was in college. Fear of change is human nature, but into every life, change happens. The question is—how do you handle it?

You can choose to see change as a catalyst into something new, exciting and challenging, like a different job or promotion. Often these events are easier to face. However, bad things do happen to good people—failures, losses, heartaches. If one does not accept, forgive, grieve and move on, personalities can change, making one angry, bitter, resentful, or jealous, which can and will change behavior and ultimately one’s future.

It is especially difficult, when you experience the dreaded but inevitable loss of someone close. Remember that one does not feel the loss unless it had been preceded by great love. This is the purpose of living—to live the experiences and to feel the feelings of your God-given abundant life! Know that you can face change because God is holding your hand through the change and gives you His strength. So thank God for all the changes this life has to offer, and for the hope, strength, persistence, and resilience we have inside ourselves to get us through.

Isaiah 41:10 “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

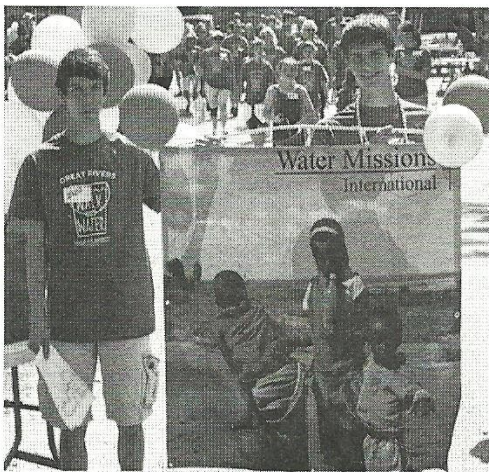
In His Service,

Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse

Nurses  
are  
*Angels*  
sent to  
make our  
'ouchies' go  
**AWAY!!!**

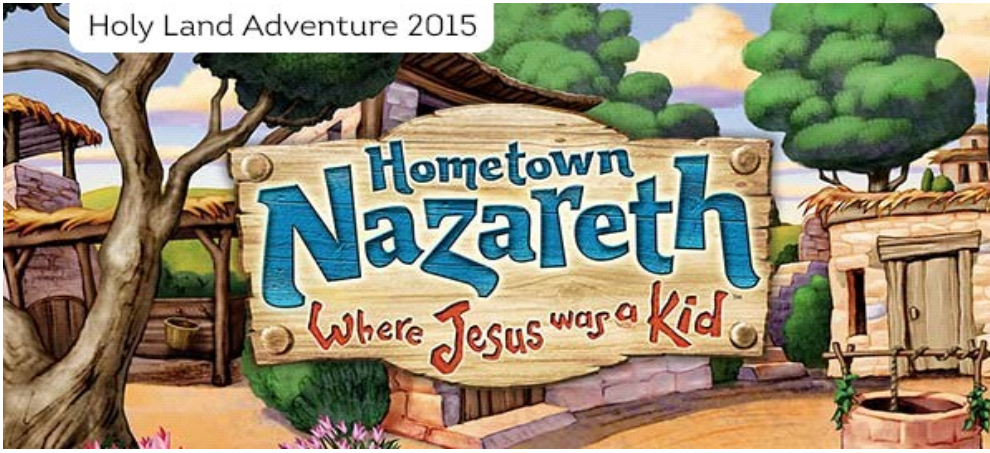


Great Rivers Walk For Water invites you to our Walk for Water on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at New Beginnings Lutheran Church, 304 E. Dunbar St., Mahomet, IL. Registration is now open. For more information on this event, which will benefit Water Missions International, please call New Beginnings Lutheran Church at 217-590-0306.



Some one billion people lack access to safe water, and we want to make a difference! Join Great Rivers Walk For Water for our Walk for Water on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at New Beginnings Lutheran Church, 304 E. Dunbar St., Mahomet, IL. We are excited about the opportunity to help people have clean, safe water. Registration is now open by calling 217-590-0306. Funds raised will benefit Water Missions International [www.watermissions.org/](http://www.watermissions.org/) an engineering relief and development Christian nonprofit whose engineers, staff and volunteers design and provide sustainable, safe water solutions to disaster victims worldwide and people in more than 50 developing countries. Their goal is to provide sustainable access to safe water so that no person should perish for want of safe drinking water. For more information on how you can help, please call New Beginnings Lutheran Church at 217-590-0306.





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. More info & registration coming soon!

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My heartfelt gratitude and love go out to each member of the Call Committee. We formally began our duties in June 2012. The past three years have been years of learning, growth, faith, trust, commitment . . . you name it; we've probably felt it. Each member of the committee contributed in a very thoughtful and meaningful way. Our discussions and decisions were always open and honest and always came from a place of love for God, Jesus Christ, each other, and our congregational family. Rarely, did a member miss a meeting . . . and we had a few! I have learned much from each individual on this committee and am, hopefully, a better person because of each one of them! I am so very thankful!

On to the next great adventure! - Peace, Susie



Everyone,  
Thank you so much for your careful prayers and discernment! I am very excited to join the Lutheran Church of Mahomet in July. I intend to sign that letter of call and other necessary documents, and I will return them to IL almost immediately upon receiving. I am humbled, overjoyed, hopeful, and thankful for such a wonderful match. I foresee LCM providing the most loving of homes. Thank you!

Peace,  
Nikoli