

- 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

March 2015



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



Helping People to Re-connect with God

People today seem to be busier than they have ever been. Because of busy schedules and many pressing demands made on people's time, people are making commitments to what they think is important. For some people participating in the life of a faith community is a priority; for others, it is not. What can you and your congregation do to help re-connect people to their faith and a faith community?

Here are six things that your congregation can do to help re-connect people to their faith and a faith community by teaching them to...

1)**PRAY:** What are the prayer practices in your congregation? What would happen if your congregation taught people how to pray, so that when they encountered someone in the need of prayer, they would be able to pray for that person as the need arises? How, when and where do you encourage people to use the gift of prayer?

2)**LOVE:** How does your congregation actually demonstrate the grace of God as it seeks to build loving relationships with others? How do people outside of the congregation see the love of God expressed through the actions of the congregation and its members?

3)**HELP:** In what ministries and activities does your congregation participate that make a difference in people's lives? People are willing to participate in meaningful activities, based on their understanding of those activities. How does your congregation help others and how do you invite others to engage in that ministry?

4)**HEAL:** We live in a sinful, broken world. How does your congregation promote health and healing to those who are hurting? Who are the people you know who would benefit from a healing ministry that your congregation could offer?

5)**GIVE:** Most people enjoy giving of themselves—their time, talent, and treasury, particularly if they know it makes a difference in someone else's life. What opportunities does your congregation offer that allows people to make a difference in the world by giving of themselves? In what mission opportunities could your congregation become involved?

6)**FORGIVE:** In what concrete ways does your congregation practice forgiveness? Who are the people whose lives would be enriched, because they discovered God's forgiveness through you and your congregation?

For Your Consideration

1. How would any of the six activities help people re-connect with God?
2. What could your congregation do to help people build a stronger relationship with God?
3. As a Lenten discipline, which one of these six activities would you be willing to do?

Pastor Bob Dealey
Coordinator for Communications and Networking
Central-Southern Illinois Synod



FEBRUARY 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 January 12th, 2015, meeting have been approved and posted.

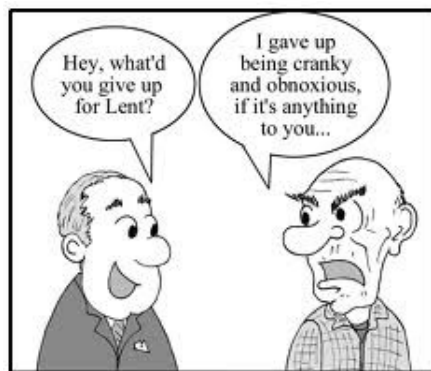
At the February 9, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

1. Internet service to the church will be upgraded, including both hardwired and Wi-Fi connections. The expected cost of this project is \$2,700, which will come from the Building and Grounds budget.
2. Paula Jarrett will be compensated at the going rate for the time spent performing the accountants duties the first (2) months of 2015.

Matters discussed or decided at the February 9, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Continued discussion on the Building Use Policy (allowing alcohol in the fellowship area). Decided the policy is still not ready for a council vote. This item should be ready for vote at the March meeting.
2. Discussed the Belarus Fundraiser. We are in the final push of preparations. Expecting a generous night of fund raising.
3. Discussed the need for a Music and Worship committee Chairman.
4. Discussed the accountant position. We are working on a job description. Once that is complete, we have (3) candidates ready to be interviewed. Hoping to have this position filled in March.
5. Still working to audit the 2011-2014 financial statements. Decided to wait until the accountant position is filled to perform this work.
6. The Task Force to Revise the Constitution is on pace to begin work in March 2015.
7. Discussed the early [growth of the Tuesday](#) night Youth Group. Participation has grown from (4) to (10) participants.

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, March 9, 2015, at 7:00pm.



The Lutheran

HOME | FEBRUARY 2015 | LENTEN 'HUNGER HUNT'

Two months out:

Lenten 'Hunger Hunt'

Chicago kids hunt for, and buy, animals

Sunday school leaders at **Irving Park Lutheran Church**, Chicago, used a "Hunger Hunt" to raise awareness of and money for **ELCA World Hunger** last year. They will likely do something similar this year.

After an intergenerational effort that lasted throughout Lent, they gathered outside on Sunday, April 6, for the hunt. The sun showed up, offering relief from a long, hard winter that hosted the polar vortex.

Five Sunday school classes walked throughout the church's neighborhood looking for farm animals. Earlier the kids had collected pledges for the number of animals they could find. At various members' homes they encountered posters of bees, goats, pigs, fish and oxen, as well as a stuffed lamb or cow. When they came to the pastor's house, they interacted with a brood of hens, thanks to a family who raises them in the backyard. A high school student was at each house, passing out stickers and telling about the animals and how they combat hunger.

The children also made posters that decorated the fellowship room where the Lenten soup suppers were held, urging generous freewill offerings to fight world hunger. One Sunday they also made their way through the congregation with coffee cans, collecting a noisy offering. Families contributed coin boxes they had filled during Lent.

Confirmation students updated the congregation via temple talks, teaching about the plight of the hungry and feasible solutions. The congregation's Women of the **ELCA** group, which traditionally hosts a Palm Sunday bake sale, donated its proceeds to the children's efforts.

By the way the children looked when they put their offering envelopes in the collection basket, adults could tell that the kids knew they were living out the church's mission to care for others, said Darcie Wadycki, Sunday school coordinator.



Story by Julie B. Sevig

More

- [September scavengers](#)
- [Sheep and Goats Sunday](#)
- [Church starts egg-cellent ministry](#)
- [Making the most of a meal](#)
- [Tour de Revs ends at assembly](#)

The rest of this article is only available to subscribers.



Why Fearless Conversations?

Dig deep into what the Bible has to say.

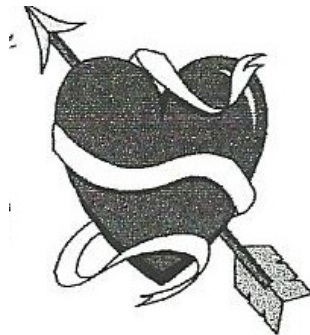
Fearless Conversation is saturated with Bible content:

Encourages people to look to the Bible
for answers to their biggest questions.

Beginning in March 2015, 10:45 a.m. following Fellowship Time:

Why Is Grace So Amazing?

Discussions from Acts, Galatians, 1 Thessalonians,
1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians.



Belarus Dinner Auction - Hallelujah!! The Belarus Dinner/Auction was a success!! We are still tallying the final results, but it appears we reached our \$6,000 goal! Thanks to all who bid, donated, baked, prepared and served the meal, purchased dinner tickets, publicized the event, and helped with the set-up, etc! It's obvious we all chipped in – one way or another!

Dia Nuesmeyer shares her appreciation: *“Thanks so much from the bottom of my heart and our Belarussian sisters and brothers. There aren't enough words to express what you all mean to us.”*



DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

- The 2015 Annual Theme Toolkit for the Campaign for the ELCA was recently sent to each congregation? This year, the campaign will focus on renewing congregations, new congregations, and disability ministries. For details, visit

www.ELCA.org/resources/campaign-for-the-ELCA or call 800-6383522, ext. 2612.

- The ELCA World Hunger Packet (Spring-Summer 2015) was recently sent to each congregation? It contains an Action Guide with 40 ideas for worship, Sunday School, youth and more. To order, visit www.ELCA.org/hunger/resources or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2626.



- The synod web site has resources to help your congregation? Visit www.csis-elca.org to see what resources are available.

- The cost of your pastor's health plan contributions can be reduced by 2%, if 65% of ELCA-primary health plan members and spouses in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod complete the 2015 health assessment? In addition, individual plan members can earn wellness dollars to help offset medical costs (up to \$500 each). For more information, visit <https://www.myportico.porticobenefits.org>



- Thanks to a Macedonia Project grant your congregation can order a copy of "First We Give of Ourselves", a three-year stewardship resource by Kurt Nordby for only \$15? To order, send request and a check payable to "Central/Southern Illinois Synod" in the amount of \$15 by May 1, 2015 to Central/Southern Illinois Synod, Stewardship Resource, 524 S. 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1822.

- The Stewardship of Life Institute is accepting grant applications which promote steward-ship education? Visit www.stewardshipoflife.org/grant/ for details or contact Marty Stevens at mstevens@ltsq.edu; (717) 334-6286.



- The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago will host a Seminary Sampler, March 1-3, 2015, which is designed to give prospective students a taste of LSTC life? Housing and meals are covered and travel reimbursement is available. For more information, visit:

<http://www.lstc.edu/admissions/visit/sampler/>



For more information about the ELCA, visit www.elca.org

For more information about the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, visit www.csis-elca.org





First Aid Kits

There are 2 red First Aid kits, plus 1 maroon kit that is in the kitchen which were recently inventoried. You can find the red ones above the AED which is located on the wall near the south entrance to the church and above the mailboxes near the main office. It is important to know that in the event of a cardiac emergency, in each First Aid kit there is a bottle of 325 mg. aspirin. If you feel symptoms of a heart attack—chest pain, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, CHEW one tablet of aspirin, unless there is a reason you cannot take aspirin. Of course, someone should also get the AED and be calling 911. There are AED /CPR trained people in the congregation and **anyone** should be able to open up the AED and follow the instructions that are verbally given, in order to help save a life!

Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team (CCT) has been up and running since August, providing meals to those just out of the hospital and new mothers, giving rides to those who are homebound, and visiting the lonely or providing assistance in other ways where needed. **The need in the congregation is great and the need for helpers is even greater.** Are you available to assist in some way?

This is how it works:

The need is identified by a pastor or parish nurse Barb.

The team is notified by Barb and asked if someone is available to respond : dates/address/need .

The individuals on the team decide if they want to accept or not (no pressure.)

Barb notifies the team that the need has been fulfilled.

The person fulfilling the need sets up details with the church member.

This is a wonderful service, but we are short term assistance and cannot replace the need for family care. Also, everyone has busy lives, which is why if lots of people give just a little, it helps so much. Fortunately, most needs have been met, but I am seeing a decrease in response time and I worry that we need more help to continue to serve. Please consider using YOUR HANDS to help GOD’S WORK.

I want to thank the following people who have done so much to bring needed joy and service to you, the members of LCM:

Food Team:

Amy Mc Donald	Ashley Ickstadt Rosenbery	Brenda Lindsey	Karen Ickstadt
Nancy Boma	Robin Purgett	Sharon Taylor	Sharon Yeakel
Sheila Kingry	Jennifer Scheele	Nancy King	Steve DeReus
Donna Lea	Georgia Isaacs		

Rides Team:

Ashley Ickstadt Rosenbery	Karen Ickstadt	Nancy and Dennis Boma	Sharon Taylor
Steve DeReus	Jennifer Scheele	Nancy King	Bill Studley
			Bill Moehring

Assistance Team:

Ashley Ickstadt Rosenbery	Karen Ickstadt	Nancy and Dennis Boma	Norm Knicl
Sharon Taylor	Steve DeReus	Jennifer Scheele	Nancy King
Bill and Pat Moehring	Margaret and Gene Rinkel	Bill and Ruth Studley	

OUR WORK FROM CHRISTMAS TO FEBRUARY 17, 2015:

Our team has provided 9 meals. Thanks to the following people, some who have provided more than one: Brenda Lindsey, Sharon Yeakel, Georgia Isaacs, Steve DeReus, Nancy Boma, Jennifer Scheele, and Karen Ickstadt.

4 visits have been made, some people more than once. Thanks to : Bill and Pat Moehring, Karen Ickstadt, and Nancy and Dennis Boma.

A special thank you to retired nurse Ruth Studley, who did **many dressing changes** for an LCM member when her family member and I were out of town at the same time.

In His Service,
Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse

"Because It's Lent" joke

50 Shades of Blonde???

On the first day of their Honeymoon, the very naive blond virgin bride slipped into a sexy but sweet nightie and, with great anticipation, crawled into bed, only to find that her new Christian husband had settled down on the couch.

When she asked him why he was apparently not going to make love to her, he replied, "Because it's Lent."

Almost in tears, she remarked, "Well, that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard! To whom did you lend it, and for how long?"



LCM 2015 LENTEN AND EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, March 4 6:30 PM "Receive the Word: The Hidden Treasure and the priceless Pearl"
MATTHEW 13:44--46
- Wednesday, March 11 6:30 PM "Receive Mercy: The Good Samaritan"
LUKE 10:25--37
- Wednesday, March 18 6:30 PM "Receive Grace: The Workers in the Vineyard"
MATTHEW 20:1--16
- Wednesday, March 25 6:30 PM "Receive Forgiveness: The Prodigal Son"
LUKE 15:11--32
- March 29-- Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Celebration Worship Service - Palm Sunday Brunch following the service
- Thursday, April 2 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- Friday, April 3 6:30 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- Sunday, April 5 – 7:00 AM Easter Sunday Breakfast (presented by LCM Youth)
9:00 AM Easter Celebration Service, The Resurrection of our Lord



To Be a Volunteer

To be a volunteer, it takes...

Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others

Understanding, because their lives might be very different from your
own

Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel
what they must feel

Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better

Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it
might

Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

Stewardship News –March 2015 LCM Newsletter

2015 LCM Directories are available in the narthex! 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 get the board up this spring!

Thanks to those who have already submitted photos. We still need the rest of the congregation to get going! 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
2. Questions? Please contact Cindy Erickson at 217-586-3142 or erickson.cindy@gmail.com

Lent and Stewardship

Lent is a special time for us to consider and recommit our stewardship. The following is an excerpt from a Lutheran church website.

About Lent

Things you might not know about Lent....

The original period of Lent was 40 hours. It was spent in fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ. During the reign of Charlemagne, about 800 AD, it was lengthened to 40 days, not including Sundays.

The 40 days of Lent now correspond to Christ's 40 days in the wilderness after his baptism. Lent has now evolved into a time of baptismal renewal. The date of Lent is determined by the date of Easter. The Council of Nicea determined in 325 AD that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the Paschal Moon. The earliest that Lent can begin is 5 February. That happened last in 1818. The latest that Lent can start is 10 March. It will not be that late again until the year 2038.

Lent comes from the old English word for Spring, Lenten. The use of ashes is a custom going back to Old Testament times. Christians around the world observe the custom of using the ashes of the previous year's burned Palm Sunday palms to put on the foreheads of all the penitent.

The day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, is celebrated in many parts of the world with feasting. The French call it Mardi Gras; the Germans call it Fasching. The feasting comes from the custom of using up household fats (lard) prior to the 40 days of Lenten fasting when no fat is used. The one fact you must know...

These facts about Lent are interesting, but they are not really very important. The one important fact in your life is that Christ died for your sins to be forgiven. A fact so simple...so familiar...so huge...so wonderful, that it is hard to grasp. That is why Christians observe Lent – to set forty days aside to think about Christ's death and what it means.

Lent gives you another chance to think about your sins and what it means that Christ died for them. It gives you another chance to review your life, another chance to grow in faith and love. Lent is a time to be close to God – closer than you have ever been. It is a time to read the Bible more diligently, and to spread the Word of God more earnestly. It is a time to practice the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and acts of love.

The Lenten season can be the most important forty days of every year.

In God's Peace,
Cindy Erickson
Stewardship



Feb 11, 2015 01:00 am

When the great theologian Karl Barth was asked how he would sum up the gospel, he did not refer to the massive volumes he had written about the faith. Instead, he said simply, "Jesus loves me, this I know." Jesus' love is personal. Each of us is the "me" he loves, from birth and death. He won't let go of any of us. A wisp of a child and her great-great-grandmother both belong in the song "Jesus Loves Me."

This message is adapted from "Anna Bartlett Warner" written by Karen Bates in the February 1993 issue of Lutheran Woman Today

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But a certain Samaritan, as he
journeyed, came where he was:
and when he saw him, he had
compassion on him,
Luke 10:33



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2/24/2015