

- 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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Church Phone: 586-4786; Fax: 586-5618

www.lcofm.org

March 2016



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Pastor Nikoli Falenschek

Where to find me:

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.

<sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

The above text is our model for us as we conclude our Lenten journey. We still wander in the desert, still feel the pangs of hunger—both physical and spiritual, still await the worst before the promised eternal life. And so, out of that dark and broken way, we look to Christ for revelation. What has he learned in his Lenten journey? What has Christ come to hold dear? Having picked up the broken pieces, what conclusion does our Lord profess in the face of the worst before the promised eternal life?

Well, having felt the worst of the human experience, and preparing for his torture and death on a cross, our Lord Christ embodies the servant. He does not seek the pleasures of power, or the luxury of physical comfort; Christ does not sit on the sidelines, saving his energy for the final curtain; Jesus does not turn inwardly, searching for distractions from the cares of his neighbors.

No, instead Christ pours water into a bowl and cleans the feet of his friends. He serves, even until the end, those who follow him, those who have been entrusted to him. This is our model for the Lenten journey. As we roam the wilderness, learning about ourselves and the broken lives we lead, as we learn about our dependence on God, and as we discover our own hidden brokenness, we are yet called to love each other.

Lent is not a time for us to feel sorry for our lot, or to grieve what could have been—instead, Lent is a time in which we profess honestly our brokenness, so that brokenness will no longer have a hidden hold on our lives. Lent is a time to free ourselves from the hurt and evil lurking in the darkest recesses of our lives, to shine light on that brokenness, and to serve unabashedly in the promised grace of God.

May you find the courage to confront your brokenness in this Lenten journey. As we come to a close and approach Easter, may your wandering serve to liberate you to enjoy and support our promised eternal lives.



## **Pastor Emeritus Commemoration**

On Sunday, March 13, we will be celebrating Pastor Vic Baderschneider's many years of service as a distinguished leader and faithful shepherd to the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. We will show our gratitude by presenting Pastor Baderschneider with the honorary title of "Pastor Emeritus" during the worship service. Please plan to join us as our congregation expresses our appreciation.



### **EASTER LILIES**

It is that time of year to celebrate the Easter season by brightening up our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies. There is a sign-up sheet located on the quad board in the Narthex. The cost is \$7.00 each. Please sign up by March 20th. Please make the check out to LCM and write "Easter Lily" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your support.



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, 2016 meeting have been approved and posted.

At the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

1. Council approved proposed 2016 budget, to be presented at congregational meeting.
2. Council approved upgrade to conferencing equipment in the Adult Education Room.

Matters discussed or decided at the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting were as follows:

1. Discussed Simple Giving, which is an easy way to allow automated deductions for church giving. Plan to present to the congregation in early 2016.
2. Discussed important dates coming up,
  - a. Planning first communion on 3/24.
  - b. Planning installation of new members in early April.
3. Discussed possibly changing confirmation to a (3) year program, but then offsetting the added year by not having class during Lent and Advent. Council continues to seek out feedback on this proposal.
4. Discussed plans for Earth Day and activities to do that day.
5. Discussed the need to update and/or create several policies for the church, that Council plans to address in the first half of 2016 including:
  - a. The personnel policy
  - b. The IT policy – for staff and members using church equipment.
  - c. The Safe Church Policy.
  - d. the Social Media Policy.

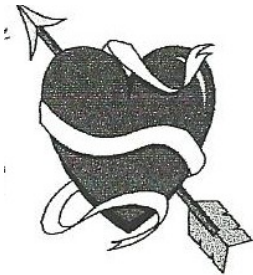
Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. If a member wishes to present an issue to the council for consideration at a meeting, a request should be made to the president, the church council secretary, or the church office by the Tuesday prior to the meeting so that the item can be placed on the agenda. The next council meeting is Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.





## Lutheran Church of Mahomet Invites you to join us this Lenten and Easter Season

Weekly through Wednesday,  
March 16 6:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Services  
Sunday, March 20 9:00 AM, Palm Sunday Service  
Brunch following service  
Thursday, March 24 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service  
Friday, March 25 6:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
Sunday, March 27 7:30 AM -- 8:30 AM Youth Sponsored Breakfast  
9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service



## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR OUR SISTER CHURCHES IN BELARUS!!!!

It is time once again for raising the annual \$6000.00 needed to support our sister churches of Smilovichi and Cherven, Belarus. After discussion with Pastor Nikoli, it was determined that we would use this time of Lenten Sundays to ask for **sacrificial giving** through Lent to raise these funds. There will be a table in the narthex where each of us can place **sacrificial offerings** and a chart to show our progress to our goal. We will then hold a Celebration Dinner with an Auction of fantastic baked goods and services on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars! Consider what you can **give sacrificially** to help your fellow brothers and sisters in Belarus! To quote from an article from Christian Century, *“What if we reframed our Lenten discipline to tune into the moments when we do the right things for the wrong reasons? This is, I think, in keeping with Jesus’ advice to us in the Ash Wednesday reading from Matthew 6 about how we inhabit our piety.”* In this Year C, it gives **us** “a chance to scrutinize the rationales” **we** “use for” **our** “lifestyle choices.” *“The real test: following Jesus wherever He might lead” **us.***



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Our hands.**



#### BICYCLE SUNDAY

What a wonderful way to celebrate Earth Day than by getting some exercise and riding your bike to church (no car emissions!) The Parish Nurse Team has scheduled this event for April 24, 2016. Bicycles will be stored in the shed during the service. So please, join us for great exercise and fun by riding your bike to church that day.

#### Safety Tips:

- Wear a helmet.
- Watch what shoes and pants you choose to wear. Shoe strings and wide pant legs can get caught up in the gears.
- Avoid riding on gravel.
- Use hand signals.
- Ride in the same direction as the traffic.

See the Parish Nurse bulletin board near the kitchen for more information.

Parish Nurse Barb DeReus



## **WHEN WE ENCOUNTER AN UNFAMILIAR HYMN**

By Bob King

**DO NOT** be hesitant. Take a deep breath and try it.

**DO NOT** spoil your experience of worship by blaming someone else for selecting an unfamiliar hymn. Remember, all familiar hymns were once unfamiliar (including “Beautiful Savior”!)

**DO NOT** condemn a musical creation because you do not immediately appreciate it.

**DO NOT** refuse to sing another Christian’s heartfelt expression of beliefs or spiritual emotions because they are new thoughts to you or because they are not your feelings at the moment.

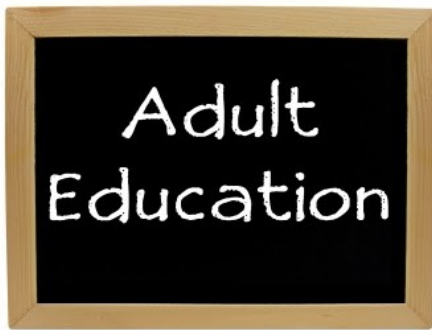
**DO NOT**, above all, close your hymnal and sulk. A negative influence is harmful to those around you and to yourself.

**DO** listen carefully when the music is played on the organ. You may learn to like it.

**DO** read the words meditatively. They may express a flight of spiritual thought in which you can concur, and you may find your own spirit winging to the God of us all.

**DO** remember that the hymns of our hymnals have been selected by musicians and ministers of high repute in their fields. Out of thousands of possibilities, these have been thought the most appropriate and worthy of the common worship of the church. It is not intelligent to dismiss lightly the selection of discriminating minds.

**DO** thank God for the privilege of extending your musical and spiritual horizons in something new; that you are not confined to the limitations of your past experience; and that the created hymnody of the church is so extensive.



### ***Report of the Team Meeting—February 16, 2016***

Food, fun, fellowship—and business—combined for an exciting Education Team meeting on Tuesday night, February 16. The objective was to assess our present offerings and plan for the 2016-2017 year in three main areas: Adult Sunday School, Small Groups, and “Linger and Learn” activities. Plans are under study for each area.

Alex Paul and Gene Rinkel explained the lesson format used for the “Together in Faith” curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. With the conversational format and the Biblical text, participants search Scripture passages that strengthen faith and action. The Team is exploring the study of a single book like *Mark* or *Corinthians* for context and continuity. Also discussed was the appeal of the Lectionary series which brings together the lesson focus for Sunday School classes from children through adults.

Pastor Nikoli and Chris Edmunds offered suggestions for intergenerational approaches to combine different age-groups for special events and lesson activities, perhaps on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays which are also Youth Sundays. Service projects and special events are anticipated.

Assessing Small Groups, Cindy Erickson listed the past year’s offerings including needs, types, purposes, and schedules. Adding a Service Group, for example, “Helping Hands” type, gained a positive response. A family night is under discussion featuring family movies, trivia, board games, service projects, etc. The Ed Team will be drawing up a “step by step” guide for starting a small group appealing to other interests. For communicating activities, times and places for Small Groups, Pastor Nikoli suggests highlighting a small group each month in Newsletters and Bulletins. The kickoff date for reporting on groups and events will again be on Rally Day in September.

The Ed Team is excited about a proposed book study, *The Rapture Exposed*, led by Pastor Nikoli, in a community setting. Time and place are under study.

“Linger and Learn” events during the Fellowship Hour are planned to take place four or five times per year highlighting events taking place “behind the scenes” at LCM. Possible presentations: Parish Nurses on health and safety issues, how the Altar Guild operates, Logos and children’s Sunday School activities, Small group Projects, and special events that the congregation may like to know about. The Ed Team would welcome your suggestion of topics and activities.

Needless to say, the Ed Team enjoyed an evening together brainstorming ideas.



# Thank You!

## Thank You for Volunteering

A special thank you for the following who volunteered their time and talents for our Church the Month of February.

Greeters	Jon and Peggy Howard, Robert and Delores Witherell, Donna Lea, Judy Ferdinandsen and Sharon Yeakel.
Ushers	Dennis and Nancy Boma, Norm and Leslie Knicl, John and Patti Sapp, Bill and Ruth Studley.
Scripture Reader	Sherri Reifsteck, Sheila Kingry, John Bottorff and Fran Koller.
Communion Assistant	John Bottorff, Theresa Edmonds, Jennifer Farm and Jennifer Scheele.
Assisting Minister	Mark Reifsteck, Alex Paul, and Chris Edmonds.
Celebration Leader	Brenda Lindsey.
Sunday Shepherd	Paula Jarrett, Barb LeGrant, Sherri Reifsteck and Gene Rinkel.
Acolyte	Ellie Beach, Seth Buchanan, Naomi Carsten and Raegan Cheek.
Fellowship Hosts	Congregational Life Committee, Buchanans and Daltons, Ekhooffs, Jason and Carrie Johnston and Scotts and Ericksons.
Breadmaker	Leslie Knicl.
Alter Guild	Pat Moehring and Amy McDonald.
Offering Counters	Stewart and Alicia Ekhooff, Jon and Peggy Howard, Sherri Reifsteck, Sharon Yeakel, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Fran Koller, Dan and Cindy Erickson, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant.

Martin Vogel  
Volunteer Coordinator

