

- 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

May 2015



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

After the after

Easter goes beyond our before and after vision

I write oodles of children's curriculum, so I'm typically boiling down a Bible text and finding age-appropriate ways to deliver God's truths to little ones.

For example, with young children the concept of "before and after" works well as a way to teach about Easter. *Before* Easter, Jesus was gone, his friends felt sad and the world seemed gray. *After* Easter, Jesus had risen from the dead, his friends felt hugely relieved and colorful new life sprang up all around.

This concept of "Happily Ever Easter" works well for kids, and that's great. After all, what more could we want for our children than to believe the Easter news that good wins over evil, Jesus is with us still and new life is at the center of our faith?

In a sense, our popular culture looks at life in a kid-like, before-and-after sort of way. All around us we see before-and-after shows and magazine articles about dramatic weight loss and home renovation. Just like it's good news when kids appreciate positive changes, it's also wonderful for adults to improve their lives and get active. But Easter goes well beyond our "before and after" changes to God's miracle of love and transformation.

Before the 'before'

Viewing the world in Jesus' time is kind of like looking at the before picture of the 1950s era kitchen in which the tiles are rotted and the cupboards are falling apart. It was a mess.

Jesus lived within a context of oppression and despair, where most people enjoyed neither dignity nor enough. But Jesus plunged right in to challenge and upend what was wrong and lift up what was right. He looked beyond the despairing lives to see the beauty of God's kingdom within each man, woman and child.

Our lives can also be a mess, with power skewed, love ignored and others mistreated. We can certainly look like before photos — stained by sin, seduced by addiction and weathered by life. It's easy to see why we might want to hide from ourselves as well as Jesus. Or hope he might just stay in the tomb and leave us imprisoned in our personal cells of self-obsession.

But that's not how God works, nor how the Easter message plays out. God sees our flaws, uses our impediments, calls out our sin and dispenses a grace that doesn't measure us as we measure ourselves. We're not just a before picture to God, any more than the world of Jesus' time was a place beyond hope and salvation.

After the 'after'

And now for the "afters."

We can't wait to check out the after photos, can we? Marble-topped kitchen islands and cinched-up waists provide a satisfying differential to what went before. New life can indeed be thrilling — bravo to new kitchens and bodies.

Story by [Mary C. Lindberg](#)

Re-printed from the Lutheran April Issue



As we prepare for our 20th season of LOGOS Ministry here at Lutheran Church of Mahomet, we also look back at the many families who have been served by this ministry. During the 2014-2015 school year, 33 students were enrolled and 11 confirmands joined us for Family Time. In addition, 16 adults and 2 youth helped on a weekly basis. We have enjoyed fellowship, worship, learning, and playing together as one family in Jesus Christ. Each week, we have experienced a different theme connected to a Bible verse or story. The children have been encouraged to dress in attire that depicts our theme and have earned tickets for doing so. This Wednesday, our last session of the year, we will have a Carnival of Magic featuring the talents of Andy Dallas. The children will have the chance to redeem their tickets for prizes while family members enjoy the entertainment, games, and food. LOGOS will start up again in the fall. Watch for registration information.



Several Supper Eight Groups have met, providing fellowship, fun and good food. You are invited to join a group or invite friends and newcomers to form a new group. Groups meet to fit the schedules of participants. For more information contact Pat Moehring, Noel1954@yahoo.com, Ph: 217-898-5777 or Nancy King, nkking@mchsi.com, Ph: 217-586-2696. Co-chairs: Margaret and Gene Rinkel gkrinkel21@msn.com, Ph: 217-649-7173.



APRIL 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 March 9th, 2015, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the April 13th, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

Deanna Atteberry presented and hired as Church Accountant.

Deanna to be given signing authority on our accounts.

Building and Grounds to paint and border the projection area in the Sanctuary to improve clarity of images projected.

Internet Upgrade to progress at a total cost of \$3,054.

Matters discussed or decided at the April 13, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. Continued discussion on the Building Use Policy (allowing alcohol in the fellowship area). The draft is complete, and now the wedding booklet and building use form need updated to match. Expecting final approval in May.
2. Discussed the need for a Music and Worship committee Chairman. Still looking for a member to lead this committee.
3. Still working to audit the 2011-2014 financial statements. Now that the accountant is on staff, will look at timing to complete this task.
4. Discussed the Opportunity for Service Booklets. The names of the volunteers will be distributed to the Committee chairs over the coming month.
5. 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.
6. Discussed the Central Southern Synod Conference. We need to identify our delegates for this conference which occurs from June 4 through June 6th.
7. Discussed the Youth Leadership Lab. Last year, we had one of the youth complete the beginner phase. Looking to see if a couple more youth will go this year.
8. Youth group has also decided to sponsor a youth through a program named "Feed the Children".
9. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for May 31st.
10. Planning in early May to have an orientation meeting with (5) new potential members.
11. Determined the total amount raised and donated to the fire victims is over \$1,500.
12. Discussed the Nicaragua Housing Project. Water and sewer are going in, and expect to have (8) houses done in May.
13. Decided to support Pedal with a Purpose that raises money for a sister church in Madagascar. We will have a special collection in late May.

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, May 11, 2015, at 7:00pm.



Following our Easter celebrations, Adult Sunday School classes resumed on Sunday, April 12. We are continuing “Fearless Conversations” with “Why is Grace So Amazing?” The “Fearless Conversation” series features discussions based on excerpts from Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and 1 Thessalonians. Again, the discussions relate to life issues and what the Scriptures say about our questions and doubts.



WHEELCHAIR LIFT FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL – We at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet would like to become completely ADA certified. Insofar as we do not have an interior passage for persons in a wheelchair to access our Fellowship Hall coming from the Narthex, the Building and Grounds Committee would like to solicit the congregation to donate what they can towards a fund to be able to buy an electric wheelchair lift. This lift would be installed on the west side of the Fellowship Hall and will make it much easier for those in wheelchairs to have access. The anticipated cost for the unit is \$6,200. The set-aside dollars that we currently have in our budget is \$1,185...meaning that we will need \$5,015 to complete the project. Thrivent may be able to contribute some of the amount based on what we can raise, so that will help! Starting in June, if you find in your heart to donate towards this worthy cause, please earmark your giving for “ Wheelchair Lift” in a separate envelope to put in the collection plate. Together, we can make this happen!

PARISH NURSE PAGE MAY 2015

Congregational Care Team Report: Our Care Team provided the following services to the members of LCM between March 19 and April 16, 2015:

4 rides provided by:

Bill Moehring Nancy and Dennis Boma Bill Studley and Karen Ickstadt

2 meals provided by:

Ashley Rosenbery and Steve DeReus

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These are the current members of the Congregational Care Teams:

FOOD:

Amy McDonald

Ashley 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

Cindy Erickson

Theresa Edmonds

RIDES:

Karen Ickstadt

Nancy and Dennis Boma

Sharon Taylor

Steve DeReus

Jennifer Scheele

Nancy King

Bill Studley

Bill Moehring

Kelly Strode

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THIS LIST.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!! GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS

Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse

ASSISTANCE/VISITS:

Ashley Rosenbery

Karen Ickstadt

Nancy and Dennis Boma

Norm Knicl

Sharon Taylor

Steve DeReus

Jennifer Scheele

Nancy King

Pat and Bill Moehring

Margaret and Gene Rinkel

Ruth and Bill Studley

Kelly Strode

Church Photo Directory



Member Photo Board - *Your Photos are needed!!*

We are working on a member photo board/mural for the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. This will be a place where visitors and members can go to see who's who! ***We will get started soon with the photos we have received so far.***

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.
 2. You can also email your photo to Cindy Erickson at erickson.cindy@gmail.com
- Questions? Please contact Cindy Erickson at 217-586-3142 or erickson.cindy@gmail.com



A Steward's Prayer

O Lord, we pray that as we be,
 People of God chosen by thee,
That you give us strength and guidance every day,
 For our role as stewards to portray.
That our voice and works may proclaim,
 The ministry of Christ is our aim.
That our actions will speak louder than what we say,
 Where the security in our life is God's way.
That we generously respond to what you first gave,
 Your Son, a Savior, our lives to save.
And when we have decisions to make,
 To thee, O Lord, our prayers we take.



* The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop, will be the ELCA representative at this year's synod assembly? She will preach and preside at the Festival Worship service, which will be held at Saint Agnes Catholic Church, 245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield on Thursday, June 4 at 8:00 p.m. The general public is invited to attend.

- The offering from the Festival Worship service has been designated for the ministries of the Lutheran Church in Madagascar? Offerings may also be mailed to the synod office and designated for "Madagascar." Please make checks payable to "Central/Southern Illinois Synod" with a note on the memo line: "Madagascar".

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* The theme for the 2015 synod assembly is "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." (John 20:21), which focuses on evangelism and discipleship? The Rev. Dr. James Thomas, Associate Professor of Church and Ministry and Director of African American Ministries at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC is the keynote speaker.

* The pre-registration deadline for this year's synod assembly is May 15, 2015? A late fee of \$25 will be added for registrations postmarked after this date.

* Each synod congregation is entitled to send two (2) lay voting members (one male and one female) to the synod assembly? Congregations with more than 500 baptized members may send additional voting members based on a numeric formula.

* In addition to the minimum number of voting members, each congregation may send a youth or young adult (age 21 or younger) to the assembly as a voting member? The youth or young adult must be a voting member of that congregation.

* The Central/Southern Illinois Synod will elect voting members, who will attend the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, at this year's synod assembly? Persons who wish to be nominated as voting members to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly must submit a nominating form to the synod office by May 15, 2015. The churchwide assembly will be held in New Orleans, LA, August 8-13, 2016.

* The 2015 Pedal for a Purpose will culminate its 300-mile bicycle ride at the synod assembly on June 4? This year's cyclists seek to raise \$30,000 for our companion synods in Madagascar. Riders, sponsors and volunteers are needed. For details, visit the synod website at www.csis-elca.org

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

Pastor Bob Dealey

Coordinator for Communications and Networking Central-Southern Illinois Synod

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Light Side: - Re-printed from the Lutheran Magazine

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<http://www.thelutheran.org/global/form.cfm>



"You'll get some wings, a halo and, of course, your hair back."



"Am I going to be uploaded or downloaded?"



"This is heaven. You can have fries with everything."