

- 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

November 2014



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



Harvest and Judgment

Don't let the glow of color deceive you. One part of a harvest is judgment.

For all its beauty, the harvest is an ending. The severed stalks of wheat cannot be rejoined, the plucked fruit cannot be retied to its branch. The harvested crop has had its day to be born, to grow, to produce, and to please its planter. When the sickle is laid to the plant, the time for going back and starting over has vanished forever.

Now comes the judgment according to size, quality, wholeness. The barren pod and husk are discarded and burned. Only that which has ripened to its original purpose is saved for storage.

The human heart feels a twinge of sadness as it senses this fact about its own life. From the moment of birth man is heading for his harvest. The sun shines and the rain falls and the planter cultivates in order to bring the invested seed to fruition. With a human life the value of the planting, feeding, and harvesting is beyond comparison with a vegetable. Here is a creature of God, fashioned in His image, destined for something far greater than a stomach or a compost heap, a living being attracting the attention, love, and sacrifice of its Maker, attended by a Father who cherishes His children more than the pupil of His eye and who runs after them and spends His own Son on them to give them His life.

Let pumpkin and corn preach a sermon to us, their kin about to be harvested too! And let that note of judgment come through. Walk over November stubble until we get the message.

For if we remember that we shall be weighed for soundness and succulence, we shall feel responsible for the growing and ripening days, we shall live for Him in whom we live and move and have our being, we shall see our life in its honest perspective. World and possessions, fellowmen and events will assume their right proportions, and we shall see ourselves for what we are: pilgrims and strangers and stewards. . . .

We shall — if we pray the Holy Spirit to give us the eyes!



THE POWER OF PRAYER

In recognition of the long-term friendships that exist between members of our church and members of New Beginnings Lutheran Church, we would like to encourage both congregations to pray for each other's members. This is a joyous opportunity. We are happy to pray for all God's children, just as we would like others to pray for us. To make a prayer request that you want to go to New Beginnings members contact: allanoman@newbeginningslutheranchurch.com or call their office at 217-590-0306

To make a prayer request for our LCM prayer chain / prayer list contact: lindasv101@gmail.com or call Linda Vogel at 217-841-4704 **If you are submitting a prayer request for someone else, please be considerate of confidentiality issues and obtain the permission of the person being prayed for."**

New Beginnings Lutheran Church has been provided with the same contact information.



Thank You for Volunteering

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

Greeters	Karen Ickstadt, Scott Kingry Family, Jim Hitchens Family, Donna Lea, Judy Ferdinandsen and Jon Howard Family.
Ushers	John Sapp Family, Adam Rosenbery Family, John Paul Family, Joseph Scheele and Bill Studley Family.
Scripture Reader	Alex Paul, Fran Koller, Nancy Rosenbery and Sherri Reifsteck.
Communion Assistant	Barb LeGrant, Nancy Rosenbery, Sherri Reifsteck and Jennifer Farm..
Assisting Minister	Chris Edmonds, Alex Paul, and Mark Reifsteck.
Celebration Leader	Nancy Rosenbery.
Sunday Shepherd	Sherri Reifsteck, Gene Rinkel, Margaret Rinkel and Marty Vogel.
Acolyte	Isabelle Farm, Natalie Mitchell, Payton Ade, Breanna Bone and Seth Buchanan.
Fellowship Hosts	Congregation Life Committee, Scheele Family, King Family, Taylor Family, John Paul Family, Adam Rosenbery Family and Witherell Family.
Breadmaker	Linda Hanslow.
Alter Guild	Barb LeGrant and Nancy Rosenbery.
Offering Counters	Stewart and Alicia Ekhooff, Dan and Cindy Erickson, Sherri Reifsteck, Sharon Yeakel, Susie Johnston, Scott Kingry, Chris and Theresa Edmonds, David Alderks and Jon and Barb LeGrant.

Martin and Linda Vogel
Volunteer Coordinators



Mid-Week Advent Services will again be offered this year on Wednesday nights with Dinners at 5:45 and worship at 6:15 in the Fellowship Hall. For those participating in the Chili Cook-Off Wednesday, December 3, please have your chili in place on a table in the Fellowship Hall by 5:30.

Wednesday, December 3	Chili Cook-Off
Wednesday, December 10	Meal to consist of soup and sides.
Wednesday, December 17	Meal to consist of soup and sides.

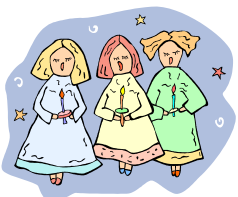
A goodwill offering will be taken up at the Chili Cook-Off to help defray the costs for providing the soup at the Dec 10 and Dec 17 meals. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex beginning, November 2nd for providing side dishes.



Christmas Season Volunteers: The Christmas season is rapidly approaching. Time to celebrate the reason for the season. To that end, we are in need of the congregation to volunteer for the following tasks:

Christmas Eve, 6:30 PM service	Greeters and Ushers
Christmas Eve, 10:30 PM service	Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistant
Christmas Day, 10:00 AM service	Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistant

Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time to the above requested assignments. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 2. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talent.



Christmas Cantata Practice: The Chancel Choir will be presenting *Christ Was Born For This* on Sunday, December 14 during the worship service. Songbooks and CDs are ready and waiting for you. Please join us for rehearsal on Thursday nights at 7 PM. We are always looking and listening for new voices in the choir. Anyone in Jr. High or older is invited to join us.



PARISH NURSE PAGE NOVEMBER 2014
Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team, which was started in late August, 2014, is well underway. As of October 15, **the team has provided food to 10 families, rides for 1 person, and made 5 personal visits** (these do not count parish nursing activities.)

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following team members for all that they have done to serve the Congregation and our Lord, some of them more than once:

Amy McDonald Norm Knicl Steve DeReus Nancy and Dennis Boma Ashley Rosenbery
Jennifer Scheele Bill Moehring Donna Lea Georgia Isaacs Robin Purgett Sheila Kingry
Karen Ickstadt

If you know someone in our congregation who could use our help, please contact a pastor (586-4786) or parish nurse Barb DeReus (778-6546 or barbdereus@mchsi.com.) We could also use more volunteers. If you are already helping someone with rides or visiting, please let us know so we can coordinate activities. Thank you!



Caregiver Advice”

The November issue of the Oprah Magazine “The Power of Gratitude” has a fantastic section in it that I would highly recommend for anyone who is a caregiver. The emphasis is on taking care of parents; however, these series of articles are filled with advice relating to a number of situations. Included is practical advice ranging from living wills, finances, technical support, and applying for Medicaid. Thought provoking issues such as end of life decisions are also included. Even if you are not caring for a loved one at this time, you may consider reading up on this subject. I plan to use some of these ideas now and pass the magazine on to my children.

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS

Barb DeReus, Faith Community Nurse

Stewardship – The Real Stuff

At certain times of the year, many churches undertake a “Stewardship Campaign”. It is during this campaign that they ask its people to make a monetary commitment to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ through their congregation.

The truth is that no one can give anything to God, to the Church, or to anyone else, because God has not given anything to anyone. In Genesis 1:26, 27, God says “And let them dominion over. . .” Dominion does not imply ownership; it implies responsible use, responsible management of creation. When we place something into an offering envelope or into an offering plate, we merely get our grubby little hands off some of what always has, and always will, belong to God. The reality is that though we cannot give God anything, we certainly can rob God. The First Article of the Apostles’ Creed could easily be amended to read “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker and Owner of heaven and earth”.

To quote Tony Compolo, “There will come a day when people will place each of us in a coffin and lower us into a grave, throw dirt on top of the coffin, and then go back to the church hall to eat potato salad!” And as people talk about how successful we might have been, or might not have been, God will say and ask only, “I rejoice that you came to know My Son as your Savior and Lord, but how much did you use your life to serve people around you?”

Our society measures success in a totally warped manner: How much have you achieved for yourself? God never measures success in terms of what we accumulate for ourselves, but in terms of how much we use our life and creation to glorify God by serving others – a truth the advertising world does not want to hear.

Christian stewardship is not even primarily about managing money. It is about learning to develop and manage ourselves – whom God made and owns – that we might be as useful as possible for God and others. When we learn that life has been lent to us that we might give it away, we begin to understand that money is merely “stored servanthood”, “me in a bank”, “me in transferable form”, “me in a form that enables serving at a distance, serving by proxy”.

We might ask ourself, “How am I doing?” Remembering that one day each of us must meet the Maker and Owner of all things (which includes self) face to face.

A fellow Steward – Pastor Vic Baderschneider

Stewardship Notes – November 2014

Consecration Sunday is November 9th! Come and celebrate stewardship at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. On this day, your *Pledge Cards* and *Opportunities for Service booklets* are to be turned in. Pledge Cards go in the offering plate or Stewardship mailbox by the church office, and the Opportunities for Service booklets go in the designated box in the narthex. Members received the pledge cards and booklets in a special October mailing. If you need copies, please contact Cindy Erickson.

The activities culminating on Consecration Sunday will allow us to plan our church budget and ministries/missions for 2105. Our stewardship at LCM is great! You are invited to share in the celebration and thanksgiving!

A **celebration “brunch”** will be held following the Sunday worship service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Congregational Life is providing the main course.

All members are invited to contribute to and participate in the missions of LCM. We are called to be stewards of God’s love and LCM provides abundant opportunities for everyone to demonstrate stewardship by giving offerings, and sharing time and talents.

“What is a Steward? Stewards are caretakers who live in a place that is not their own. They are allowed to make full use of the owner’s property in exchange for taking good care of it. In the New Testament, Jesus tells many parables that liken human beings to stewards (Matthew 21:33-4; 24:45-51; 25:14-30; cf. Luke 16:1-10). Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. Jesus says we should remember that we are stewards, not owners, and we should take good care of what God has entrusted to us: our planet, our families, our physical bodies, our time, our money. We practice ‘good stewardship’ when we view all these things as gifts from God to be used responsibly.” Excerpt from “*Good News of Stewardship*” by Mark Allen Powell in The Lutheran, November 2014.

Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a steward!!

In God’s Peace,
Cindy Erickson
Erickson.cindy@gmail.com
217-586-3142



NOVEMBER COUNCIL NOTES
Submitted by Sherri Reifsteck, 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 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 September 3, 2014, and September 8, 2014, meetings have been approved and posted.

Matters discussed or decided at the October 13, 2014, meeting were as follows:

1. Concerns about the prayer chain were discussed, including the difference between the prayer chain and the prayer intercessions. It was decided that the previous decision to have the prayer chain participants be only LCM members would remain, but that anyone could request to be on the prayer chain so long as permission was obtained from the person being prayed for. Further, an article about sharing prayer chains with New Beginnings will be placed in the newsletters, bulletins, etc.
2. Food for the Poor donations were sent directly to that organization, and those giving to that cause will receive acknowledgement from that organization.
3. A tally of the Consecration Sunday pledges will be announced at the brunch
4. A new kitchen door to the outside was installed by Tim Koller and Mike Koller.
5. Bids were obtained for painting of the narthex, and the lowest bid was accepted.
6. Bibles will be given to third graders on Reformation Sunday
7. The growing need for pastoral care for our members
8. To continue the Belarus ministry and have a fundraiser as in the past
9. Certain playground equipment is available from the Middletown playground, and Bill Taylor and Chris Edmonds will be working with the preschool on whether that can be obtained for our playground.
10. Chris Edmonds has agreed to become the Youth Chairperson and has begun planning activities for the high school youth and making contact with them regarding activities, and he is having Sunday school class for children.

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, November 10, 2014, at 7:00pm.





Generosity

Generosity is sharing with the needy.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

⁷But if there are any poor people in your towns when you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. ⁸Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need.

Hebrews 13:16

¹⁶Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God.

Generosity involves sharing based on our blessings.

Deuteronomy 16:17

¹⁷All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the LORD your God.

Generosity is not just what we give, but the attitude with which we give.

2 Corinthians 8:3

³For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.

God has first shown generosity toward us.

Romans 5:15

¹⁵And what a difference between our sin and God's generous gift of forgiveness. For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this other man, Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God's bountiful gift.

Romans 10:12

¹²Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They all have the same Lord, who generously gives his riches to all who ask for them.

Titus 3:6

⁶He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did.

God blesses generosity

Proverbs 11:25

²⁵The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.



Author bio: *Hay is an associate professor of physics at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash., and a member of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, Wash.*

What new parents look for in a Church

Without children it was challenging to find a spiritual home. As a new parent, the task is more daunting. There are factors I never considered and should be shared. Children must be invited into the spiritual conversation and valued as unique community members. I'm not an expert, but I am a mother of twin toddlers.

In worship, value experience over formality. Families want children to experience worship, engaging music and a children's message. Let children be part of the worship and let them offer their gifts, talents and leadership. Forgive them the occasional restlessness — we parents are doing our best.

In the social space, invite children to your table. High chairs and booster seats allow them to be part of the conversation, creating a lasting bond to the church family.

In the nursery, connect to worship. When we can't stay in the sanctuary, a speaker, window or video would help us know when to come in for special moments (communion, to share God's peace or to make a joyful noise).

In message and Sunday school, forward thinking is critical. Parents hear the message from the perspective of their children. Children (and all of us) exist in a changing, diverse environment. As they grow, they meet people from other faiths, they ask questions, investigate, doubt. The legacy of education in our Lutheran tradition is wonderful. We can't predict what challenges they will face, but we can give them tools and a sophisticated faith that can answer simple questions yet provide deeper wisdom and the beauty of uncertainty. The church can carry them through hard times, but it could also pose conflict. To prepare, it must be able to adapt to their changing needs and curious minds or it might be left behind as they search for something more authentic.

I was once in a church, Trinity Lutheran, in Tulelake, Calif. I felt respected, remembered. Members would ask me what book I was reading. The sanctuary felt like a sanctuary for me. The congregation organized attendance to Camp Lutherwood, where I later counseled and became a program director. The church was my village for my children and all children.

Reprinted from the Lutheran, October 2014.



Ideas For Keeping Your Kids Engaged During Worship

Jesus has entrusted the discipleship of children primarily to parents, as can be seen throughout the Bible.

You stand assembled today, all of you, before the Lord your God - the leaders of your tribes, the elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your women, and the aliens who are in your camp, those who cut your wood and those who draw your water - to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God. -Deut. 29:10-12a

There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the aliens who resided among them. -Joshua 8:35

Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. -2 Chronicles 20:13

Gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assembly the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. --- -Joel 2:16a.

In fact, the two times in the Bible when we see people try to exclude children, God makes it clear that he is not ok with this (Exodus 10:7-11 and Mark 10:14-16.) When we live in line with these Biblical teachings our church and our families are strengthened.

Now maybe you think that it is almost impossible to get children to sit still during an entire worship service ("You don't know my Billy"). I agree that it is difficult, but with intentional training by parents, it can be done. And maybe you think that church is a needed break from having to deal with your kids, but I would like to insert that the most important thing for a parent may not be able to sit undistracted for a sermon (although this is important). The most important thing for a parent may be to train their child how to rightly listen to a sermon. The goal is not just to get your child to sit still; the goal is to train them to worship Jesus, and you, as a parent, have a crucial role in that.

Keep Your Expectation High For Your Children In Church

I don't want my kids to just sit still and be quiet in church; I want them to actively worship. So we have often run through a list of expectations with our kids. We ask them, "When we sing, what do you do?" and they respond, "Sing." "When we pray, what do you do?" and they respond, "Pray." "And when the pastor preaches, what do you do?" and they respond, "Listen." We make our kids stand up during the times in the worship service when everyone else is standing up. Generally, once they are over the age of 3 we don't let them lie down and fall asleep. Basically, I want them actively participating and worshipping with everyone else.

Keep Your Kids Close By You

Our kids always sit right by us during a worship service, and the younger they are, the closer they sit next to mom or dad. If they get any farther away, only bad things happen. This also means that our kids sit with us, not with friends. Kids will often ask to sit with friends during church, but again, call me a pessimist, but I don't see this working out well. Our kids need to be by us so that we can train them, and your kids need to sit by you so that you can train them.

Limit Exits

Kids will try to get out of the service, and they will use any means at their disposal. The usual culprits are the need to go to the bathroom and the need to get a drink. And when you have more than one child, a successful exit ploy is immediately suggestive to the other kids and copied. So we try to be intentional and have our kids go potty and get a drink before the service and then only let them go out if it is an emergency (an emergency as determined by a parent, not by a 3 year old)

If Our Kids Make Noise Or Won't Listen, I Take Them Out

At times kids will make noise. Kids are kids, and since we want them in the worship service, there are times when they will make noise. So when our kid make noise and are defiant, I take them out, because I don't want them to be a distraction to other people and because I use the opportunity to train them. When I take them out, I do not let them play or run around. If I did that, I can almost guarantee what ploy they will attempt next week. I don't want to reward their defiant behavior; I discipline them and bring them right back in.

Preparing Your Kids Begins The Night Before

In the Bible, days don't start in the morning; instead they begin at sundown.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day- Genesis 1:5.

You also see this reflected in the way that the Jewish Sabbath runs from sundown through the following sundown. Part of how this instructs us is that preparing your kids for Sunday morning worship includes making sure that they get some good rest on Saturday night.

Training Isn't Just At Church, But All Through The Week

Training your children in self-control shouldn't just happen on Sunday at church but happens throughout the week. One way to do this is to read the Bible or other books to your kids at home and train them to sit still and listen just like at church.

If You Need Help, Get Help

There will be times when you can't do this all on your own but need help from other adults. So if you need help, ask for help. And if you see another parent that needs help, and you are able, offer your assistance. Parents, this is not an easy task. There will be Sundays when everything just seems to go well; you will be patting yourself on the back and will consider nominating yourself for "Parent of the Year". But then the next Sunday, Johnny or Susie will have a meltdown which embarrasses you and makes you seriously question their sanctification. So it is a process. But the goal of training our kids to worship Jesus is worth it. In fact, it is the most important goal for our children that we can have.

excerpts from Kids in Church by John Luhmann



**Adult Education
Council Report--October 13, 2014**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is following a thirteen week study, featuring a bold approach to studying the Bible in a conversational format. "Fearless Conversations" is designed to speak to adults and youth about God through Matthew and Luke. Sharing our own experiences and questions helps us grapple with biblical truths from God's word.

Remaining October discussions explore questions such as, "Why did Jesus tell such confusing stories?" and "Was Jesus racist, or sexist--or both?" Each area of exploration pursues the basis question, "Why was Jesus so radical?" This series is the start of a two year curriculum in conversations about things that matter to us all.

The **main goal of a CROSS-GENERATIONAL approach** (junior high, senior high, and adults) is to converse about questions common to youth and adults alike, thereby learning from each other. Future activities family-style will be a long-term goal.

Here is where **we need the support** of Council and Congregational members alike. **To excite youth about joining the class will take each adult establishing a relationship with a youth to break down any intimidation** about entering the classroom. This is an area of EVANGELISM well worth our prayers and efforts.

Margaret and Gene Rinkel



Small Groups Council Report--October 13, 2014

SMALL GROUP activities: positive feedback from our sessions is heartwarming. Someone from the Creative Card Ministry explained the goal enthusiastically to another ELCA minister. Sunday School Bible study facilitator Alex Paul directs out attention to biblical contexts surrounding the Bible passages while thoughtfully handling questions that arise. We all take pride in the Monday Morning Sewing Group accomplishments. Guys' and Ladies' Night outs bring out stories of fun activities and relationship-building. And plans are underway for Supper Eights, starting with a single Small Group and a breakaway into four additional groups. There is time to join any Small Group during the coming Fall/Winter season.

Margaret and Gene Rinkel



Supper Eights will kick-off early in November and will plan invitations for upcoming groups to meet once per month--just in time for Thanksgiving or Christmas parties. Each supper group can decide on the menu, the activity (conversation, games, hobby displays, etc.) Any interested family, couple or single may sign up for a group at any point during the year. Joining your church family for a meal is a great way to get to know family members better!

Sharing the Faith With Friends: The next meeting will be November 11, Tuesday, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. We will study Chapter 3 of Erasing Hell by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle "What Jesus Actually Said About Hell." This will be compared to the Rob Bell book Love Wins. Everyone is welcomed as we gathered at 1701 Whisper Meadow Lane, Mahomet, IL. Please contact Barb or Steve DeReus if you have questions. (barbdereus@mchsi.com or 778-6546)

Remember that you may join as many groups as you have time for! Choose from Sunday Bible Study (Matthew and Luke), Sharing the Faith with Friends (book study--Love Wins and Erasing Hell), Monday Morning Sewing Group (quilting and school kits), Ladies' Night Out (homes and restaurants), Guys' Night Out (homes and restaurants) Military Prayer Group, Creative Card Ministry (instruction and stamping). Groups meet monthly except for the Bible Study and Sewing Group. Call Margaret Rinkel at 217-649-4366 or gkrinkel@msn.com. for more information.



4-year-old boy who was asked to return thanks before Thanksgiving dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip.

Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad"

