

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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- 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

OCTOBER

2014



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church of the Beloved's prayer bowl at the Edmonds' (Not Chris and Theresa) Main Street Halloween party. (Photo/Ryan Marsh) "What is this?" The woman stared down at the Church of the Beloved table with a puzzled look. Ryan Marsh -- pastor of the church -- and members of the ELCA congregation were staffing the table at the Main Street Halloween party in Edmonds, Wash. They were handing out candy to families along with the rest of the city's businesses and organizations. But on the table was also something unique, "something very 'us,'" notes Ryan: a bowl of sand bristling with tall, skinny, lit candles. "Tomorrow is All Saints Day," Ryan told the woman. "That's why tonight is called 'All Hallow's Eve' or 'Halloween.' So, if you want, you can light a candle here to pray 'thanks' to God for someone important to you." She looked intently at the bowl of sand and said, "How much?" "How much?" Now Ryan was puzzled. "How much does it cost?" she said. "It doesn't cost anything. It's free," Ryan replied. She quickly took a candle, lit it and placed it in the sand. She stood there looking at the flickering flame for a moment, and then her eyes began to well with tears. "Thank you," she said. "I needed to do that." For some people who paused at the Church of the Beloved table, this was their first experience with prayer. They would ask, "What do I say?" "It's easy," Ryan assured them. "Just say 'thank you' to God, like you would to anyone who's given you a really good gift." Children seemed to like — and get — the experience the most. The little pyromaniac boys were more excited about the prayer station than the candy. Running up to their parents they would yell, "Mom! Can I light a prayer candle? Can I?" At one point 14 children were crowded around the sand bowl saying their prayers, with parents and guardians lined up behind them. A Church of the Beloved member might ask, "So, who'd you pray for?" after a child stuck a lit candle in the sand. The answers: "My grandma's dog." "My uncle who died." "The soldiers in the war." "My dad." Assessing the success of their prayer table at the street fair, Ryan observes, "God was showing us a different way to love our neighbors. We weren't offering 'a harvest alternative to Halloween.' We weren't asking people to come into our church domain. "We were joining with the established expression of our neighborhood, in the public marketplace, alongside businesses and community services, and there, on common ground, we offered our unique way of serving Edmonds. There was nothing confrontational about it. It was what our neighborhood wanted, and it was what we had to offer: a moment of prayer and gratitude that flowed in and out of the party." By the end of the night, the three members from Beloved had handed out more than 3,000 pieces of candy and over 200 candles had been lit. Ryan says, "We were convinced that God is alive and at work in Edmonds — even on Halloween." Perhaps especially on Halloween. - See more at: http://elca.org/en/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2011/10/~/_link.aspx?_id=A539708C6179449F9EADB5DE1465D9D0&_z=z#sthash.7GB3kwwl.dpuf



LCM MISSION OPPORTUNITY

We are happy to announce an LCM foreign mission opportunity through a well-respected and reputable international charity called Food for the Poor (“FFTP”). 96% of FFTP’s donations go directly to solving the need. As you recall, Pastor William Menter from FFTP was with us on July 20 and described their efforts to assist the poor in Central America. This LCM mission opportunity involves building a simple, functional house for a poor family in Nicaragua. Our goal is to raise \$3,200, the cost to build one house. Please review the information located in the Narthex and ask what you can give in support of this important LCM mission project. You can give three ways:
LCM offering plate (make check payable to Food for the Poor and insert “Source Code 100948” in the memo section of your check), or
A direct gift to Food for the Poor through their website using the following LCM-specific web link created for this mission opportunity. foodforthe poor.org/mahomet
A direct gift to Food for the Poor using project-specific cards and envelopes provided.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO CHANGE THE LIFE OF A FAMILY IN NICARAGUA FOREVER BY PROVIDING THE GIFTS OF DIGNITY AND HOPE.
There is no greater blessing than to help a brother and sister in need. (Proverbs 22:9 – “The kindly man will be blessed for he gives of his sustenance to the poor.”)
Please contact Bill Moehring at 217-586-7036 or billmoehring@yahoo.com if you have any questions regarding this project. Thank you.



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.

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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. |

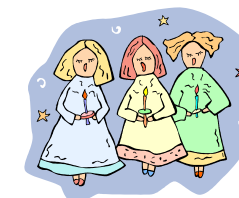
A goodwill offering will be taken up at the Chili Cook-Off to help defray the costs for providing the soup at the Dec 10 and Dec 17 meals. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex for providing side dishes.



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:

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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.



Mid-September Call Committee Update

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you”, I Corinthians 15:58

Greetings LCM brothers and sisters! This article is provided to share with you the past several months’ activities regarding the ongoing search for a permanent pastor to join our family. In looking back, probably the last formal sharing of information took place when Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Ron Moorman visited our congregation on Sunday, February 23. Since that visit, Call Committee members had interviews and conversations with two potential pastor candidates. Between March 24 through May 28, committee members were in formal conversations with a candidate from Florida. While this process was lengthy, we were hopeful that the end result would be a good one. However, that candidate withdrew from the process after making the decision to remain with his family in the Florida area. The next candidate profile was received in mid-July. Call Committee members held one formal conversation with this candidate and were, again, very hopeful that the outcome would secure a pastor. However, that candidate elected to accept a Call with a congregation with a two senior pastor structure as he was interested in a dual partnership. He also shared that this location offered job opportunities for his wife. This process took place between July 17-23.

Since that time, Pastor Moorman has retired and a new assistant has been named. Call Committee members invited new Assistant to the Bishop Ken Sandlin to visit us here in Mahomet on Thursday, August 29. We felt it was extremely important for Pastor Sandlin to know who we are at LCM, take a tour of the Mahomet area so that he could speak directly to candidates about our wonderful town, and to take a tour of our mortgage-free beautiful church home. We also wanted to spend time talking directly with Pastor Sandlin in detail about our needs, hopes, and dreams for welcoming a new pastor to our family. We feel we accomplished this. In addition to meeting with Pastor Sandlin, Call Committee members also spent time updating our Ministry Site Profile that is currently posted to the ELCA website for candidates’ review. It was important to update our profile due to the many exciting programs currently in place at LCM and to also let the reader know the incredibly positive and loving environment of our church and among our members. Again, we feel we accomplished this goal.

This week (September 17), we have again been in contact with the Synod. Pastor Sandlin has indicated that a new candidate name may be in the works. As this process continues, we cannot overestimate enough the power of prayer that a pastor is out there that is perfect for us, and we are perfect for him/her. We must continue to lift up our prayers to God for his guiding hand. We must also ask for continued patience and faith and know that He will provide. In the meantime, we will continue to give thanks for Pastor Baderschneider and Pastor Blobaum for their dedicated service to LCM and to us.

Call Committee Members: Nancy Boma, Laura Bottorff, Denise Dalton, Stewart Ekhoﬀ, Dan Erickson, Susie Johnston, John King, Barb LeGrant, Dia Nuesmeyer, Margaret Rinkel, Andy Scheele



Sharing the Faith With Friends:

The second meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, studying Chapter 2 from Erasing Hell by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle . This is in contrast to Rob Bell’s book Love Wins, which we just finished. Even if you did not join us this past year for the Bell book, we can update you along the way as we compare the two books.

All meetings will be at the DeReus home, 1701 Whisper Meadow Lane, Mahomet. Time is from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. You can participate as little or as much as you would like.

If you are interested or have questions, please call Barb at 217-778-6546 or email at barbdere-us@mchsi.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Nominating Committee: Three congregational members are needed to serve on the nominating committee to find nominees for open positions on the church council. This is a short-term commitment that is already underway and should be completed in October. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Bill Moehring or Sherri Reifsteck.

Council Positions: The church council positions up for election in October with two-year terms beginning in January of 2015 are: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Adult Education (nominee in place), Congregational Life (nominee in place), Music and Worship, and Social Missions and Ministries. The Youth position is also open for a one-year term by council appointment.

If you would be interested in serving in one of the council positions up for election or appointment, please contact Bill Moehring or Sherri Reifsteck. Also, if you are contacted by a member of the nominating committee about serving in one of these positions, please prayerfully consider answering the call to serve your congregational family in this way.



SEPTEMBER COUNCIL NOTES
Submitted by Sherri Reifsteck, Church Council Secretary

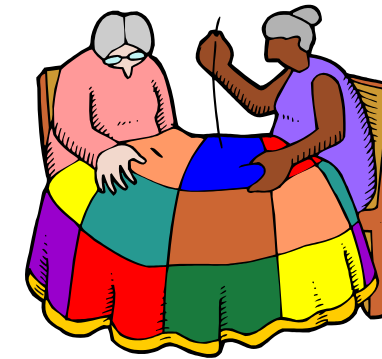
One of the priorities of the present council is to keep the members of The Lutheran Church of Mahomet more easily and better informed of actions taken and matters discussed at council meetings in a more timely manner. For more detailed information as to the council meetings, you are welcome to take a copy of the minutes from the quad board after they are approved and posted. Minutes from the August 11, 2014, meeting have been approved and posted.

A motion was made and passed at the September 3, 2014, to approve an updated Ministry Site Profile to be submitted to the synod by the call committee.

Matters discussed or decided at the September 8, 2014, meeting were as follows:

1. Having youth Sunday school and intergenerational lessons
2. The recommendation by the music and worship committee for a paid nursery attendant
3. The importance of a youth program and having a youth chairperson and some suggestions for the next steps in working towards that
4. That no beverages besides water will be allowed in the sanctuary
5. Having a short survey for the congregation to complete
6. Details about the Food for the Poor fundraiser
7. Putting together a team to work on a Belarus fundraiser
8. Open church council positions up for election in October

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, October 13, 2014, at 7:00pm.

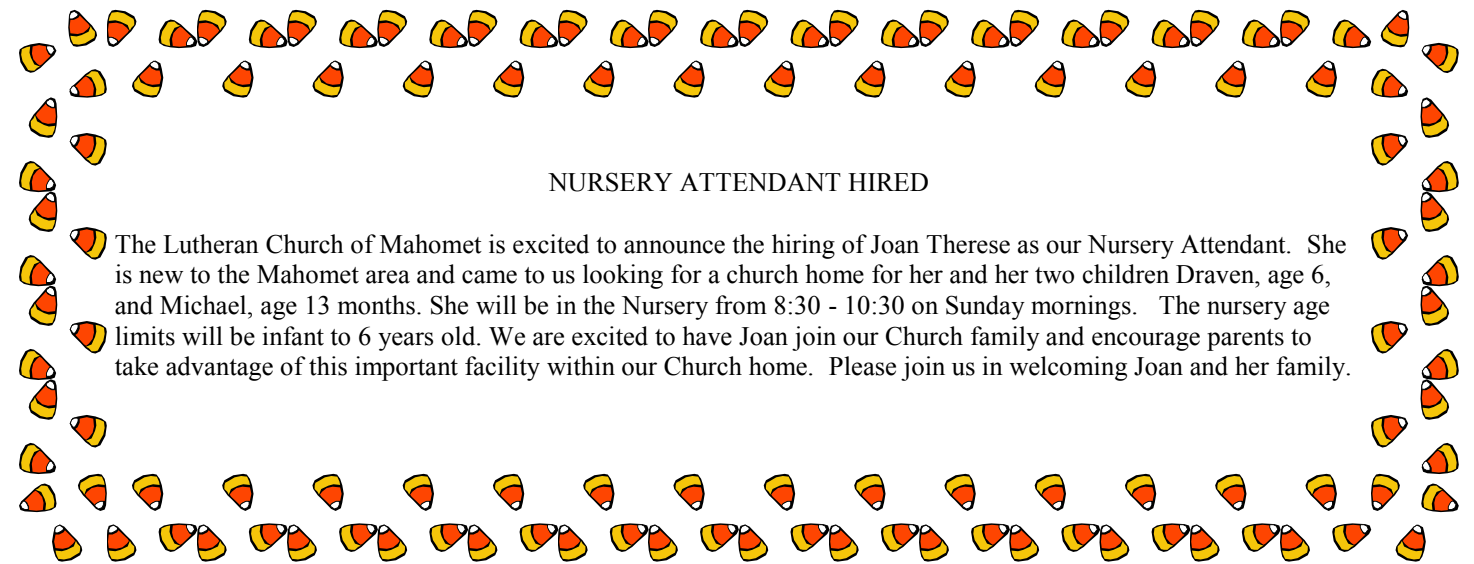


Quilt Sunday

Quilt Sunday will be October 26. The Monday Morning Sewing Group has been hard at work making beautiful quilts and preparing health kits all year. Other suggestions for donations by members of the congregation could be cash that would be used to help with the shipping costs. The group be taking the quilts and kits to Champaign on Friday, October 31, and at that time we will donate a check along with the boxes of quilts and kits.

We wish to extend our gratitude to all who helped.

Thanks,
Fran Koller



NURSERY ATTENDANT HIRED

The Lutheran Church of Mahomet is excited to announce the hiring of Joan Therese as our Nursery Attendant. She is new to the Mahomet area and came to us looking for a church home for her and her two children Draven, age 6, and Michael, age 13 months. She will be in the Nursery from 8:30 - 10:30 on Sunday mornings. The nursery age limits will be infant to 6 years old. We are excited to have Joan join our Church family and encourage parents to take advantage of this important facility within our Church home. Please join us in welcoming Joan and her family.





Thank You for Volunteering

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

- Greeters Sharon Yeakel, Shannon Cheek Family, Sharon Taylor and Rolf Vogen Family.
- Ushers Pete Farm Family, Dennis Boma Family, Tim Koller Family and Cory Mitchell Family.
- Scripture Reader Chris Edmonds, John Bottorff, Mark Reifsteck and Sherri Reifsteck.
- Communion Assistant Karen Reifsteck, Barb LeGrant, Jon LeGrant and Mark Reifsteck.
- Assisting Minister Mark Reifsteck, Chris Edmonds and Alex Paul.
- Celebration Leader Brenda Lindsey.
- Sunday Shepherd Barb LeGrant, Brenda Lindsey, Bill Moehring and Pat Moehring.
- Acolyte Gretchen Scheele, Breanna Bone, Seth Buchanan and Kylie Fuoss.
- Fellowship Hosts Sheila Kingry, Ade Family, Erickson Family, Rinkel Family, Purgett Family, Hixon Family and McDonald Family.
- Breadmaker Jennifer Scheele.
- Alter Guild Patty Sapp and Ruth Studley.
- Offering Counters Stewart and Alicia Ekhoﬀ, 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



for All Ages at LCM

Adult Sunday School

We welcome all **junior high and high school young adults** to share your experiences with those of the adults.

Children’s Sunday School for Preschool through 5th grade



**Stewardship Notes
October 2014**

Stewardship is a way to grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our church’s mission and ministry. While we strive to practice good stewardship throughout the year, in November we take time to celebrate the annual opportunity to renew our goals for the coming year. Consecration Sunday will be held on November 9, 2014 at LCM. On that Sunday we will focus and commit our financial gifts, as well as our “time and talents,” for the coming year.

Here’s a preview of upcoming Stewardship events!

During October, a letter will be sent to the congregation asking members to make their financial commitments to the Lutheran Church of Mahomet’s missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries. A pledge card, asking for an estimate of your giving, will be included in the mailing, and should be returned no later than November 9 – Consecration Sunday. Although we encourage your financial commitment, every member who completes an Estimate of Giving card does so voluntarily. The Opportunities for Service booklets will also be included in the mailing and are due back on Consecration Sunday. Please prayerfully consider where you’d like to serve in doing God’s work at LCM. Opportunities abound!

Temple talks leading up to Consecration Sunday will provide a snapshot of our financial situation and an overview of how our offerings benefit our missions.

Consecration Sunday, November 9, is when your estimate of giving cards and Opportunities for Service booklets are due. Following the worship service we’ll celebrate the day with a special potluck brunch!! More details will follow.

It’s a special time of the year where we are filled with Thanksgiving for all our blessings and look forward to Christmas and the new year. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship commitments and participation!

In God’s Peace,
Cindy Erickson
Stewardship Chair
Erickson.cindy@gmail.com