

- 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

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As I was cleaning up my kitchen window recently I had to discard a much wilted vase of dandelions which had been lovingly hand-picked by Adeline for her Gram and realized that this vase of "weeds" was more precious to me than a vase of long-stemmed roses from the finest florist in town. This reminded me of the Gospel preached at LCM on July 20, Matthew 13:24—30, 36--43 The Parable of the Weeds. I hope you enjoy this lesson from the Reverend James M. McNamara I found on the parable — Randa



* Jesus tells a very interesting story in this Gospel about the parable of the weeds and the wheat. But first, a few introductory points are in order. Jesus is ever the teacher, and He teaches by telling stories. *
 * They are called parables. The trick in understanding a parable is to get the point He is trying to make. *

* In this parable the farmer sows good seed in the soil. His enemy comes and plants some weeds, so the workers want to pull up the weeds. This would seem reasonable. Don't you do this in your yard all the time? But the farmer refuses. He is afraid that, if you pull up the weeds, you will also uproot the wheat. "Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters: 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.' *
 *

* Did you ever think that perhaps your faults have some benefits? We all want to get rid of our faults, provided we recognize we have them in the first place! We get discouraged when we go to confess our sins and discover we are saying the same old things over and over again. In this parable Jesus says that the weeds can exist side by side with the wheat and God will sort it out at the end of our lives. *
 *

* Along the way it just may be that our faults have some benefit. First, they keep us humble. Second, they keep us honest so that we don't approach others with judgment. And our faults can remind us to treasure our virtues and use them to love others. There is value knowing both our capacity for evil and our capacity for good. *
 *

* Jesus likens all of this to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who sows good seed in the soil. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that, though small, grows into the largest of plants. The Kingdom of God is the experience of living with God forever in the community of love we call Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *
 *

* Do you want to go to heaven? God wants you to go to heaven. God has made His decision. God wants you to live with Him forever. Have you made your decision? Have you cast your lots with Christ? Have you humbly and honestly faced your faults and taken the higher road of virtue in dealing with others? *
 * Have you been astute to the presence of the Evil One sowing dissent and bitterness in your heart? *
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* May the Lord give you peace. Rev. James M. McNamara *





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

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

- There are 26 colleges and universities that are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)?
- Augustana College, Rock Island, IL (established 1860) and Carthage College, Kenosha, WI (established 1847) are the two ELCA colleges that are affiliated with the Central/Southern Illinois Synod?
- The ELCA operates eight seminaries across the country?
- The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA are the two ELCA seminaries with whom the Central/Southern Illinois Synod is affiliated?
- St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Champaign and the Movement, Normal are the two Lutheran campus ministry sites with the Central/Southern Illinois Synod?
- The Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, IL is the only outdoor ministries center that is affiliated with the ELCA in the State of Illinois?
- Nine synod congregations operate early childhood education centers that are affiliated with the ELCA? Two are located in Washington, IL, while the rest are located in Bloomington, Mahomet, Normal, O'Fallon, Olney, Peoria and Springfield?
- The synod has 168 pastors on its clergy roster of whom 60 are retired? That represents 35.7% of our pastors.
- The Lutheran World Federation is an association of 144 Lutheran church bodies with a combined membership of 72 million members in 79 countries?
- Within the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, 36 out of 130 congregations (27.69%) are part of a parish? There are 14 two-point parishes, 1 three-point parish and 1 five-point parish?

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

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

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



Sharing the Faith With Friends:

Please join us in September as we begin a new book to study. Erasing Hell by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle is a contrast to Rob Bell 's book Love Wins. 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. The first meeting will be Tuesday evening, September 16, from 6:30-8:00. You can participate as little or as much as you would like.



Romans 12:4-8: For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully

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, 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.



AUGUST 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 July 14, 2014, meeting have been approved and posted.

Matters discussed or decided at the August 11, 2014, meeting were as follows:

1. That giving for 2014 is down compared to the same time as last year and that expenses are up compared to the same time as last year. Increased expenses were attributed to more snow removal than normal and higher electricity costs
2. That the interim pastors' contracts had been renewed for another six months
3. Having youth Sunday school and intergenerational lessons
4. Confirmation orientation is scheduled for August 26
5. Having a paid nursery attendant
6. That the following council positions are open for election: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Adult Education, Congregational Life, Music and Worship, and Social Missions and Ministries.
7. Scheduling the meeting for election of council members for October 26, 2014, following the service
8. Plans for Rally Sunday
9. Mailing out directories that had not been picked up with a letter inviting those members to Rally Sunday
10. Working on a survey to present to the congregation
11. Having a pictorial directory both on the website and on a bulletin board at church

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, September 8, 2014, at 7:00pm.



Sunday, September 7

**Adult Education and Small Groups
Monthly Newsletter -- September, 2014**

Adult Sunday School resumes September 14 at 10:30 a. m. A 13-week study, featuring a bold approach to studying the Bible, titled "Fearless Conversations: Why is Jesus so Radical?," discussions from *Matthew* and *Luke*, "dives deep into the *Bible* to find the truth."

Adult Ed/Small Groups goals are to seize opportunities to show "**Faith and Love in Action.**" To carry out these goals, the Committee is focusing on the skills of relationship-building:

1. **listen** carefully to God, to congregation, and to community needs;
2. **build relationships** through interaction with others as we go about our daily duties seven days a week
3. **participate in a cross-generational approach** during Sunday School and in Small Groups.

We continue to consider and discuss issues that relate to all ages and groups:

1. How do we share God's love in this age of declining church attendance? Sharing acts of caring will reassure, "I'm here for you." God will supply opportunities-- we need only to be aware of needs.
2. Can we do a gifts assessment of our youth and work them into church functions? Can we place a youth with an adult leader to shadow that person and learn to function in church activities?
3. How do we encourage inactive members to become active again? We, as Pastor Dealey suggested, focused on "Homecoming" on Sept. 7, Rally Day!

Small Groups Choices for Fall 2014

You may join one or more groups: Supper-Eights, Sharing the Faith with Friends, Bible Study, Monday Morning Sewing Group, Guys' Night Out, Ladies' Night Out, Creative Card Ministry. Watch the Sunday Bulletins and the monthly Newsletters for places and dates.

--Margaret and Gene Rinkel



Thank You for Volunteering

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

Greeters	Gene Rinkel Family, Robert Witherell Family, Nancy Rosenbery and Mark Dalton Family.
Ushers	Chris Edmonds Family, Norm Knicl Family, Dan Erickson Family and John Sapp Family.
Scripture Reader	Sheila Kingry, Sherri Reifsteck, Brenda Lindsey, and Nancy Rosenbery.
Communion Assistant	Tim Lindsey, Theresa Edmonds, Jennifer Scheele and Nancy Rosenbery.
Assisting Minister	Kendyl Cummins, Mark Reifsteck, Chris Edmonds and Alex Paul.
Celebration Leader	Karla Washburn.
Sunday Shepherd	Laura Zick-Bottorff, Chris Edmonds, Bill Taylor, Margaret Rinkel and Pete Farm.
Acolyte	Breanna Bone, Kylie Fuoss, Gretchen Scheele, Seth Buchanan and Issy Farm.
Fellowship Hosts	Jennifer Farm, Jon LeGrant, Leslie Knicl and Laura Zick-Bottorff.
Breadmaker	Jennifer Farm.
Alter Guild	Nancy Rosenbery and Elsbeth Hixon.
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	

Stewardship Notes – September 2014

Stewardship can be described as “a response of gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has done for us and the world in Jesus Christ.” How encompassing! This description is in The Lutheran (August 2014) article: “*Financial Stewardship; A way of life allowing us to become grateful, generous, loving, hopeful people.*”

Rally Sunday, September 7, provides an ideal occasion for us at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet to spruce up our stewardship by getting involved in LCM activities and programs. Whether you are interested in singing in the choir, working with youth, joining one (or more) small groups, serving on a committee, signing up to usher or read Scripture during worship service, or volunteering in the new Congregational Care Team, ETC. Whatever your interest, opportunities abound and are waiting for you! Stewardship allows you to serve God and grow in your Christian faith as you enjoy fellowship and nurture relationships.

25 (of 50) More Things You Can Do To Improve Your Ministry

In the August LCM newsletter, the first 25 (of 50) ideas were shared. Here are the remaining 25 ideas of possible things that you can do to improve your stewardship/ ministry to others:

1. Use the gifts that God has given you to do a “special project” in the community or around the church
2. Take someone out for a meal, not because you have to, but because you want to spend some time with them.
3. Encourage someone to take whatever steps they need to take in order to deepen their faith.
4. Become a “proportionate giver” – someone who gives a specific percentage of their income to support the work of the Church.
5. Provide comfort to those who are bereaved.
6. Show patience under “less than ideal” circumstances.
7. Organize a small group around a common concern that people have.
8. Tell your family and friends how much you love and appreciate them.
9. Be enthusiastic about your ministry, your church, and your faith.
10. Invite others to become involved in a “mission” about which you feel very strongly.
11. Use your knowledge and expertise from the secular world to benefit the Church.
12. Remember the Church and other benevolent causes in your estate plans.
13. Write a letter to a politician asking their support of God-like governmental practices.
14. Discover new ways in which you might become a “peacemaker” for someone else.
15. Find out more about church missionaries and see what you can do to support their work.
16. Give up “life-destroying habits” (e.g. smoking) and do more things that are “life enhancing” (e.g. exercise)
17. Be more intentional about “making a difference” in someone’s life.
18. Start a “spiritual journal” by writing down Bible verses that are meaningful to you.
19. Serve as a “crisis hotline” volunteer.
20. Bring a “home-cooked meal to someone who recently has returned home from the hospital.
21. Share your “faith story” with others who do not yet know God.
22. Engage in a ministry project that is “new” to you.
23. Keep your word when you make a promise.
24. Show mercy to someone who is hurting.
25. Explain to others the difference God has made in your life.

*These 25 suggestions are from **Creative Parish Resources**, P.O. Box 663, Lockport, IL 60441. Pastor Bob Dealey is the person behind Creative Parish Resources, AND the Director for Evangelical Mission at our very own Central/Southern Illinois Synod!!*

Enjoy September and show your Stewardship!

Cindy Erickson

Stewardship

erickson.cindy@gmail.com



Working together to fight malaria

“Before the coming of this project we used to bury so many people, especially children, due to malaria,” recalls Onyait Michael. Onyait is a village health team member serving in the Katakwi District of Eastern Uganda.

The tragedy that Onyait describes is not unusual in today’s world. A child dies every 60 seconds from malaria, a disease that claims the lives of about 627,000 people per year in Africa, mostly children.

Malaria is preventable. It can even be eliminated by our working together as Christ’s church in the world.

It’s difficult to wrap our minds around the mosquito-borne disease, since it was eradicated in the United States in 1951. Malaria seems like a distant disease from another time and place.

But that’s not the case for many people in the world. Malaria remains widespread

in about 100 countries throughout tropical and subtropical parts of the world. About 3.4 billion people live in areas where they are at risk of contracting malaria.

The health crisis of malaria is changing. Hope is beginning to displace despair.

Lives are being saved

Since 2010, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been supporting the malaria programs of our Lutheran partners in Africa, and this church has set a goal of raising \$15 million by 2015 through the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

About \$12.5 million has been raised so far and, through the ELCA Malaria Campaign, congregations are helping to make a significant impact.

“With this project, we are at the forefront of activities that are seeing malaria cases in our communities

reducing. These days we hardly hear of a child die due to malaria, or those that are rushed to the hospital as a result of severe malaria,” says Onyait. “With this support, I and other village health team members are very determined to ensure that malaria is completely eliminated from our communities.”

Program results from our partners are quite consistent — fewer deaths from malaria are being reported, training and treatment are becoming more accessible, malaria awareness activities and education are reaching more people, and prevention practices are being used by increasing numbers of households.

Join in this life-giving and community-changing work. Discover what you can do to support and promote the ELCA Malaria Campaign at www.ELCA.org/malaria.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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School has begun and, as you begin to look at schedules and activities, we hope that you are including your child's religious instruction in your plans.

Lutheran Church of Mahomet will once again be offering LOGOS on Wednesday nights beginning September 10.

You are invited to join us on Wednesday September 3rd at 6:30 pm to learn about our midweek youth ministry and to register for 2014-2015.

It is our hope that you will come and join us in the discussion of what we will be doing, the importance of LOGOS, procedures and policies, and to meet the adults who will be working in this ministry. This is your opportunity to hear about what's being planned and to share your desires and concerns.

Confirmation Class

Begins Wednesday, September 3





They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
