

- 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

September 2015



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



Where to find me:

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

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

Sundays: In Worship

Other times by appointment - Pastor Nikoli

Church Office Hours—Monday through Thursday
8:00AM to 1:00 PM

John 19:25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

As we prepare for Rally Sunday on September 13, we are reminded of our deeply familial connections to those around us. In Christ's incarnation—in his becoming fully human—we have become one body in Christ so that we can claim our status as children of God. Each person on this planet has been called into relationship with each other and to think differently about our neighbors.

The above text is quite appropriate for our Rally Day preparations. The word 'rally' denotes a group of people coming together so that a larger whole might be supported and the betterment of the community be realized. Even when Jesus was dying on the cross, he looks down upon his friends and family and tells them to treat each other as family. It's almost as if he's saying, "Rally to each other. Take care of each other."

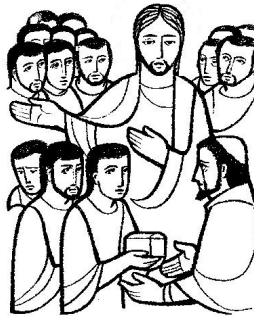
We, too, are called to rally together, to uphold each other amidst the difficulty and stress that comes with being human in this world. As we begin yet another programming year here at Lutheran Church of Mahomet, we rally together to support our local educators, police, firefighters, families, and caregivers. We will pray for each other, and we will serve each other as one family, as children of God.

Rally Day, September 13, will bring worship, Sunday School, public service, and an opportunity to give thanks for the ways in which we are supported in this place. Let us encourage one another in this coming year as fellow members of Christ's family. May the peace of Christ be with us all!

In peace,
Pastor Nikoli
pastornikoli@lcofm.org



Sunday School starts on September 13! Sunday School is offered for all ages, and we're beginning a new program for our Pre-K through Fifth Grade. Our curriculum is based on the lectionary texts (weekly scripture excerpts) and takes seriously the economic, cultural, racial, and educational diversities represented in our children. There are no enrollment fees required! If you feel called to be a Sunday School teacher, and for all other inquiries, please contact Pastor Nikoli.



Stewardship News – September 2015

Member Photo Board

The photo board is up!! Take a look in the short hallway to the church office to find your church family photos. It's a work in progress! If you haven't done so already, there's still time for you to submit photos for the Photo Board!!

Here's what you need to do:

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. 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

Upcoming Stewardship events you won't want to miss!

- *Consecration Sunday - November 8th,
- *Advent Caring Tree – November/December
- *Creche Display – Jan 10, 2016 Epiphany Sunday

Christian stewards seek the heart of God in faithfully, joyfully and gratefully managing all the gifts God has given.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

The Congregation will participate in the ELCA "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday September 13th. We will help our neighbors in any way we can by volunteering for service. The Evangelism Committee is still open to suggestions for serving. "God's Work Our Hands" T-shirts with our Church Name have been ordered for purchase. We will also have a customized banner to display at our location of service. Please contact Pete Farm for more details. Or visit <http://www.elca.org/dayofservice/>



Confirmation is starting up again! In each programming year, the confirmation group tackles rotating material. For example, in the 2015-16 year, we will wrestle first with the Hebrew Scriptures and then Lutheran History and Catechism. Our curriculum does not require correct answers or prescribed belief; instead, we hope to engage each person with authentic questions which link our faith lives with our lived experiences. Our varied lives are crucial for understanding our relationships with each other, the world, and God. It is the charge of each participant to come to class open to difference, honest in contribution, and courageous to be herself or himself. It's never too late to start Confirmation! A Parent/Guardian/Student orientation will take place at the church at 7pm on Wednesday, September 9, and classes begin on Wednesday September 23. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Nikoli.





AUGUST 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 July, 2015 meeting have been approved and posted.

At the August 10th, 2015, meeting, the following motions was made and passed:

None

Matters discussed or decided at the August 10th, 2015 meeting were as follows:

1. We are still looking at moving some of the Church's savings. Bill, Paula, and Pastor will continue to review and bring a recommendation to the council.
2. Discussed the roof on the Church. We did sustain hail damage from this summer's storm. The insurance company has paid our claim. We are quoting replacing the asphalt shingles for the full roof. Early indications are that the cost of full replacement are in-line with the insurance adjustors estimate and payment.
3. Discussed our parade float for the Sangamon River Festival in August. The trailer has been donated, and expecting good involvement from the youth in the construction.
4. Discussed the wheelchair lift. The installers agree the current coat rack area is the best place for installation, and it was decided this will be the location. Expected completion of the project is no later than Thanksgiving.
5. Discussed the integration of the ELW's into the worship service. Music and Worship proposed a plan that will slowly introduce the congregation to the ELW.
6. Discussed re-starting youth Sunday School. Pastor Nikoli suggested a curriculum that is easy for guest teachers to run with. The council agreed with the curriculum and are hoping it will add to the participation rate of members teaching youth Sunday School.
7. Discussed All God's Children, and the need for us to have more alignment in our identity. Planning to have direct discussions between council and All God's Children in the coming months.
8. 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 14th, 2015, at 7:00pm.

A Heart in Tune with God Sings Melodies of Praise

Psalm 98:1

*O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.*

The phrase "new song" comes to us from the Psalms, where it appears six times. Four of these are invitations to sing to the Lord a new song (33:3, 96:1, 98:1, 149:1). One is a statement by the Psalmist that he will sing a new song (144:9). The other instance, identifies the source of a new song: "[The Lord] put a new song in my mouth" (40:3).

Biblical scholars see two possible meanings of the phrase "new song" (*shir chadash* in Hebrew). Some emphasize the literal newness of the lyrics. Others explain that a new song needn't be recently written. The psalmist can use this language to refer to a familiar song sung with new meaning and passion. Both literal and figurative meanings of "new song" may well be present in the Psalms.

Though Psalm 98 is about God freeing the Israelites from slavery, it is prophetically also about our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. And as we remember what God has done for us, we can trust God to help us with today's difficulties as well as tomorrow's uncertainties.

No matter the precise interpretation of "new song", the Psalms reveal that a new song comes from a fresh experience with God.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that out of the world's population, 4% die attending movies, 8% die eating in fast food restaurants, 10% die in home accidents, 18% die from smoking, 20% die in bars, lounges and taverns, 40% die from accidents, misc., but only 1 out of 75 million people die in choir rehearsal! As you can see, staying out of the choir may be hazardous to your health! If you are not a member of the choir, please see me for details on how you can be! (no proof of statistics available). Kat Downs- Director of Worship, Music, and Arts Ministries

It is that time of year when families have come home from vacations, and children and youth are back to school. Fall is also the beginning of many activities in our church: LOGOS, Sunday School, Small Groups, Cub Scouts, Football Dinners, and Choir and Handchime Rehearsals. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a member of one of our choirs. We meet on Thursday nights and everyone 6th grade or older is welcome. No previous experience is required, just a love for God and a love for music

Suite Inspirations- our handchime ensemble practices from 6:30-7:00 in the sanctuary

Chancel Choir- our adult choir holds rehearsals from 7-8 in one of the double classrooms

Back to School

