

# LCM Youth Newsletter April 2013

## Thank you!

To the following Youth who served at the March 3rd Youth Sunday  
Worship Service:

Isabelle Farm	Gretchen Scheele
Kylie Fuoss	Chatman Edmonds
Jacqueline Middendorf	Joseph Scheele
Zach Schnepfer	Karlie Fuoss
Isabelle Scheele	

Thank you to Congregational Life for the yummy Potluck after service. Kite making was super-fun, too!



The next Youth Celebration Sunday is  
June 2nd, 10:00 am

## VBS August 4-8 5:15 - 7:30



Mark your calendar!  
Ages 3-5  
&  
students entering  
Grades K-5th

### Mission Trip

Plans are underway for a Summer Youth Mission Trip. Watch the Youth Board outside the Church Office for more information. Questions? Call or email Alicia Ek-hoff  
ekhoffal@gmail.com  
217-649-8472

### Sunday School

10:30-11:15 am

K-5th Grades meet in the double classroom for BUZZ  
Jr. & Sr. High meet in the Youth Room for Faith Lens

- 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

April, 2013



### Quest for Meaning

Like a single piece in a large jig-saw puzzle, a man's work should be a meaningful unit in some larger pattern.

A farmer grows wheat. Wheat provides bread and strength for a mother. The mother rears her sons. Her sons grow up to farm the wheat fields. In this repetitious round of labor, where are the meaningful pieces to be found?

It is not enough to labor only that life may be kept going, unless one knows the answer to life itself. Why should a man live at all? Certainly not to grow wheat!

Man does not live by bread alone. This is the clue given us by Scripture. It is not enough to work in order thereby to eat and sleep and work again.

Each of us has a job which overarches and pervades all we do. We are to live and work to glorify God. To live in His glad service, whether in the home or school or government—this is the only assignment that can give meaning to the varied and repetitious occupations of man.

We have been created by Him and redeemed by Him. We are His and in His employ. To bring to Him the offerings of our industry and skills, our love, and loyalty—and to do this in and through every daily task that confronts us—this gives to our labors the stamp of abiding significance.

Contributed by Pastor Vic Baderschneider

## Announcements

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMING UP IN JUNE!**

**The 26th Annual Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 6-8 in Springfield. Our theme this year is: “Blessed to be a Blessing!”** There you have it! The core of our faith... the heart of our lives as Lutheran Christians. The Assembly allows us to take time from our busy lives to assess how this critical belief fills our days and gives guidance and meaning to our actions. It is a time for reflection, for discussion, for learning---a mix of learning and living. Additional information has been posted on our quad-board.

**As in the past, LCM will send delegates to the Assembly.** We are entitled to send three lay voting members; two adults (one male and one female) and one youth or young adult (age 21 or below). LCM pays your expenses while at the Assembly. If you are interested in attending the Assembly as an LCM delegate, please contact Bill Moehring at 586-7036 or by email at: billmoehring@yahoo.com. **Please let Bill know by April 30 if you are interested in serving as a delegate.** If more than the allowed number of delegates wish to attend, we will pull names from a hat.

### **East-Central Conference of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod ELCA**

East Central Illinois Conference met in Assembly on March 17 at 12:00 PM at the First Lutheran Church in Decatur. Delegates from Lutheran Church of Mahomet were Gene and Margaret Rinkel, Pastor Emil Blobaum, and Pastor Victor Baderschneider. Marian Baderschneider was in attendance as well. The Assembly opened with worship led by host pastor, Michael Hoy. Conference Dean, John Setterlund, delivered the homily. Present from the Synod staff was Bishop John Roth and Pastor Robert Dealey, Director of Evangelical Mission. Elections were held for various positions in the conference and on synod committees. Pastor Robert Rasmus of St. Matthew Lutheran Church In Urbana was elected Dean. As Dean, he is now a member of the CSIS Council. Marilyn Dudley was elected secretary of the conference. Carol Manley was elected to serve on the Synod Social Justice Committee. Pastor Elaine Olson of St. Andrews congregation and Student Center was re-elected to serve on the committee on consultation. There was discussion about this conference being in charge of/or serving in various aspects of the Central Southern Illinois Assembly to be held in Springfield on June 6, 7 and 8.

Following the meeting, members of First Lutheran Church and St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church in the same neighborhood, gave tours of the food pantry and an explanation of the feeding of the homeless. This ministry to the homeless in Central Decatur meets a need to feed the homeless on days and hours of the week when other food services are unavailable. It is very heartening to know that these two Christian churches have banded together in this special ministry.

The delegates and visitors were served a wonderful meal and enjoyed fellowship.

LCM Delegates

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some of you may already know that I sit on the Candidacy Committee of our Central/Southern Illinois Synod (ELCA) in Springfield. I have served on the Committee since last November and am one of fourteen members. Most of the committee members are pastors from within our Synod, with me being one of four lay members. I feel very honored and blessed to be of service to our church in this manner and wanted to share a little about my experience.

On behalf of the whole ELCA, each synod forms a Candidacy Committee that performs the sensitive task of making decisions about the fitness for public ministry of potential candidates who could end up serving nationwide within the ELCA. In that capacity, we essentially perform two roles: (1) evaluate candidates to assess their character and qualifications to serve as ordained pastors or other public ministries of the church and (2) guide, encourage, and support candidates for public ministry in the ELCA. These two roles could be described as “gate keeper” and “nurturer”.

To evaluate candidates, we perform initial face-to-face interviews to assess whether candidates should move on to other evaluation phases as part of their initial discernment process that explores an individual's potential for rostered ministry and readiness to begin the process of seminary preparation and candidacy in the ELCA. As you can imagine, this is a very sensitive and intense interview process as the candidate cannot move forward without our initial recommendation. Thankfully, we receive very good training on how to conduct these initial interviews. In the end, we must ask ourselves whether we feel the candidate would be a good pastor for a congregation.

Once a candidate enters the process, we help guide and encourage them as they progress through seminary by serving as “relators”. Our Synod currently has fifteen candidates, all of whom are in different places in their education process. Each member of the Committee serves as a relator to at least one candidate. As relator, we stay in periodic contact with the candidate to provide a connection back to their home Synod (many of our candidates are going to seminary out of state) and relay any problems or issues that they might be experiencing to the Synod office. I am serving as a relator to a candidate who grew up near the Quad Cities, graduated from Bradley, and is currently attending seminary in Berkeley, CA. He is in his second year of seminary and is scheduled to graduate in May 2015.

My involvement with the Candidacy Committee has given me a much greater appreciation for the synod-level evaluation process that ordained pastors go through, in addition to their formal seminary education. In addition, it has given me an inside look at how serious the ELCA is about making sure that only candidates with outstanding character and strong theological qualifications are allowed to become ELCA pastors, while at the same time providing a nurturing hand to those who meet the requirements. We should all be comforted by the ELCA's efforts in this important area.

Bill Moehring  
Council President



MARCH 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 February 18, 2013, meeting have been approved and posted.

At the March 18, 2013, regular meeting of council, the following motions were made and passed:

1. To allocate up to \$5,000 for pastoral search expenses
2. That the IT/Communications person be a resource person for the church council and be present at council meetings with voice but no vote

Other matters discussed or decided at the March 18 meeting were as follows:

1. That a webinar called "Revitalizing Your Congregation" will be held at our church April 11-13 with other area ELCA churches being invited to participate. The congregation is invited, and several council members will be coordinating this event.
2. Larry Gibson will present a temple talk in April about how members can use the church website to update their membership profile, request reimbursement of expenses, and make event requests.
3. A bulletin board will be started with pictures of the new members and new member packets should be assembled.
4. A group called Faith in Place, which promotes conservation and stewardship of our resources, has contacted the church. Several council members will be checking further into this program.
5. Pastor and Marion Baderschneider, Pastor Blobaum, and Gene and Margaret Rinkel attended the East Central Conference Assembly on Sunday, March 17, and reported to council about the assembly.
6. Ways to keep members, active and inactive, involved and participating in the congregation and that this is the responsibility of all members of the congregation.
7. Synod assembly delegates are needed to attend the conference in June.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any council meeting. The meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month. 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 Thursday prior to the meeting so that the item can be placed on the agenda. The next council meeting is April 15, 2013, at 7:00pm.

LCM Webinar Event – "Revitalizing Your Congregation"  
April 11-13 at LCM

## Revitalizing Your Congregation

### Four Approaches in one Conference

- Engaging the Uninvolved • Energizing the Unclaimed
- Empowering the Unknown • Enlisting the Unafraid

Spring fills each of us the eagerness for renewal and growth. Our Lutheran Church of Mahomet is no different! We are excited to be hosting "Revitalizing Your Congregation" and want to invite LCM members to participate in some or all of the four sessions, as your interests and time allow! The conference begins Thursday, April 11 at 1:00 pm and ends Saturday, April 13 at noon. The event is FREE. Some refreshments will be provided. Meals will be on your own.

The "live" conference, presented by Healthier Church, will be held at Edison Park Lutheran Church in Chicago and broadcast via webinar. **LCM has signed up to host a site for the webinar!** We have invited Christ Lutheran in Monticello to join us, as well as the other churches in our synod conference.

Sign up online to attend any session of the webinar on our LCM website: <http://lcofm.org/healthier-church-webinar-signup.html> Additionally, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the quadboard in the narthex. You may also contact Cindy Erickson at [Erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:Erickson.cindy@gmail.com) or 217-586-3142 to register.

The topics and presenters for the four sessions are listed below. In addition to presentations, the sessions will include "micro presentations" and time for small group discussions.

#### Thursday April 11

1:00pm – 6:00pm Energizing the Unclaimed – "Who Is Really Welcome" by Stephen Bourman

#### Friday, April 12

8:30am – 11:45am Empowering the Unknown – "When it's Time for Change" by Ed Kruse

1:00pm – 5:30pm Enlisting the Unafraid – "Making Things Happen for a Change" by Bill Steadman

#### Saturday, April 13

8:30am – 12:00pm Engaging the Uninvolved – "This May Be the Biggest Mission Field" by Ed Kruse

Visit our LCM website ([www.lcofm.org](http://www.lcofm.org)) for more details on the webinar and to sign up. **This event can contribute so much to bringing us together and moving us forward as a congregation! I encourage you to prayerfully consider participating!**

In God's Peace,

Cindy Erickson  
Stewardship Chair  
[Erickson.cindy@gmail.com](mailto:Erickson.cindy@gmail.com)

## Something to Think About

I only hope we find God again before it's too late! The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary:

**My Confession:** I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking. In light of recent events—terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started with Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our Schools, and we said OK. "Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. This Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal; and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill their classmates and themselves? Probably if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW"

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send "jokes through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace. Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe or what they will think of you for sending it. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us. Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not, then just discard it. No one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.

My Best regards, Honestly and Respectfully, Ben Stein



# REJOICE

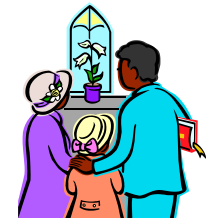
**First Communion:** Eight of our youth received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday, March 10. There was a great turn out for the services in support of these young people. The congregation was very pleased and wishes to extend congratulations to them and their families

Ben Clements, Emma Clements, Isabelle Farm, Karlie Fuoss, Kylie Fuoss, Joseph Scheele, Lauren Schnepfer and Noah Schnepfer

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**Welcome New Members:** The Lutheran Church of Mahomet is pleased to announce the receipt of new members on Easter Sunday, March 31. The following members were recognized during the service and enjoyed fellowship with the rest of the congregation following service. Please extend a joyous welcome to:

The Buchanan Family—Linda, Ken, Barbara, Kenneth, Callum and Seth  
Clifton Birley and June Willms  
Berde Weber  
Helen Knight  
Sean Roberts  
Richard and Marge Johnson



### Bringing Back Our Lost Sheep:

Did you know ... that the average weekly participation of ELCA church members is 27.8 %, down from 30.1% in 2003? The predominant reason for a member's inactivity is connected with a major life crisis, such as divorce, death of a loved one, job loss, a disagreement within the congregation, or major illness. Crises such as these are physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Folks undergoing these kinds of life changing events need our best efforts of spiritual care. A phone call, home visit, an email, or card can mean so much to someone who has alienated themselves from their family, friends, and church family. And, the longer they stay away from worship the harder it is to come back because they are embarrassed from having been away for so long.

I experienced this same drift following the death of my husband in September of 2009. Members of our congregation sent cards, dropped by the house, and called to no avail. I wouldn't answer the phone, come to the door, or acknowledge their missives. But, slowly, I felt their love and care. In fact, I desperately needed that human connection, and needed to renew my spiritual life. I finally returned to worship in April of 2012.

So, if you are missing a member of our congregation, tell them. Let them know that you are praying for them. And, let them know you are there for them for any reason because they are a part of your life. And, you know what? We need them too. Yours in Christ, Kelly Strobe.