

JUST FOR FUN

What are the pictures?

A young lad was visiting a church for the first time, checking all the announcements and posters along the walls. When he came to a group of pictures of men in uniform, he asked a nearby usher, "Who are all those men in the pictures?" The usher replied, "Why, those are our boys who died in the service". Dumbfounded, the youngster asked, "Was that the morning service or the evening service?"



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."



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THE ATHEIST

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of evolution" had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind. As he turned to look, he saw a 7-foot grizzly charge toward him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He tried to run even faster, so scared that tears were coming to his eyes. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically as he tried to run even faster, but he tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up and saw the bear right on top of him raising his paw to kill him. At that instant he cried out "Oh my God!" Just then, time stopped. The bear froze, the forest was silent, the river even stopped moving. A bright light shone upon the man, and a voice came out of the sky saying, "You deny my existence all of these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit my creation to a cosmic accident and now do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist, ever so proud, looked into the light and said "it would be rather hypocritical to ask to be a Christian after all these years, but could you make the bear a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. The light went out, the river ran, the sounds of the forest continued and the bear put his paw down. The bear then brought both paws together, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I thank thee for this food which I am about to receive."

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

- 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

May, 2013

It is Important that you come to worship on Sunday !

At the Webinar that we hosted at The Lutheran Church of Mahomet on April 11 – 13, we heard these words from the Word of God. **"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another ..."** Hebrews 10:23 - 25a

We are expected by God to come to His house each week and there worship Him. God is watching for us to come and enter into His sanctuary. He is waiting for our songs of praise. He is waiting for our prayers offered in words and in silence. He looks forward to giving Himself to you in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He has prepared a special message for you from His Holy Word. His message that gives peace, hope, encouragement, forgiveness, strength and guidance for today and tomorrow. He longs to remind you that you are never alone in your journey of life that **"I am with you always"**. What a joy it is for God when you are present in His house to worship Him!

God knows how important it is for you to come and worship Him each week. That is why God in His Word tells us to do this. God wants your life to have meaning, a purpose and be fulfilling. When we leave our worship of God out of our life we are cutting ourselves off from our lifeline.

At the Webinar we were asked to **encourage one another** to come to worship God each Sunday. So I am trying to do that through this article. You see, I want the best for you in your life. The best comes to you and me when we are in a relationship with God through faithful worship.

I pray that you will take this to heart. I pray that you will come each Sunday to worship God. When you do that it blesses the rest of us who are gathered there too. We need to see you, speak with you, share with you our love for Jesus. For that is all part of being "the family of God".

Your Brother in Christ who cares about you,

Pastor Vic Baderschneider, Interim



Announcements



Baccalaureate 2013: The MSHS Baccalaureate Celebration will be held Sunday, May 19 at 3:00PM at the Mahomet Christian Church, 908 N. Lake of the Woods Road, Mahomet, IL for MSHS Seniors and their families. The celebration will include a time of worship, senior testimonies, a keynote speaker and a DVD presentation. Questions may be directed to Mindy May @mmay@ms.k12.il.us or by phone to 217-649-0116.

Spring Work Day: Buildings & Grounds will have our spring work day on Sat. June 1st. General work and clean-up being planned, any ideas or concerns contact Mark Dalton 202-6616 smdton62@gmail.com

Call Committee Late April Update: The Call Committee is happy to share that we are moving forward with continued discussions with a pastoral candidate. This candidate was the committee's unanimous choice to be invited back. Regarding the other two candidates, one candidate voluntarily withdrew to explore options in a larger setting and the other candidate was released from the process by the committee. At this time, the committee and candidate are exploring scheduling options. It is important to understand that both parties are in agreement that this is not an offer or acceptance of a call, rather a deeper consideration for both parties on where God is leading us both.



Prayers from our congregational family members are an important during this time of discernment. Please keep the candidate, the call committee members, and our congregational family in your hearts and continued prayers.

Thank You for Sponsoring Marian and I on April 14th!



It was on Sunday morning, April 14th that we were gathered in the Fellowship Hall after worship just enjoying being together. After thinking about it for a time, I finally got up enough courage to make an announcement. I announced that Marian and I were going to walk in the **Crop Walk** that afternoon. We were going to walk six miles. We were walking to raise money to help those who are hungry and homeless in the Champaign-Urbana area and in our world.

I asked if you would sponsor Marian and I for the **Crop Walk** by making a donation. Your response was overwhelming! We thank you for your gift of \$423.00 in sponsoring us for this walk. I am happy to say that we made the six miles with a few stops along the way at various churches for water and a break. You have "**blessed us to be a blessing**" to others through our walking. We thank you for your response of love and kindness!

The monies raised from **Crop Walk** are divided as follows: 25% to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Times Center for Homeless and the Daily Bread Kitchen; 75% to **Church World Service/Crop**.

Pastor Vic and Marian Baderschneider

Adult Sunday School -- All available adults are invited to a Sunday school discussion group at 10:30 a. m. each Sunday in the Adult Classroom. Discussions are currently based on the **Wired Word**, a weekly news events source, providing selected Scripture passages and questions for engaging class members. Two events per week provide selections from which teacher and members may choose. Alex Paul, has graciously agreed to teach the class begun by Dia Nuesmeyer, prior to family illnesses. Alex, a graduate in Religious Studies, and a member of the Adult Education and Small Groups Team, brings a wealth of Biblical knowledge to the class. You won't want to miss this opportunity to share in applying Bible teachings to current affairs!

--Margaret and Gene Rinkel, Team co-chairs

Did You Know?

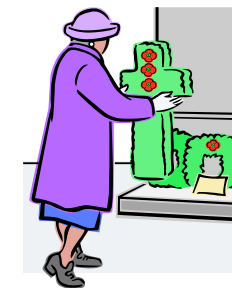
Did You Know...that our church is a mission station? As the song goes, "we all are one in mission; we all are one in call." When we meet on Sunday as God's faithful people to hear the Word of God and share in the Lords Supper, we are reminded to serve all of the people as Jesus did, and strive for peace and justice in all the earth.

One way we do this is through our tithing. Currently, 5% of our giving goes to the Synod to be used to further God's mission for His people. We call this Mission Support. Through Mission Support, we are able to help new congregations with start-up costs, send ELCA youth to gatherings or missions, fund scholarships to seminaries, help congregations to find new Pastors, provide aid to communities suffering from the aftermath of natural disasters or terrorist attacks, and support ministries training medical and first responder personnel with vital life giving skills through ELCA and our ministry partners worldwide. Together, our outreach makes God's love for those in need a very real presence, and our kindness reveals Christ's presence within them as well. We are an example of the butterfly effect. The relatively small flutter of our benevolence creates waves of God's love around the world.

In 2010, we helped to fund 60 new congregations, 163 existing congregations intentionally focused on renewal, \$2.5 million in grants to support ELCA ministries, 240 missionaries in 50 countries, advocacy work with the UN and federal government, 26 ELCA colleges and universities, 8 ELCA seminaries, 180 campus ministries, and partnerships with Lutheran World Relief, World Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches in Christ. We directly support Helping Hands Mahomet, Restoration Urban Ministries, Crisis Nursery, the Belarus church, and Salt & Light. What an awesome reflection of the good news of Jesus Christ! What a bold and courageous invitation to the Holy Spirit within us! Thanks Be to God!

The mission statement of the ELCA is, "Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world." As we rebuild our relationships and grow our congregation, we pray to increase our contribution to the world ministry as we are called by Christ to do. At one time, we gave 12% to Mission Support. I pray that as we grow, so will our mission support. Matthew 25:45 says "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you as you did it *not* to one of the least of these, you did it *not to me*'." Filled with the healing presence of the Holy Spirit and God's love, and yours in Christ, I thank you for your generosity.

Faithfully submitted,
Kelly Strode



Remember our veterans and their families who sacrificed all for us so that we are able to enjoy our freedom,

this Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.



Six Youth Being Confirmed on May 19

Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry. A two year period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church and Luther's Small Catechism. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Christian Church in Holy Baptism.

On the day of their Baptism their parents and sponsors made a confession of faith for them. They promised to faithfully bring them to the services of God's house, and to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. They further promised to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith. So that living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church they may lead a godly life.

Now on their Confirmation these youth are affirming what their parents and sponsors confessed on their behalf. On this day these youth make a public profession of the faith into which they were baptized through the words of the Apostles Creed. And they publicly make the promise to continue in the covenant God made with them in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear His Word and share in His supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We ask that you, the Lutheran Church of Mahomet, be in prayer for these six youth. That with the help of the Holy Spirit they will prove to be faithful in carrying out their Baptismal promise they make before God.

Those being Confirmed are: Grace Beach, Noah Carsten, Morgan Cheek, Kaylee Kibler, Jaclyn Middendorf and Madison Mitchell. We are thankful for our opportunity to share the Christian Faith with them. We look forward to our partnership with them in the family of God through The Lutheran Church of Mahomet.

Don't worry! Even if you didn't attend the "Revitalizing Your Congregation" webinar held April 11-13 at LCM, you will still be able to reap the benefits from the event! Members from our congregation who attended are: Bill Moehring, Kat Downs, Kelly Strode, Larry Gibson, Margaret Rinkel, Gene Rinkel, Dia Nuesmeyer, Pastor Blobaum, Pastor Baderschneider, Marian Baderschneider, Barb LeGrant, Pete Farm, and Cindy Erickson. In addition, there were participants from Monticello's Christ Lutheran Church, other congregations, and our Synod. We learned and shared many exciting ways to discover and grow our spiritual gifts. In the coming months we'll explore how to incorporate some of the highlights here at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet!

One immediate benefit from the webinar was getting acquainted with our synod's Evangelical Ministry director, Pastor Bob Dealey. He attended the webinar and expressed his appreciation of our hosting the webinar and his interest in our congregation's spiritual growth and promising future. Below is Pastor Dealey's letter to me following the webinar. I was so uplifted by his encouraging words that I wanted to share with all LCM members!

"Thank you and the folks at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet for your warm welcome and your gracious hospitality this past week. Thank you also for hosting the Revitalizing the Church web event. Because of your willingness to open up your church, you have been a blessing to many people and I pray that those who attended will touch the lives of countless others with what they learned at the event. Please extend my thanks and appreciation to your church council and to those who helped make the event successful.

I also want to let you know that I have been praying for your congregation.... I know that at times it is not easy, but I have a Bible verse that I would like to share with you:

***'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* (Jeremiah 29:11)**

God desires nothing but the best for His children and as children of God, God desires nothing but the best for us. I am very confident and very hopeful for the future that God has planned for His children at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. God will lead you, guide you and direct you during the call process, but more importantly than that, God will lead you, guide you and direct you throughout your life. Like you, I am eager to discover who your next pastor will be, but in the meantime, I know that I can go to God in prayer, fully knowing that God desires nothing but the best for you.

I also wish to thank Bill and Larry for their willingness to host web events like this in the future. I will certainly keep that in mind and pass that along to Bishop Roth as well.

If there is anything that I can do to assist you and the congregation in the fulfillment of God's mission, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am blessed to have you as partners in ministry and hope that you feel the same about me. May God bless you always with the abundant riches of His never-failing grace."

***Peace and blessings,
Pr. Bob Dealey
Director for Evangelical Mission
Central/Southern Illinois Synod/ELCA
bob.dealey@csis-elca.org
(217) 753-7915***

Pastor Dealey is a wonderful synod resource and encourages us to contact him in evangelical and stewardship matters.

In God's Peace,

Cindy Erickson
Stewardship Chair
Erickson.cindy@gmail.com

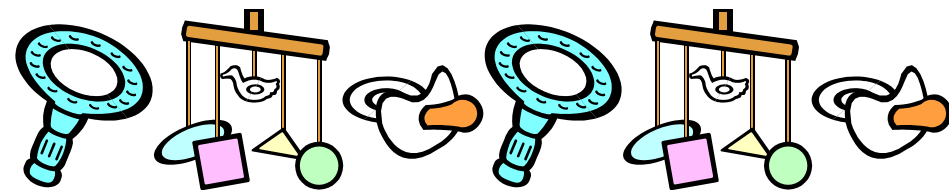
Social Missions

APRIL COUNCIL NOTES
Submitted by Sherri Reifsteck, Church Council Secretary

The Crisis Nursery Ministry Team began serving children between the ages of birth to six years old in danger of child abuse or neglect on March 16, 2013. Ministry team members include: Kat Downs, Brenda Lindsey, Tim Lindsey, Pat Moehring, LuAnn Robberstad, Kelly Strode, and Sharon Taylor. Our team shares coverage of volunteer shifts at the Crisis Nursery on Saturdays from 4-8 pm. To date, we have provided 20 hours of volunteer service. The Crisis Nursery is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Children can stay up to 72 hours and all services are free. Check out their website www.crisisnursery.net. We still need volunteer team members. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Brenda Lindsey.

Our church collected donations necessary to assemble 50 Lenten Health Care Kits. Thank you to everyone that donated soap, combs, toothbrushes, towels, and nail clippers. The Health Kits will be shipped to an ELCA distribution center. From there, they will be sent to locations throughout the world.

A new ministry opportunity is available! Partnering Against Homelessness (PAH) is a group of churches and agencies that are committed to "Uniting the body of Christ to live out our faith by serving those who are in need." PAH works with the Salvation Army to offer Canteen Runs on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays. The Canteen Runs offer food, drinks, clothing, hygiene products, and prayers to the homeless in Champaign-Urbana. Volunteers are needed and if you are interested in serving God in this way, please contact Brenda Lindsey. If you cannot volunteer to help with a Canteen Run, you can also help by donating packages of new mens and womens underwear (all sizes), trial size toothpaste and deodorant.



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 March 18, 2013, meeting have been approved and posted.

Matters discussed or decided at the April 15 meeting were as follows:

1. Call Committee Chairperson, Susie Johnston, reported to the council as to the status of the interviews conducted by the Call Committee.
2. The council has made reinstating the Parish Nursing Program a priority, and further information as to the training and cost of the program is going to be obtained so that the council can discuss this further. Any member that is a registered nurse who is interested in being a part of the program is encouraged to contact a council member.
3. The webinar on Revitalizing Your Congregation held at our church for local congregations was well received and well attended. Special thanks to Bill Moehring, Larry Gibson, and Cindy Erickson for organizing and hosting the event.
4. Having garden plots in the extra lot for the Faith in Place group was discussed, and Brenda Lindsey is going to do further checking into this regarding watering, tilling, etc., and will report back at the May meeting.
5. Duties for the Sunday Shepherd program that was begun as a result of the council retreat were discussed. The Sunday Shepherd program has council members assigned before and after Sunday services to assist the pastors and greet and assist visitors.

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 May 20, 2013, at 7:00pm.

SUNDAY SHEPHERD COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

May 5, 2013	Gene/Margaret Rinkel
May 12, 2013	Kelly Strode
May 19, 2013	Sharon Yeakel
May 26, 2013	Laura Zick-Bottorff

