

Thursday, May 7, 2009—12:00 noon

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**The Rev. Robert Koehler
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, VA**

“The Power of Prayer in Politics and Pacification”

Bob Koehler is Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, VA where he was called by the Lord to serve as its first Pastor in April of 1980, with 25-30 people worshipping. It was still larger than the first Call he received from the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to start a new congregation from scratch by ringing doorbells in Tallahassee, FL upon graduation in 1972 from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL.

Bob's undergraduate degree is in American History, from East Carolina University (1964), Greenville, NC, where he attended on a football scholarship; upon graduation, he received certification as a high school social studies teacher.

He served for 33 years, with three extensions, as an Army National Guard Chaplain, the last 11 years as the State Chaplain for the Virginia National Guard. He was mobilized immediately after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001, heading up the Chaplains' Section at the Pentagon that counseled all the families that lost loved ones in the attack. Pastor Koehler retired from the Army Chaplaincy on November 2003 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Pastor Koehler is married now for 42 years to his high school sweetheart, Ann Askew Koehler. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

On May 7, Pastor Koehler will speak on *“The Power of Prayer in Politics and Pacification.”* His talk will focus on the history of God in our country and military, as well as our individual Christian citizenship responsibilities today.

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We invite all Lutherans and their friends to join us for this luncheon meeting of **Lutheran Lay Fellowship**, scheduled for the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 noon till 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive in Silver Spring, one mile south of the Capitol Beltway at Exit 30. Ample off-street parking is available. Interested persons can make reservations for a delicious lunch by calling **Harlan Oelke at 301-545-1910** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 5**. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.50, payable at the door.

**LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON MEETING
April 2, 2009**

Our meeting began with a devotion and prayer by our speaker, Rev. James Dax Jordan.

Announcements

Birthday greetings were sung to Bonnie Priebe for her birthday on the 29th of April.

First time **visitor** was Ms. Naaz Khan, who recently moved to the Washington area, now working in the Refugee/Immigration Service program at Lutheran Social Services.

President Larry Schmidt reported that 66 persons have responded to our **2009-membership** letter by sending dues and donations. Our goal is 80.

It was announced the Executive Committee had concluded that to cover actual costs of the **luncheon meal** the **fee** needed to be **increased from \$7.50 to \$9.00**. This change will become **effective July 1st**.

Dan Bella reported that the Scholarship Committee will offer this year **one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000**. He will be sending out letters to the congregations in the next couple of weeks regarding this scholarship.

Ellie Wegener was pleased to distribute the **new LLF brochures**. All those attending were urged to take some home to their congregations.

President Schmidt presented 25 names of those willing to serve a 3-year term as **Corporate Members of Fellowship Square Foundation**. Five of the persons are new to the FSF family, twenty having served previously. Five more persons are being pursued. Alice Benson moved to elect these persons. It was seconded by Bonnie Priebe and passed.

Faye Coddling urged all to attend the **Corporate Annual Meeting of Fellowship Square on April 18 at Hunters Woods Fellowship House**.

Speaker Notes

“Field of Dreams or Dances with Wolves”

Our speaker, the Rev. Dax Jordan is the pastor / developer of Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection in the Brambleton Community of Ashburn, VA near Dulles Airport. Pastor Dax refers to himself as “green in the ministry” and mid-point of his rookie year. He and his wife, Terri, met in junior high school in California and were married five years ago. They moved to Ashburn, VA in November of 2008.

He has knocked on hundreds of doors and made connections. At times the work has been a struggle, but he loves it. Family and friends are praying. He fervently believes that God is going to raise a church in Ashburn but there are obstacles to planting a church. Some say we need to be more diverse. He, being bi-racial, feels up to this challenge. Some say the church doesn't appeal

to young people. Pastor Dax, having been in a rock band, has a history of working with youth but also loves the traditional service. Perhaps, he suggested, the real problem is loss of identity. A movie that he found helpful was “**Field of Dreams.**” “*If you build it, they will come. Ease his pain and go the distance.*” These themes of the movie are the same themes that can plant a church. When we dare to dream and have a shared purpose, we can overcome any obstacles. Lack of people (because they are “getting old”), lack of funds, none of this really matters if we are part of God’s dream, claim our identity, and believe in a “future.”

Some hope for a miracle that God will send us unchurched people. In the movie, “**Dances with Wolves,**” the young lieutenant is sent to a small fort with a gun, a journal and a Bible, these to fight off “the bad Indians.” He builds a relationship with the Indian tribe. He shares his coffee, learns their customs, learns their need (help with buffalo hunting). It’s right out of the Lutheran church growth manual. He becomes more Indian and less soldier. The mission developer can get frustrated and must be encouraged to stay the course.

When Pastor Dax asked his mother what was the most important thing to her generation regarding the church, she said, “Church was the most important thing in their lives. They knew God was in their church – that there they would meet God face to face. They wanted others to see, as they did, the glory of God in their church.”

Pastor Dax closed by saying this is the best time to start a church – prices are down. We need to give our community an altar-centered worship. Pastor Dax received enthusiastic applause.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schmidt

HELP US SAVE \$\$ AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

In our attempt to be eco-friendly and save on postage, we'd like to send this newsletter electronically as much as possible. If you're willing to receive our Newsletter by email, please contact the editor, Rev. David Berg at this address: dgberg@erols.com. Put "LLF" in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation.

WHAT IS THE LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP?

"As early as 1936, feeling there was a definite need for closer cooperation between Lutheran laity and clergy, a group of laymen in the Washington, DC. Metropolitan area, organized to hold meetings that would bring pastors and laity closer together. Due to jurisdictional differences as well as ministerial difficulties, very little success was achieved until the fall of 1941. Then the group met and decided to hold a luncheon once a month, invite their friends and bring visitors. The first luncheon was a success, and within three months every Lutheran judicatory was represented..." [From a **Lutheran Directory of Metropolitan Washington, DC**, published in 1999.]

Today, more than 70 years later, the Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington takes pride in knowing that every night, 365 nights each year, more than 700 low income seniors and disabled persons live in safety and friendship in four high rises owned and managed by Fellowship Square Foundation, Inc. By means of annual scholarships and grants, LLF also supports various college and seminary students; it also provides ushering services for major inter-Lutheran events. But most of all, LLF is known far and wide as a place to hear stimulating speakers on timely topics and to make friends from other Lutheran congregations—friendships that last for decades!

Won't you join us?