

Thursday, June 4, 2009—12:00 noon

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

**The Rev. James L. McDonald
Vice President, Bread for the World**

Rising Hunger: Crisis and Opportunity

Jim McDonald is Bread for the World's vice president for policy and programs. As vice president, he manages the organization's work on policy issues and their programs of advocacy, education and social change. Before assuming his duties as vice president in 2000, Jim was an international policy analyst and led Bread for the World's effort to secure debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

Previously Jim served as director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program at American University, and taught courses in world politics, U.S. foreign policy, and the international relations of Latin America at George Washington University and American University. As a Presbyterian minister, he served congregations in Bloomington, IN, Philadelphia, PA, and in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Jim holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from American University, and M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and a B.A. from Princeton University.

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We invite all Lutheran and their friends to join us for this luncheon meeting of **Lutheran Lay Fellowship**, schedule for the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 noon till 2:00 p.m. at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road at Dale Drive in Silver Spring, one mile south of the Capitol Beltway at Exit 30B. 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, June 2**. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.50, payable at the door. (Effective July 2 this amount will increase to \$9.00.)

SPEAKER FOR UPCOMING MEETING

July 2 Molly Shane, CFRE, Director of Advancement, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA

**LUTHERAN LAY FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON MEETING
May 7, 2009**

Our meeting began with a devotion, hymns and prayer by our president Larry Schmidt who encouraged us to ask for God's Holy Breath to energize us in living life to the fullest.

Announcements

Birthday greetings were sung to Rev. Robert Koehler for his birthday on May 14th.

First time **visitor** was Ms. Jane Wooster, of St. Stephen LC- Silver Spring, who said "howdy" since she is from Missouri but has been in the Washington area for a long time.

President Larry Schmidt reported that 7 persons have responded to our latest **2009 membership** letter, sending dues and donations, bringing our total membership to 73. Our goal is 80 and follow-up calls will be made by the Membership Committee.

Dan Bella reported that he has sent out 100+ letters to the congregations in the metro area for **the LLF Scholarship** of \$1,000 that is being offered. He has had two responses thus far. The **deadline for submitting is June 1** and the Scholarship Committee will make its selection by July 1, with a report to LLF at the July Luncheon meeting.

Betty Fredericks, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, offered the following slate of officers for election at the June meeting. They are as follows:

President – **Robert (Sarge) Sargeant**

Vice President for Programs – **Rev. David Berg**

Vice President for Public Relations and Membership - **Ellie Wegener**

Vice President for Special Arrangements – **Betty Fredericks**

Secretary for Exec. Board Meetings – **Sue Schmidt**

Assistant Secretary, thank you notes – **Bonnie Priebe**

Assistant Secretary for Luncheon meetings – **Rodney Smith**

Treasurer - **John Priebe**

Assistant Treasurer, luncheons - **Linda Everett**

Assistant Treasurer, luncheons – **Vicki Porter**

Chaplain – **Rev. Bill Wegener**

Board Members at Large: **Dan Bella, Leslie Bergman, Rev. Bernie Boehm, Rev. Faye**

Codding, Rev. Tom and Dolores O'Brien , and Rev. Larry Schmidt

Board Members, Emeritus - **Louise Anderson and Phil Langehough**

Additional nominations to any of these offices can be made by contacting Betty at 301-589-1383.

Faye Codding reported that the **Annual meeting of Fellowship Square**, Apr. 19, was well attended. She mentioned a booklet describing ways people have helped in the various houses to make life a little nicer for the residents. It's worth a look at the FSF website.

SPEAKER NOTES

Rev. Robert Koehler, pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, VA, spoke on "The Power of Prayer in Politics and Pacification"

Pastor Koehler 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 began his presentation by spelling the word "Conversation" which when broken down means bringing verses together. Conversation is a two way street. The Bible doesn't specify a prayer posture and calls us to pray without ceasing. The most mentioned position is prone, facedown with arms outstretched.

The National Day of Prayer was established by congress in 1952, under President Harry Truman, for people of all faiths to pray to their god for our country. Pastor Koehler saw no advance formal federal announcement this year about the National Day of Prayer. He mentioned that Isaiah was called to tell the people that their leaders did not acknowledge God and he sees the same trend today in the U.S., out of sight, out of mind. Prayer doesn't need proof, it needs practice and persistence.

We often treat prayer like a child that knocks on the door and then leaves. We need to be very persistent in talking to God. We should hear God's voice – often, until it is familiar, read his Word, study and share His Word.

Five points to remember about disciplined prayer:

1. Takes faith which comes by hearing the word of God and expecting God to speak to us and listen to him – Rom. 10:17, John 16:33, I John 5:4,5.
2. Takes courage to face the opposition – II Cor. 5:7, John 15:20
3. Takes accordance with God's Word and Jesus' character so need to know His Word;
4. Goes against the world's logic and rationale – Is. 55: 8-11; I Cor. 2:9
5. Gives peace – John 14:27

What better way for our nation to go forward than praying to God. Abraham, as a righteous man, interceded with God for Sodom, demonstrating what we can do for our country and our leaders. Pray for them to listen and consult with God for their choices and direction. We know that God wants all people to be saved and come to the truth so we need to pray for it. Pray, "Lord I believe and help my unbelief." Pray publicly for our nation and government.

The Army chaplaincy was started in 1775 and chaplains have died in every war through Vietnam but none so far in Iraq and Afghanistan, though two have been badly injured. Army chaplains go where their units go so they develop a unique camaraderie with their troops. Our forces are unique over history in having a spiritual ministry of presence from the beginning, which reminds our men and women in uniform that God is with them. Colin Powell noted that the only land overseas we have ever taken is for burying our troops that didn't return. Chaplains are needed in the military, about 40% below authorization across the board, so pray that more will answer the call for this vital ministry.

Pastor Koehler closed with: Help everyone think more about God by talking about Him. We are engraved on the palm of God's hand and the apple of His eye, a very present help in time of trouble.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Schmidt (with contributions by Rodney Smith)

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The LLF Executive Committee of LLF will meet again on Thursday, July 2 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring.

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?