

**Thursday, March 4, 2010—12:00 noon**

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

***“The Courage to Believe: How Human Life May Flourish”***

**The Rev. Dr. Roy J. Enquist, Professor Emeritus  
Washington House of Studies, LTS-G**

On March 4, Lutheran Lay Fellowship welcomes back the Rev. Dr. Roy J. Enquist, noted theologian and scholar, who will introduce us to his new book, *The Courage to Believe: How Human Life May Flourish.*”

In his book published by Hansen-McMenamy Books of El Paso, Dr. Enquist writes that *“Biblical religion has made freedom, its power and responsibilities, not only central to the American heritage, but the birthright of all the children of God. Sometimes religion has been freedom’s chief enemy – an actual repudiation of the word of God. But mostly the enemy has been an act of defiance urged on by a wide variety of cultural leaders. In any case, our task again is to find a way to disenthral ourselves from the toxic dogmas of the quiet past. That requires finding the courage to believe we can reconnect power to moral responsibility.”*

Dr. Enquist is Professor Emeritus at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and former Canon Ecumenist at the Washington National Cathedral. Previously he taught at universities in Ohio, Texas and Namibia. He has received honors from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation. He is the author of *Namibia: Land of Tears, Land of Promise* (Associated University Presses, 1990) and co-translator with Franklin Sherman of *The Socialist Decision* by Paul Tillich (Harper and Row, 1977).

Professor Enquist will have autographed copies of his new book available for those interested in purchasing one.

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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 Saint 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 contacting **Vicki Porter at VICKI.PORTER@Longandfoster.com** or **301-229-9884** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 2**. The cost of the luncheon is \$9.00, payable at the door.

**Notes on Our Monthly Luncheon**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2010—12:00 noon**

Our meeting began with a devotional by our guest speaker, Rev. Jessicah L. K. Duckworth, who read Luke 5: *One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

She asked everyone to pick a word, phrase and prayer after each reading of the passage that particularly touched them and share at their tables.

**Announcements**

February birthdays recognized included Scott Mills, 8<sup>th</sup>, and Bill Wegener. Sarah Scherschlight, Melanie Folstad and Karl Schaffrath were visitors this month.

Faye Codding from Fellowship Square Foundation mentioned its annual meeting, April 24, 2010 at Hunters Wood Fellowship House and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration coming up on Sunday, November 14, 2010. For questions, please contact Faye Codding at 703-471-5370 or [fcodding@fellowshipsquare.org](mailto:fcodding@fellowshipsquare.org).

Summer Parrish from Lutheran Social Services handed out invitations to everyone to its breakfast on March 10 at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, 7:45-8:45 AM to Let Your Light Shine for Social Justice in our community during an hour filled with inspiring, personal messages of Hope, Love and Triumph of the Human Spirit. RSVPs should go to Summer by Tuesday, February 23 at [Parrish@lssnca.org](mailto:Parrish@lssnca.org) or 703-698-5026, ext. 138.

**Speaker Notes**

***"The Way of Faith"***  
***The Rev. Jessicah L. K. Duckworth, Asst. Professor***  
***Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC***

*"We have a way."* This is the response some ELCA congregations give to newcomers, seekers, and others engaging the faith. *"We have a way to welcome you. We have a way to explore your questions about Jesus and the Christian faith. We have a way to help you discern God's calling and live out that calling in daily life."* Come explore, re-imagine, and practice faith formation that nurtures discipleship and renews your commitment to evangelism outreach in the 21st century. The Rev. Jessicah L. K. Duckworth is an ordained member of the ELCA (Southeastern PA Synod) and serves as an assistant professor of Christian Formation and Teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the Wesley faculty, she taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She serves on the Catechumenate Task Force of the ELCA. Professor Duckworth earned her bachelor's degree from George Washington University, her master of divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and is currently working on her Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary where her doctoral dissertation will explore this topic. She is married to Christopher, associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington and together they have three children.

Professor Duckworth invited us to think about the shifts that are taking place in education today from teacher-centered learning to learner-centered teaching. The teacher becomes an incredible resource bearer and facilitator; not just learning from but learning to, and these same concepts can be used to prepare those interested in membership and then equip new members. There should be content-based curriculum and teaching by showing and mentoring as they do it.

She discussed how to bring the visitor into church without letting them leave (gentle handclap). She spoke about the Catechumenate and the religious education of the young baptized: A catechumen has not been baptized, and is undergoing training in the principles of the faith; one who was baptized as a child has an equal need of education, but this does not start from the same foundation, since baptism has already occurred. The theological basis is common to all sects and taken from the Gospel: “*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him*” (John 6, 44).

The Catechumenate is a 1-3 year process by which new members are assimilated. She illustrated this process by a story about a conversation with a new member who didn't know she had been baptized as a child and then realized she have been covered her whole life by the grace of God, even in the wilderness. It had taken this person three tries and a number of years to complete the process. The discipleship-making process takes time to get involved with people and share our witness with prayer and bible study. It draws us out of ourselves by knowing we are connected to a church catholic and history of bringing folks to Christ and it is God who does the heavy lifting.

Professor Duckworth mentioned several written resources including:

*Soul Tending: Life Forming Practices for Older Youth and Young Adults*, which expands on the ideas Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster put forth in *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry* (published by Upper Room) and offers a practical way for senior high youth and young adults to study spiritual disciplines while strengthening relationships among participants. The study includes lessons on inward, outward, and corporate disciplines. The goal is that Christ would be formed in each participant. Youth and adults co-journ together as they examine classical and contemporary disciplines, supporting one another, and intentionally seeking encounters with God.

*What Do You Seek—Welcoming the Adult Inquirer* by Dennis Bushkofsky, support to those who are challenged by ministering to inquirers in an unchurched culture. It presents both a process leading to affirmation of baptism based on the Catechumenate model and a friendly, non-technical introduction preparing adults for baptism.

*Praying the Catechism*, third edition by Donald W. Johnson. This devotional book is an attempt to help restore the Catechism into the prayer room. It invites readers to experience its parts through a journey of prayer and meditation. Along with the Catechism, passages of Scripture, the liturgies of Baptism and the Eucharist are used as a starting point for some meditations.

*Welcome to Christ: A Lutheran Introduction to the Catechumenate* explores the cultural, pastoral, and theological aspects of welcoming adults to Christ and the Christian community.

Rev. Duckworth offered to be a resource herself and can be reached at 202.885.8655 or [jessicah.duckworth@gmail.com](mailto:jessicah.duckworth@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Rodney Smith

## 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?