



**LUNCHEON MEETING
January 5, 2012**

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

**The Rev. Dr. Maria Erling
Professor of Modern Church History
and Global Missions
Gettysburg Theological Seminary
Gettysburg, PA**

"What Ever Happened to Luther League?"

The Rev. Dr. Maria E. Erling is the professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions at Gettysburg Seminary with a special focus on American Lutheranism and the various ways that mission has been understood in the history of the church.

Before coming to the Seminary in 1999, Dr. Erling served parishes in New England: Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA and Christ the King, Nashua, NH, and served as a specialist for urban congregations in the New England Synod, Lutheran Church in America. She also chaired its ecumenical affairs committee from 1991-1999. Her ecumenical involvement currently includes service as an ELCA representative on the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ, and as delegate to the 2010 assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Stuttgart. Parish ministry continues to be a focus for her as she directs the seminary's Teaching Parish program.

As a part of her ongoing interest in the development of American Lutheranism, Erling and co-author Mark Granquist wrote *The Augustana Story: Shaping North American Lutheranism*, published by Augsburg Fortress in 2008. The fascinating history of American Lutheranism, with its many mergers of separate ethnic churches, and its complex engagement with contemporary American culture, gives her plenty of material to work with as she teaches seminarians how to understand, appreciate, and extend theological and denominational traditions to meet new challenges.

Dr. Erling also has contributed to two Lilly Endowment projects to study the changes in Mainline Protestantism in North America, and has delved into the mystery of the demise of the Luther League, the hidden markers of Lutheran Spirituality, and the improbable strength of Lutheranism as a denomination.

Dr. Erling has become known around campus for hosting an annual fish night and for bringing the noble sport of croquet to the campus for the first time since the storied days of A.R. Wentz, ecumenical pioneer, competitive athlete, and Lutheran Historian. She lives in Gettysburg with her husband John Spangler, who serves on the seminary staff. They have two daughters, Marta and Johanna.

January's speaker received her Bachelor's degree at Augustana College, her Master's of Divinity at Yale and her Doctorate at Harvard Divinity School. We welcome her to our luncheon and await her reflections on the "mystery of the demise of Luther League."

Rev. Larry Schmidt began his devotion by reading the hymn, "As With Gladness Men of Old", based on the Epiphany when the Wise Men came to pay homage to the Christ Child. Louise Anderson, an advocate for LLF who passed into glory in December, used every opportunity to share her faith, even to the last days of her life in the hospital. Louise, with her welcoming smile, will be missed, but her zeal to follow the star will be remembered.

Two birthdays are being celebrated this January: Betty Fredericks on January 8th and Norm Larson squeaked by on January 31st. He and his wife also will celebrate their anniversary on January 26th.

We welcomed Ms Kirsten Haalboom, employed at the Villages of Rockville, as a first time guest to our meeting.

Announcements:

Carolyn Sowinski, Director for Gifts of Hope, announced that the gifts listed in the 2011 gift catalog are now available for purchase year-round via the organization's website (www.giftsofhopemetrod.c.org) Additional gifts, different from the catalog, will be online soon. If you need gift ideas through out the year, remember Gifts of Hope and support local, national, and international beneficiary organizations. 'Friend' us on Facebook; 'Follow' us on Twitter.

On Sat. evening, Jan. 14th, members of LLF are invited to attend the Via de Cristo (Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ.") gathering at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethesda, 6:00 - 8:30p.m. in Luther Hall for a potluck dinner with singing, testimony and communion. Directions to the church:

<http://www.heartmindsoul.com/about-us/directions/>

Ellie Wegener announced that the "Memoir Writing Group" at Georgetown Lutheran meets every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn how to write down stories of your family history. For more information you can call Ellie at: (703) 790-1469.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 2, 2012 - Bishop Richard H. Graham,
Metropolitan Washington DC Synod ELCA

March 1, 2012 - Dr. Barbara E. Solt, speaking on "The Holy Land, Then and Now"

Presentation:

The Rev. Dr. Maria E. Erling gave a slide presentation and talk on "*What Ever Happened to Luther League?*" No presentation notes were taken this month.



**Gifts of Hope Online**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 5:35 PM

From: "carolyn.sowinski@giftsofhopemetrodcc.org" <carolyn.sowinski@giftsofhopemetrodcc.org>**To:** undisclosed-recipients

To the Gifts of Hope community:

Great news! The Gifts of Hope website has new gift ideas available online. As many of you know, the 2011 Catalog of gifts went online in early December. 19 people placed online orders--over \$3500 in online sales--during December. (Our volunteers are now compiling information from Advent sales at our congregations.) We have now added more gift ideas from which to choose. I anticipate that even more gifts will be added over time which will support our beneficiaries.

All our gifts are available for year-round shopping via the website. Do you need a special and unique birthday gift? Anniversary gift? Holiday Gift? Consider Gifts of Hope for easy shopping, done from the comforts of home. And if you want a Gifts of Hope all-purpose card to go with the purchased gift, I will get it to you.

Look at our website and please spread the word about our year-round shopping opportunities to your friends and family. When more people know about Gifts of Hope, the more orders we will get, the more support our beneficiary organizations will receive, and more people will be helped. Give More Hope.

I want to thank Bill Pegram for updating the website.

Over the next few days I will be highlighting these gifts via Facebook and Twitter, so "Like" and/or "Follow" Gifts of Hope to keep up with the latest news.

<http://www.giftsofhopemetrodcc.org/onlineshopping.html>

FB: Gifts of Hope Metro DC, Washington

Twitter: GiftsofHopeDC

Carolyn Sowinski
Director



Via de Cristo

VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VIA de CRISTO is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

The movement originated as "Cursillo" in the late 1940's in the Spanish Catholic church and moved to the United States in the late 1950's. It began in the Lutheran church when lay people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo in 1971, both in Iowa and Florida. The first Lutheran sponsored weekends were held in 1972 in Iowa and Florida and have now been held in over 25 states and some foreign countries. VIA de CRISTO is the Lutheran expression of this method which is currently being used in many denominations including: Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

On Saturday evening January 14, 2012, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (www.heartmindsoul.com) will host the Rainbow Via de Cristo (www.rainbow-vdc.com) reunion gathering in Luther Hall 6:00-8:30pm. This event with potluck, singing, testimony and Holy Communion is open to members of the Rainbow community, attendees of other 3-day Cursillo-style weekends and their invited guests only. Members of Lutheran Lay Fellowship are also welcome to attend.

Directions to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

<http://www.heartmindsoul.com/about-us/directions/>

Parking lot is in the back of the church at the end of Rugby Ave. Walk around to the front of the church and enter the colonnade between the two buildings. As you enter, turn right and then take the stairs down to Luther Hall on the lower level. There is also a lower level outside door on the Glenbrook Road side of the building but street parking there is limited.