

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING
Thursday, April 5, 2012 – 12:00 noon

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

The Rev. David Percy
United States Naval Chaplain, Retired
"Incarnation: Through a Variety of Ministries"

Dave Percy was born in Indiana, raised in Michigan, attended Concordia College (Milwaukee) briefly and is a graduate of Valparaiso University, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and University of the South, Sewanee, TN. He has long had a special interest in liturgics and social ministry. Dave has served in a fairly diverse variety of ministries in his 40 years as a pastor. He and JoAnn approach their 50th wedding anniversary.



Announcements:

We celebrated Bonnie Priebe's birthday which is on April 29th,

The first time attendee was Richard Walther from Christ Lutheran, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD.

The devotion was led by Rev. Percy and looked at the scriptures about Jesus and Thomas in John 20. He noted how those who have believed without seeing are blessed. He looked at this passage from a different perspective. Just as Jesus showed Thomas His hands which showed what He had done, so now like a parent who looks at a child's hands before mealtimes, does Jesus see everything we have done from our hands, serving all in need. Another way the image of hands helps us is that we all come to Jesus with empty hands - and His hands keep us connected. And in incarnation, we have become his body and his hands in this world.

Ellie Wegener encouraged support of the Capitol Hill Career Support group and asked for clothing donation of liturgical meaning for her trip to Namibia.

Kirsten Haalboom, LSS, TEL: 301-354-2710, khaalboom@nationallutheran.org, passed out notices on the “Vibrant Living/Vibrant Faith” conference and forum on “Vibrant Living, Vibrant Faith: Inspiring a New Culture of Senior Ministry” to be held at the Rockville campus of Johns Hopkins University on May 17, 2012. It will offer an insightful, inter-faith, multidimensional forum as a resource for clergy, lay leaders and all those working with seniors to network and partner together, learn new tips for creativity enhancing senior ministry as well as collectively tackle some of the challenges. Registration can be done online at www.vibrantlivingfaith.org as well obtain more information on it.

Jana Broughton, Fellowship Square Executive Director, announced some changes to the bylaws on liability, confidentiality and terms of service lengthened from three to four.

Richard Walther has some 78 records with recordings from the National Lutheran Chorus which operated until the 1950s and asked for suggestions on who to give them to as well as info on the chorus itself. He also has a couple of pictures of them with names.

Pastor Berg seconded the invitation by Kirsten and introduced the speaker.

Presentation:

"Incarnation: Through a Variety of Ministries"

Pastor David Percy

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The first 500 years or so of the Christian church is filled with the struggle to formulate and define what we, the Church, believe about Jesus Christ. That struggle frequently involved questions about the breadth and depth of our understanding of Christ's Incarnation. So, let's just suppose, if Incarnation is really to be our guide, where does that take our ministries? How does it influence and shape our ministry? Where are the lines? Are lines even possible to divide life into secular and sacred anymore? How far one way or another? Is there a difference between what we claim to believe (even in our worship), and what our behavior reveals to be our real belief? Those are some of the questions Pastor Percy walked us through with some of his experience in varied ministries.

One of his greatest pleasures in retirement has been the time to study – for example, in this case the liturgy of the early church and their equipping processes and compare with our current practices. He has found some pastors and theologians who are bringing some of these practices and rites of initiation back such as Pastor Sarah Scherschligt and Dr. Jessica Duckworth.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is beginning 1st communion before confirmation like the other Lutheran bodies.

Lutherans seem willing to live with more ambiguity than most; stretch further and call it ministry. Christ's incarnation definitely influences how we define ministry. "Christ present everywhere" means there are no limits on our ministries. It is more about servanthood than correct beliefs or correctly labeling sins. "Christ is everywhere" but we have difficulty seeing him. Like the Second Glance puzzle each week in the paper, 12 changes hidden in plain sight.

His first parish was in a black community in Chattanooga, TN where they started a summer youth program including box lunch distribution. After the first year they had the largest confirmation class in the district and the district finally decided to support their program and saw this program as a legitimate ministry.

He then became a Navy chaplain and went wherever his men went, including bars when they were in port so could relate to them when they came to him. His collateral duty was the community relations and tours officer so in every port he would organize a volunteer team to go and help some poor in the community. He saw all of this as being Christ in the world. He blessed two submarines when they were commissioned in New London, CT with a challenge to himself to see it as helping peace. 99% of his troops couldn't care less about religion but as their chaplain he had a personal relationship with all 5,000 on his carrier.

He worked as a pastor after retirement from the Navy - for three years Pilgrim, Bethesda, then Lutheran Social Service, and then Lutheran Disaster Response. He quoted an article by Landon Whitsitt, Alban Institute on how James and John asked for two seats of honor from Jesus based on a wrong perception. If our Lord Jesus thinks servanthood is primary then that is where it should be for us.

Pastor Percy is also the new chair of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee , FSF, so its report from their website is below:

The PCAC seeks to advise the FS Board of Directors concerning the religious needs of our residents, the programs meeting those needs and how those tasks may be accomplished. Rev. David Berg, FS Chaplain, fills a large part of the committee's agenda as the committee seeks to encourage and support him and give guidance through an exchange of ideas and observations.

2010-2011: A Year of Change

Our year of transition began with the resignation of our Chairman, Rev. Bernie Boehm, followed by his replacement, Ms. Lenore Stewart, also needing to resign after only a few months of leading the committee. Pastor David Percy, the newest member of the committee, was appointed Chairman in January 2011. These changes allowed for a re-evaluation of our policies and procedures. Each new chair has brought fresh ideas, new

vocabulary, and passion for different, yet similar, issues — each new chair hoping to live up to the expectations of their predecessors with an eye toward future developments as needs and available resources change.

Vision and Hope Become a Reality

What have historically been hopes and dreams are now happening.

- Coffees at each fellowship house for area clergy and laity who provide ministry and resources – to say thanks, encourage, and open dialog to learn more effective methods of ministry.
- Identifying new partners by expanding our list of congregations providing services to residents and/or providing financial assistance to the chaplaincy program.
- Surveying residents on their religious affiliation to better identify and meet their needs. This is especially true with the increase of non-Christian religious needs.
- Re-examining FS guidelines for visiting clergy and organizations, especially as we seek to draw in additional faith communities.
- Initiating a joint co-sponsored bi-annual conference with National Lutheran Communities and Services. NLCS is eager to join us in this effort with the first conference to take place in May 2012.
- Adding new members to the committee.

Submitted by:

Rev. David Percy, Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Smith