

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

President Bob "Sarge" Sargeant convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. The several celebrations of May Day were enumerated, and thanks was given for the return of the sun after three days of rain. Nick Pleish of St. John's Lutheran Church, VA introduced himself as a first time attendee. In addition, May 6 is his birthday and May 15 is his anniversary.

Sarge announced that one item of business, that of election of Fellowship Square Foundation Class of 2017 Corporate Members, would be conducted later in the meeting. Larry Schmidt presented a listing and explained the positions of some of the nominees.

Dave Lambert reminded luncheon attendees of his talk last year on Via de Cristo. An invitation to attend the May Ultreya community gathering was extended to all. Calling cards were distributed to each table with the website <http://www.rainbow-vdc.com> for more information about this event. The back side of the card said "Via de Cristo is based on the essentials of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities."

Carolyn Swolenski announced that \$114,000 was raised for Gifts of Hope during Advent. These funds are now being distributed to the beneficiaries.

An "Iron sharpens Iron" conference is being held this weekend. Contact Rodney Smith.

Georgetown Lutheran Church is hosting a bratwurst supper on May 18.

"Tending the Flame" (an LCMS program) is holding a conference in Richmond, VA on August 1-3, "Get off your Donkey" (about the Good Samaritan) will be presented by Reggie McNeal.

Sarge spoke of his community's effort to serve the homeless, by having a goal that by 2016 every homeless people will have a house to live in. The funding will be done by FACETS, an interfaith organization.

George Davis of the Fellowship Square Foundation was presented a check from LLF from contributions of members. In his expression of thanks he invited people to attend the annual meeting on May 17.

Business Enacted

Larry Schmidt spoke further on the Fellowship Square Foundation's 75 Corporate Members. This year 26 are to be elected to the Class of 2017. Twenty from the Class of 2014 are willing to repeat their term, six are new people, three of which are residents. The religious affiliation of the members is from an array of expressions of faith. The slate was elected unanimously. (*see attached documents*)

Our speaker for June is Melissa Graeves, Director of Lutheran Social Services. David Berg will speak on medical ethics in July.

Devotional

Pr. Amy Sevimli led devotions, based on [Ephesians 4:11-16](#) which focuses on instructions for organizational roles in leading the church. She asked members to think of their own experience in leadership in the church, which will be the focus of her presentation.

Introduction of Speaker

David Berg, introducing our speaker, shared a story about Jesus visit to the Vatican. Another dealt with the importance of one letter in the meaning of words.

The Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli took office as assistant to the bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA on January 1, 2008.

Pr. Sevimli came to the position from serving as Associate Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington, Virginia. Among the synod activities in which Pr. Sevimli has participated are the Singles and Young Adults Team of the Division for Congregational Life, Youth Ministry Team of the Division for Congregation Life, Church Vocations Committee of the Division for Ministry, and Reference and Council Committee. She has a love of ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue and has participated in both the local Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee as well as the synod's Lutheran-Jewish Dialogue. Pr. Sevimli also continues to serve as a Discernment Advocate with Project Connect, an initiative of the Eastern Cluster of Seminaries.

Pr. Sevimli received her Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, in 2003. Included in her studies was a year at the University of Bonn (Germany). She did her undergraduate work at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, an ELCA institution of higher education. After graduating, Pr. Sevimli was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and both studied and taught in Germany. In 2008, Pr. Sevimli completed a Master of Sacred Theology (STM) in New Testament at LTSG.

Presentation

Presentation Topic: "Building a New Generation of Lutheran Leadership"

Pr. Sevimli opened by her appreciation for seeing so many familiar and friendly faces. Her presentation focused on leadership of the church:

- The Leaders they will be following
- The Church they will be leading

She asked for honest feedback during her discussion, even though there may be disagreements. What has been most your most meaningful experience in a church leadership role? What do you want to pass on to others?

Each table was asked to discuss the questions before large group discussion.

Feedback:

- When one person steps down, you can set it free so that others don't have to think "that's the way we always done it."
- Methodists have a Certified Lay Speaker position who can preach and serve as interim leaders for congregations.
- The support for various ministries, such as campus ministries, from the church at large is shrinking. This is a major leadership development instrument. Pr. Sevimli said campus ministry support is dwindling in the ELCA, although a church-wide position now has responsibility for campus ministry development. People are "re-imagining" how funding for these programs can look. Some are successfully raising their own funding, creating a new model.
- Leadership of congregations call members to look at ministry needs beyond the congregation, the district/synod, city, country, and beyond.

Pr. Sevimli said when she raises this question, she finds that we aren't comfortable talking about ourselves.

- We learn from adult models when we are young. We need to educate children and youth to the whole need of and expression of the whole church
- One leadership model appreciated was that of a calming presence after a time of turmoil in the church, calling us to remember that Christ is our Leader to be called upon within each church meeting.
- What are problems of leadership in the church today? Leadership as in, *not clergy*. Leadership as in, *the Laity*.
- Family ministry is also a leadership role.

Pr. Sevimli asked “What are Christians going to look like?”

- Everybody has a role, we just need time to figure out our role.
- Young professionals joining the congregation move into leadership roles without waiting to be elected into formal positions.

Pr. Sevimli summarized that there is a lot being said about “You” and what you will and will not do in the church. What drives you? What will push you over the edge or out the door? If the church is going to get anywhere older people need to help make a place for the new people coming in. She asked Nick to share what young people bring to the church. He told of a young parent group that gathers around meals and talk about their passions and how to raise Christian children in today’s world.

Examples were shared of accommodating the needs of various groups, those with children, those who sip coffee throughout the service, those who want a more reverent, traditional service.

Bob Sargeant in thanking our speaker noted how important it is for us to have more of these frank discussions. Chaplain Schmidt noted that there’s an Apocryphal Gospel wherein God collects coffee beans, brews, and says “go and drink.”

Closing Devotion

Chaplain Larry Schmidt gave a short benediction.

Fellowship Square Foundation
Class of 2015 Corporate Members Elected by LLF

Walter Belter	St. Luke, Silver Spring, MD
Rev. Phil Carl	Christ the Servant, Fairfax, VA
Harold A. Deadman	St. Matthew, Woodbridge, VA
Dallas Evans	Baptist, PG County, MD
Richard Fisher	Christ the King, Great Falls, VA
Rev. Ivan Ives	Abiding Presence, Burke, VA
John Kelly	St. Mark's Roman Catholic, Vienna, VA
Rev. Thomas J. Knoll	First Trinity, Washington, DC
Deborah Lambert	Christ Luth, Bethesda, MD
Sara Leonard	Christ the Servant, Reston, VA
Rev. Aurelio Magarino	Cristos Senor de Vida, Rockville, MD
Cynthia Medvick	Covenant, Luth Church of the, Dale City, VA
Ron Morgan	First Trinity, Wash, DC
Michelle Moyer	Christ the Servant Luth, Reston, VA
Myra Niemeier	Good Shepherd, Reston, VA
Anita Nolen	Resurrection, Arlington, VA
Howard Oberheu	Our Savior, Warrenton, VA
Helen Rebholz	Georgetown Lutheran, Washington, DC
Barbara Solt	Augustana, Wash, DC
Jim Spedden	Gainesville United Methodist, Gainesville, VA
Lenore Stewart	Heritage Fellowship, Herndon, VA
Robert Thompson	Heritage Christian Fellowship, Herndon, VA
Mary E. Wilmoth	Peace, Waldorf, MD

Fellowship Square Foundation
Class of 2016 Corporate Members Elected by LLF

*May Al-Barzinji	Muslim
Rev Bob Allard (LRED)	Good Shepherd LC, Woodbridge, VA (ELCA)
Larry Bradshaw (CEO of NLCS)	Our Lady Of The Presentation Catholic Church, Poolesville, MD
Jorn Dalboe (HWED)	Christ the Servant LC, Reston, VA (ELCA)
Rev Phillip Gaines Sr.	Georgetown LC, Wash, DC (ELCA)
Rev Mark Hricko (PCAC)	St. Andrew LC, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
*Renee Jakobs	Unitarian
Rev Doug Jones (FIN C)	Holy Cross LC, Herndon, VA (ELCA)
Rev Fred Klein (Chaplain)	Living Savior LC, Fairfax Station, VA (LCMS)
Vernon Krueger (BoD,LLED,PC)	Ascension LC, Landover Hills, MD (LCMS)
*Rev. Andrew Lissy	Living Savior LC, Fairfax Station, VA (LCMS)
Rev Jan Lookingbill	Emmanuel LC, Bethesda, MD (ELCA)
Dr. John McCoy	St. Paul LC, Falls Church, VA (LCMS)
*Linda Merkle	Our Savior's Way LC, Ashburn, VA (LCMS)
Rev David Percy (BoD, PCAC)	Calvary LC, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
Rev Eric Peterson	Our Savior's Way LC, Ashburn, VA (LCMS)
Robert Sargeant (Pres LLF)	St. Mark's LC, Springfield, VA (ELCA)
Rev Larry Schmidt (BoD,PCAC)	Calvary Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)
*Rev Carl Schuler	Grace Lutheran Church, Woodbridge, VA (LCMS)
Craig Swanson	Christ the Servant LC, Reston, VA (ELCA)
Rosemary Theurer	Christ the King LC, Great Falls, VA (ELCA)
Barbara Toppel	Emmanuel LC, Vienna, VA (ELCA)
Ellie Wegener	Georgetown LC, Community of Christ, Wash, DC (ELCA)
Kenneth Wilson	St. Matthew LC, Wash, DC (ELCA)
*Roger Wissman	First Trinity Lutheran Church, Wash DC (ELCA)
Phillip Woodruff (LLED)	All Saints LC, Bowie, MD (ELCA)

(* first time members)

Fellowship Square Class of 2017 Corporate Members Elected 5-1-2014 by Lutheran Lay Fellowship

Reginia Benjamin*..FSBD	Good Shepherd LC, Reston, VA (LCMS)
Marva Benn	Bethlehem LC, Fairfax, VA (ELCA)
Rev John Bradford	Christ the King LC, Great Falls, VA (ELCA)
Ed Byrne* ..FSBD	St.John Newman RC, Reston, VA
Rev John Denninger	Prince of Peace LC, Springfield, VA (LCMS)
Elsie Draughn ..LLB	Peace LC, Waldorf, MD (ELCA)
Victor Evans* ..LRB	St. Matthew's LC, Lake Ridge, VA (ELCA)
Barbara Fielding	Christ the Servant LC, Reston, VA (ELCA)
C. David Hartmann ..FSBD	Bethlehem LC, Fairfax, VA (ELCA)
Beth High* ..LRB	Bethlehem LC, Fairfax, VA (ELCA)
Rev. Brandon Johns*.LRB	St. Matthew's LC, Lake Ridge, VA (ELCA)
Sidney Johnson ..HWB	St. Anne's Episcopal, Reston, VA
Judy Koucky	St. Paul's LC, Falls Church, VA (LCMS)
Joan Loesch ..PCAC	Grace LC, Woodbridge, VA (LCMS)
Jennifer Maloney*..FSBD	Prince of Peace LC, Gaithersburg, MD (ELCA)
John Priebe ..LLB	First Trinity LC, DC (ELCA)
Bonnie Priebe	First Trinity LC, DC (ELCA)
Rev. Gary Rhinesmith	All Saints LC, Bowie, MD (ELCA)
Muriel Rodgers ..R	Riverdale Baptist Church
Rev. Suzanne Rudiselle ..FSBD,HWB	Presbyterian minister
Mary Schmidt ..PCAC	Bethlehem LC, Fairfax, VA (ELCA)
John Thillmann	St.John Newman RC, Reston, VA
Bob Wilcox	St. Matthew LC, Lake Ridge, VA (ELCA)
Allen Wild ..HWB	Christ the King LC, Great Falls, VA (ELCA)
Charles Wortman ..FSBD	Reston Bible Church
Larry Zimmerman	LC of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD (LCMS)

Code:

- * Represents first time member
- FSBD: Member of Board of Directors of FSF
- LLB: Member of Largo Landing Elderly Development, Inc. Board of Directors
- HWB: Member of Hunters Woods Elderly Development, Inc. Board of Directors
- LRB: Member of Lake Ridge Elderly Development, Inc. Board of Directors
- R: Resident of a FS Fellowship House