

Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday, May 7, 2015 – 12:00 noon

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

Opening Announcements

President Bob “Sarge” Sargeant called the meeting to order at 12:05. He welcomed a number of visitors from St. Luke’s and invited them to join. Each person introduced themselves, noting their congregations. There were no May birthdays. Fred Klein celebrates his 46th year of ordination. Later this month we will remember those who served in the military. He then offered a prayer of Grace for the meal.

Bob announced the memorial service for longtime member Sue Schmidt, wife of our former Chaplain Larry Schmidt. The service will be on May 9 at Calvary Lutheran Church on Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD.

The June meeting will be a follow-up meeting to last year’s planning for the future of LLF.

Ellie Wegner announced the 7:00pm employment support group meeting at First Trinity, DC. On Wednesday night, also at 7:00pm, there is a memoir writing group at Georgetown Lutheran Church on Wisconsin Avenue.

This week checks for a total of \$120,000 this year were sent to beneficiary agencies last week. More than \$3 million has been raised by Gifts Of Hope since inception.

Community Family Life Service will hold a benefit organ concert at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Massachusetts Avenue on May 17.

Today is the National Day of Prayer and there is a celebration on the West Capitol lawn between 4 and 6 this afternoon.

On Friday, May 15 at 10 a.m., St. Luke’s senior fellowship will hold a talk on the Ft. Meade museum. There will also be a 100 year birthday celebration. There is no fee for this event.

Fred Klein reported that things are going well at Fellowship Square; there is a waiting list.

Opening Devotion

Dave Lambert offered devotions. He read a Ralph Waldo Emerson poem of thanksgiving. He focused on the celebration this month of Pentecost. He read a scriptural account of the event during which each present heard in their own language. He read a poem “Come Creator Spirit.” (*see attached*)

Introduction of Speaker

Ruth Manchester, member of St. Luke’s and LLF, traveled to Cuba in 2012.

Presentation

Our nation recently changed its foreign policy relationship with Cuba. Our speaker traveled to Cuba before that change of policy. She gave a slide show of highlights of her trip. She noted that they do not stamp your passport, so she has no official record of having been there. She travelled with a University of Minnesota tour. Tours have been the only way to travel there, e.g. cultural, professional perspectives (medical, social services, etc.)

She gave facts about the Island – 11.27 million population, 2+ million living in Havana, the capital. The Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria arrived there in 1492, so Columbus claimed it for Spain. The current Castro regime came into power during a revolution in 1959. The socialist government was closely aligned with the Soviet Union.

The Buena Vista Social Club was a well known tourist club and its music has been exported world-wide.

In 1961 the United States launched an invasion to take over the country, called the Bay of Pigs Invasion, which was unsuccessful. Invaders were later traded for tractors. There is a museum commemorating the Cuban victory.

The average Cuban “can’t dream” of living in the quality of rooms that tourists enjoy. Many 1950’s American cars have been maintained and are a mode of transportation of some pride. There is a kind of “time warp” one feels when there. The Malecon is a 4 mile long road. Tourists are free to walk around.

Cuba has an extremely high rate of literacy, training many medical personnel. So “medical tourism” is a form of economic benefit as people come for various treatments. Cubans claim there is no discrimination against religion. The Pope will visit in June this year. There is an “eclectic” form of worship, called Santeria, which blends Christianity, with African animism.

Restoration of the old buildings is ongoing, though expensive, thus progressing slowly. UNESCO has designated several sites.

There are two forms of currency - the official, and the unofficial. AirBNB is active, so many rent rooms in their homes to people who travel there. Food is sold in state stores.

The cemetery is huge, full of architecturally grandiose family crypts.

Discussion focused on our relative lack of knowledge about the island's economy, current government, trade policies, etc. Other than cigars and medical personnel (and baseball players), it is not known what would be traded. Thus potentially tourism would be a economic driver.

Closing Devotion

The meeting concluded at 2:00 with a short prayer.

PENTECOST

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, celebrates the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, recorded in The Acts of the Apostles. Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

Acts 2:1-8, 2:11 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

11 ... we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!

Come, Creator Spirit

Come, O Creator Spirit blest!
And in our souls take up Thy rest;

So shall we not, with Thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know,

Great Paraclete! To Thee we cry,
O highest gift of God most high!

And Thee, through endless times confessed,
Of both, the eternal Spirit blest.

O font of life! O fire of love!
And sweet anointing from above.

All glory while the ages run
Be to the Father and the Son

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts art known,
The finger of God's hand we own;

Who rose from death; the same to Thee,
O Holy Ghost, eternally.

The promise of the Father, Thou!
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

Amen. *Latin Hymn (9th century)*

Kindle our senses from above,
And make our hearts overflow with love;

Let us pray,

With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends,
We offer thanks.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us Thy true peace instead;

Amen. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)*

CUBA

