

# Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington DC



## September 2016 Newsletter

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### **Opening Devotion -- September and The Spirit**

September is the ninth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of four months with a length of 30 days. September in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent of March in the Southern Hemisphere. But why does the ninth month come from the word “Seven”? September comes from the Latin root *septem-*, meaning “seven,” because in the original Roman republican calendar September was the seventh month of the year rather than the ninth. As we learned last month, the Roman calendar was only ten months long and included the following months—*Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December*. The last six months were assigned names according to their ordinal numbers—*Quintilis* is the fifth month, *Sextilis* is the sixth month, and so on. The strangeness of calling the ninth month “Seventh Month” did not seem to bother Old English speakers. September came into Old English from Old French, replacing the Old English forms, *Haligmonað* and *Hærfestmonað*, which mean “harvest month” in Modern English. September marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The Book of Common Prayer catechism is primarily intended for use by parish priests, deacons, and lay catechists, to give an outline for instruction. It is a commentary on the creeds, but is not meant to be a complete statement of belief and practices; rather, it is a point of departure for the teacher, and it is cast in the traditional question and answer form for ease of reference. The second use of this catechism is to provide a brief summary of the Church's teaching for an inquiring stranger who picks up a Prayer Book.

*Book of Common Prayer (1789, September 1979 edition for the Episcopal Church) p.844*

The Trinity is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now. The Holy Spirit is revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets. The Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truths and enables us to grow in the

likeness of Christ. We recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation. We recognize truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.

*Ibid. BCP p.852*

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit ... We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

*Ibid. BCP Nicene Creed pp.358-9*

There is no worse screen to block out the Spirit than confidence in our own intelligence. True discrimination between right and wrong does not then depend on the acuteness of our intelligence, but on the wisdom of the Spirit. If we recognize the Spirit of God as the unique fountain of truth, we shall never despise the truth wherever it may appear, unless we wish to do dishonor to the Spirit of God.

*John Calvin*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

[Romans 8:26-27 \(NIV\)](#)

Collect for Pentecost -- O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Ibid. BCP p.227*

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## Call for Ushers

**Reformation Sunday** is observed on the last Sunday in October, this year it will be **October 30, 2016** recalling Martin Luther's posting of 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. The theses were theological issues Luther wished to debate with the hope that the church would reform its practice and preaching to be more consistent with the Word of God as contained in the Bible. The act sparked a movement in history known as the Reformation and laid foundations for the Lutheran tradition. LLF supplies the ushers for this service at the Washington National Cathedral. **If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact us.**

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/menu/contact.asp>

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## Know Your Rights - A Forum on Religious Land Use Law

This informative talk will be held on September 7, 2016 from 6:00pm-8:30pm at the Silver Spring Civic Center. The forum will feature Eric W. Treene, J.D., Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination, U.S. Department of Justice.

If your faith community has any plans to build, expand, or renovate, coming to this forum and learning about your religious land use rights under federal law could literally save you hundreds of thousands of dollars. One Montgomery County faith community alone incurred \$800,000 (in permitting, fees, and costs of required property improvements to build a \$1.3M building).

And even if you don't plan to build at any time, you owe it to your fellow faith communities to help them avoid unwarranted land use costs and delays.

Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/landuserightsforum> (it's free, there's food, and you can bring as many congregation leaders as you want). For more info see [http://lutheranlayfellowship.org/info/2016/2016-09-07\\_DOJ\\_FaithCommunityRights.pdf](http://lutheranlayfellowship.org/info/2016/2016-09-07_DOJ_FaithCommunityRights.pdf)

p.s. it would be helpful if you could register by Monday evening, September 5, so we know how much food and refreshments to buy.

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## Scholarship Update

### 2017 Scholarships

One of the five objectives of the LLF is "to initiate and support worthy projects of a religious, charitable, and educational nature." The promotion and encouragement of the pursuit of degree oriented education among Lutheran students is the purpose of the LLF scholarship program. As in past years, we will be offering one scholarship to an undergraduate; for 2017 we are also planning on offering an additional scholarship to a Seminary student.

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## Cooperation with Fellowship Square

Work continues on ways we can help the Fellowship Square Houses. With your help, LLF might be able to provide Gift Cards for food as well as to pay for medical needs at the pharmacy. Many times transportation is also an issue.

Healthy eating habits and shopping on a budget have also been discussed. Here is some information related to nutrition:

- MyPlate, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, illustrates the five food groups that are building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image -- a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate, in your cup, or in your bowl. The five food groups are Fruits, Vegetables, Grains, Protein and Dairy.  
<https://www.choosemyplate.gov>
- Eating healthy doesn't have to be expensive. Use these tips and materials to make healthy choices while staying within your budget.  
<https://www.choosemyplate.gov/budget>
- The ChooseMyPlate.gov website includes a number of print materials which are available as downloadable PDFs. These materials are in the public domain and therefore no permission is needed to print, reproduce, or use them.  
<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/printable-materials>

- The AARP Foundation, in conjunction with others, has developed a MyPlate graphic for older adults. This and other materials, like Shopping on a Budget, are available. <http://hnrca.tufts.edu/myplate/files/MPFOA2015.pdf>

Stay tuned to hear more about closer cooperation between LLF and Fellowship Square and how to donate money to the upcoming effort to provide Gift Cards for distribution to Fellowship Squares residents.

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## **Food Security**

Feed the Future was born of the belief that global hunger is solvable. As the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, they are transforming lives toward a world where people no longer face the agony and injustice of extreme poverty, under-nutrition and hunger.

To achieve this, Feed the Future agencies work hand-in-hand with partner countries to develop their agriculture sectors and break the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger. Not only is this the smart thing to do, as it promotes global prosperity and stability, it's also the right thing to do.

Feed the Future works from farms to markets to tables to improve incomes and nutrition. The goal is to reduce the prevalence of poverty and the prevalence of stunted children (a measure of under-nutrition) each by 20 percent in the areas where they work. This means more families will be able to lift themselves out of poverty and pay for things like nutritious food, education and health care.

For more information, visit <http://www.feedthefuture.gov>

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## **Caring & Sharing**

Do you have news to share?

Is there something in your life or in the life of your congregation you would like to share with other members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship to be published in a future LLF Newsletter? Have you been on a mission trip or taken a special vacation? Is your church doing something new and different that might be of interest to other congregations?

Send articles to [webmaster@LutheranLayFellowship.org](mailto:webmaster@LutheranLayFellowship.org).

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## **Three LLF Meetings a Month**

LLF Wheaton - The Executive Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at Panera Bread in the Wheaton Mall. All are welcome. Organizer: John Corkill

LLF Bethesda - Christ Lutheran Church is located at 8011 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. Join Dave Lambert for the "Lunch Bunch" on the second Wednesday of the month.

LLF Tyson Corner - Bob "Sarge" Sargeant invites you to a Northern Virginia meeting at Brio Tuscan Grille in the Tyson Corner Mall.

## Meeting Schedule

2nd Monday	Sept 12*	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Sept 14	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Sept 15	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30
1st Monday	Oct 3	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Oct 12	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Oct 20	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30
<b>Last Sunday,</b>	<b>Oct 30</b>	<b>Reformation Service,</b>	<b>4:00</b>
1st Monday	Nov 7	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Nov 9	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Nov 17	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30

For updated information see [www.LutheranLayFellowship.org](http://www.LutheranLayFellowship.org) and click on "Calendar"

\* Second Monday due to Labor Day Holiday.

**FAITH COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND GOVERNMENTAL BEST PRACTICES  
UNDER THE RELIGIOUS LAND USE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS ACT  
*A Community-Based Information Sharing and Discussion Forum***



*Featuring*

**Eric W. Treene, J.D.  
Special Counsel for Religious Discrimination  
U.S. Department of Justice**

**September 7, 2016**

**6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**6:00 PM Reception | 6:30 PM Program**

**Silver Spring Civic Building  
1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, Maryland**

**Mr. Treene will discuss the Religious Land Use & Institutionalized Persons Act, followed by Q&A, and brief comments by local officials. Topics include:**

- ❖ **Faith community rights** ❖
- ❖ **Land use practices prohibited and permitted** ❖
- ❖ **Redress available to faith communities** ❖
- ❖ **Examples of local government best practices** ❖

*Sponsored By*

**Washington Episcopal Clergy Association (WECA)  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC)**

*In Cooperation With*

**Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Office of the Special Council for Religious Discrimination  
Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council Religious Land Use Working Group  
Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission**

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