



March/April 2017 Newsletter

Opening Devotion — Lent

Lent is based on the Old Testament event called Passover. The children of Israel were living as slaves in Egypt. Their neighbors, the Egyptians, had experienced nine terrible plagues, and the tenth plague was just about to begin. It was going to be the worst yet. God warned Moses to give instructions to the Israelites to clean house (literally), to get all the leaven (yeast) out. Bread was to be made without yeast. A lamb was to be sacrificed, roasted, and eaten – all in one night. If there was more meat than the family could eat, then they were commanded to bring in their hungry neighbors to share. And, more importantly, the Israelites needed to distinguish their home by marking their door, top and sides, with the blood of the lamb. The giving up of yeast (a symbol of sin), and the marking of the blood (publically declaring their allegiance) is the forerunner of Lent.

So, consider what leaven you wish to clean out of your life, and declare your allegiance to the Lamb of God. As Americans, we are living in the land of excess. Consider your hungry neighbors, and make Lent a time that you take some of your God-provided excess to provide for others.

Source: <http://www.endhunger.org>

**"To be a Christian without prayer
is no more possible than to
be alive without breathing."**

Martin Luther, sometimes attributed to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther's comments on John 14

Thus you must learn from this text that through Christ alone we possess both grace and the granting of prayer, that we first become children of God, entitled to call upon Him, and then also receive what we need for ourselves and for others. Therefore wherever there is a Christian, there is none other than the Holy Spirit, who does nothing but pray without ceasing. Even though one does not move one's lips and form words continuously, one's heart nonetheless does beat incessantly; and, like the pulse and the heart in the body, it beats with sighs such as these: "Oh, dear Father, please let Thy name be hallowed, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done among us and everyone!" And when blows fall, when temptations thicken, and adversity presses harder, then such sighing prayers become more fervent and also find words. A Christian without prayer is just as impossible as a living person without a pulse. The pulse is never motionless; it moves and beats constantly, whether one is asleep or something else keeps one from being aware of it.

Source: Luther's Works (American Edition) 24:89

Martin Luther Film

Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World is a new film from directors Mike Trinkle and Steve Boettcher; it features Hugh Bonneville and Padraic Delany in the lead roles. This film depicts the rousing adventure story of Martin Luther's life, following his bold quest for truth—a journey that would reshape the church, and the world. It was first presented in our area on Monday, March 20 in Fairfax. If there is enough interest, additional screenings are possible. <https://www.tugg.com/titles/martin-luther-movie>

LLF Membership for 2017

Membership renewal letters have been mailed to all present and former members. If you did not receive one and wish to join, the 2017 Membership form is available on our website. <http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/info/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf>

LLF is undertaking special projects in support of Fellowship Square residents. Examples of support include help with transportation, prescription medications and food. In order to provide this, please consider making a tax-deductible donation on the back of your membership application and include this additional amount in your check to the LLF Treasurer. John Corkill's address is at the bottom of the application form.

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.

April 15, 2017 Deadline

Scholarship application materials are now available on our website. <http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.org/scholarship/>

Fellowship Square News

Fellowship Square Foundation is pleased to announce the hiring of Christy Zeitz as the new executive director of Fellowship Square Foundation, and the hiring of S. L. Nusbaum as the new property management company for our apartment communities.

Over the last 24 months, the Board of FSF has been engaged in long-range strategic planning for Fellowship Square. Our focus was to determine how we were doing in the operation and management of our communities, and how we might more effectively manage the organization as a whole. As part of this work, we looked at best practices in the industry, and several members of our Board visited other communities similar to ours. We found that we compared very well to these other communities in our daily operations and in quality of life that we were providing for our residents, largely due to the caring leadership of our staff.

We also discovered that these and most other apartment communities utilized professional property management that has broader experience and capacity in operations, HUD and regulatory compliance, financial management and reporting than National Lutheran Communities and Services (NLCS). With the NLCS management agreement scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016 (it has been extended on a short-term basis) we started a search in July 2016 for a new property manager who could maintain the quality of life for our residents, while providing HUD-compliance and "back-office" capabilities that we did not have with NLCS.

The property management search committee considered proposals from five firms and interviewed three of them. We wanted a firm that would share our commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of life for our residents. Because of their capacity and their values, FSF selected S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co. to replace NLCS. This change will be effective April 1.

At the same time we increasingly realized that there were gaps in our corporate-level management, particularly in community outreach and fundraising to support the enhancement of the quality of life for our residents. We began a search for a new Executive Director.

After an extensive search, we have engaged Christy Zeitz as FSF's new Executive Director. Ms. Zeitz is a seasoned executive with 20 years of experience in non-profit management, extensive fundraising experience, and a strong focus on community engagement. She began March 6 and is based at Hunters Woods Fellowship House. She will have primary responsibility for fundraising, community engagement, and oversight of the property management company.

S.L. Nusbaum will report to the Executive Director, who will report directly to the Board of Directors.

In order to provide clear lines of management authority and to provide our current staff with career opportunities beyond those available at Fellowship Square, the Board also agreed that all employees working at each of our four communities would become employees of the new property manager. While such a transfer is new to us, it is typical within the property management business for existing staff to transfer to a new company when that company takes over management from the previous firm. All employees will transfer at their current salaries. S.L. Nusbaum has a wider range of health benefit options than Fellowship Square, so we are confident that each employee will find a comparable option.

S.L. Nusbaum began the transition and is working with the staff of each of our communities, NLCS, and Fellowship Square's Transition Committee. This Committee is overseeing this transition on behalf of the Board of Directors to be sure that we continue to serve our residents, that employee transfer proceeds smoothly, and that any unexpected issues are addressed. The House Boards will continue to provide local leadership and support for our communities.

Fellowship Square Foundation is looking forward to continuing our mission together with Lutheran Lay Fellowship to serve the needs of our senior residents and those with disabilities.

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.

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

1st Monday	Apr 3	LLF Wheaton,	2:00-3:30
2nd Wednesday	Apr 12	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Apr 20	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30
1st Monday	May 1	LLF Wheaton,	2:00-3:30
2nd Wednesday	May 10	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	May 18	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30
1st Monday	Jun 5	LLF Wheaton,	11:00-12:30
2nd Wednesday	Jun 14	LLF Bethesda,	12:00-1:30
3rd Thursday,	Jun 15	LLF Tyson Corner,	12:00-1:30