



## Fall 2019 Newsletter

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### **Opening Devotion — All Saints' Day**

All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, the Feast of All Saints, or Solemnity of All Saints, is a Christian festival celebrated in honor of all the saints, known and unknown. In medieval England, the festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween. The period from October 31 to November 2 (All Souls' Day) is sometimes known as Allhallowtide. On All Saints Day, it is common for families to attend church, as well as visit cemeteries in order to lay flowers and candles on the graves of their deceased loved ones.

The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant"). In the Lutheran churches, such as the Church of Sweden, it assumes a role of general commemoration of the dead. In the Swedish calendar, the observance takes place on the Saturday between 31 October and 6 November. In many Lutheran Churches, it is moved to the first Sunday of November.

Augustinian monk, Father Martin Luther, Professor of Scripture, posted the 95 Theses on October 31st, for an academic discussion on the practice and selling of indulgences. The Church's doors were used as a kind of bulletin board for events in the city. Luther chose October 31st because the next day, All Saints Day, many townspeople would be coming to All Saints Church for the Mass. Today, All Saints Day is the day to remember all the saints, living and dead.

At church on All Saint's Sunday, November 3, 2019, members of the congregation were invited to come forward to light a candle in honor and/or in memory of the saints in their lives; such as parents, grandparents, teachers, as well as those loved ones who have passed away. Earlier in the service, the pastor explained that all Christians are saints. By lighting three candles, I specifically remembered my family, my in-laws family and a friend who died a couple of months ago.

*Source: <https://lambertdrl.wordpress.com/2019/11/04/all-saints-day/>*

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### **LLF Scholarships**

The Lutheran Lay Fellowship of the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area (LLF) is pleased to announce the awarding of two scholarship for 2019.

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. This year, there were no qualified Undergraduate scholarship applicants. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that we are giving two Seminary student awards; \$2,000 to Kenneth Champagne and \$2,000 to Maija Mikkelsen.

Kenneth Champagne, a member and staff of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, Virginia, has since 2016 been employed as their Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministries. He is working on his theological degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary with a goal of becoming a rostered Deacon in the ELCA. Kenneth's personal career goals include leading a large church's discipleship team, developing a training program for youth ministers in mission trip planning, creating a communication consulting company for churches, and becoming a resource for churches on how to adapt to and welcome younger people.

Maija Mikkelsen, a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rockville, Maryland, is finishing her Masters of Divinity degree at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). In September 2019, she began a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. During this year, she hopes to clarify her vocation and call, specifically to which roster she is called to serve. Maija knows that she is called to the margins and to the vulnerable. During her chaplain internship in the summer of 2017, she saw that life as a chaplain could be far richer than ever imagined. In addition to providing care to people at their most vulnerable and scary moments, there is a wealth of education available as one develops relationships with fellow chaplains and other hospital staff. Maija is eager for the formation and education that comes with a CPE residency.

Congratulations to both of you!

Kenny said: "Receiving this support and scholarship from the Lutheran Lay Fellowship is a tremendous blessing! I can't thank this ministry enough. Your support has helped me continue to follow God's call on my life which I pray will help others hear the good news of Christ as a servant of our Lord. I send prayers of thanksgiving for you and your support of me and all other seminarians past, present, and future!"

Maija said: "Thank you so much for selecting me to be a recipient of your very generous scholarship. I am honored to be supported by you on this next chapter of my discernment journey. I lift up prayers of thanksgiving for this group's willingness to help rising ministerial leaders in our church."

For more information and application form for 2020, check back in the winter-time.

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.org/scholarship/>

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### **Thrivent Financial, Choice Dollars®**

Generosity is important to Thrivent and its members. Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®.

Thrivent members, remember that 2019 Choice Dollars® expire on March 31, 2020 if you have not already directed them to your church or favorite nonprofit.

Logon to your account or call 800-847-4836.

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice>

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### **Membership Renewal**

If you have not received a membership renewal form in the mail, you may download the membership application form from our website. Please send to the LLF Treasurer, John Corkill, at the address at the bottom of the form, not Dave Lambert who sends out the newsletters. New members are always welcome to join!

<http://www.lutheranlayfellowship.com/info/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf>

## **Fellowship Square News**

The need for affordable housing and services for older adults has exploded nationally - and locally. With housing, rental and health care costs soaring, older adults are now at greater risk of homelessness than at any time in recent history, according to Justice in Aging. Fellowship Square is working tirelessly to help. Its four communities located throughout Northern Virginia and Maryland provide well-managed, safe and attractive apartment living for some 800+ seniors who meet low-income criteria set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). They offer vital services and programs that help their residents lead healthy and active lifestyles.

Founded in 1960 through the vision and leadership of Dr. John A. Scherzer, and the members of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington, the organization will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2020. Quite a milestone, indeed – and the organization’s impact is growing as two new large-scale projects are currently underway. The first, in partnership with Community Preservation and Development Corp (CPDC), the Lake Anne Fellowship House will be redeveloped. The nearly \$80-million project includes the construction of a new 240-apartment building and the demolition of the existing Fellowship House. The new property will provide residents with a new and modern building that will serve them and hundreds of other future residents. The second project entails the renovation of the current Hunters Woods Fellowship House. Through a refinancing effort, funds will become available to not only make major and much needed improvements to the existing building and grounds, but will include the conversion of 12 units into fully accessible units, as well as fully modernizing the common spaces. These two large-scale investments, along with increasing programs and services for residents, expanding advocacy efforts, and continuing to be equipped for emergency situations that the residents encounter from time to time including food shortages, medical/dental issues, transportation and other urgent needs, highlight the tremendous impact Fellowship Square has on its communities and alleviating the financial burdens faced by a growing number of seniors on a daily basis.

While housing costs are supported by funding from HUD, Fellowship Square relies on individual, corporate and congregational donations to cover expenses that its residents can’t afford to pay including emergency food (gift cards), non-covered prescriptions, co-pays associated with doctor’s or dentist’s visits, non-covered expenses for hearing aids, transportation and other services and activities. For more information or to learn how to get involved, please visit [www.fellowshipsquare.org](http://www.fellowshipsquare.org). “

*"A Mission to Serve: The Life of John A Scherzer and the Birth of Fellowship Square Foundation"* (ISBN 0-941397-03-3) was published in July, 1989.

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### **No Upcoming Meetings with Fellowship Square**

There are no monthly meetings scheduled this Spring. Lutheran Lay Fellowship is reworking its meeting schedule. Once it is finalized, we will print it in the newsletter.

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### **Installation of New ELCA Bishop**

On October 12th, The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, installed The Rev. Leila Ortiz as Bishop of the Metro DC Synod. Due to this major event, there was no Reformation Service at the National Cathedral this year. For a listing of the new Synod Staff, click on the link below:

<http://metrodcelca.org/staff/>

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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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## LLF Meetings

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

On occasion, Fellowship House Managers or Fellowship House RSC's will be featured. As stated above, Lutheran Lay Fellowship is reworking its meeting schedule. Once it is finalized, we will print it in the newsletter.

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## Meeting Schedule

1st Monday	Nov 4	LLF Conference Call	
1st Monday	Dec 9	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
1st Monday	Jan 6	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm
1st Monday	Feb 3	LLF Wheaton	11:00-12:30pm

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