



THE SEED

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, QUINCY, IL

MARCH 2012

Can We Be a Bit More Civil?

By Pastor Gayle Pope

One of our members sent me a link to an excellent article called “An Invitation to the Great Conversation” by Cathleen Falsani . It was on the a blog called “God’s Politics” that is connected to *Soujourners Magazine*. In it, Falsani referred to a comment by *Soujourners* CEO Jim Wallis, who said that the 2012 presidential election is expected to be the most mean-spirited and vitriolic we’ve ever seen. To which Falsani responded, “That may be true, but it doesn’t necessarily mean it must be that way. We can solve that problem one conversation at a time.”

She noted that conversation is an “exchange of ideas” – not shouting opinions or beliefs at each other – and that it requires “listening, hearing and being heard” – not necessarily agreeing or even liking the other parties. She then made a case for “civility” as the guiding principle for good conversation. “Not only is civility necessary and right, it is also the loving thing to do,” she wrote. “Civility means listening respectfully, hearing honestly and genuinely, and creating a safe space where all may trust that they genuinely are being heard.”

I am an avid observer of political conversation. I like listening to talk radio and watching TV news shows. Last week the hot topic was Rick Santorum’s comments about contraception, abortion and the devil. As a person of faith who was raised Catholic, I understand Santorum’s views and how they are informed by a great respect for life and the sacredness of human sexuality.

One can certainly disagree with whether and how those views should be reflected in public policy, but it made me sad to read and hear comments portraying him as anti-women and “a special brand of evil masquerading as a person of faith.” Many comments about Obama and Democrats from the right are just as untruthful and mean.

All that said, I am thinking that I would like to talk about this subject of public discourse at an Adult Forum some time. I know we have members who lean both left and right. I wonder if we could take a controversial subject and practice “listening respectfully, hearing honestly and genuinely, and creating a safe space where all may trust that they genuinely are being heard.” And then take those skills into the world, thereby promoting “civility” in conversation. What do you think?

On the Road of Discipleship

We have begun our journey down the Lenten Road of Discipleship. It was good to see so many at our Ash Wednesday service. I am looking forward to our Wednesday soup suppers and evening devotions. Supper is set for 5:45, and worship at 6:30. The services will be somewhat informal with an opening song and prayer, Scripture reading and message, song to reflect on the message, time for sharing our experiences from practicing the Lenten disciplines published on our calendar, followed by a time of prayer and a closing song. Services should last from 30 to 40 minutes.

The themes and speakers for the rest of the Wednesday services are as follows:

- ✠ **March 7: “No Fear”** by **Bruce Holderbaum**, based on Matthew 4:19, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”
- ✠ **March 14: “No Reservations”** by **Bonnie Scranton**, based on Matthew 16:24, “Let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.”
- ✠ **March 21: “No Attachments”** by **Pastor Gayle** (unless someone else volunteers), based on Matthew 19:21, “Go, sell your possessions ... then come, follow me.”
- ✠ **March 28: “No Holding Back”** by **Dick Tabb**, based on Matthew 25:40, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.”

I pray that our Lenten journey together will strengthen our faith, bring us closer to God, and make us better disciples of Jesus.



Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2012

Members present: Bruce Holderbaum; Tom Holte; Jim Bailey; Ashley Maas; Donne Parke; Trish Santos; Bonnie Scranton; Judy Kauffman; Dick Tabb; Pastor Gayle Pope
Absent: Sue McLennan; Mary Reeve; Kathy Wolters

Opening prayer was provided by Pastor Gayle; Trish Santos lead the devotion.

Judy Kauffman will provide devotions in March.

Minutes of January 10 and 22, 2012 were approved as written

Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports were reviewed. It was noted that Dave Ramsey expense of \$133.36 (line item 3-7) should be accounted for in the 2011 budget. Questions were also asked re: line items 8-3 and 8-9 (pastor and staff benefits) as to what is included in each and whether the church or the Larners pay for communion wine. Reports were approved for audit pending resolution of the above items. Bonnie will also schedule a meeting for Pastor, Robin, Andrew, Ashley and herself re: process for paying bills. A new check request form will be developed for use as a part of this process.

President's report: Bonnie Scranton reported on the public hearing notice of a new Presbyterian church being built in the East Lake Center. Our current year synod benevolence is 3.4% of the total budget, which we should try increase as funds allow; Pastor noted that the synod is working to reduce costs due to a reduction in congregations and lower benevolence receipts. The risk management team (Stu Bell; Dave Tooke; Alan Steigelman) will meet on Feb. 23 to develop a risk management plan based upon recommendation from Cincinnati Insurance, our liability insurance provider. The property team has already addressed some of the concerns outlined in the recommendations for improvement. The annual garage sale is planned for Saturday, April 28. Proceeds will be used to help with the youth trip to New Orleans, if needed.

Pastor's report: Pastor Gayle led some discussion re: the change to a single service, especially as it impacts adult forum and coffee hour. Ideas discussed included moving adult forum to before worship or holding it in the lounge. No final decisions were made. Pastor and Ashley will be hosting a Bible study group on Thursday evenings, beginning Feb. 9th. It is primarily intended for young younger women, but women of any age are welcome and having some older women participate as possible mentors could be a positive addition. Child care may be needed and volunteers for this would be appreciated.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Stewardship – no report

Service – at the last Unmet Needs Committee meeting Christ Lutheran pledged \$50 from our unmet needs budget to assist with a designated case.

Property – new lights have been installed in the youth room. A proposal from Rescue Air re: HVAC maintenance was presented. It was agreed that the property ministry team would make a final decision as to whether or not to enter into the maintenance contract. Cost would be \$600/yr and would provide maintenance checks and service for the entire HVAC system every six months. If approved funds would come from the church maintenance line item of the 2012 budget (line 7-2).

Worship – Hymns have been selected through 3/18. Worship ministry team is working with Pastor on the Wednesday Lenten services; the theme is “The Road of Discipleship”. Next meeting is 3/8 at 5:30pm. Pastor Gayle will be doing a pulpit exchange with Deacon Pat Monroe from Liberty/Mendon on 3/18, as a part of the CROSS Parish exchange program.

Witness – no report

Learning – Sunday School teachers and nursery helpers are scheduled through March. Trivia night and the youth room dedication in January 20th was a successful event. We're planning to have the youth room open two Fridays a month for congregational youth and friends. Adult supervision will be provided and volunteers for this purpose are needed.

Discussion was held as to whether age groups should be specified and the appropriate number of adults needed. Adjustments will be made as needed based upon participation. The next youth & family event will be pizza and bowling on 2/21. Cost is \$6.00/person. Confirmation camp at Augustana College will be in June; registration deadline is 4/27. At the present time we have 5 youth eligible. \$110/youth will be paid from the non-budgeted general youth fund. Remaining costs will be the responsibility of the participating families. Peggy Bailey has agreed to lead a youth choir, which may start in March if there is significant interest. Rehearsals will be during adult forum.

Fellowship – A door and adjustable window covering are still being planned for the kitchen as soon as sufficient funds have been raised to cover the costs (\$1,316 has been raised to date for this project).

Mutual Ministry – the group met Jan. 24th and discussed “shepherding groups”. These groups of 8-10 members of the congregation would be formed as a means of providing regular communication between members and care/ outreach when needed or appropriate. This idea will be discussed further at the team’s March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic plan – Pastor Gayle will e-mail the goals and objectives and the action plan worksheet to all council members. Bonnie asked that all liaisons be prepared to report on progress in developing action plans for their areas of responsibility at the March 13th council meeting.

Time & Talent Sheets – Bonnie will e-mail 2012 spreadsheets to council members by this weekend. It is important for ministry teams to invite volunteers to participate in activities as indicated.

Capital improvement fund – a motion was approved to allocate \$6,500 in savings from the call process as seed money for the establishment of a capital improvement fund. The purpose of the fund would be to ensure that we provide for long-term care of our physical facilities. A capital improvement plan will be developed as a part of the strategic planning process.

Nick Kruse’s original proposal for his Eagle Scout project was not approved. He is working with the property team on another proposal to install card holders on the backs of a portion of the pew chairs in the sanctuary. Cards in these holders would give worship attendees an opportunity to communicate with the pastor and/or staff about personal needs or interest in membership, etc.

Jim Bailey provided an update re: the lighted outdoor cross which will go on the south side of the church. The costs for the cross (\$790.00) and installation will be paid from memorial funds, including recent contributions from Virgene and Ellen Gilkerson. More information about this project will be included in the March Seed.

A quick check was made as to what new council members need keys to the church.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ministry teams and liaisons – a motion was approved to combine the service and witness teams. Participants on these two teams will be asked to meet to help draft a new ministry team description, identify appropriate responsibilities, and perhaps choose a new name. Liaisons for 2012 were agreed upon as follows: Stewardship – Dick Tabb; Service/Witness – Mary Reeve; Property – Bruce Holderbaum; Worship – Judy Kauffman; Learning – Donna Parke & Trish Santos; Fellowship – Sue McLennan; Mutual Ministry – Tom Holte.

Snow removal – it was agreed that we will ask Mark Haubrich to automatically plow the lots in the event of a snow fall of 3” or more; he will be contacted for lesser snowfalls on an as needed basis by the property committee. Bruce will also check to see what the cost would be to plow a driving path to the front doors if and when needed.

As required by the constitution, money counters for 2012 were unanimously approved as follows: Norma Tofall, Kaye Marshall, Mary Shank (sub), and Bernice Colgrove (sub).

Council unanimously reaffirmed the acceptance of the following new members: Beth, Jason, Hailey & Connor Katenin and Marcia Johnson.

The fellowship ministry team will be asked to review and update the facility rental agreement that was on file in the office. This agreement is not the most recent version but is the only one that can be located.

Pastor Gayle volunteered Christ Lutheran to host our Northwest Conference Assembly the evening of Tuesday, May 1. About 40 people will be in attendance. An evening meal will need to be provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Scranton on behalf of Kathy Wolters

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS UPDATES — MARCH 2012

Thrivent made a few changes effective for 2012. Following is its recently adopted mission statement.

THE THRIVENT WAY

We are a faith-based membership organization. Our purpose is to strengthen Christian communities by helping members be wise with money and inspiring them to live generously. We succeed when our members and their communities thrive. We value our relationships, so we will be trustworthy in character and competence, we will treat our members as owners and we will live balanced and generous lives.

The 2012 Adams County Thrivent Board of Directors is:

President: Mary Turner—Home Church: Salem Lutheran Church, Mendon
Vice President: Denise Percy—Home Church: St. John Lutheran Church, Quincy
Financial Director: Becky Albert—Home Church: Hope Lutheran Church, Quincy
Records Director: Renita Mohr—Home Church: St. James Lutheran Church, Quincy
Communications Director: Joan Larner—Home Church: Christ Lutheran Church, Quincy
Congregational Advocates Director—Janet Waack Anderson—Home Church: St. John Lutheran Church, Quincy
Congregational Advocates Advisor—Sandra Callahan—Home Church: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Quincy
Financial Representative: Jan Fritz—Home Church: St. John Lutheran Church, Quincy

Congregational Advocates for Christ Lutheran Church are Ron Larner, Kaye Marshall, and Joan Larner.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thank you to those Thrivent members who allocated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Christ Lutheran Church during 2011. Christ Lutheran received more than \$1,000 in Choice Dollars. Please be attentive to your correspondences in regard to upcoming Choice Dollars for 2012. Thrivent is phasing out the option for recurring direction (the “set it and forget it” option) for Thrivent Choice Dollars. What this means for members eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars:

- In 2012, members will be able to choose an organization and direct designated Choice Dollars to that organization on an ongoing basis for the year.
- In 2013, members will need to select an organization each time they want to direct Choice Dollars.
- Members with a recurring direction set up will receive a letter explaining that the option is being removed.
- A reply card will be included so members can renew their recurring direction (only for 2012) to the organization they had selected in 2011.

Care Abounds in Communities has several program updates:

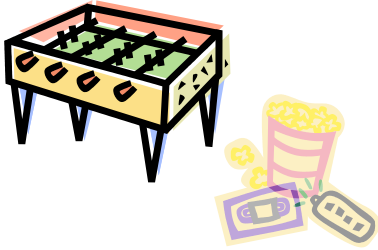
- 100% of the amount allocated to a chapter is based on fraternal benefit society products—life insurance, health insurance and annuities—that chapter members own. Chapters that have more members with deeper relationships in their fraternal benefit society product ownership will see proportionately more funding to help their communities.
- In addition to individuals, families and nonprofit organizations, congregations can now be the recipient of Care Abounds in Communities funds for activities that educate people about how to be wise with money, create and support generosity and bring people together for fun, as well as learn about Thrivent Financial and what it means to be a member.
- The requirement to involve at least six Thrivent Financial members in the planning, preparation and execution of an activity has been removed.
- The \$1,600 maximum per activity has been removed, but the \$100 minimum is the same.

To learn more about Thrivent Financial, visit **Thrivent.com** or check out our chapter web site:

www.lutheransonline.com/adamscountyilchapter

CELEBRATE THURSDAY, APRIL 19, AT THE FABULOUS FOX THEATRE!!

Join Thrivent members and guests for the Thrivent Financial’s 2012 national member meeting. The Adams County Chapter is sponsoring free bus transportation to the event AND you do not have to be a Thrivent member to attend. You will have an opportunity to hear Thrivent’s President and CEO, Brad Hewitt, speak about the membership benefits available and enjoy backstage tours, music, and a reception with hors d’oeuvres. Reception and theatre tours are 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program is 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations will need to be made for reserving a spot on the bus (capacity of 55) as well as for attending the event at the Fox Theatre. More information will be forthcoming. See Joan Larner if you have questions or are interested in going to the Fox (phone: 222-0967 or e-mail: jlarnar@hughes.net). Please join us for an enjoyable outing.



Come Hang out in the “Hang Out” (Our New Youth Room)

Jr/Sr High please bring your friends Friday, March 16th 7-10 p.m.
We will have snacks. Bring some games and have some fun!!

Adult Fellowship March 17

We are going to meet at 7 p.m. at Sue Reeder’s house, 1084 Hemingway North. This will be a wine tasting to vote for your favorite wine for communion. Everyone should bring a snack and a red wine that costs \$5 or less. The Mogan David we are using is \$10 for 1500 ml (this has recently gone up \$3/bottle). Everyone please bring your own wine glass and wear green. Call or email Sue with questions at 217-885-3161; susandreeder@att.net



Pulpit Exchange March 18

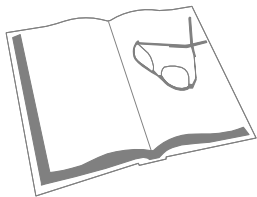


Deacon Pat Monroe will be presiding and preaching at our 9:30 Sunday worship service on March 18 and Pastor Gayle will be taking Deacon Pat’s place at Zion Lutheran in Liberty and Salem Lutheran in Mendon. The pulpit exchange is one of the activities of CROSS Parish, a group of Hancock and Adams county Congregations Regionally Organized for Service and Support. The purpose is for congregations to get to know some of the other pastors serving in their area.

COME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2-4 P.M. OPEN HOUSE TO CELEBRATE VIRGENE GILKERSON’S 90TH BIRTHDAY



Books & Brew March 27



Are they really “Cheaper By the Dozen”? Why don’t you find out by reading the book by Frank Gilbreth with that title and join us March 27th at 6 PM at Hyvee. This is a “delightfully enduring story of family life at the turn of the twentieth century”.

Easter Party March 31

2 p.m. Come dye eggs, play games, eat yummy treats,
and end the afternoon with an Easter Egg Hunt!!

**(Also if any adults in the church would like to donate hard boiled eggs
or plastic eggs filled with treats, it would be appreciated!)**



New Outside Cross

The Church Council has approved the order of a new cross to be mounted outside on the brick wall of the church facing Holiday Drive. When we built our sanctuary addition, the original drawings featured a cross in this location. For whatever reason, the cross was never purchased.

The cross we have ordered is 12 feet high and 7 1/2 feet wide. The cross is white and will have back lighting so it will be illuminated at night. We ordered the cross from Bowling United Industries, which is one of the oldest church furnishings/lighting/manufacturers in the U.S. The cost of the cross is \$790.00, which includes shipping from Virginia.



The cross is being paid for out of our Memorial Fund, which has a non-budget fund balance. If anyone would like to donate money toward the purchase of this cross, please make your contribution to Christ Lutheran Church and designate your donation as Memorial Fund-Cross.

Thanks, Jim Bailey, Council Vice-President

News Briefs

- o **Aiven Maas** was welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Feb. 26. He is the son of Andrew and Ashley Maas and grandson of Christ Lutheran members David and Wendy Maas. Aiven's godparents are his uncle Zach Maas and Amber Martin, a family friend.
- o **Peggy Tarbell**, a member of Christ Lutheran, passed away Feb. 1 at Blessing Hospital and her funeral was held here on Sunday, Feb. 5. Peggy's daughter Patty Kruse and her husband, Darrell, are also congregation members, along with their children Taylor, Erik and Nick.
- o Congratulations to **Jena (Wagy)** and **Preston Steinhour** on the birth of their son **Caden Lee** Feb. 15. Caden has a big brother, Austin, age 3. Jena is Floyd and Joyce Leenerts' granddaughter.
- o **Bruce Holderbaum has our new congregational picture directory completed.** Many thanks to Bruce for getting all those photos taken and assembling all the information. Copies are available in the church narthex. If you see an error notify the church office.
- o **We will be taking in some new members in March**, including **Alan Steigelman, Brad Bliven, and Sam Lathrop**, and possibly some others. The new members who join in March will be featured in the April issue of the SEED.

Mystery Solved!

For all who might be wondering, Alan Steigelman found Phil Conover's missing coat. Alan had worn it home by mistake and, with all the nice weather we've had, he hadn't worn it since! When Alan saw the photo in last month's SEED, he checked his closet and, sure enough, he had the wrong coat. Both coats have been restored to their rightful owners!

From the Kruse Family

We would like to thank Pastor Gayle Pope for providing a very special celebration of life service in memory of our wonderful mother/grandmother, Peggy Tarbell. Also, a special thanks to the congregation for all the prayers and thoughtful cards and to the Fellowship Committee for providing a wonderful meal after the service.

Altar Guild Note

Thanks a bunch for cutting out the Hy-Vee brand UPC coupons. For 2011, we received \$70.00 from Hy-Vee. This money is used to buy altar flowers other than for Christmas and Easter. Keep up the good work!

Super –Duper Garage Sale April 28, 7 a.m.-Noon

Now is the time to find those treasured items you wish to get rid of this spring. You can donate them to our church garage sale while assisting in our youth ministry by supporting their mission trip to New Orleans.

We welcome your donations of furniture, athletic wear, work out equipment, household goods and seasonal decorations, and books. All items must be clean and in good working order. We will not be accepting electronic equipment unless you are willing to pick it up if it is not sold.

Our committee will coordinate pick up of your large items if you need help getting your donations to church. If you don't have items, please consider donations of baked goods. One of our members baked homemade cinnamon rolls last year which were a big hit. So think about your talents and how you can support our youth ministry with your talents and gifts.

We will need volunteers to receive, set up and price items ahead of Saturday, sell items and clean up on Saturday, and to bake food for the Bake Sale. It is great fellowship and a good way to get acquainted with members. Helpers will be needed from noon on Thursday, April 26th until 6:00 p.m. We need helpers on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Watch for the sign-up sheets in the foyer. If you can help with publicity by taking a sign to public places or work, let us know. Thank you for your support!

Submitted by Kathy Wolters

Womens Small Group "Bible Study"

Recently, Christ Lutheran has added a new group to Thursday nights. We are focusing toward woman and moms with younger children. This gives them a chance to learn about God and have discussion based on how their faith affects them in their daily lives. We had our first meeting to discuss what each person would like to receive out of a small group and came to the conclusion that we all would like to start from the beginning. We held our first session on February 9th and began a bible study on the books of Genesis. The small group has started off with a success by having members from Christ Lutheran Church as well as non-members attend. It is a great opportunity to take time out of our busy lives and learn about God and from each others perspectives. Every woman is welcome and I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to come join us. We meet every Thursday night in the "wedding room" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Ashley Maas

Easter Lilies

We will decorate our chancel with lilies this Easter season. The Altar Guild will purchase the plants. We invite you to donate a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Your order and check need to be received in the church office by April 1st. If lilies are purchased at a more reasonable cost, the remainder of the money received will be deposited in the flower fund, to reduce costs for future flower purchases.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ Lilies at \$10.00 each

____ Given to the Glory of God

____ Given in Memory of _____

____ Given in Honor of _____



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MARCH

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sue Reeder	Pat Bell	Bonnie Scranton	Mary Reeve
USHER	Joe Brinkman	Stu Bell	Darrell Kruse	Wendy Maas
READER	Jim Bailey	Virgene Gilkerson	Tom Holte	Ron Larnar
GREETERS	Joan Kammerlohr Judy Kauffman	Reth and Jennifer Stollberg	Ron and Joan Larnar	David and Char Tooke
DEACON	Barb Rhinberger	Jennifer Stollberg	Joan Larnar	Wayne McLennan
SOUND SYSTEM	Andrew Maas	Jacob Parke	Stuart Peters	Olin Shuler
ACOLYTE			Erik Kruse	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Julie Spurgeon	Trish Santos	Donna Parke	Trish Santos
NURSERY	Nora Holte	Savana Santos	Hayley Katenin	Linda Dillman

If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and make a change on the appropriate sheet on the office bulletin board. Many Thanks!



If you have a birthday in March and your name does not appear on the following list, we would appreciate it if you would notify us so that we can complete our records.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| March | |
| 6 Melvin Dillman | 19 Bonnie Scranton |
| 9 Judy Kauffman | 21 Kris McEwen |
| 12 Joe Brinkman | 22 Virgene Gilkerson |
| Ashley Maas | 26 Samantha Conover |
| 15 Ashley Stollberg | 29 Delaney Dillman |
| 16 David Reeder | 31 Mary Hesse |
| Evan Conover | |



If you have a wedding anniversary in March and it does not appear below, please notify the church office.

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| March | 4 Wayne and Sue McLennan |
| | 17 Andrew & Ashley Maas |