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# HOSPITALITY

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LUTHER PLACE MEMORIAL CHURCH

## JUNE 2010

LUTHER PLACE MEMORIAL CHURCH  
1226 VERMONT AVENUE, NW  
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## CALENDAR

WORSHIP: Sundays, 9 & 11 a.m.

OFFICE: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### SUNDAYS:

8 a.m. Praise Band rehearsal

9 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

10 a.m. Sunday School; Adult Education;  
and Chancel Choir rehearsal

11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

2 p.m. Unity Fellowship Worship Service

N Street Night Shelter...Daily, 4 p.m.-7:30 a.m.

Emmaus Senior Center...Monday-Friday,  
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Twelve Step Meetings

Logan Renewal (AA).....Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

I Can't/We Can (AA & NA)...Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Hope Friends (NA).....Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Regular Monthly Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Executive Committee.....6 p.m.

Congregation Council.....6:30 p.m.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

6/12 Sacred Commons Work Day

6/13 10 a.m. One worship service celebrating 30<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of Lutheran Volunteer Corps  
followed by picnic lunch

6/20 10 a.m. Adult Forum: LVCers share  
about their jobs

6/23 Global Music Concert at LP supporting  
Bethany Danielson's year in Young  
Adult Global Missions

6/27 10 a.m. "Peace of God" Adult Bible Study

6/27 LP Women of Faith potluck lunch

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we enter into the summer months, we delight in the guests that will be with us for the summer, particularly in students who will serve the congregation this summer. I will be working most closely with Amanda Lindamood, who comes to us through a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church called Project Connects. This initiative emerges from the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries and is funded by the Lilly Endowment. Its purpose is to encourage young adults to consider a vocation of public ministry in the church.

Amanda will soon be 20 years old and is a student at the University of Georgia. She is from Arlington, VA, and Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington is her home church. Amanda will be involved in many areas of ministry at Luther Place and will preach in August. We look forward to how we will engage together in Gospel ministry this summer!

As we consider our own young adult ministry here at Luther Place, I am more and more mindful of the ways this generation of young people is different from my generation. Much of this is delineated in the book I am reading, *After the Boomers: How Twenty and Thirty Somethings are Shaping the Future of American Religion*, by Robert Wuthnow. We have a great mission field here in DC and have the opportunity to create space in our faith community where young people can question, doubt, and wrestle with God and the Lutheran Church.

May those of us who are elders be open to listening to the young adults around us, mindful that God is moving through this generation in new and exciting ways! And may young adults in and around this congregation be open to a God that loves us all way more than we deserve!

In peace,

*Pastor Karen*

## PROJECT CONNECT INTERN

For those who haven't met me yet, or have merely seen me in passing or heard a reference to "summer Amanda," I am she. I am a purebred, diehard Arlingtonian, and happily so. I've loved growing up right outside of the capital, and I'm glad to be back, albeit a brief return. I am entering my junior year at the University of Georgia in Athens, or the Bulldog Nation as it is more commonly, and quite affectionately, referred to. I am preparing to study at Oxford's Keeble College this September during my fall semester, taking English, Psychology and Religion courses, and hopefully spending ample time traveling across Europe when my course load allows. In a year and a half when I graduate, I hope to work overseas either for the Peace Corps or, if I am so blessed, as a candidate for a Young Adult Global Mission; presently my first choice would be to teach in the West Bank. My long-term vision, which I hope to further discern and grapple with this summer, is to attend Philadelphia Seminary and serve as an ordained minister in the ELCA, as well as possibly teaching at a university or seminary.



I love to meet new people and experience new things and I am elated to be spending my summer with this congregation, from whom I expect to learn a lot. I feel extremely fortunate for the encouragement and the hospitality I've been greeted with.

Under the direction of Pastor Brau, Project Connect has provided me an opportunity to immerse myself within Luther Place, dabbling in public ministry, relationship and the dynamic life of the church as I discern my vocational calling as it relates to both my God-given gifts and my relationship with the church. Project Connect, officiated by director Don Johnson and assisted by the seminaries of regions seven, eight, and nine and their admissions directors, purposes to connect young adults with strong and passionate church leaders who nurture and encourage a culture of call in the church as individuals journey through the discernment process. It is centralized on identifying gifted young adults and assisting in their exploration, self-discovery, and spiritual sustenance. The hope is that, as a culture of call is awakened and strengthened, young adults will grow among and stay connected to the church, which in turn will strengthen the life of the church and contribute to its prosperity and mission. The future of Project Connect lies in the sustenance of strong relational networks and collaborative efforts to identify and nurture young adults for Public Ministry.

Earlier in this process, when I was selecting the parish to which I wanted to learn and serve, Luther Place stood out. Apart from the strong tradition of outreach and pursuit of social justice, you as a congregation are blessed with a strong lineage of capable, motivated, and inspiring leaders. Under their direction and dedication has grown a congregation thirsty for growth and renewal, standing as a beacon of light emblemizing what the church can aspire to become and excitedly embrace. I am excited to join in this movement for change and revision alongside all of you, who I know will influence my ministry and refine my gifts. My hope for this experience is that I will foster relationships, learn from your strengths and the initiative of your leaders, and have the spirit that burns so ably here ignite a flame within me and mold my heart for public ministry. I am eager to get started and thankful for your overwhelming support, and I look forward to what promises to be an enriching summer.

*Amanda Lindamood*

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## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Mission of the Month for June is Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM). ELM's vision is to create, empower, and sustain a growing number of faith communities that are committed to the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life and ministry of the Lutheran church.

Three current or former members of Luther Place are on the ELM roster: Pastor Jane Ralph (now a non-profit director in Vermont), Pastor Lura Groen (serving at Grace Lutheran Church, Houston), and Matt James (a seminarian graduating this spring). These ministers and ELM's collective witness helped move the ELCA to change its ministry policies. This spring and summer, ELM ministers can now go through a process to be received onto the ELCA ministry roster. Thanks be to God!

ELM's unique calling is to expand ministry opportunities for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, with special attention given to those who have either been denied ministry or been adversely affected in other significant ways by the existing policies and practices of discrimination and oppression.

This vision is rooted in Lutheran confessional history, liturgy, and practice. ELM shares a commitment to our common Lutheran heritage and an expectation that Lutheran confessional tradition will illumine the current struggle to create joy, hope, and faith where the institutional churches have failed to do so.

*Kate Wulff*

*Stewardship Committee*

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## WOMEN OF FAITH

In April, a few of the young adults coordinated a Ladies Night for the young women of Luther Place. The idea was to gather at someone's house, cook, and eat dinner together, have some sort of devotion relating to women, and just hang out. When other people stepped up to organize this event, I was thrilled. I thought I was home free. Instead, I somehow got roped into figuring out a devotion. After consulting with the many pastors in our office (Pastor Karen, Jack, Mike Wilker . . .), I finally found inspiration for a devotion. As I gathered with 13 other young women, I shared the story of Joanna, one of the women who first witnessed Jesus' resurrection. When she goes to tell people the good news, they don't believe her and say it is an "idle tale." Speculations on this passage suggest that others doubt these witnesses largely because they are women. After sharing this story, I asked those present to share a time when someone doubted them because of their gender. It was a powerful experience listening to stories around the room of doubt and belief, powerlessness and powerfulness. So what does our womanhood have to do with our faith?

Well, we'd like to do more exploring of what it means to be a woman of faith, but we feel the need to expand our circle! The young ladies that night expressed an interest in including all women of Luther Place, so here is an official invitation to all women and friends.

You are invited to attend:

### **Women of Faith**

A potluck luncheon and storytelling opportunity!

Sunday, June 27, 12:30 p.m.

at Luther Place

Bring a dish that has a story behind it or is meaningful to you.

We will have a few women tell stories to the whole group about their experiences being women of faith . . . then, we will have opportunities to have informal table discussion while we share a meal together!

*Amanda Weber*

*Coordinator, Community Life and the Arts*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

### Life. Over Easy.

Australian men have their tool sheds, where men gather to work on projects and to catch up on each others' lives. The English have their pubs, where men talk over a pint. At Luther Place, we have the Men's Breakfast. The Men's Breakfast is a time of fellowship where men can spend a Saturday morning hanging out and talking about work, family, faith, power tools, hobbies, home repairs, and any other topic that comes up. But primarily, it's a supportive and caring environment where we can share our lives with each other.

Each month, we gather in someone's home for breakfast and devotions. Then we spend time getting to know each other better, or updating everyone on recent events in our lives, whether that's our work life, family life, or faith life. We have also established an annual Men's Retreat to Rolling Ridge Lodge each January. At the retreat, we spend a weekend devoted to meditating, hiking, snowball fights, exploring faith issues, exploring the woods, and becoming closer to each other and to God. Some participants use the opportunity to hike part of the nearby Appalachian Trail. We also have a lively competition to see who can cook the best meal, or bring the best dessert (the winner has the right to carry the title of "Executive Chef of Luther's Pub" for a year).

If you're interested in joining us, contact me thru the church office to find out about the next gathering or to be placed on the e-mail list. Then come join us for coffee, eggs, toast, and life, over easy.

*Dan Corbett*

*Coordinator, Men's Breakfast*



*Some of the participants in the 2010 Men's Retreat at Rolling Ridge. Left to right: Ron Hebensperger, Dan Corbett and Dick Rortvedt.*

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## FAMILY AND FRIENDS RETREAT

### O Blessed Spring: Baptism and Forgiveness

Five families enjoyed a spirit-filled retreat at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center April 23-25 – renewing our practice of forgiveness rooted in our baptism in Christ. Our forgiveness sessions focused on Christ in the center with three themes: forgiveness of ourselves, within families and within communities. One of the highlights was making tie-dye shirts – feel free to ask the kids what the circles mean on their shirts.

Several activities filled our weekend: hikes, crafts, music, games, story-telling, campfires, and s'mores. For our closing worship service, the children's gifts included the baptismal water (from a hike to the creek), the communion bread and grape juice (made by the children), and gifts of creation (from nature walks). We closed the retreat by planting flowers for the Luther Place grounds.

Thanks to everyone who made the retreat possible, including the Planning Group (Anne Miller, Mike Wilker, Susanne Blume, Pastor Karen), Music (Judy Kittleson), Plants and Bread Making (Andi Carlson), Grape juice and Campfire (Andrew Miller).

*Anne Miller*

*Co-chair, Youth and Family Committee*



*Family and Friends Retreat. Above left: Attendees enjoyed walks in the woods. Above right: the children provided items for communion. Below: Attendees enjoyed games and stories together.*



## EUROPEAN PRIDE

*Marti Scheel will attend the annual conference of the European Forum of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Christian Groups in Barcelona later this month. The conference was in Finland last year and a local attendee sent Marti the message below and photo at right:*

Life in Finland is a bless(ing) and now we found out why. We are not alone. Thank you world!



## N STREET VILLAGE GALA

*During the N Street Village annual Gala on April 20, Elaine Webber received the Erna and John Steinbruck Award for being 'a servant of hope'.*

I am so amazed sometimes how other people see me. I know that GOD has transformed me from hopeless to hopeful — I guess that is what it is all about.

*Elaine Webber*

*N Street Village Executive Director Mary Funke presents Elaine Webber with the Steinbruck Award. Photo by Jim Johnson*



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## THE CANON...

At this point in my time serving the Steinbruck Center and Luther Place, some of you may know that in a former lifetime known as college, I was an art history major. While how I ended up working in the places that I have for the last couple of years and how little art history has to do with them might be a good topic for conversation, some of my current activities here at Luther Place and N Street Village have made me wonder if that part of my education will ever be complete. One of the most heated discussions that took place in the capstone class of my art history studies focused on something called the *canon*. The canon is what academics, connoisseurs and critics uphold as exemplary and influential, the cultural best a society has to offer after time has let other works fade into the background. Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Bach. It is the valuing of some works and artists over others. How does one decide what good art or music or literature is? Better yet, who gets to decide?

I have been teaching an art class in the Wellness Center at N Street Village for several months now and just recently started teaching some of the men who come to the Oasis Senior Center as well. Nearly all of these cautious Cassatts and would-be Warhols are shy and claim to be bad at art or not know anything about it. And then I learn something from them that I did not know before or someone asks a question that I had never thought to ask before. Most recently, I was having a conversation with a couple of the gentlemen in the Oasis Center about artists whose work they admire. First, they started out with the names of artists who are widely popular, mostly Impressionist painters or names that people think they are supposed to say because they are included in the typical art history book or get plastered on wall calendars. And then some names started coming up that I had never heard of before. Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden, famous painters who came out of the African American cultural center in Harlem, were two such artists. It blew my mind to think that I never would have heard about them had I stayed away from the opportunity to volunteer, had I not engaged with the clients and staff of the Oasis Center and N Street. So why do I serve and volunteer with these life-giving and loving community service providers? Because I am not whole or fully educated and don't even know that until I can sit down and openly share in the wisdom of people who have lived a different life from the one I am living, to question myself and the *canon*.

*Sarah Rossing*

*Program Coordinator, Steinbruck Center for Urban Studies*

*"Origins" by Jacob Lawrence, 1984.*



## COMMAS

Within the fourth line of the Nicene Creed is a comma. Like many commas, it's easy to miss. Not intentionally, of course. It's just that there are so many big words that dwarf those little commas, and we forget to notice. For some reason, I tend to pay more attention to this particular comma than any other in our liturgy. It subtly changes the meaning of the sentence, but that's not what I want to write about. As obsessive-compulsive as I am, I am not inspired to write about the theological meaning of "all that is, seen and unseen." (For that, I prefer to badger Tove in private.) Today, I am inspired to write about something much simpler: discarded commas.

As I sat in the pew last Sunday, daydreaming during the announcements, I found myself thinking about that comma. Amidst our busy and hectic lives, commas are a distraction. An unnecessary delay. An obstacle to adroitly sidestep as we rush to finish each sentence, to get to the next e-mail, to read the next page. How dare someone suggest that we pause? We don't have time to pause at every comma we come across. It is a sacrifice to put even a moment aside. And if we paused for each one, pretty soon we would actually add a whole minute or two into our day. We simply don't have time for that.

As a result, we lose an opportunity to reflect on what we say, read, and do. We lose an opportunity to emphasize what is important in a sentence and, in a way, what is important in our lives. A comma is not a "must do". It's a "get to do". Commas allow us a fleeting pause in life. It is not in rushing through our errands that we grow closer to God or each other. We grow closer to God and each other when we take time out to simply be with each other: praying, meditating, singing, talking, and reflecting. And it all fits conveniently into that tiny little comma. Sitting there, I was reminded of a song I sang at church camp thirty years ago: "Look for God in small things, drops of rain or a grain of sand. Praise God whenever you find God in anything small." Commas are a gift from God, not a sacrifice we must endure on behalf of God. And that got me thinking about the fourth commandment. Like that simple little comma in the fourth line of the Nicene Creed, the fourth commandment to keep the Sabbath is not a "have to do", it's a "get to do". God sets aside a whole day every week for us to grow in our faith and fellowship. Being able to spend Sunday mornings with each other is such an incredible gift. It's those simple pauses in life that afford us a chance to nourish our souls and our relationships with each other. But only if we accept the gift.

Perhaps, if we rush through our sentences and extend our workdays into Sundays, we may finish up all our duties sooner, and then we can finally kick back and relax. Except we never seem to get finished and our duties never seem to end. Life always has something else we must do. Pauses amidst the chaos are a blessing; a get to do, not a have to do. *Carpe diem* is sage advice, but unless we also *carpe* commas, we miss those blessings. Those small pauses in our creeds give us time to slow down. Spending Sunday mornings in church, pausing for commas (or not), gives us time to slow down in our weeks. We spend the rest of the time scurrying about doing the "must do" stuff so we can take advantage of the "get to do" blessings. Pauses are not sacrifices; they are miracles.

Mike Anderson

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## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Mark Endahl	12	Chloe Cuyun	19	Betsy Carlson
3	Lowell Endahl	12	Alec Parsons	19	Beth Schultz
3	John Hamre	13	Iris Hermsmeier	22	Donald Cook
4	Taylor Nelson	13	Judy Kittleson	23	Jeff Serfass
6	Christopher Fedderson	13	Kate Wulff	26	Nicole Bennett
7	Martha Surridge	14	Nick Krafft	27	Emily Price
8	Doris Tindal	16	Sara Reed	28	Louise Bowden
9	Binnie Ritchie Holum	17	Karen Berry	31	Jerry Boegler
11	Bill Narrow	18	Mikel Moore	31	Beth Ann Ross

# WHO'S WHO

As of May 31, 2010 — please email any modifications to Jane Saari.

## LUTHER PLACE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Karen Brau ..... Pastor<sup>1</sup>  
 Jack Reiffer ..... Parish Administrator  
 Israel Avila ..... Sexton  
 Roni Lopes ..... Custodial Assistant  
 Amanda Weber ..... Community Life and  
 the Arts Coordinator  
 Sarah Rossing ..... Steinbruck Center  
 Program Coordinator  
 Nevin Bender ..... Minister of Music  
 Jose Zambrana ..... Praise Team Leader  
 Church Office ..... 202-667-1377  
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[www.lutherplace.org](http://www.lutherplace.org) (Web)

## LUTHER PLACE PARTNER MINISTRIES

Lutheran Volunteer Corps ... 202-387-3222  
 Charles Spring ..... DC Coordinator  
 Wash. Interfaith Network ... 202-518-0815  
 Amy Vruno ..... 202-744-2302 cell  
 NSV Volunteer Coord. .... 202-939-2096  
 NSV Night Shelter ..... 202-387-5464  
 Bethany Women's Center ... 202-939-2060

## LUTHER PLACE CHURCH COUNCIL

(YEAR OF TERM EXPIRING<sup>2</sup>)  
 Peggy Rainwater ..... President (2011)  
 Dick Rortvedt ..... Vice President (2011)  
 Daniel Weir ..... Secretary (2011)  
 Sarah Guthrie ..... Treasurer (2010)  
 Cheryl Barnes ..... (2012)  
 Dan Corbett ..... (2010)  
 Dan Manchester ..... (2010)  
 Serena McGuire ..... (2011)  
 Kristin Murray ..... (2010)  
 Bill Narrow ..... (2011)  
 Jeff Serfass ..... (2010)  
 Megan Snell ..... (2012)  
 Martha Surridge ..... (2012)

### 1. Executive Committee

Peggy Rainwater ..... President  
 Dick Rortvedt ..... Vice President  
 Daniel Weir ..... Secretary  
 Sarah Guthrie ..... Treasurer  
 Rev. Karen Brau ..... Pastor

### 2. Personnel Committee

Kristin Murray ..... Council Liaison

### 3. Worship & Arts Committee

Nevin Bender ..... Minister of Music  
 Dena Dahlman ..... Ushers' Coord.  
 Beth Schultz ..... Acolyte Coord.  
 Carolyn Serfass ..... Lay Reader Coord.

### 4. Stewardship Committee

Serena McGuire ..... Chair  
 Bill Narrow ..... Council Liaison

### 5. Membership Committee

Candace Lilyquist ..... Chair  
 Kristin Murray ..... Council Liaison

### 6. Community Building Committee

Andi Carlson ..... Co-Chair  
 Ron Hebensperger ..... Co-Chair

### 7. Adult Education

Katherine Merseth ..... Council Liaison

### 8. Youth & Family Committee

Andi Carlson ..... Co-Chair  
 Anne Miller ..... Co-Chair  
 Megan Snell ..... Council Liaison  
 Kristia Sickert-Bush ..... Sunday School  
 Superintendent

### 9. Library & Archives Committee

Faith Korbel ..... Co-Chair  
 Marti Scheel ..... Co-Chair

### 10. Social Ministries Committee

Dan Corbett ..... Chair & Council Liaison

#### a) WIN

Dan Manchester ..... Coordinator

#### b) Steinbruck Center for Urban Studies

Andrew McIlroy ..... Chair  
 Sarah Rossing ..... Program Coordinator

### c) N Street Village

Mary Funke ..... Executive Director  
 Rev. Karen Brau ..... LP Rep.  
 Andi Carlson ..... LP Rep.  
 Julie Hamre ..... LP Rep.  
 Dale McDaniel ..... LP Rep.

### d) Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Rev. Mike Wiker ..... Executive Director  
 Dick Rortvedt ..... LP Rep.  
 Mary Cummings ..... LP Rep.

### e) Young Adults Leadership

Sarah Wilson ..... Co-Chair  
 Daniel Weir ..... Co-Chair

### f) Lutheran Planned Giving Board Rep.

Dale McDaniel

### 11. Finance Committee

Julie Hamre ..... Comptroller  
 Kristin Murray ..... Chair & Council Liaison

### 12. Property Committee

Doug Kuhn ..... Chair  
 Martha Surridge ..... Council Liaison

### 13. Audit Committee

Andrew McIlroy  
 Abeba Mebratu  
 Tammy Tangen

## Ad Hoc Groups

### a) Long-Range Planning

Tara Hogan ..... Chair

### b) Eco-Stewards

Wendy Mayer ..... Chair  
 Jeff Serfass ..... Council Liaison

### c) Men's Breakfast

Dan Corbett ..... Coordinator

### d) Rwanda Ministries

Gary Maring ..... Chair, Steering Committee  
 Jane Saari ..... Rep., School Project

### e) Short-term Space Usage

Jack Reiffer  
 Rev. Karen Brau  
 Peggy Rainwater

### f) Newsletter Committee

Doug Pulak ..... Co-Chair  
 Jane Saari ..... Co-Chair

<sup>1</sup>The Pastor of Luther Place is an *ex officio* member of all committees.

<sup>2</sup>Terms on the Church Council run from June through May.



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 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3615

Place  
 Stamp  
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