

United in Faith News

FEBRUARY 2012

*Why are we Here? ~
We are to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.*

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

Reflect
God's love

Pray and
Listen for God's
guidance

Continue to
strengthen
faith

Include All
In God's
work

Meet people
where they
are



Annual Meeting

United in Faith Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 26, 2012
Following the 9:30 AM
Worship Service

All members of United in Faith are invited to the Annual Meeting. Your voice is needed as we review our past, look to the future, elect new Council members, and shape the future of our ministry by refining our vision and values.

The Fellowship Ministry is organizing a potluck lunch after the annual congregational meeting at 10:45 AM. Everyone is asked to bring meat or a main dish, vegetables or other side dish, a salad, or dessert. Beverages or bread. Plates, and silverware will be provided.

Please plan to attend!



WE WANT TO KEEP YOU WARM

We'll warm your
hands, feet, and voice,
and helping UIF will warm your heart.

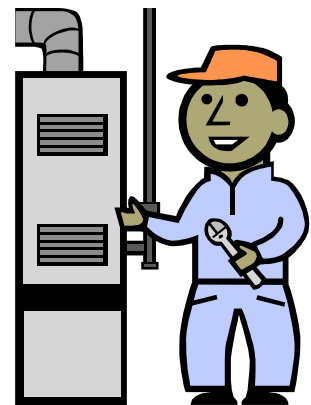
The Property Committee is asking for your financial help with the cost of repairing one of our furnaces. This furnace heats our fellowship hall, lounge area, and the choir rooms. The cost to replace the heat exchanger and other parts to this furnace took a huge bite from our budget for 2012.

We are asking our congregation to help us with the repair costs with a "special" offering for the month of February. If you are able to help us, please feel free to submit the lower portion of this page with your donation in an envelope marked "special offering".

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM HEART!

Name: _____

Envelope No. _____ Amount: _____



From the Renewal Team . . .

CELEBRATION 2012

The Renewal Team would like to have our congregation acknowledge your birthday, anniversary, or any other day that you feel is special. In the next few weeks, and also at the annual meeting, there will be a calendar going around compiling the data of dates and names. The newsletter each month will list the names and special dates of your fellow members for you to acknowledge. Please see Julie O'Donnell to get your dates posted, or call Dana in the office at (773) 283-2326 or email her at uifadmin@unitedinfaith.org if you missed the calendar that was circulated. Everyday is a gift from God!



New Life for Old Bags is Celebrating Turning Two . . . Join the Party! :)

**NLOB Work Day 2nd Birthday Party is
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th
10:00am to 1:00pm**

Come and . . .
. . . celebrate
. . . make a difference to a homeless person
. . . save plastic bags from landfills and water sources
. . . make new friends
. . . and be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.

We will be making mats (out of used plastic bags) for the homeless to sleep on.

There will be something for everyone to do . . . young and old, crafty and not.

Be a part of the New Life for Old Bags Work Day Parties
on the first Saturday of every month in 2012.
Join us anytime between 10:00am and 1:00pm
in Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Ask Ruth Werstler, Toni Richter, Barbara Piggott, or Janeen Devine.

See you there! :)

Welcome

Hospitality Corner

Thanks to all who come early to welcome our friends to church on Sunday morning. It is great to see each of you on Sunday.

Greeter for February 2012 we will be seeing:

8:30 AM

February 5 Lois Gosstrom
February 12 Gayle Guzik
February 19 Marge Weber

10:30 AM

Shirley Anderson
Jeanne Schira
Doris Jacobson

February 26 @ 9:30 AM ~ One Worship Service (UIF Annual Congregational Meeting)
Pat Mittelstaedt and Laurel Kenneally

Thanks for all your smiling faces.

Lois & Annette

UIF SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS !



Winter Greetings to All - Hope your holidays were the best! WOW, Jesus Our Savior was just born, and now we're already moving onto our Lenten Journey - bet time moved a bit slower in His era! This month, our Sunday School lessons will focus on preparation for Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. And, we continue to instill the importance of Why We Are Here - to be God's Hands, Feet and Voice in the World! Our curriculum, "All-In-One Sunday School", provides interactive materials to make our classes meaningful and exciting. And, keep working on those "Bible Quotes" - our ongoing activity throughout the year.

Again, A Big Thank-You to our Teachers Jennifer Keller & Dawn Kuswik for their continued dedication to enriching the faith life of our children!

We meet on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 in our Church Building - Invite your friends to join us to share our great lessons & activities! February/March dates are: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 3/4, 3/11 (daylight savings time begins!), 3/18, 3/25.

Peace & Happiness to All !

UIF Children's Ministry Team :-)

Senior Club Happenings

We had our first meeting on the 18th of January. Don't know about our weather. It rains one day and the next we have snow. We really have had a mild winter so far and it would be nice if it stayed that way, but one never knows here in Chicago.

We served lunch for those who ventured out, and our group has sure dwindled down. We have so much room left over, so come and join us we would love to have you.

Happy birthday to Al Simonis on Jan. 5th. Hope you had a great day.

Happy birthday to June Nordstrom on Feb. 17th. Pray that you have a great day, and many more.

Get well wishes go out to Barbara Hubka, Joe Beckie, Beverly Paul, Mildred Ondraka and those who are under the weather.

Next meeting will be Wed. Feb. 15th at 11 am. Please bring your lunch. Desserts will be brought by Muriel and Annette.

Annette



Thank you to everyone who participated in the first Brown Bag Sunday on January 22nd. It was a great success and many lives were touched by your generosity! Keep an eye out for details on the next Brown Bag Sunday in April.

Thank you to all who expressed condolences and support after the death of my father. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and caring.

Ray Good, and Family

What can I say to the members of my church family who supported myself and children during this sad, sad time.

The memorials to church in Bill's name and the lovely cards of sympathy to us were of great support.

Again Thank You,

Pat Mittelstaedt, Mike Mittelstaedt and Susan Mittelstaedt-Reodiug

Thanks to all who brought the goodies for the welcoming of Mayfair Lutheran congregation on Feb. 22nd. The table looked so wonderful with the assortment of goodies. And everyone enjoyed to day. Thanks to all who helped set up and take down.

Fellowship Ministry



Carol Arnswald, Thomas Ascitutto, Shana Bain & family, Baby James M Baraglia, Lily Bran, Ronald Callgreen, Joan DalPorto, Kristen Elkins, Russell Enderle, Johnny Esposito, Theresa / Angela Gonzales, Family of Michael W Smith, Millie Halla, Lyle Hinton, Tim Holmes, Bob Hudie, Peter Jackson, Jerry, Jennifer Keller, Kelsey & Carson, Marilyn Korbus, Dawn Kuswik, Bob LeMay, Ed Losik, Lois Olliger, Chester Plencinoga, Ryan, Ute Sesterhenn, Lys Shradeja, Kathy Skinner, Al Simonis, Bob Singleton, Evelyn Smith, Virginia Teppen, Bob Wilk

Pray for our friends serving in the Military - Travis Cawthorn, Alex Chobot, Jordan Davidson, Lorin Devine, Brandon Jakub, Keith, Michael Mikrut, Nicole Potter, James Thomas, Charles Wood, Carrie Woods, Colin Woods and Jacob Wunder...PRAY for all those who feel lost or alone—without faith...All those who need help & guidance through God's help but don't know how to ask for it...Pray for all those who are suffering from disasters around the world...Pray for our Church, UIF Ministries and the youth of UIF...Pray for our Country, the ELCA and for Pastor Greg.

Pray for the homebound - Lucille Albach, Joseph Beckie, Gordon Dahlgren, Donna Fanale, Dorothy Friel, Maret Hail, Barbara Hubka, Maybrith Kohn, Esther Schrock, Edna Schuette, Bill Tschappat Lylas Wollenzien.

Please contact any of the Prayer Ministry Group if you so desire — Gary Constantino, Dorothy Goos, Mary Ann Hudie, Frances Johnston, Lois Olliger, and or call the Church office at (773)283-2326.

Please stop by the information tables for a weekly list of those requesting prayer and add them to your personal prayer time. You can request prayer by filling out the back of the welcome sheet in your Sunday bulletin, or by calling the church office. Also, please remember to inform us when someone no longer needs special prayers so they can be taken off the list.



Boy Scout Troop 166 Monthly Report to the Congregation

Hello again. We at Troop 166 hope everyone has had a joyous holiday season.

Since standing down late last December, there has not been much to report. We are pleased to have two new members of our unit this month. Brian G. and his Dad, Edward, are our latest recruits, thanks to Francisco F. Looking forward to our 2012 program year, we are in the process of planning activities. So far, we

have plan to compete in a Swim Meet in January, and a Klondike Derby in February. Feel free to ask a Scout what a Klondike Derby is. He will be glad to explain it Possibly in depth.

We are also registered to attend Owasippe Scout Reservation this year, where our Scouts will be able to enjoy the outdoors, earn advancement and be immersed in the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. This will occur during the first week of July.

We are still working on the rest of our program, intending to plan several overnight camps, service projects and fun events this year, so stay tuned to <http://troops.scouter.com/il/troop166> on the web.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Friedl
Troop Committee Member



**HATS OFF
TO
KATHIE DIP-
PLE**

Kathie Dipple started to knit a couple of years ago. And made hats for the people of St. Cyprian's Food Pantry.

This year Kathie told about her project on the internet and people started sending hand made hats from all over the United States and Europe.

Each day when she arrived home there were more and more boxes on her porch - for at total of **750 Hats!** With a promise of more in 2012.

We are so proud of her many THANKS Kathie!

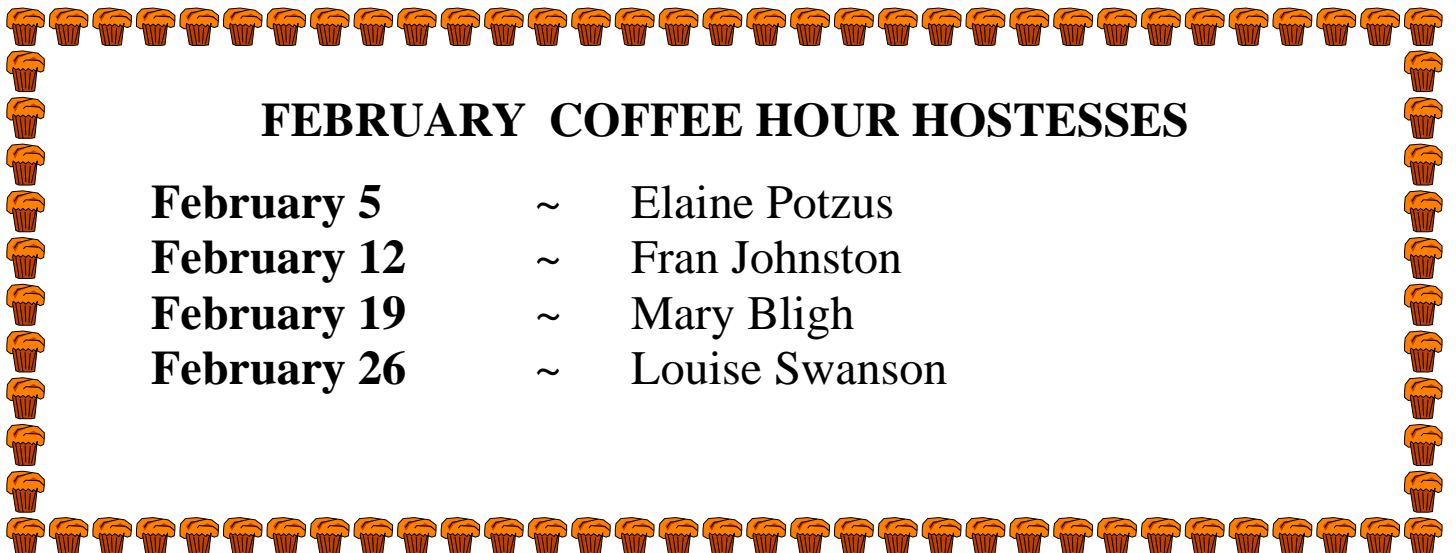
Service and Mission Ministry

WELCA

UIF WELCA Women's Ministry will be holding their on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Noon

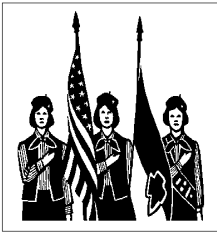
Plan on attending for some Fellowship. All women are invited. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert provided.

Desserts will be provided by Margaret Mischnick and Lys Shradeja



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| February 5 | ~ | Elaine Potzus |
| February 12 | ~ | Fran Johnston |
| February 19 | ~ | Mary Bligh |
| February 26 | ~ | Louise Swanson |



Girl Scouting In and Around United in Faith

During the month of January our Scouts have had a Square Dance/Folk dance workshop here at United in Faith for about 125 girls from 5 thru 18 years old. I really couldn't tell you who had the most fun. The dance workshop was for our whole neighborhood, so the girls got to meet other scouts. Was a fun night for all. Thanks to Janeen Devine for leading that for us.

The girls have been busy selling Girl Scout Cookies as it is that time of the year. Cookies will be coming in February. If you haven't gotten your cookies ordered, there is still time to do that. As you know we always have extras.

Mark your calendar for the Girls Pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 4th, We will be serving from 8 am until 11 am. Tickets will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children up to 12.

The girls are getting excited about going bowling on Feb. 19th. This is another great event for our Neighborhood. We should have about 125 or more girls participating in the event.

The girls are still collecting cans, ink cartridges, Thanks to everyone for your help in these projects.

All the Scouts, & their Leaders

Hospitality Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

CONGREGATION MEETING; SUNDAY FEB. 26TH.

THERE WILL BE ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM. THE MEETING WILL FOLLOW AND THEN WE WILL HAVE A POT LUCK LUNCH.

The clip board will be out on Feb. 5th.

Please sign up to bring a dish (filled)

Thanks for all your help.

PS; Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 10th, for our annual Fellowship dinner and entertainment. This is just around the corner.....

**Assisting Minister/Communion Assistants/Usher List
Starting As of February 5, 2012**

	Traditional 8:30 Asst. Min.	Traditional 8:30 Communion Assistants	Traditional 8:30 Ushers	Praise & Worship 10:30 Asst. Min.	Praise & Worship 10:30 Communion Assistants	Praise & Worship 10:30 Ushers
Feb. 5	Gayle Guzik	Dawn Kuswik	Sam Cecala Marion Hansen	Marilyn Ricker	Michael Ford Judy Schira	Marion Senf Howard Norain
Feb. 12	Barbara Patrick	Diane Doyle	Sam Cecala Marion Hansen	Pam Marino	Fran Johnston Marilyn Ricker	Diane Denz Stanley Kuswik
Feb. 19	Dawn Kuswik	Terri Wilk-Miller	Annette Cameron Harold Hoyem	Gary Constantino	Bonnie Maginnis Carole Egner	Karine Kuswik Jacob Kuswik
Feb. 26 9:30 AM	Janeen Devine	Gayle Guzik	Annette Cameron Harold Hoyem			
March 4	Girl Scouts	Dana Callgreen Annette Cameron	Girl Scouts	Michael Ford	Pam Marino Michael Ford	Marion Senf Howard Norain
March 11	Marty Devine	Elisabeth Wittman	Sam Cecala Marion Hansen	Jane Schira	Dawn Kuswik Judy Schira	Diane Denz Stanley Kuswik
March 18	Louise Swanson	Doris Hemple	Sam Cecala Marion Hansen	George Schultz	Fran Johnston Marilyn Ricker	Karine Kuswik Jacob Kuswik
March 25	Pat Mittelstaedt	Toni Richter	Joe Childress Harold Hoyem	Mary Haas	Bonnie Maginnis Carole Egner	Marion Senf Howard Norain

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<h1>FEBRUARY</h1>							
5 Boy Scout Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Pastor Gregs Book Club 10:30 AM Worship & Praise Service 7:00 PM God's Goldfish Group	6 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM AI Anon 10:00 AM Property Comt 7:00 PM Renewal Team Mtg	7 Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	8 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00 AM Pastor Greg Book Club 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Pastor Gregs Book Club	9 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 10:00 AM Pastor Central Conference Mtg. 6:00 PM Brownies	10 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	11 9:30 AM AI Anon 12:00 PM WELCA 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous	
12 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Pastor Gregs Book Club 10:30 AM Worship & Praise Service	13 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM AI Anon	14 Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday Valentine's Day 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	15 10:00 AM Pastor Greg Book Club 11:00 AM Senior Club 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Pastor Gregs Book Club	16 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:00 PM Brownies	17 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	18 8:30 AM UJF Men's in Mission Ministry 9:30 AM AI Anon 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous	
19 Transfiguration Sunday 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Pastor Gregs Book Club 10:30 AM Worship & Praise Service 7:00 PM God's Goldfish Group	20 Church Office Closed Presidents' Day 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:30 AM AI Anon 7:00 PM Finance Comt	21 Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Church Council 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	22 Ash Wednesday 11:30 AM Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	23 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:00 PM Brownies	24 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:30 PM AA	25 9:30 AM AI Anon 2:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved 2:30 PM SIA Intergroup 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous	
26 8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Pastor Gregs Book Club 10:30 AM Worship & Praise Service 11:30 AM UJF Annual Congregational Meeting	27 9:00 AM Food Pantry 9:00 AM Golden Diners 9:30 AM AI Anon 7:00 PM Ministry Directors Mtg.	28 Bulletin Announcements Due for Upcoming Sunday 9:00 AM Golden Diners 6:45 PM Girl Scouts 7:15 PM Tuesday Night Bible Study	29 11:30 AM Mid-Week Lent Service 12:30 PM Mid-Week Lent Lunch 5:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Dinner 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lent Service	<h1>2012</h1>			



Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust:

**February 22, 2012
11:30 am and 7:00 pm**

“Dust and ashes touch our face” as we begin the season of Lent. Follow in Jesus’ footsteps as we head off into the wilderness for 40 days of examining our faith and working to deepen it. We start the Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday worship. Come and join us as we turn to God with repentance and longing for a joy.

Lent worship continues with services each Wednesday, beginning on Wednesday, February 9, 2012. Morning services will begin at 11:30 am. There will be a meal afterwards at 12:30. An evening meal will be served at 6:00 pm, and evening services begin at 7:00 pm.

Teach Me To Pray will be the theme during the Lenten services this year. There are many ways to pray to God, they are all good and they all work. The important thing is to pray.

During this year’s Lenten services, Pastor Greg and the Prayer Ministry Team invite you to join us as we learn about the different ways to Communicate with God.



Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
1100 East 55th Street Chicago, Illinois 60615

News Release

January 4, 2012

For immediate release

LSTC restructuring to remain strong in mission

Today Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Interim President Philip Hougen and Board Chairperson Sarah Stegemoeller announced that the seminary is restructuring several departments and making budget cuts that will help LSTC remain financially sustainable in a rapidly changing economic environment. Personnel changes include elimination of eight full- and part-time staff positions and shifts in job responsibilities for several other positions to deliver student services more efficiently.

First step toward sustainability

"LSTC will continue to be strong in its mission of forming visionary leaders," Hougen said. "We are six months into proactive planning, the Envisioning Process initiated by LSTC's Board of Directors in 2011, to find new ways to keep delivering excellent theological education. The first goal of that process is to make sure that LSTC remains financially sustainable. These difficult, but necessary budget cuts and personnel changes bring us a step closer to that goal."

Hougen added that the personnel transitions will be handled as fairly and compassionately as possible. Laid off workers will receive a severance package and funds to assist with job searches. In a letter to the LSTC community, Hougen said, "We recognize, celebrate and honor the ways in which all of these people have contributed to LSTC's ministry and mission and lament the decisions that the current economic reality forces on the seminary."

Starting immediately, LSTC will outsource Finance Office services to Quattro FPO Solutions. Administration of the master of divinity and master of arts programs and responsibilities for Community Life will change July 1. Two tenured faculty members have volunteered to take a one semester leave of absence in the 2012-13 academic year. All Centers at LSTC will be required to be self-sustaining beginning July 1, 2012.

Curriculum, property, collaborations part of sustainability planning

As the Envisioning Process continues, the faculty is in conversation about LSTC's curriculum and how it could better serve the needs of congregations while also addressing the financial challenges faced by students. A task force is reviewing management and maintenance policies and practices for LSTC's housing. Through that process, they will also develop an economically feasible long-term plan for classroom and administrative space. LSTC continues to explore opportunities for collaboration with Valparaiso University, the Covenant Cluster and other ELCA seminaries.

"The kind of theological education that LSTC offers and the type of leaders it provides the church are so important that we must ensure that the seminary is sustainable into the future. LSTC's mission is God's work that we do in this place. We trust that God is present in the people and in our planning," Hougen said.

About LSTC

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago forms visionary leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Its approximately 290 students come from all parts of the United States and from around the world to study in one of six advanced degree programs. Graduates become pastors, other church leaders, and university and seminary professors. LSTC is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a member of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, allowing students to cross-register among the 11 member seminaries and drawing on a wealth of ecumenical resources. LSTC enjoys a number of cooperative arrangements with the University of Chicago. To learn more about the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, visit www.lstc.edu

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MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Teach Me To Pray will be the theme during the Lenten services this year. There are many ways to pray to God, they are all good and they all work. The important thing is to pray.

During this year's Lenten services, Pastor Greg and the Prayer Ministry Team invite you to join us as we learn about the different ways to Communicate with God.

**Mid Week Worship Times
Are at
11:30 AM and 7:00 PM**

Wednesday, February 29 ~ What is Prayer?

Wednesday, March 7 ~ Jesus Prayer

Wednesday, March 14 ~ Centering Prayer

Wednesday, March 21 ~ Lectio Divina

Wednesday, March 28 ~ Daily Text

transitions at LSTC

Phil Hougen

January 3, 2012

TO: The LSTC Community

FROM: Philip L. Hougen, Interim President

Sarah Stegemoeller, Chair of the Board of Directors

RE: Transitions at LSTC

Grace and peace to you in this Christmas season. During this season we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. We remember in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem that God is with us in all circumstances. Necessarily, life is full of change, some of it clearly good, some just necessary, and some very difficult. This memo explains some of the changes that are occurring at LSTC. Most of these changes will be difficult for many of us. Some positions are being eliminated and others are being consolidated. It is important that all of us be as supportive as possible for those for whom these changes are very difficult. We will need to be as patient as possible in relation to our working in new ways. We will need to be as generous as possible in some newly challenging circumstances.

Over the past months LSTC has been focusing on the need for financial stability. Many of you have had opportunity to take part in conversations and share your insights and suggestions as part of the envisioning process. In the course of these conversations, it has become clear that in order to move toward the goal of financial sustainability, LSTC expenses need to be decreased by a minimum of \$500,000. This decrease in expenses along with increases in annual fund support will help LSTC to begin moving toward a financial situation in which current income meets operating expenditures, endowment spending rates are lowered to 5% and borrowing from external sources ceases.

Regretfully, the spending reductions require a number of workforce adjustments and changes that will affect the lives of valued colleagues. I am writing today to let you know of some of the changes that will be taking place.

Administration and Operations:

- All Finance Office services will be outsourced to Quattro FPO solutions. Rich Hensey, Nate Ramsey, Jeannie Price and Lucy Lee will conclude their service to LSTC as of today. The Finance Office will be closed until Friday of this week when Quattro personnel will be on site for the first time. Any questions regarding finance matters should be directed to Laura Wilhelm during this time.
- The full-time position of Watchperson and Emergency Maintenance Person is being eliminated, and Michael Slowiak will conclude his service as of today.
- Nick Spehar, Building Services, will reduce his time on campus from three days a week to two days effective July 1, 2012.
- Refectory services will be restructured over the summer of 2012. More information regarding the restructuring will be shared with you as plans develop.

Academic Support/Student Services:

- As of June 30, 2012, Terry Baeder, Dean of Students and Director of MA and MDiv Programs, will retire. He will continue to serve as Director of the MDiv program at LSTC on a 1/3 time contract basis. Kurt Hendel will resume the duties of Director of MA Programs, a position he previously held. In addition to Joan Beck's service as Pastor to the Community and Director of Spiritual Formation, she will assume duties related to Community Life.
- Lucy Wynard's interim service as Assistant to the Dean of Students and Assistant to the Director of Spiritual Formation will end as of June 30, 2012. The position will not be filled. The responsibilities associated with this position will be distributed among other administrative staff members.
- The two Teaching/Learning Technologist positions, currently held by Julie Boleyn and Jeff Fitzkappes, will be discontinued as of June 30, 2012.
- There will be further adjustments in academic support/student services which will affect faculty administrative responsibilities.

Faculty

Course and teaching schedules will be adjusted to accommodate the following changes:

- Esther Menn will add responsibilities associated with International Students to her role as Director of Advanced Studies.
- Peter Vethanayagamony will return to full-time teaching. Responsibilities for the DMin program will be assigned to other faculty.
- Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament, has requested to move to teaching half-time and her request has been approved. Her position as a tenured member of LSTC's faculty continues but with reduced teaching responsibilities.
- Vitor Westhelle is requesting to teach half-time for LSTC for a period of four years while he also teaches at the Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo, Brazil. His position as a tenured member of LSTC's faculty would continue but with reduced teaching responsibilities.

Centers at LSTC

- All Centers at LSTC will be required to be financially self-sustaining as of July 1, 2012.

We recognize, celebrate and honor the ways in which all of these people have contributed to LSTC's ministry and mission and lament the decisions that the current economic reality forces on the seminary. LSTC will provide severance packages and funds to assist with job searches and the seminary will find an appropriate time to give thanks for their ministries and to wish them Godspeed.

A meeting for faculty and staff will be held Wednesday, January 4, at 11:00 am in the Common Room to respond to questions and concerns. After the meeting, departments will gather to discuss changes specific to each area. A meeting for students is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, at 12:15 pm in the Common Room (Room 350). An informational meeting will also be held at the beginning of the semester on Tuesday, January 31. More details will be provided about this meeting.

Going forward LSTC must continue to look for other ways to reduce spending. The Administrative Cabinet will establish a comprehensive budget planning process for 2012-13. Currently a task force is reviewing options available for management and maintenance of housing. Through that process we will also look for an economically feasible long-term plan for classroom and administrative space that addresses LSTC's mission into the future. The faculty is in the process of reviewing academic structures and practices around tenure. We continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with Valparaiso University, the Covenant Cluster seminaries and other seminaries of the ELCA.

These are not easy days, but the decisions that have been made are necessary as a way to help LSTC move into a financially stable future. We recognize that we live in a changing world and a changing church. Yet we dare to believe that God still calls us to our mission of forming visionary leaders. We continue in our vision of building up the Body of Christ to work for a world of peace and justice.

Although these decisions are difficult and painful, we pray they help us serve faithfully.

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago forms visionary leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Its approximately 290 students come from all parts of the United States and from around the world to study in one of six advanced degree programs. Graduates become pastors, other church leaders, and university and seminary professors. LSTC is a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a member of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, allowing students to cross-register among the 11 member seminaries and drawing on a wealth of ecumenical resources. LSTC enjoys a number of cooperative arrangements with the University of Chicago. To learn more about the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, visit www.lstc.edu

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Pastor

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