

THE CHIMES



Message from the Pastor

“READ THIS!”

Before you get too far into this article, I would like to invite you to read the book of Ruth. Go ahead, it’s short. Seriously, just a few pages. It’s important. I’ll wait.

All done? Good! In Confirmation Class last on January 10, we looked at the book of Ruth as part of our lesson. It seemed like there was a very good lesson to take from this book that would apply directly to our congregation and where we find ourselves today.

At the beginning of the story, Naomi, her husband, and two sons have gone from Israel into the neighboring (and enemy) country of Moab due to a famine. Naomi’s sons both take Moabite wives. Then, much to the despair of Naomi, her husband and both sons die. Naomi is left stranded with two daughters-in-law. She decides to return to Israel alone to live out the remainder of her life in misery. (She actually changes her name to “Bitter,” Mara in Hebrew, as an expression of her grief.) She told her two daughters-in-law, Orpha and Ruth, to stay in their homeland of Moab, as there would be nothing for them in Israel.

But rather than stay behind, which would certainly be the easy thing to do, Ruth rejects this instruction, telling Naomi she is loyal to her and loved here saying, “where

you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”

Ruth could have taken the easy way out, stayed in Moab (her homeland), found another husband, and moved on. Yet she was devoted to her married family. Even after losing her husband, she remained loyal to Naomi.

Once back in Israel—Bethlehem, specifically—Naomi made Ruth aware of her late husband’s family member, Boaz, who was a wealthy farmer. Ruth took it upon herself to go and glean grain from Boaz’s field, that he might treat her and Naomi kindly. (In ancient Israel, farmers were to leave grain that was dropped on the ground and also the grain at the end of a field for the poor people to come and gather. This gathering was called “gleaning.”) When Boaz saw her, Ruth humbled herself to him. Boaz had heard of this foreign woman who had remained loyal to her Israelite mother-in-law and saw her as someone worthy of his assistance. Boaz gave her all the grain that she and Naomi would need.

Eventually, Ruth not only gained grain from Boaz but stirred up in him the desire to marry her. As a result, both she and Naomi became part of his household. Ruth would go on to have a family with Boaz. Her grandson

would grow to be the man known as King David. Generations later, Jesus Christ would be born of this same family line.

The point of my bringing up the story of Ruth is two-fold. First, there are going to be times in our lives and in the lives of our congregation that are going to appear dark and hopeless. This is how all three of these women would have felt at the deaths of their husbands. Similarly, when we are faced with these challenges and times of great struggle, we have the option to take the easy way out or to buckle down and do what is best—even if it is hard. I do not doubt that remaining loyal to Naomi, moving to a foreign country, and living as a widow was certainly hard for Ruth, but she did it anyway. I do not doubt that Ruth worked hard for days or weeks, gleaning grain from Boaz's field before the events that would ultimately lead to her marriage began to unfold.

Second, while the narrator of this story never directly calls out the actions of God, it is clear that God is working throughout the events of Ruth's story. Certainly, God did not cause Ruth's husband to die (or Orpha's husband or Naomi's husband). But God did us this most difficult and depressing time so that something great would come from it. It required Ruth and Naomi to persevere, to work hard, and to trust—they were most certainly not passive, inactive, or just waiting for a miracle.

I see the same being true for Luther Memorial Church. We must look truthfully and honestly at the reality of our situation. God did not lay before us the situation we are facing. However, God will use it for his glory if we are willing to partner with God. We must decide whether we're going to take the easy way out—retreat into our corner, continue to do things the way we've always done them, make no changes—or go out and do the ministry that we are called to do. It would be a blessing to see our congregation grow and flourish, and the way we will see this is by participating in God's mission. It won't be simply by inviting people. (We should definitely do that too!) It will be by living out God's love with our neighbors and our community.

As we move through 2024, what ideas do you have for how we can live out God's love and grace in our community? How can we be the hands and feet of Christ—serving others as Jesus did? Jesus had many, many followers. But they didn't follow him because he had a beautiful historical sanctuary, or the best worship music, or any of the things people think of when trying to grow the church today. Rather, people followed Jesus because his message was one of love, grace, and forgiveness—and he lived it out in the communities he visited each and every day. Being around Jesus allowed people to experience a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. We are called to the same. It'll take hard work. It won't be easy. But it's the path we are called to take.

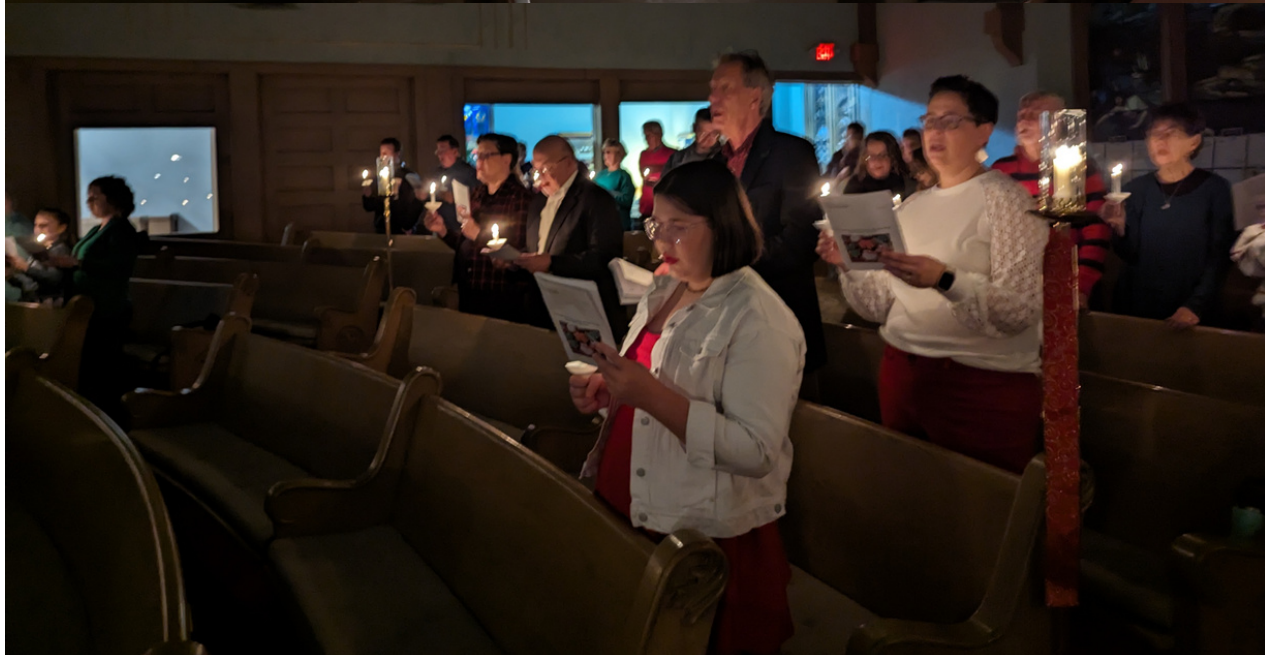
In Christ's Service,

Pastor Brett





Christmas 2024



Luther Memorial Church // LMCQuincy.org // 12th & Jersey St., Quincy, IL

LENT 2024



Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14, 2024
Worship with Holy Communion
and the Imposition of Ashes
12:00 Noon & 7:00 PM



Mid-Week Lenten Gatherings
Starting Wednesday, February 21
6:30-7:30 PM

Light Supper and Group Devotional,
Discussion, and Fellowship
“Where Your Heart Is”

The inspiration of this devotional comes from Jesus’ teachings about storing treasures in the Sermon on the Mount. This Lent, you are invited to focus intentionally on exploring and evaluating what your heart treasures. Some are physical treasures we can touch, hold, store, and give. Some treasures are invisible, yet still, greatly matter and guide our lives. By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, individuals and families will reflect on what kind of treasure matters to us, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives.

2024 Lenten Daily Devotional
provided by Luther Seminary

Available at www.lmcquincy.org or
download directly below.

Regular Size:

[http://public.lmcquincy.org/lent2024/
devotional.pdf](http://public.lmcquincy.org/lent2024/devotional.pdf)

Large Print:

[http://public.lmcquincy.org/lent2024/
devotional_large.pdf](http://public.lmcquincy.org/lent2024/devotional_large.pdf)

If you would like a copy of the
Lenten Devotional delivered to you,
please contact the church office at
217-222-5085 and we will make sure
you receive a printed copy.

Table Talks

Different Brews | **Different Views**

1st and 3rd Thursdays at the
Ratskeller – 7:00 p.m.

Spirited Conversation on Spiritual Matters

JOIN US FOR

BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.



Calftown Coffeehouse - 432 S. 8th Street, Quincy

THE
GENEROSITY
PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

The Generosity Project is an intergenerational, household-focused approach to stewardship. Its goals are to connect generations, create centers for the faith practice of generosity, and grow in God's grace generation to generation.



**Saturday, February 10, 2024 –
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb
– Lunch Served – This is an event
for the whole family!**

Faith Formation

(historically known as “Sunday school”)
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. following worship

For ALL Ages!

Come grow in faith and fellowship!

Adults in the Great Room

Children & Youth Upstairs

2024 Youth Events

June 10-14

Crossways Confirmation Camp
at Augustana College

June 24-29

Leadership Lab
at Augustana College

July 16-20

ELCA Youth Gathering
in New Orleans

Kid's Club!

We are starting a new group with our 3rd - 5th grade children. We will meet approximately once a month. **We will have lunch and meet after faith formation on Sunday, February 25th.** This is a fun time for some of our elementary-age students to build relationships and grow and learn together. **Please Contact Amber Casley 217-440-3786 or tacasley08@yahoo.com with any questions.**

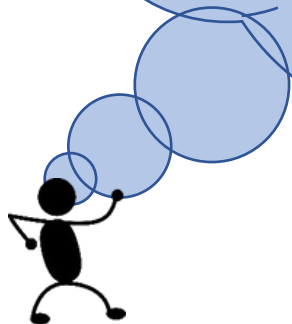
Youth Group

Afternoon of faith, fun, and fellowship!

Sunday, Feb. 25th

11:30am - 1:30pm

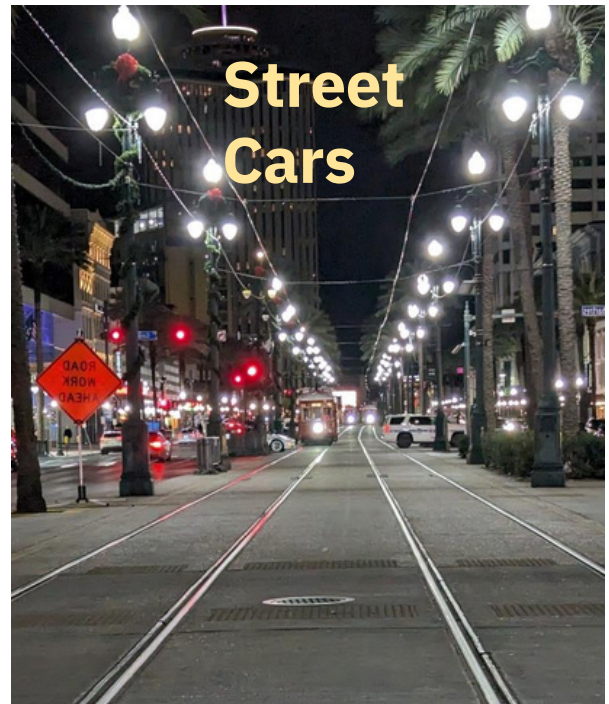
We will have lunch, play some games and talk a little about Jesus. All Jr. High and High School aged youth are welcome! Let Kari Gosteli know if you can make it.



LAST CALL for the ELCA Youth Gathering!

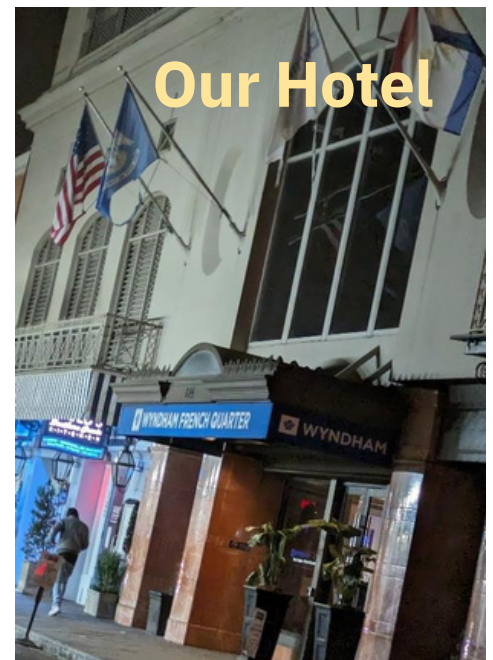
July 16-20 13,000 + youth will be in New Orleans worshipping, serving others, growing in their faith, and sharing in fellowship with others.

We will have mass gathering in the Superdome, do other activities in the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, serve around the community and so much more!



The DEADLINE to let Kari know you want to go is Sunday, February 11th!

For more information contact Kari (309-657-5175 or kari@gosteli.org)



Food Pantry

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

January - Paper Towels & Toilet Paper.. Monetary gifts are always appreciated.

March - Boxed Pasta, Mac & Cheese & Spices

April - Canned Soup/Ramen

May - Dish Soap (small) Laundry Detergent (Sheets or Small Bottles)

June - Energy Drinks, Gatorade, Water

July - Cereal & Microwave Popcorn



Volunteers

Midwest Food Bank Distribution will be received on Monday, **February 22**, around 8:30 a.m. **Volunteers Needed to help put products on the shelves!!**

February Food Pantry 9-11 am
Volunteers:

February 6 - Sharon Kendall, Kathy Dieker, Stephanie Demien, Rich Demien

February 13 - Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall, Lorraine Wickman, Jen Bock-Nelson

February 20 - Kathy Dieker, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien, Sharon Kendall

February 27 - Kathy Dieker, Lorraine Wickman Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien

Muddy River Opera Co.



Grow Your Faith

Walk To Emmaus

*Women's
Walk*

March 14 - 17

*Men's
Walk*

Feb 22 - 25

Walk to Emmaus weekend retreats are coming up at the Franciscan Retreat Center on the campus of Quincy University. They start Thursday evening and end Sunday evening. Pastor Gayle Pope will be serving on the leadership team for the Women's Walk.

A Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders (similar to Cursillo or Via de Cristo.)

To learn more about Walk to Emmaus see <https://www.upperroom.org/walktoemmaus/faq>

For more information, contact

Lorraine Wickman

217-257-6716

lorrainewickman@gmail.com

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

13

CHILI COOKOFF



SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Proceeds to benefit the LMC Youth Gathering Trip

Are you a Chili Master?

Test your skills against your neighbors and friends!
\$20 per entry; \$50 cash prize for chili voted best!

Enter by Wednesday, March 6!

Register online at lmcquincy.org

Contact office@lmcquincy.org
or call 217-222-5085 for more details.

More of a chili eater than chef?
Doors open to public at 3:00 pm
\$5 entry - taste all the chilis, hot
dog, and beverage included!



The Addiction Recovering Groups which met at Luther Memorial church received a special dose of holiday blessings this year. Our Thanksgiving & Christmas dinner drew 75 people. Many of these people would not have had a holiday meal otherwise. Our New Years Eve party was a great sober time for about 100 of us.

Thank you, Church and the grace of a loving God, for making this possible.

Rick Irvine

Addiction Recovering Groups

Recovery Group Meeting

- Every Sunday at 6 pm
- Every Tuesday at 7 pm
- Every Friday at 6 pm

Women's Support Group Meeting

Kala Breder, Facilitator

- 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm

AA Support Group Meeting

- Monday - Saturday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 6:00 pm
- Wednesday - 7:30 pm
- Friday - 7:00 pm
- Sunday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Upcoming Events

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:30 am - Worship Service of Word and Sacrament
- 10:30 am - Fellowship in the Great Room
- 10:45 am - Faith Formation
(Adults, Children, and Youth)

EVERY THURSDAY

- 10:00 am - Bible Study @ Calftown Coffee House

Feb 01 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

Feb 03 - Monthly Property Work Day - 9:00 am

Feb 05 - Worship Arts Meeting - 7:00 pm

Feb 07 - Confirmation - 4:00 pm

Feb 08 - Youth Ministry Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

Feb 10 - Generosity Project N W Conference - 10 - 2:30

Feb 13 - Finance Team Meeting - 11:00 am

Feb 13 - Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday

Feb 15 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

Feb 19 - Stewardship Team Meeting - 7:00 pm

Feb 20 - Executive Meeting - 7:00 pm

Feb 21 - Confirmation - 4:00 pm

Feb 21 - Lenten Meal and Discussion - 6:30 pm

Feb 22 - Midwest Food Bank Delivery Day - 8:30 am

Feb 25 - Kids' Club & Youth Group after Worship

Feb 28 - N W Conference Rostered Leader Mtg 9:30 - 1pm

Feb 28 - Lenten Meal and Discussion - 6:30 pm

Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday

Mar 29 - Good Friday

Mar 31 - Easter Sunday

Food Pantry Schedule

- Every Monday - Stock Day - 8:00 am
- Every Tuesday - 9:00 - 11:00 am

Happy Birthday



Joe Lohmeyer - 4
Rob Miller - 5
Kiley Buettner - 12
Skyler Engle Dieker - 14
Scarlett Cook - 17
John Grawe - 27
Kala Breder - 29



Jeff & Emily Cook - 17

Did we miss someone's birthday or anniversary?

If so, please contact the Church Office, 217-222-5085, so we can make it right!

Church Council Meeting-Luther Memorial Church

Tuesday, January 9, 2024—Meeting

In attendance: Mark Snider, Pastor Brett Gosteli, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien, Amber Casley, Lorraine Wickman, Kala Breder, Addison Gosteli, and Tom Oliver.

Not in attendance: Kara Moon and Brandon Dieker.

President Mark Snider called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Pastor Brett led the group in prayer and Dwelling in the Word.

Rich made a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Tom seconded.

Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- A. Will be focusing on Evangelism this coming year. Not just inviting people into our church but taking our church out into the neighborhoods and communities. Who we are and how we do this is a discussion for a later time.
- B. Discussed the Generosity Project Workshop to be held in February in Macomb. Individuals, couples, and families are all invited. More information to come.

New Business

- A. Nominating Committee: Jason Washington has agreed to serve on the Council. Mark Dedert is considering it, and Heather Humphrey regrettably declined. The committee is reaching out to more congregants.
- B. Anyone working with children and youth in the church need to fill out forms found at <http://safechurch.lmcquincy.org>. This will cover safe church, mandated reporting, and background checks.
- C. Luther Memorial and ELCA—The pamphlet detailing the workings of Luther Memorial Church and ECLA is in all of the pews. We need to look at how we can build a campaign around this and get it out of the church and into the community. Social media opportunities were discussed.
- D. The upcoming Town Hall Meeting was discussed. The Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after worship on January 14. A letter was sent out before Christmas. Discussion was held on reading the letter at the beginning of the meeting. Pastor will give financial updates per the budget.
- E. Mark Snider moved that LMC cover the expense for Pastor Brett to purchase 3rd party dental insurance during 2024 due to his ability to find alternative health insurance for his children, the result will provide a net savings of \$7,400 to LMC in the 2024 fiscal year, with the understanding that insurance will benefits for Pastor Brett will be revisited at the end of the 2024 fiscal year. Kala seconded. Motion passed with Pastor and Addy abstaining.

F. Church insurance was discussed as of January 1, 2024, we currently have only liability and workman's compensation insurance. Pastor and Rich are actively working on finding insurance for the physical property. Discussion was held on how we might prepare proactively.

Old Business

A. Council Greeter Sign-ups. While ushers have been charged with collecting the offering, Council Greeters are still encouraged to greet people as they come up the steps.

- Sunday, January 14--Mark
- Sunday, January 21--Stephanie
- Sunday, January 28--Amber
- Sunday, February 4--Addy
- Sunday, February 11--Rich

B. Robocall—Town Hall Meeting, Congregational Meeting, and Shut-Ins.

Ministry Team Reports

A. Finance Team—Report filed. Discussion about the budget and financing will occur at the Town Hall meeting.

B. Property Teams

- Heating Unit in NE corner of sanctuary needs to be replaced.
- The door on the north side of the altar must be open at all times.
- Snow Removal has been contacted for this year.
- Estimates on the foundation and the roof will be coming.
- We are switching from water to heat pump on the third floor of the Education Building. There will be no more water moving through the pipes on the 3rd floor.

C. Memorial Team—Memorial Funds were used for the organ repair.

D. Food Pantry— The pantry remains busy and we are getting people weekly. Next big shipment from the Midwest food bank is January 22. We are always looking for volunteers to help with stocking shelves on Monday mornings and helping people move through the pantry on Tuesdays from 9-11.

E. Worship Arts—Report filed. Ash Wednesday is February 14. Noon and 7:00 services will be held. How midweek Lenten Services will be handled is in discussion.

F. Youth Ministry—WOW Sunday on January 31 was well attended. Kari and Amber are attending a training for the youth gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th, 7:00 pm.

Announcements

- A. Town Hall Budget Meeting, January 14th after service.
- B. Annual Congregational Meeting—January 28th after service

We ended with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Demien, substitute Church Council Secretary

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Luther Memorial Church
1210 Jersey Street
Quincy, IL 62301-4210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February 2024

We are a community growing together in Christ Jesus, embracing all with Gods' love, and sharing our faith through words and acts of compassion.

GROW. EMBRACE. SHARE.

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Luther Memorial Church

Grow. Embrace. Share.

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 14, 2024

