



Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries

Newsletter

Proclaiming Liberty in Christ in the City

Pentecost 2014



Rev DeGroot
Installation Service
July 19, 2014
3pm @
Shepherd of the
City Lutheran
Church

Baptized Into Christ
Sunday June 22, 2014
Four children and one adult were all
Baptized at Shepherd of the City
Lutheran Church
Thanks be to our Heavenly Father!

Leadership Forum
September 13, 2014
10am-1pm
Christ Memorial
Lutheran Church
Speaker:
Dr Leo MacKay



PLM Staff

Rev Adam DeGroot
Missionary Pastor

Shepherd of the City
Lutheran Church
Philadelphia, PA

Rev Robert Kieselowsky
Executive Director / Pastor
St John Lutheran Church
Springfield PA

*"...proclaim liberty throughout
the land to all its inhabitants."*
Leviticus 25:10

New Missionary Pastor for Philadelphia



*Rev Adam DeGroot,
his wife Melissa, and their son Knox*

Greetings from Northeast Philadelphia!

I write to you today not a full-fledged newsletter article with many breakthroughs or important events to tell but a report of the settling-in process with some of the interactions and first thoughts of our time here in the city.

Upon arriving on June 12, we set into the rigors of unpacking and settling ourselves into the parsonage that PLM has graciously provided. (On the PLM

website, pictures show the parsonage is the third [white] house to the right.) We are pleased to be so close to the parish, and we have already seen the benefits of being a part of the neighborhood we will be serving. We have made friends with many of the neighbors as well as with some of the owners and workers at nearby businesses.

I have found here in the city something that I have not seen since my days growing up in South Dakota, where complete strangers would stop along gravel roads to talk to each other out of their driver's side windows. The people here are community-minded and have a strong pride for the place that they live. They are willing to listen and are pleased to talk. Many of them have spent time explaining to me the history of the neighborhood, along with some of the things that they have seen change over the years, some not for the better. However, all of them seem to be excited to have a pastor living on premises and in the neighborhood with a family and an organization (PLM) and gracious donors who truly care about having a strong sacramental/ Gospel presence here.

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(continued from page 1)

The trust inherent in these people for the office of the ministry is amazing, and it is my hope that our gracious Lord will continue to keep me faithful in the office to which He has called me.

I should also mention the diversity of the neighborhood. This section of Philadelphia is one of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in all of the Northeast, if not the United States. Our neighbors are Puerto Rican, many of the parishioners at Shepherd are African-American, there is a large Asian population located three blocks to the east and the influx of Eastern Europeans has been increasing over the years.

Yet, while the diversity is like nothing I have ever met with in my life, I am encouraged to know that there are not diverse ways to preach and teach the gospel to the children of God here. While there are many different experiences, cultural ideas and histories, the receptivity to the Gospel, to the simple preaching and teaching of a hope that transcends despair, a liberty that transcends the bondage to sin, and the life eternal that conquers death is universal. I have found, to this point, that people I have spoken with is willing to listen and eager to learn.

Our parsonage is beautiful and while there are many improvements that still could be made, we are finding that we have been able to make a comfortable home of a house built back in the early 1900s. Our back patio has been reclaimed from overgrowth—we have even placed Knox's wading pool there for those hot, hot, hot Philly summer days. I am thankful for the many who have so graciously taken time to prepare the parsonage for Melissa, Knox and me,

especially those who saw to the painting, doors replacement, the new plumbing for the washer and dryer, the various other handy tasks and the purchasing of a refrigerator, gas range and microwave. In addition I am thankful to many of you whose financial gifts have made these things possible. I assure you that these seemingly 'small' things have made a world of difference in my ability to set my feet to the ground and begin my work here in the city.

Please do not underestimate the power of the smallest of gifts in the proclamation of the gospel. You are helping and for this I am very thankful!

I look forward to regular correspondence with you the faithful, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as we continue our work together in the city. Please let your friends and neighbors know what we are doing. Please let them know that there is a great need and please continue to remember that, as our gracious Lord wills it, He will be the One that continues to share His grace, mercy and love to the people here and throughout the world.

To Christ alone be the Glory!

Rev Adam DeGroot



*Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church
Congregation Easter Sunday*

PLM Leadership Forum

Saturday, September 13, 2014

10am-1:00pm

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church

89 Line Road Malvern, PA 19355

Forum Speaker: Dr. Leo Mackay



Topic:

"The Role of the Local Church in Engaging the City"

Dr. Mackay brings to the

PLM Leadership Forum vast experience in civil service, business, and Lutheran leadership. He graduated from the Naval Academy and served as a naval aviator (Topgun). He earned a PhD from Harvard in public policy. In addition to serving our country in the Navy, he also served as Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs during George W. Bush's administration. He is Corporate Vice President of Lockheed Martin Corporation, leading the Office of Ethics and Business Conduct as well as serving as Chief Sustainability Officer.

In the past, Dr. Mackay served as the chairman of the board of directors of LINC Fort Worth, Texas. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis and currently sits on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Please join us for this inspiring Forum as we unite in the work of the Gospel for Philadelphia.

