

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### Overturing Roe v. Wade

[Authors' note: this is a tad outdated, as I originally planned this for last month's newsletter but didn't make it to print in time. Nevertheless, I wanted to comment on this historical event in our country. -PrS]

What an unexpected gift! On June 24, it was announced in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*: the Supreme Court overturned the ruling of *Roe v. Wade* - the infamous 1973 decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states. Thanks be to God! This is an answer to many, many prayers, prayed by Christians over the last 50 years. On the Sunday after the decision was announced, we prayed the following prayer released by the LCMS:

Gracious Father, we solemnly thank and praise You for the judgment of the court this week in reversing decisions that have given open sanction to the destruction of human life. Continue to curb wickedness in every heart and place. For the sake of Christ, spare us those punishments that we have deserved. Restore compassion and the desire for life among all, and lead Your Church to show Your love to the vulnerable, to the despised and to those whose hearts have turned cold. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

After giving thanks and praise to the Lord for this momentous decision, it seems appropriate to ask that very Lutheran question: ***What does this mean?***

Politically, this decision means that some states with trigger laws on the books, will immediately ban all abortions in their state. Additionally, it is thought that

a slim majority of the 50 states will ban all abortions in the very near future. It means more children will be born in these places and fewer will be killed in their mother's womb.

Theologically, this decision affirms how the Lord works in strange ways. No matter how you feel about President Donald Trump and his politics, any honest person would admit that the thrice-married playboy has been no model of Christian morality. Many Evangelical Christians who harshly criticized the immoral lives of other politicians, held their noses and voted for him in 2016. They looked past scandalous things in his life precisely because he promised to appoint judges who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It was a leap of faith and one that made many pro-lifers uncomfortable. Many of these same Christians were also harshly criticized as hypocrites when they made this decision. And yet, God worked through the presidency of this flawed human being to bring about a real and objective good. Babies will now be born whose lives otherwise would have been snuffed out. Christians can learn from this (or be reminded) that God sometimes works in ways we wouldn't expect. Another lesson to be learned is that sometimes perfection is the enemy of the good. For example: holding out for a *perfect* candidate and refusing anything less, may prevent you from getting good work done today.

**The work for life is not finished.** It is good that we thank God and celebrate a better future for our country—a future where there will be fewer innocent victims. But, winning court cases is one thing; changing hearts and minds is another. For 5 decades people have been told that eliminating a child in the womb is nothing more than a woman's choice. Many people seem to view abortion as birth control. Incredibly, they recognize no moral ambiguities with killing the life of their unborn child. This has changed from 30 years ago when leaders like President Clinton said abortion should be "Safe, legal and rare." That sentiment at least recognized that there was something lamentable about abortion because it should not be frequent, but rare. But today a sizeable number of folks in the pro-choice movement tell people to "shout your abortion." Their goal is normalization and total acceptance of any and all abortions – and this at a time when 4D sonograms show us with amazing clarity exactly what is destroyed in an abortion. There should be no honest confusion about a fetus being a mere lump of cells given how far we have come with science and technology.

Christians need to continue to articulate very clearly to our antagonistic and nihilistic culture, why life (even life in utero) is such a precious gift from God and its continuance should never be relegated to the choice of a mother. The intentional killing of an innocent person is a great evil. The approval or advocacy of murder is a sin against both God and our neighbor. When the culture has such a low view of human life, it will manifest itself in other ways besides abortion. When societies turn their back on God the consequences are dire. Far better is it when individuals and societies follow His law. It is important for Christians who follow Him who is the Truth, to be truth-tellers to our society and to call a thing what it is. Now is not a time to stop speaking truth because of one victory in court.

Unplanned pregnancies will continue to result in children being born into crisis situations. The numbers may even increase in the days ahead as a result of this ruling. As Christians who care about life, we also need to be ready to step up and meet the needs of the poor and the vulnerable. Along those

lines, our congregation continues to raise funds for Real Options and will be receiving special matching funds from the LCMS and our own board of elders. We have worked with Real Options for years as they are a local crisis pregnancy center that helps women and children in need. On a personal or individual level, whenever you encounter a single mother or someone who seems "too young" to be a mother, you can help by first showing compassion, kindness, and generosity.

The Lord has indeed answered the prayers of many Christians in the overturning of Roe vs Wade. It is right to acknowledge and thank Him for this, while also continuing to champion His good gift of life.

PrS



## June Edelmann

June Edelmann's death on June 10 came as a great surprise. Yes, she had been sick and even hospitalized. We had prayed for her in church several times over the years for various health concerns, but now it seemed she was getting the care she needed and would recover... but the Lord had other plans for June. He called her home that evening. June had a deep and abiding faith in the Lord. In past years she was active in Bible study, LWML, and serving in various ways. She was fervent in prayer and most often she prayed not for her own needs, but the needs of others. I know this because I visited June many times over the last few years. I would pray with her and read Scripture to her and give her the Lord's Supper. She was a sincere Christian and her faith encouraged me.

Though June had been somewhat isolated in recent years due to her health, we had a very nice funeral for her on June 25 and it was well attended. Please remember her husband Frank and the rest of the Edelmann family as they grieve her sudden and unexpected loss.

## Texas Parks & Wildlife Hunter Education Classroom Course

Would you like to take an in-person hunter education course? Texas Law states that if you are a hunter, born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, you are required to successfully complete a Hunter Education Course. One will be offered in Plano at Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Date: September 10, 2022

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (it may end sooner)

Location: Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
3601 W 15th Street  
Plano, TX 75075

Cost: \$15 **cash** (*no other forms of payment are accepted*)

Minimum Age Requirement: 9 years old (young children need to be accompanied by an adult)

Instructors: Melody (Mel) Pokorny and Shannon Bell

Registration Link: <https://tpwd.elementlms.com/course/hunter-education-classroom-course-7594/>

Hunter Education FAQ Site: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/faq>

Items to bring with you for the class: \$15 **cash**, snacks, lunch, beverage

### From the Instructors:

**All students MUST register.** If there is more than one person from a family registering, they all need to use their OWN UNIQUE EMAIL ADDRESS, as this is how TPWD records them in their system. For example: if a dad registers with his email address — or if he is already in TPWD SYSTEM under his own email address — he cannot use it again for his child(ren). If the child does not have their own email addresses, you just need to leave that field blank. They will be able to login to the system with their full name and D.O.B. to print out the HE certs.

Don't forget to bring snacks, lunch, and beverages as we will be working through lunch (we will take a short break - maybe 45 minutes or so - so we can eat and relax a bit) and we will take short breaks every hour so you can stretch and refresh. The idea here is to keep everyone awake as this is primarily a Law class with intermittent activities.

For those that will have parents dropping them off for the class, at the time we get ready to take the written exam, we will have a short break and they can call their parents and tell them there will be about 45 minutes or so before the class will conclude.

# Teen Times

## “Planning Pays Off”

For many months now, the Sr. IMPACT youth group has been looking forward to traveling to Bozeman, Montana and the Higher Things youth conference. Preparation for this trip actually began in the fall of 2021 and came to fruition a couple of weeks ago when five youth and four adults from Lord of Life joined about 900 other LCMS visitors on the campus of Montana State University. There were 4 days filled with worship, teaching, instruction, entertainment, and good food starting with breakfast at 7am and continuing through free time fun until 11:30pm with “lights out” at midnight. Of course “lights out” does not necessarily mean that sleep ensues immediately because teens tend to carry on their lively conversations well into the night. Something that we experienced this trip, which is a must have in Texas, was the absence of air conditioning. We’ll share more on that later. One aspect of Higher Things that really stands out to me is the friendships that are discovered, created, or nurtured in both teens and adults. We get to connect with new people we meet or reconnect with those we have not seen in a while. There were many instances during our time in Bozeman where we met new people and enjoyed getting to know them. You will have the opportunity to hear many of the stories and experiences on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 9:30 am for a Higher Things slideshow presentation. Youth Ministry trips are one of many highlights during the year that make me reflect on the memories that are made. Here are a few reflections from those who attended Higher Things this year:

*I thought they did a very good job of tying the "For You" theme into the entire conference, from the sermons, plenaries, hymns and breakaways. The campus was very nice, although it was spread out. The food was fantastic. There were many good breakaways, and it was hard to choose which ones to go to. The sleeping situation was not great, because there was no A/C, but it didn't matter that much as we were always busy till 12:00 in the morning having fun, and then waking up for breakfast at 6:00. Overall it was a great trip, and it was definitely my favorite one.*

*I enjoyed all of the people I had the opportunity to meet; on the plane, at the conference, and especially our host! The hiking and river tubing were a great way to experience the beauty of Montana. I must say, however, I prefer air conditioning to box fans!*

*Jump Time Trampoline Park was fun and jumping off of the Thunder Tower was thrilling. My favorite breakaway session was “Born That Way” with Pastor Shaltanis. Tubing down the river was fun and relaxing. I like staying at the house of Scott’s cousin instead of a hotel, with air conditioning and a big TV!*

*My favorite part of Higher Things was all of the church services. Being in a massive room surrounded by hundreds of Lutherans really helped me think about my religion. Also hearing all of the voices singing and the Pastors chanting was extraordinary.*

*I really enjoyed the people I met; Audrey, Amelia, Max, and Victor. I also met up with old friends such as Aubrey. It was amazing when we hiked up to an 80 foot waterfall. Hearing 900 people singing “Joy to the World” was an incredible experience. Tubing the river was awesome! The water was a little chilly, but once you get used to the water it was great!*

*The Higher Things conference at MSU in Bozeman sure was enjoyable! We went to talks on various topics and heard good speakers. We also made some great new friends along the way – and reconnected with some old ones! Every day we would sit together in Matins and Vespers. There were some amazing singers present at the conference. On another note, we also ventured out to view Palisades Falls and tube the river. It sure was a lot of fun! We also made s’mores later that night. Attending the Higher Things conference was worth its while – we learned a lot and had tons of fun!*

As I said, the experiences and memories made during the trips to Higher Things will be long remembered by all who are fortunate to attend, and we will share them with you on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 9:30am.

Until then, God’s blessing to you all!

Scott Peters

## Lord of Life Small Groups

### EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth  
[BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com](mailto:BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meet one Sunday a month in the afternoon or evening

### FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or [speters@planolutheran.com](mailto:speters@planolutheran.com)
- † Usually meet one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

### MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Sat., August 20 at 3:00 PM

### COLLEGE GROUP

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meet after the late service for lunch and Bible study

## prepare for worship in august

### Aug 7: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. Gen. 15:1-6; Heb. 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34 (35-40)

Hymn of the Day: "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe," 666

### Aug. 14: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jer. 23:16-29; Heb. 11:17-31 (32-40); 12:1-3; Luke 12:49-53 (54-56)

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," 655

### Aug. 21: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 66:18-23; Heb. 12:4-24 (25-29; Luke 13:22-30)

Hymn of the Day: "A Multitude Comes from the East and the West," 510

### Aug. 28: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Prov. 25:2-10; Heb. 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14

Hymn of the Day: "Son of God, Eternal Savior," 842



- 1 Brian & Devrie Hahn (42)
- 2 Travis Bennett
- 2 Debbie Olsen
- 2 Carol Read
- 3 Shannon Nuschler
- 4 Doug & Kathy Hite (21)
- 5 Sherri Kunschke
- 6 Cathleen Ott
- 6 Emory & Suzanne Smith (60)
- 7 Scott Peters
- 8 Trent & Jackie Barnes (7)
- 8 Tony & Nevelle Vess (63)
- 12 Carol Ozlowski
- 13 Earl Lund
- 13 Rachel Ozlowski
- 14 Dixie Hacker
- 14 Phaedra Shaltanis
- 16 Robert Duff
- 16 Mike Paradise
- 16 Audrey Thiel
- 17 Duffy & Cindy Carter (26)
- 17 Tim & Carol Ozlowski (31)
- 18 Josephine Barnes
- 18 Christine Messinger
- 18 Kevin Tyler
- 22 Sydney Peters
- 23 Jessica Reeves
- 25 Gary Bennefeld
- 25 Brian & Gail Wolf (43)
- 26 Jan Doughtie
- 28 Joanne Benner
- 28 Bill & Charis Bennett (45)
- 30 Doug Hite
- 30 Tom Read

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
**Summarized Statement of Activity**  
**6 Months Ending June 30, 2022**

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2022 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
Regular Offerings	\$274,427	\$281,238	-\$6,811	\$560,692
Other		\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$274,427</b>	<b>\$281,238</b>	<b>-\$6,811</b>	<b>\$560,692</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolences	\$19,104	\$19,687	-\$583	\$39,248
Elders	\$192,469	\$193,152	-\$683	\$386,297
Education	\$194	\$500	-\$306	\$1,000
Outreach	\$94	\$300	-\$206	\$600
Office Expenses	\$7,138	\$6,320	\$818	\$12,090
Utilities	\$16,688	\$16,605	\$83	\$33,415
Property Maintenance	\$16,045	\$17,370	-\$1,325	\$34,440
Stewardship	\$0	\$350	-\$350	\$350
Family Ministries	\$1,283	\$3,040	-\$1,757	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$2,438	\$4,000	-\$1,562	\$6,100
Children's Ministry	\$594	\$3,600	-\$3,006	\$6,700
Admin Council	\$1,495	\$1,300	\$195	\$2,600
Total Operating Expense	\$257,543	\$266,224	-\$8,681	\$528,131
Mortgage Payment	\$15,480	\$15,480	\$0	\$30,960
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$273,023</b>	<b>\$281,704</b>	<b>-\$8,681</b>	<b>\$559,091</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$1,404</b>	<b>-\$466</b>	<b>\$1,870</b>	<b>\$1,601</b>

**Other Information:**

Operating Fund Balance	\$104,157
Restricted Funds Balance	\$131,759
Loan Balance @ 1-1-22	\$154,660
Regular Mo. Prin Pmts	\$10,941
Extra Prin Pmts	\$31,915
Building Loan Bal @ 6-30-2	\$111,804