

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

Internet Home Page: <http://planolutheran.com>

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August 2019

Convention Highlights

Summer is nearing its end and what an eventful one it has been! Last month I told you about taking the youth group to a Higher Things conference at Concordia University in Seward, NE. Now let me tell you about my trip to the 67th Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Every three years our synod has a convention to take care of various business items like voting on goals for the future, adjusting bylaws, and electing officers and board members for various positions across the church. The location of the convention varies; this year it was held in Tampa, FL. Why Tampa? When the convention began, President Harrison said, "Everyone repeat after me: 'One million dollars!'" After having us repeat this a couple of times, we engaged in what seemed like an antiphonal response with him asking questions: "Why have the convention in Florida in July?" (and then we were cued to respond) "One million dollars!" "Isn't it hot and miserable here this time of year?" "One million dollars!" "How much money did you save by having it there?" etc. I recall that about 10 years ago the estimated cost of a synodical convention was about 3 million dollars which includes everything from renting the convention center to covering the travel and lodging expenses for all the delegates.

Synod conventions have lay and pastoral delegates one each from every circuit in the synod, which means (if I recall correctly) there were about 1150 voting delegates. Our local circuit held elections last fall and I was elected along with Mr. Jim Busby, a member of Holy Cross in Dallas. In addition to the voting pastoral and lay delegates, teachers and

others (mainly retirees and district staff) are invited by district presidents to be advisory delegates. Advisory delegates have seats in the convention hall and can speak to resolutions, but cannot make motions or vote. There are also all kinds of visitors to the conventions including church members who just come to see what's happening and others who come in an official capacity from another church body. For example, this year we welcomed leaders from other Lutheran churches around the globe and officially declared fellowship with Lutheran denominations in Denmark, Portugal, and South Africa. In addition, there are also vendors who come to these large gatherings of Lutherans to give us information and solicit our support. For example: Concordia Publishing House had a huge display as did Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LWML, the Concordia Universities and both seminaries. These were just a few of the dozens of vendors exhibiting in the hall adjacent to the convention.

The opening service was grand and beautiful. Although it took place in a convention center and not a cathedral, it was still a moving experience to worship with about 2,000 Lutherans who love our church and are committed members of it. The hymns were sung with gusto and President Matthew Harrison gave a moving message. I was privileged to participate in the service by helping to distribute Holy Communion which meant I got to be a part of the procession and recession. It was a really wonderful experience and the distribution was well-orchestrated so that everyone received communion in a timely fashion. Every day of the convention

began with Matins and also had a midday service. The preaching was excellent throughout and the music showed a variety of styles within a liturgical framework. Worship helped to put the entire convention into context, so that we never strayed from the idea that the work we were doing at the convention was closely tied to our devotion to our Heavenly Father; that our beloved little synod is God's Church and not merely a human institution.

This was the third national convention I have attended and I have tried to keep up with every convention, so when people asked me how this one was, I answer with some perspective. My synopsis of this year's convention is that it was largely uneventful, and thus, a sign of a church body that is united and peaceful. Most resolutions passed by a margin of 80-90%. This is because most resolutions were offering commendations or encouragement. In the past, there have been much more contentious issues that divided our conventions. For example, in 2010 we restructured the synod and those resolutions were passed by only the thinnest of margins, for example: 49.5% to 50.5%. I am happy to say that nothing really divided us like this in Tampa. Even the elections were usually decided by super majorities.

There were a few notable issues that resulted in passionate speeches at the convention. For example, the convention affirmed that God created the world in six "natural" days. Some thought it unnecessary to go beyond the text by adding the word "natural" while others thought it would prevent people from reading long periods of time into the words of the Bible. In the end, the resolution passed by a voice vote in favor and a show of hands against. Because it was done this way, there is no record how many dissented, but my guess would be about 70% for and 30% opposed. To read more about this and the many other issues we covered at the convention, you can visit the Synod's website, which cataloged each day's events with pictures and reports:

<https://blogs.lcms.org/category/convention/>

One issue, which was by far the most contentious, concerned the closing of Concordia College in Selma, Alabama. This historically black college existed for nearly 100 years and sadly, had to be closed in 2018. The school struggled financially for years and its

closing came to no surprise to those who followed it; indeed to many of us it seemed inevitable. Nevertheless, there were some who severely criticized President Matthew Harrison and the leadership of the synod for not keeping the school open or at least not letting more people know that it was going to be closed. The synod's Board of Directors and president countered that many steps were taken to bail out the school and that advertising such a dire financial situation would have made it more difficult to attract investing partners and enroll new students. Much of the issue had to do with challenges faced by the city of Selma itself. For more than 50 years, the population has decreased going from a high of 28,000 residents counted in the 1960 census to an estimated fewer than 18,000 today. In addition, the median household income in Selma is only \$21,000 (Plano's is \$84,000.) People seemed unaware of these basic demographics and instead wanted to place blame on the synod's leaders for the school's closure. Some, sadly, even suggested that racism played a part in closing the school. This was by no means the feelings of most or even many, nevertheless, it was sad to hear the charge made on the convention floor.

Fortunately, the contention over Selma was brief and the overall tone of the convention was very positive. No denomination (or congregation, for that matter) is without its conflicts and disagreements. The larger the body, the more diversity of opinions and ideas about how it should be run and what we ought to say and do. Yet, I cannot help but feel that our Church body, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is remarkably unified. We do not have the kinds of divisions that have plagued us in the past or that currently threaten other denominations. This unity is a gift from God and one more thing for which we can thank and praise Him. The theme of the convention captured this spirit well, it was "Joy:fully Lutheran" based on 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24. Which reads, in part: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I am happy to say that I joyfully give thanks for our synod and I hope you do too.

PrS

“Do I need to 'lawyer up' to get into heaven?”

Some time ago while listening to sports radio, one of the announcers raised this question. Of course, it was not a serious conversation about the state of his eternal soul, but an offhand comment made for entertainment value.

He said that his wife was sure to get into heaven because of her habit of performing good deeds, and he contrasted her behavior to his own, saying that he'd need a good lawyer, like Johnnie Cochran, to get into heaven.

Whether he intended it seriously or not, his comments got me thinking about our position as Christians and it lead me to consider the question of our need to 'lawyer up' in order to get into heaven.

We know, of course, that no good deeds we do will earn our way into heaven. *We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.* Isaiah 64:6

We also know that we are guilty of sin and deserving of nothing but death and condemnation. *For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.* James 2:10

However, thanks be to God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are declared righteous for His name's sake. *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.* 1 John 2:12

Indeed, Jesus acts as our 'advocate' (lawyer) as well as the 'propitiation' (substitutionary payment) for our sins. *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.* 1 John 2:1-2

In the end, we don't need to 'lawyer up' to get into heaven; we just need to continue to trust in Jesus who is our rock and our salvation - and all we need! *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* Psalm 18:2

In Christ,
Mike Kunschke, Elder



prepare for worship in august

Sunday, August 4: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-26; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Hymn of the Day: “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings,” 782

Sunday, August 11: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34

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

Sunday, August 18: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jeremiah 23:16-29; Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3; Luke 12:49-53

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

Sunday, August 25: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isaiah 66:18-23; Hebrews 12:4-24; Luke 13:22-30

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



Playground Project for Lord of Life Revived

From: Scott Peters

In 2017, Lord of Life received several memorials from the families and friends of departed members and an idea arose for a new playground to be located near the outdoor pavilion. It was proposed at a voter's meeting, but the circumstances at the time were not in favor of such an endeavor. When it was proposed at the December Voter's Meeting in 2017, the main concern was the financial commitment it would take to install a playground structure and the associated site work (borders, ground cover, etc.). As a result, the project has been placed on the "back burner" for some time, but there has been a new development that could see it to completion.

One of the families whose memorials were part of the original funds available has come forward and promised to provide the remainder of the funds needed to complete a simple yet very functional and well-built playground system for Lord of Life. I have contacted one of the companies that we looked into back in 2017 and received new estimates and possible timelines for a playground installation.

Over the past year and a half, we have been fortunate to have several families with children visit on Sunday mornings and some have become members of our church. Attracting families with children has always been a goal for our congregation. A new playground would provide both a physical and visible tool for our Children's Ministry. It could be utilized on Sunday mornings and Vacation Bible School, for church picnics and other social gatherings for young families. It would be located in a space that is easily seen from passersby who might recognize that our church has something for children. A new playground could also be beneficial to the Classical Conversations homeschool group that meets at our church one day a week during the school year. Imagine someone driving by the church and noticing 40 children playing outside on our playground. They might say, "that church has something for kids!" Every public school and park has one and most churches in our area do as well. It would be a good investment for Lord of Life.

However, let's not stop there. Yes, we have the means to place a simple playground structure next to our pavilion, but we could do more. If you feel moved to donate toward this project, we could have a larger structure or more amenities included. Some examples of amenities would be permanent benches for parents, shade canopies, or additional small structures for toddlers. There are a number of options that are available to us. A brochure will soon be produced to provide more information about this exciting opportunity. For now, I am simply grateful that God has provided a way to see this through. I also believe that the families of the loved ones to whom this will be dedicated are also grateful. What a better way to remember them than to see children enjoying themselves for years to come on a new playground at Lord of Life.

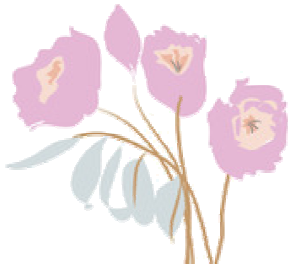


Play Date 689-114946

Ages: 2-12
 Use Zone: 35' x 23' Child Capacity: 30
 Fall Height: 4'0" Activities: 8

ADA	Elevated	Accessible by Transfer	Ground	Type
	6	6	2	2

Be Still



2019 LWML Texas District Spiritual Rest & Renewal Retreat

October 11-12, 2019

Lakeview Methodist Conference Center
Palestine, TX

Featuring Special Keynote Speaker

Kaye Wolff

Former LWML Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries

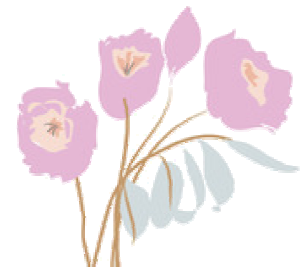
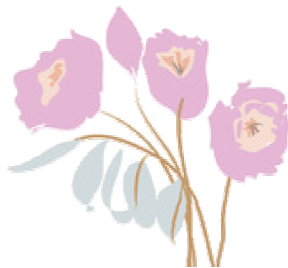
Guest Speaker

Staci Geiger

Former LWML Texas District YWR

Bible Study Leader

Rev. John Heckmann



Please join us for a weekend of rest and renewal as we focus on prayer in our daily lives. Many special moments are being planned including speakers, Bible studies, a hands on servant event, and quiet time for prayer and meditation.

Registration forms are available at lwmltxdist.org.

Registration Opens July 1, 2019, Late Registration Begins September 1, 2019

Registration Fees:

Friday & Saturday (Includes 3 meals)	\$ 75.00
Saturday Only (Includes 2 Meals)	\$ 35.00
Friday & Saturday late Registration	\$ 95.00
Saturday Only Late Registration	\$ 60.00

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26-28

[Click here for fillable form](#)

Spiritual Rest & Renewal Retreat
Registration Form
"Be Still"
Romans 8:26-28
Friday & Saturday, October 11-12, 2019
Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine, Texas

Name: _____

(One Registrant per Form)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Zone: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Telephone: _____

Registration Fees:

Friday & Saturday (Prior to Sept. 1) \$75.00

Friday & Saturday Late Registration (Sept. 1-Oct. 10) \$95

Saturday Only (Prior to Sept. 1) \$35

Saturday Only (Sept 1- Oct. 10) \$60

Special Needs: _____

Camp cabins are equipped with bunkbeds, showers, toilets, sinks, AC/Heat. Rooms/bunks will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Attendees with physical disabilities will be given priority on use of bottom bunks if registering before September 15.

Each camper is to bring a liability waiver with them to camp. A form will be made available in the confirmation packet.

Please mail your completed registration form and payment to:

Kelli Alsup

2610 San Jacinto Rd.

Temple, TX 76502

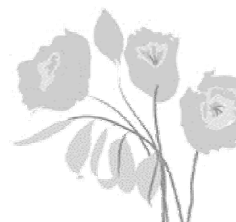
Kelli.lwml@gmail.com

If you would like to pay with credit card, please enter you card information here:

Credit Card Number:

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code: _____

Be Still



From the Board of Properties:

It has been about 5 months since the staff position of Director of Facilities and Property was officially formed. There has been a bit of a learning curve with some of the duties that are associated with this position and the adjustments to balance my schedule to accommodate it and the Director of Youth Ministry position too, but I feel that I have settled in to the role and pray that God will continue to guide me in both. That being said, there is an exciting opportunity I wish to share with you that could be beneficial for Lord of Life in a number of ways.

Earlier this year we were approached by a cellular communications equipment company called Xtivity Solutions, LLC. We were asked if our church might be interested in placing a few devices for cellular communications on our property for the introduction of the 5G network which is slated to launch later this year or in early 2020. The main benefit for Lord of Life from such an arrangement would be a monthly stipend for the use of our property as a location for communication equipment. After I met with a company representative and getting more information, The Board of Properties examined the proposal and what the advantages and disadvantages would be. Several months followed of diligent research, asking questions and thoughtful discussions from both the board and Admin Council, and it was decided to accept an agreement with Xtivity Solutions to allow them to negotiate, on behalf of Lord of Life, a lease agreement from the 4 major cellular providers. If the cell providers offer Lord of Life a proposal, there are terms to such an agreement that are to our benefit. First and foremost, there is no cost for any representation, equipment, installation, liability coverage, or equipment maintenance required from Lord of Life. Second, any proposed equipment installation on our property must be approved by the Board of Properties and the Admin Council. It's up to us if we want to allow anything to be installed on church property. Third, there is a possibility that some cellular devices, if installed, would also include security cameras for the exterior grounds

of our church property. Fourth, if Lord of Life does accept an offer from the cell providers, it would produce a small monthly income that could be used for a number of ministry opportunities. We do not know how much that monthly income will be until a formal proposal has been submitted to us.

At the moment, we are still in the negotiating stage. Nothing has been proposed or agreed upon, and no communication devices have been installed. Again, we have the final say to accept or deny any proposal. This is simply an opportunity that we want everyone to be aware of. As always, we will seek the Lord's guidance on any decisions to be made, and I will gladly share more information as it becomes available.

Until then, God Bless.

Scott Peters

Director of Facilities and Property



Teen Times

THE END IS NEAR! No, not the end of the world, the end of summer! I can just hear the cries of agony from the teenagers now;

Oh, man! Don't even remind me that school starts in a few days!

I know, I know, it's a painful subject, but the IMPACT Youth Ministry has a special event just to help us remember the glory days of this summer. Get ready for:

Jr. and Sr. IMPACT End of Summer Event

Let's enjoy one last summer day before school gets back into full swing. A fun day at the lake is just the thing. Adult drivers invited to attend (van rental is possible).

Where: Cedar Creek Lake at the home of Hamptons/Prescotts
(about 1 ½ hour drive from church)

When: Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019

Why: Why not?

Time Frame: Meet and leave as a group from Lord of Life at 8:00am, Return to Lord of Life at 9:30pm

What to bring: swimming attire, beach towel, sunscreen, *lake shoes*, football, Frisbees, inflatable floats, one change of clothes

Contact Scott to confirm your participation or have questions.



Lord of Life Small Groups

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net
- † Usually meet one Saturday a month at 2pm

EPIC PARENTING

- † For couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth 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
- † Usually meets one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2nd 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 the Sat. August 17th at 6:30 PM

TWENTY SOMETHINGS

- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service



Lord of Life end of summer bash on **Sunday, August 25, 2019**

We'll have a quick lunch of hot dogs and chips, followed by a selection of homemade ice cream. If you have your own ice cream maker, or can get one, please make plans to present your very best recipe, as we'll be having a contest to find the best gourmet.



- 1 Brian & Devrie Hahn (39)
- 2 Travis Bennett
- 2 Debbie Olsen
- 2 Leo Parrent
- 2 Carol Read
- 3 Shannon Nuschler
- 4 Doug & Kathy Hite (18)
- 5 Sherri Kunschke
- 5 Jeff & Kara Prescott (24)
- 6 Cathleen Ott
- 7 Scott Peters
- 7 Rob & Amy Reinert (20)
- 8 Trent & Jackie Barnes (4)
- 8 Tony & Nevelle Vess (60!!!)
- 10 Jim Hampton
- 12 Carol Ozlowski
- 13 Earl Lund
- 13 Rachel Ozlowski
- 14 Dixie Hacker
- 14 Phaedra Shaltanis
- 16 Robert Duff
- 16 Joanne Keeney
- 16 Mike Paradise
- 16 Audrey Thiel
- 17 Duffy & Cindy Carter (23)
- 17 Tim & Carol Ozlowski (28)
- 18 Josephine Barnes
- 18 Christine Messinger
- 18 Kevin Tyler
- 22 Matt & Sarah Sims (21)
- 25 Brian & Gail Wolf (40)
- 26 Malinda Pittson
- 28 Joanne Benner
- 28 Nita Berger
- 28 Hayden Crabtree
- 28 Braydon LaPlante
- 28 Bill & Charis Bennett (43)
- 28 Jeff & Nita Berger (26)
- 29 Jan Carper
- 29 Lance Crabtree
- 30 Doug Hite
- 30 Tom Read

Serving in Worship in August

	August 4		August 11		August 18		August 25	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Elder	Read		Moudy		Ziegelbein		Peters	
Common Cup	D Peters	Hite			D Peters	Hite		
Altar	Nelda Schrank and Bette Martin							
Acolyte	Kaitlyn	Luke			Josh	Sebastian		
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Rippey	Hampton	Manning	Vess	George
Sound	Moudy	Shaltanis	Wolf	Reinert	Wilkerson	Wolf	G Hacker	Hite
Usher	Bunger Shaltanis	Loewecke Ziegelbein	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Carter Moudy	Prescott Ozlowski Messinger	Berger Parish Oltmann	Schrank E Hacker C Hacker	Buckmeier Short Strecker



FINANCIAL REPORT

January - June, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$289,581	\$287,053	\$2,528
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$289,581	\$287,053	\$2,528
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$278,362	\$274,360	\$4,002
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$11,219	\$12,693	(\$1,474)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$106,306
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$147,294
3. Building Note Balance	\$246,436