

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 2020

Greetings from the Editor

While Pastor is recovering well, he is still dealing with lingering fatigue and is taking much needed rest. I know he and his family appreciate the many expressions of love they have received from you during this time and are looking forward to better times ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy (and Healthy) New Year! As this historic year comes to a close, I'm reminded of the verse, "This too shall pass." Wait, what? That's not a Bible verse. Is it even a Biblical concept? I suppose one could argue that it is supported in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

But is there a promise that our specific trial or tribulation has an end point this side of heaven? It would probably be more accurate to say, "This too may pass." As Christians we know our trials and tribulations will have an endpoint when Christ returns in his glory. But until then, perhaps it is more comforting to know that whether or not our trials and tribulations end, God is still in control, we are loved, and Jesus bought our salvation so that we will be with him in paradise for all eternity. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18:

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Cindy Carter
Lifelines Editor

STEWARDSHIP

For your consideration in future congregational gifts you plan to make, the Stewardship Committee would like to offer the following suggestion. If you are in a position to receive RMD's (required minimum distributions) from your IRA or 401K, you have the option to direct the amount of the RMD to the non-profit charity of your choice which comes with certain tax benefits. Consult with a tax professional to ensure proper tax reporting and filing.

This could be especially beneficial if the funds were directed to reduce the principal balance of the building loan which now has an outstanding balance of <\$200,000. Our monthly principal & interest payment is roughly \$2,500/moth; therefore, extra principal payments made to the loan will reduce what we owe significantly and sooner than later free up that monthly debt payment to be directed to other areas of ministry.

For 2020, RMD's are not required due to the effects of COVID, but the RMD can still be taken.

Thanks,
Pat Greer



Please remember to bring your pledge cards to dedicate before the altar this Sunday. These cards will be returned to you unopened next year. If needed, there will be a few extra available in the narthex.

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 Sat. a month at 2:30 PM

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish 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 meet 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
- † Usually meet one Sat. a month 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



DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Tim & Alyson Wood (13)
- 4 Mollie Manning
- 4 Monique Phelan
- 5 Helen Dolan
- 5 Mabel Heffner
- 6 Samuel Short
- 6 Frank & June Edelmann (39)
- 6 Bob & Kathy Helms (33)
- 9 Amanda Belcher
- 11 Paula Lowery
- 13 Monica Heffner
- 13 Gail Wolf
- 14 Stu Ehrett
- 14 Jack Schrank
- 15 Eleanor Duff
- 15 Sebastian Shaltanis
- 17 Marty & Angie Buckmeier (32)
- 17 Joe & Laura Isbell (10)
- 18 Stephanie Tabor
- 19 Gabriel Frazier
- 20 Alexander Duff
- 20 Dave Peters
- 21 Lizzy Short
- 21 Stephen & Ireland Dillard (2)
- 22 Dennis & Linda Delzer (53)
- 23 Nancy Cawood
- 23 Shirley Sparks
- 23 Kevin & Cheryl Tyler (27)
- 26 Andrew Buckmeier
- 26 Ben Scarth
- 27 Phil Klein
- 27 Randy & Sylvia Rippey (2)
- 27 Andrew & Rebecca Short (17)
- 28 David & Becky Armstrong (35)
- 30 Dennis Delzer
- 30 Mark Huebel
- 30 Ken & Rhonda Tabor (37)

prepare for worship in december

Wednesday, Dec. 2: Advent Midweek 1pm, 7pm

Dec. 6: Second Sunday in Advent

Texts: Isa. 40:1-11; 2 Pet. 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
 Hymn of the Day: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," 344

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Advent Midweek 1pm, 7pm

Dec. 13 Third Sunday in Advent

Texts: Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thes. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
 Hymn of the Day: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding," 345

Wednesday, Dec. 16: Advent Midweek 1pm, 7pm

Dec. 20 Four Sunday in Advent

Texts: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
 Hymn of the Day: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," 357

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Divine Services, 5 and 7pm

Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day, 10am

Dec. 27: First Sunday after Christmas

Texts: Isa. 61:10-62:3; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
 Hymn of the Day: "Let All Together Praise Our God," 389



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 10 Months Ending October 2020

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2020 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$467,023	\$471,549	(\$4,526)	586,549
Other	\$1,356	\$0	\$1,356	0
Total Income	\$468,379	\$471,549	(\$3,170)	586,549
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$427,790	\$463,285	(\$35,495)	\$552,379
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$39,069	\$28,410	\$10,659	\$34,092
Total Expenses	\$466,859	\$491,695	(\$24,836)	\$586,471
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$1,520	(\$20,146)	\$21,666	\$78
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$119,412			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$114,139			
Building Loan Balance	\$195,570			

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20th — lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com