

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The following are the latest updates and happenings at Lord of Life.

See you soon at church!

-PrS

### Advent

It's another new Church Year and as such we have Advent midweek services starting Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 and 7:00 pm. In a season that is so busy with things to do, these midweek services are a great opportunity to spend time the right way doing the one thing needful: worshipping the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Please make good use of these opportunities.

Soup Suppers will be happening at 5:45. This is a chance to grab a light meal with friends at church before worship. If you would like to volunteer to bring some food, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

For the services themselves, we will be using an Advent series by Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and former Lutheran Hour Speaker. The series is called: The Bible, Our Book of Advents.

### Christmas

This year December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> land on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. As we do not anticipate a large crowd on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have only one service at 10:00 am. Also, we will have one Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm and one Christmas

Day service at 10:00 am. I look forward to these beautiful holiday services every year and can't wait to celebrate them with you again this year.

### Congratulations!



Mark and Elizabeth Huebel were married the day after Thanksgiving in a small and beautiful wedding ceremony at the Woman's Club in Richardson. Mark is a member of our congregation who also happens to be the son of Pastor Glen Huebel who fills in on occasion when I am out of town. Pastor Huebel preached an excellent sermon at the wedding and I got to officiate. It was a great day and we thank God for bringing these two together. May He fill their married life together with joy and many blessings!

**Israel?**

November 5 ~ 16, 2022 \$4800 Jerusalem ... Bethlehem ... Sea of Galilee ... Nazareth ... Tiberias ... Caesarea-by-the-Sea ... Jericho ... Masada. Water's Edge (Lutheran Church) in Frisco plans to travel to Israel next year. Since our past trips have been canceled, perhaps this will be the opportunity to finally go there? If you are interested in this, please send an email to Pastor Shaltanis.

**In Memoriam**

Pat Montalbo passed away on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the age of 74. She had suffered from Parkinson's disease for years. Her memorial service will be December 4, at 11:00 with a luncheon following the service. Pat was unlike anyone I have known before. She quipped that her body was going to be donated to science so they could study how a musician's brain works! Pat played piano and organ for many churches over the years.

She once told me "Organists are members of all churches!" In 2016 she finally committed to becoming a member of our church. During the catechesis she would ask interesting and at times profound theological questions. Pat not only loved music, but also teaching it to children. She had many students and impacted many lives with music. She was dearly loved and will be missed.

**Training and Fellowship Meeting**

On Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 there will be a meeting for all altar guild, sound techs, ushers, and greeters followed by a "thank you" meal. The purpose of the meeting is to go over any instructions on how to best do the tasks and then also enjoy a nice dinner together. If you volunteer as an usher, sound tech, greeter, or on altar guild, please mark your calendars and plan on joining us that evening.



**Ushers, Greeters,  
Sound Techs, & Altar Guild**  
**APPRECIATION**  
*Catered Dinner*

*Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>*

*Immediately following your group meetings at 6:30PM*

Well, here we are in December 2021 and still we are buffeted by life and the fact that it is constantly changing, tossing us this way and that. As we once again approach Christmas and celebrate the birth of our Savior, I thought this devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries was a good reminder for us to hold fast in the knowledge that our Father above has us firmly in the palm of his hand and has the plan. My prayer for you is that you can rest easy in this knowledge and celebrate joyfully this Christmas morning!

I wish you all a very joyful Christmas!

Tim Ozlowski



## "Across the Stormy Waters"

*Lutheran Hour Ministries, Daily Devotions, Aug. 20, 2021*

*Matthew 14:22-33 - Immediately He (Jesus) made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

We know the story of Peter crashing down through the waves. We know how Jesus rescued him and the storm-beaten disciples from looming disaster. When we wonder if we're going to make it, look to Jesus, and watch God making a way out of no way. When the weight of your sin has you six feet under, look to the Savior. With Him there is forgiveness for sins. It was won at the cross, sealed in His resurrection, and is now available to each and every one of us.

When you're rocked by life's many tempests, look to Jesus and you'll find the help—and the hand—you need. In Him there is fresh, reconciling hope for husbands and wives who aren't talking to each other, or worse. In Him there is renewed power to combat the persistent temptation that has tripped you up so many times before.

Don't take your eyes off of Jesus like Peter almost did, or you may end up where Peter almost ended up. When life's got you down and you feel like you're going under, fix your eyes on the Savior. Just as He crossed over to a desperate Peter on the Sea of Galilee two-thousand years ago, so He still does today—for you and me, moving through the problems and insecurities in our lives to reach us, to love us, to save us.

Jesus has indeed crossed over for us. This He did to die in our place. And just as He rose from the dead, one day we too will rise just like Him and cross over to the place He has prepared for us. How do we know this? He has told us so: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3).

**THE PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, take my hand when the storms of life get rough. In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

### Reflection Questions:

1. How do you guard against making reckless decisions when the storms of life come crashing down on you?
2. When it takes a real determination to keep your focus on Jesus, how do you do that?
3. What Scripture verses do you lean on when your faith's being tested?

# Teen Times

Although the season of advent is just getting underway, it seems that our society has been preparing everyone for Christmas for quite some time already. I am fairly sure that I saw Christmas decorations on store shelves back in October, and several of our neighbors were adorning their homes with icicle lights and huge inflatable snowmen at the beginning of November. The words that come to mind when I see the holiday lights way before their time are, "I can't wait!"

"I can't wait for Christmas!"

"I can't wait to open my presents!"

"I can't wait to get out of school for winter break!"

"I can't wait until ..."

Now I'll be honest, I get excited about the Christmas season just as much as everyone else, and the outside of my house usually looks like a scene from the movie *Christmas Vacation*. However, the "I can't wait" mentality needs to take a back seat to a little patience now and then because everything in life will happen in its own good time. Maybe you have heard or even spoke the words yourself that sound like this:

"I can't wait until I am done with middle school and go to high school."

"I can't wait until summer vacation."

"I can't wait until I have a boyfriend/girlfriend and my parents let me go on dates."

"I can't wait to drive my own car."

"I can't wait until I go to college and be on my own; free to do what I want."

"I can't wait until I turn 21 years old and can legally buy alcohol."

My young friends, let me share a secret with you; the "I can't wait" will go on for the rest of your life if you let them.

"I can't wait until I'm done with college and get a job."

"I can't wait until I move out of this apartment and buy a house."

"I can't wait to get married."

"I can't wait to meet my first child" which will eventually turn in to...

"I can't wait until my kids move out of the house."

"I can't wait to win the lottery and live my life with ease."

"I can't wait to retire from my job so I don't have to work anymore."

Everything in your life, whether you choose it or it is a force of nature, will happen all in good time; God's time. He had prepared the world for a Savior for thousands of years. Jesus was announced to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and to the children of Israel for centuries, but they had to wait. Wait for the right time and the right place for the Messiah to be born. Now we have been told again to wait for Jesus to return, but we'd best be ready.

*"Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace."* 2 Peter 3:14

The "these" Peter refers to are a new heaven and a new earth. Advent and Christmas are a time to wait, prepare, and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. We should be doing the same thing the other eleven months out of the year; waiting, preparing, and celebrating the day when Christ returns or He calls us home. Actually, that day will be the best day of my life, and I can't wait!

Until next year, have a safe and blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or 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 Fri. 12/18 at 6:30 PM

### TWENTY SOMETHINGS

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



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Comfort Makers quilting group over the last year, and those who contributed to the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. A Thrivent Action Team grant was used to purchase some of the supplies. This year's donation from Lord of Life was over 100 quilts, 80 personal care kits, and \$80 cash donations for shipping. The 20 boxes were loaded up into trucks for delivery to the LWR ingathering site at Messiah on November 13th, one of 3 collection sites in Texas. The total amounts of items shipped from North Texas were 3,851 Quilts, 1,971 School Kits, 3,291 Personal Care Kits, 247 Baby Care Kits and 66 Fabric Kits. These items will be transported to the LWR warehouse in Maryland and then sent out to help people in need around the world.

# DECEMBER



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tim & Alyson Wood (14)
- 4 Mollie Manning
- 4 Monique Phelan
- 5 Helen Dolan
- 6 Samuel Short
- 6 Frank & June Edelman (40)
- 6 Bob & Kathy Helms (34)
- 11 Paula Lowery
- 13 Monica Heffner
- 13 Gail Wolf
- 14 Stu Ehrett
- 14 Jack Schrank
- 14 Mark & Susan Knowles (42)
- 15 Eleanor Duff
- 15 Sebastian Shaltanis
- 16 Joel Crumrine
- 17 Marty & Angie Buckmeier (33)
- 18 Stephanie Tabor
- 19 Gabriel Frazier
- 20 Alex Duff
- 20 Dave Peters
- 21 Lizzy Short
- 22 Dennis & Linda Delzer (54)
- 23 Nancy Cawood
- 23 Shirley Sparks
- 23 Kevin & Cheryl Tyler (28)
- 26 Andrew Buckmeier
- 26 Ben Scarth
- 26 Mariel Tweedie
- 27 Phil Klein
- 27 Doug Sullivan
- 27 Randy & Sylvia Rippey (3)
- 27 Andrew & Rebecca Short (18)
- 28 David & Becky Armstrong (36)
- 30 Dennis Delzer
- 30 Mark Huebel
- 30 Ken & Rhonda Tabor (38)

# prepare for worship in December

## Dec. 1: Midweek Advent 1

Texts: Gen. 12:12-3, 18:1-15; John 8:48-58  
Office Hymn: "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It," 594

## Dec. 5: Second Sunday in Advent

Texts: Mal. 3:1-7b; Phil. 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)  
Hymn of the Day: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry,"  
344

## Dec. 8: Midweek Advent 2

Texts: Gen. 28:10-17; John 1:43-51  
Office Hymn: "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring," 353

## Dec. 12: Third Sunday in Advent

Texts: Zeph. 3:14-20; Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)  
Hymn of the Day: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding,"  
345

## Dec. 15: Midweek Advent 3

Texts: Exo. 3:1-15; Deut. 18:15  
Office Hymn: "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come,"  
350

## Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Texts: Mic. 5:2-5a; Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)  
Hymn of the Day: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," 357

## Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Texts: Is. 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matt. 1:18-25  
Hymn of the Day: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," 359

## Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Texts: Is. 52:7-10; Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12); John 1:1-14(15-18)  
Hymn of the Day: "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth,"  
382

## Dec. 26: First Sunday after Christmas

Texts: Ex. 13:1-3a, 11-15; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40  
Hymn of the Day: "Let All Together Praise Our God,"  
389



## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 10 Months Ending October 2021

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2021 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
Regular Offerings	\$465,295	\$480,467	(\$15,172)	\$581,908
Other	\$469	\$0	\$469	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$465,764</b>	<b>\$480,467</b>	<b>(\$14,703)</b>	<b>\$581,908</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$455,107	\$462,810	(\$7,703)	\$550,845
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$36,516	\$25,800	\$10,716	\$30,960
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$491,624</b>	<b>\$488,610</b>	<b>\$3,013</b>	<b>\$581,805</b>
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$25,860)	(\$8,143)	(\$17,716)	\$103
<b>Other Information:</b>				
Operating Fund Balance	\$89,860			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$114,069			
Building Loan Balance	\$160,910			