

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Vol. 34, No. 2

Plano, Texas

February 2020

Updates and Information

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have a number of updates and information for you, so rather than one long reflection, here are several bits and pieces for your consideration this month.

Many blessings to you,

PrS.

Missionary McDermott –For a number of years we have supported Ryan McDermott as a missionary to the people of West Africa. You may recall that the beautiful Luther's Seal hanging prominently in our narthex above the guest book, was a gift from him. Well, recently Ryan and his family left the overseas mission field and have moved to Madison, WI where he will be serving as a missionary to the deaf. His call is from both the Synod and the South Wisconsin district of the LCMS. Attached you will find a letter from Rev. McDermott talking about his departure and new work. He vaguely references "family and personal matters" making it no longer advisable to serve overseas but gives no further details. Even though he is being relocated, he will continue to serve and use his gifts, God willing, to great effect.

What next? In the coming months, the elders and I will consider what missions we will support in the future. We could continue to support Rev. McDermott, and it is true that the great majority of deaf people are not in the

Church. Thus, any effort to support deaf missions is certainly worthwhile. However, another direction we will consider is keeping our support on the continent of Africa. For example, the synod has recently called a missionary to go to the Congo, which sounds like a very difficult place to serve. There are so many wonderful missions we can support. If you have any suggestions of Lutheran Missions you would like us to consider, please let me know.

Security –In late December a shooting took place in a church outside of Ft. Worth in which two parishioners and the murderer were killed. The event only lasted 6 seconds due to the quick reaction of one of the members of the church's security team. This was another sad reminder that we are living in a fallen and sinful world. Of course, there is nothing we can do to prevent someone intent on performing evil from hurting others, not at church or anywhere. Still, we can and will be vigilant and in light of this recent crime the elders have discussed what we can do to ensure people's safety at Lord of Life in the unlikely event that such an instance were to occur. We have made some adjustments in how and when we will unlock church doors and there are other things under consideration to ensure a safe environment.

Let me also remind you of the tactic recommended by many police departments

(including Plano PD) called “Run. Hide. Fight.” In the event of an “active shooter” your first course of action should be to run out of the building ASAP. To that end, please be aware of the exits at church, in particular, note that there is a seldom used exit in the sanctuary that exits the building to the north. If you are unable to run, the next best course is to hide. If possible, go in a room, lock the doors and make no noise until you are sure the police have arrived. As a last resort, you may have to fight, which, if you are unarmed, seems futile. Still, “fight” can mean simply throwing something, a hymnal, a chair, anything, at the shooter to confuse or annoy them allowing more time for others to flee the situation. Mercifully, these events are extremely rare, but given their recent occurrence in our area, it is worth giving some thought of how we might be prepared. ... Lord, watch over your Church and keep us from this!

Lent –Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26th, we will have afternoon and evening services at 1:30 and 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings and there will be light meals provided before the services on subsequent Wednesdays throughout Lent. Please make good use of these worship services and throughout this season of prayer and fasting, consider increasing your devotional time and other spiritual practices (Scripture reading, fasting, prayer, etc.)

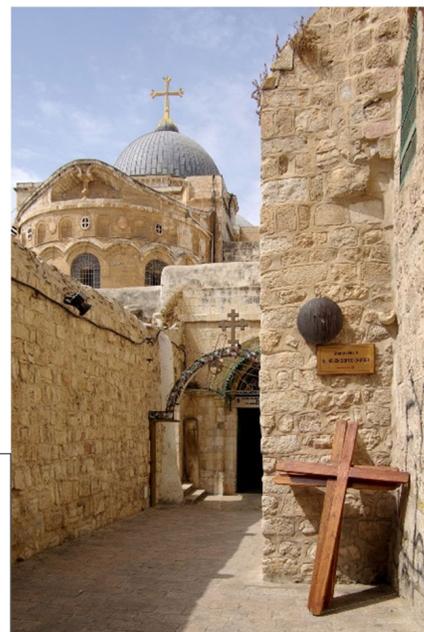
Dallas Conference on Science and Faith –I recently attended this conference held at Denton Bible Church, featuring Drs. Stephen Meyer, Michael Behe, John West, Walter Bradley, and Douglas Axe. These men are all a part of the Discovery Institute out of Seattle which sponsored the event. This institute www.discovery.org is dedicated to teaching Intelligent Design, that is, the scientific position that the universe is best explained by the result of an intelligent designer, rather than random chance and an infinite amount of time. While the speakers were all Bible-believing Christians, their main emphasis was not theology, but to show, as scientists, that Darwinian claims on origins lack serious

credibility and instead, the overwhelming scientific evidence leads one to conclude that the creation was intelligently designed. All of these speakers have written books and have videos on YouTube and elsewhere and I would highly recommend viewing them if you want to hear how competent scientists show the shortcomings of Darwinian evolution and make the case for a Creator.

And speaking of conferences, this looks good:

“Christians Need Heroes” -A Special Event with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller. Saturday, February 29th 2020, 1:00 PM – 6:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, Keller, TX [More details later in the newsletter.]

Israel Tour October 13-22, 2020 –We had a planning meeting on 1/21 and it was well-attended. If you were not in attendance but would like to join us, it’s not too late to get in on the trip. The initial payment of \$500 is not due until April 1 (total cost is \$4200.) As the travel agent explained, “this is not the cheapest trip you can find.” But he went on to explain that the accommodations are all 4 and 5 star hotels and their family owned business has a 40 year history of working with excellent tour guides in Israel. If you are hesitating and have questions about costs or traveling to Israel in general and what we will experience there, please let me know.



Jerusalem, Israel.
The Via Dolorosa
with the Church
of the Holy
Sepulcher in
view.



prepare for worship in february

February 2: The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

Texts: I Samuel 1:21-28; Hebrews 2:12-18; Luke 2:22-32

Hymn of the Day: "In His Temple Now Behold Him," 519

February 9: The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts: Isaiah 58:3-9a; 1 Corinthians 2; Matthew 5:13-20

Hymn of the Day: "Thy Strong Word," 578

February 16: The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Hymn of the Day: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," 394

February 23: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Texts: Exodus 24:8-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Hymn of the Day: "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair," 413

DOOR OFFERING FEBRUARY 23

SUPPORTING THE
BRAILLE MINISTRY AT
MESSIAH LUTHERAN
CHURCH, PLANO



Messiah Lutheran Church is home to a production center for Lutheran Braille Workers. They currently have seven teams with six or more workers each, made up of volunteers from Messiah, Lord of Life, and St. Paul Lutheran churches. The groups meet for one and a half to two hours once a month. In 2019 the production center produced and sent 660 books of the Bible throughout the world. Join them to bring the Light of Jesus to the Blind.

They need funds to replace outdated equipment, so Lord of Life is holding a **door offering on February 23**. If you would like to support them with cash or checks payable to Lord of Life, please place in door basket that day or otherwise designate donations for LBW.

To get information, volunteer, or to donate, contact: Nancy Huett (972-596-6450 nancyhuett@verizon.net) or Ruth Bernhardt (972-398-0771 ruthbe2@verizon.net)

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE:

- Online at BUYADOT.ORG
- Call 800-925-6092 5:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
- Direct Thrivent Choice dollars at Thrivent.com

*** **INDICATE #313**, which designates the local production center, when giving these ways.



Dear Fellow Saints in Christ,

The psalmist says, “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever ... to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Ps. 136:1, 16). Truly, we give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love and for His guidance through the wilderness of this world as He led us in His service in West and Central Africa. We were privileged to serve Him as missionaries in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo, and He granted us the opportunity to impact many others throughout Africa through the teaching and preaching He enabled us to do.

However, in His infinite wisdom, God has seen fit to bring us back to the U.S. to continue working in His kingdom here. Family and personal circumstances are such that our continued work overseas is no longer advisable. We give thanks for the guidance and assistance of the LCMS Office of International Mission in St. Louis and for our faithful fellow missionaries and friends in Africa as we have gone through this transition process.

Thankfully, God has placed a new mission opportunity before us, for which I am uniquely suited. Through a brand-new partnership between the LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) and the LCMS South Wisconsin District, I have been placed as a national missionary serving full-time as pastor of Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church in Madison, Wis. Since only about 1 percent of deaf people in the U.S. have saving faith in Jesus, this is a big challenge but also a great opportunity for God to increase His kingdom through us.

We thank you for your past support for the Lord’s work through us in West and Central Africa. We would also ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support for the Lord’s work through us as we take up this new charge in Madison. As part of this partnership between the ONM and the South Wisconsin District, we will still need ongoing support to make the mission work possible.

To support our new partnership in the South Wisconsin District or to transfer your support to another missionary on the international mission field, please contact *Together In Mission* (TIM) Coordinator **Debbie Feenstra** or *Mission Senders* Coordinator **Michelle Beckmann** at 888-930-4438 to discuss options. If you would like additional information regarding the work in Madison, please contact the South Wisconsin District Office of Mission and Human Care at 414-464-8101 or by email at mission@swd.lcms.org.

Again, thank you sincerely for your prayers, encouragement and partnership in the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you, even as you have been a blessing to us.

In pace domini,

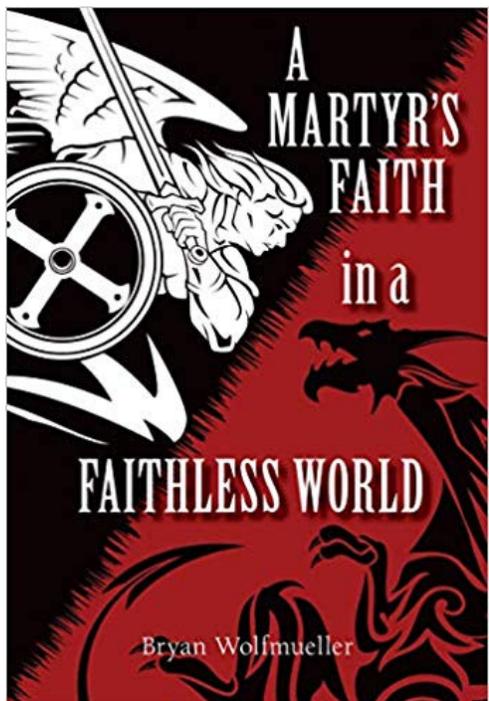
Rev. Ryan McDermott & Family

“Christians Need Heroes”

A Special Event with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller

Saturday, February 29th 2020

1:00 PM – 6:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church, Keller, TX



Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf will be on hand at Messiah to present “**Christians Need Heroes**”.

Rev. Wolfmueller’s latest book, “**A Martyr’s Faith in a Faithless World**” was published recently and copies will be available for purchase and personal signing. His previous books are “Has American Christianity Failed?” and “Final Victory”

Christians need heroes who can stand as examples, especially when the Lord gives us their same vocations and callings. Mary and Joseph are heroes for parents. Stephen is a hero for preachers. David is a hero for rulers. And all the Christian heroes are our examples in faith and love, in prayer and joy, in patience, in suffering, and in death.

Christians need heroes who pray.

Christians need heroes who serve.

Christians need heroes who suffer with patience.

Christians need heroes who die.

Schedule for the event:

- 1:00 Registration
- Book Sales/Signing
- 1:30 Vespers
- 2:00 Session 1
- 2:50 Break
- 3:10 Session 2
- 4:00 Break, Book Signing
- 4:30 Session 3
- 6:00 Evening Prayer
- 6:30 Informal Gathering at Shannon Brewery

Visit Messiah Keller’s Facebook page to RSVP for the event.

There is no cost for the event – a free will offering will be gathered.

Child care is available upon request - \$10/family





41st BIENNIAL CONVENTION

LWML Texas District

June 18 - 20, 2020

Omni Corpus Christi

Convention begins with

Worship Service
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
and ends
Saturday at noon

Registration, exhibits, human care and
servant events will begin Thursday morning.

Please plan your hotel reservations
to include these activities.

*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,
a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,
where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having
become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek*

(Hebrews 6:19-20).

For more information visit

<https://www.lwmltxdist.org/convention>

SPRING EVENT

LWML DAL-NORTH ZONE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1801 West Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075

(park on the west side of building)

GUEST SPEAKER:

DONNA PYLE

LCMS Bible Study Leader, Singer,
Speaker, Author, and Blogger.

Check out her website, YouTube
videos and her multiple books
available at CPH.

www.artesianministries.org



"PERSEVERANCE: PRAYING THROUGH LIFE'S CHALLENGES"

Meet and Greet: 9:30 A.M.

Program: 10:00 A.M. to 2:15 P.M.

Cost Sharing \$10 - Lunch included

RSVP: Charisbennett@gmail.com or sign up in narthex

by March 1, 2020



**Ingathering: Cash donations for Triton the
Comfort Dog Deployment Fund**



There are two kinds of people in the world. First, there are sinners, and, second, there are sinners.

In Romans 3, Paul quotes the Psalmist, "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." and he adds "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". James also writes, "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it."

That's right, all are sinners. Even us! So how are there two kinds of people?

First, there are sinners who acknowledge their sins and God's righteous condemnation of those sins, who are sorrowful and contrite and who mourn over their sinfulness, and who seek God's mercy even while knowing they are unworthy to receive it.

Second, there are sinners who rationalize or deny or even celebrate their sins, who live only for their own gratification and pleasure, and who do not believe they owe anything to God (or perhaps that God does not even exist).

This distinction between two kinds of sinners is what sets Christians apart from all others.

That is, as Christians, we are no better than others because we hold fast to our doctrines and we put on a holy veneer through our attempts at good behavior. What sets us apart is that we are forgiven! That is, although we are sinners just like all others, we are recipients of God's mercy and blessed by His grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Romans 4, Paul again quotes the Psalmist, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." and in Romans 5 he writes, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Therefore, just as Jesus told the seventy-two in Luke 10 when they returned "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." let us not boast or rejoice over our own holiness or actions, but let us be ever grateful to God for His loving kindness in adopting us into His kingdom.

In Christ,

Mike Kunschke, Elder

Lutheran Theology of Worship

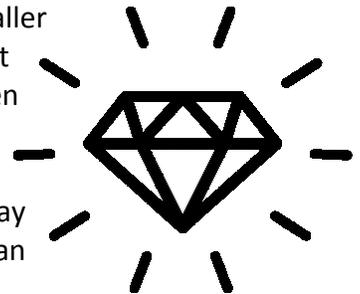
By Nick Belcher

The Lutheran theology of worship may seem simply appalling to some people in the Church today. Some may dismiss it with a shrug as an antiquated holdover from a bygone age, or perhaps even become angry and condemn it as erroneous. In any case, what can easily go unnoticed is not only its profound richness and value, but also its very core—the Gospel itself. Rather than concealing the Gospel, Lutheran theology puts it in the spotlight. Truly, the Lutheran theology of worship serves the Gospel because it shows that Christ's ongoing interaction with his people is chiefly characterized by *him serving them* through his Word and Sacraments.

Crucial for the Lutheran understanding of Christ's work in worship is its biblical witness. Luke 22:27 records Jesus saying, "I am among you as one that serves" (ESV). And again, in Mark 10:45 and Matthew 20:28 he states, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Considering that Christ is still among his people according to his great proclamation in Matthew 28:20, it follows that He is indeed *still* serving the church as well. This service takes place mediately in the church of the New Testament era, but the gifts are never cheapened by that fact. Where Christ is present, for example, there is life (John 10:10) and the forgiveness of sins (Luke 5:24; John 20:22-23). He commands his followers to disciple all nations and baptize them in the triune name (Matt. 28:19). He gives his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins in the Holy Supper and commands his disciples to eat and drink (Matt. 26:26-29; Lk 22:18-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25). In all these things (and much more, of course), Christ's continued service is made plain to see.

So then, what does proper worship of God entail? According to Melancthon, "Faith is that worship which receives God's offered blessing...It is by faith that God wants to be worshiped, namely, that we receive from him what he promises and offers" (Ap IV 49). Thus, rather than "worship," Christianity is better served by the German word "Gottesdienst" or service of God. In Gottesdienst, God initiates the activity with his people; he fills them via Word and Sacrament first, and they then naturally "exhale" with thanks and praise. This view rightly acknowledges God as the *subject* of service; he is the *object* of service only secondarily. Such an approach does not mean Lutherans shy away from giving thanks to Almighty God for who he is and what he has done. Rather, Lutherans hold the reception of God's gifts and the proceeding eucharistic praise and thanksgiving in tension.

Rites and ceremonies, therefore, should serve the Gospel and not eclipse it. Whereas rites may include items such as the order of service, canticles, texts, and the lectionary, ceremony, on the other hand, may include the music, architecture, vestments, gestures, and paraments—all of which are "observed for the sake of tranquility" among churches (Ap VII 33-34). The whole concept of the liturgy can be understood as follows: the gifts of God are like a shiny diamond occupying the center of attention, the rite (or setting) needed to convey the gifts is like a ring upon which the diamond sits, and the ceremonies are other adornments that accentuate the gifts, perhaps like smaller jewels. A vital aspect of the liturgy in the broad sense, then, is ensuring Christ and the gifts of God are not obscured; if Christ and his gifts are obscured, then change is required. Thus, Lutheran theology of worship requires that both rites and ceremonies must reflect the gifts of Christ, and this serves the Gospel beautifully even as Christ actively serves his people with said gifts. May the Lord grant that we never tire of receiving from his hand in the way Lutheran theology reveals.



Teen Times



Join us for a
Mardi
GRAS
DINNER

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 22ND | 5:30 PM

Hosted by Sr. IMPACT
in support of their trip to
Higher Things Conference this summer

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
- † Will meet Sat., Feb. 15 at 2:30 PM

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com
- † Usually meets 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 meets 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 Sat., Feb. 15 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



Save the Date!

Take me out to the ballgame!

Frisco Rough Riders Game vs Springfield Cardinals

Friday May 29th, 2020. 7:00 pm game, \$20 per ticket includes premium seating, premium meal basket (choice of burger, chicken sandwich, hot dog, corndog bites, chicken tenders, etc), all-you-can-eat snacks and all-you-can-drink soda. Parking is not included--\$5-\$10 depending upon where you park. See signup sheet in the narthex.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Bette Martin
- 3 John Clark
- 3 Julz Cruz
- 4 Cheryl Scaglione
- 6 Sal Cruz
- 6 Dee Peters
- 6 Tom Womack
- 8 Marty Buckmeier
- 8 Vi Krohn
- 10 Stephen Dillard
- 11 Wayne Massie
- 13 Stephen Belcher
- 13 Ben Heffner
- 14 Tom & Karen Ashburn [55]
- 14 Gary & Bonnie Holtzman [44]
- 14 Jerry & Winona Parish [14]
- 18 Amy Reinert
- 19 Paul Grabow
- 19 Charles Hacker
- 19 Rebecca Short
- 20 Catharine Short
- 20 Reuben Martin
- 23 Sarah Loewecke
- 25 Jackie Barnes
- 25 Madeline Prescott
- 27 Ernie Gromatzky
- 27 Bailey Lund

Serving in Worship in February

	February 2		February 9		February 16		February 23		February 26	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	1:30 PM	7:00 PM
Elder	D Peters		Read		Kunschke		Hite		D Peters	Kunschke
Common Cup	Moudy	Kunschke			Read	Ziegelbein			Read	Moudy
Altar	Sandra Paradise and Kay Oltmann									
Acolyte	Kaitlyn	Sebastian			Josh	Luke				
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Rippey	Hampton	George	Vess	Manning		
Sound	Moudy	Wolf	Wilkerson	Shaltanis	Wolf	Hite	Hacker	Reinert		Wilkerson
Usher	Scarth Shaltanis Bunger	Ziegelbein Ozlowski Oltmann	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Carter Moudy	Prescott Ozlowski Messinger	Berger Parish Oltmann	C Hacker E Hacker Schrank	Short Strecker Buckmeier		Loewecke T Ozlowski D Ozlowski Oltann

FINANCIAL REPORT January- December, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$567,314	\$592,347	(\$25,033)
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$567,314	\$592,347	(\$25,033)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$558,504	\$544,927	\$13,577
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$8,811	\$47,420	(\$38,609)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$94,675
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$123,141
3. Building Note Balance	\$226,952