

LIFELINES



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Living the Gospel

Scripture uses a wide variety of language to communicate the Gospel. The words employed by the writers of the Bible paint different pictures and invite us to consider something distinct about what God has done for us. For example, one of the most common ways of talking about God's work in Christ is to talk of "salvation." The ideas conjured up by this word are deliverance or rescue from certain death. "Redemption," another word found throughout the Bible, creates a different image. While it may be lost on our modern ears, the people in Biblical times heard it as a reference to the slave market where human beings were bought and sold. The one who paid a ransom to set you free was the redeemer, so when this term is used in the New Testament, it invites us to consider how Jesus releases us from bondage. One more example is the term "reconciliation," which means fixing the broken relationship. This would have one imagine our relationship with the Father being repaired and restored through Christ's mediating work.

Recently, during our online Bible Study on the book of Colossians, we encountered Paul's use of the terms "redemption" and "reconciliation" and spoke about them. But Paul also used another way of communicating the gospel that I invite you to think about it as well.

The image is of the light and the darkness. The way Paul uses it in the epistle to the Colossians is a little difficult to set up. In ancient Greek it was not a problem to write an entire paragraph using one long run on sentence, and it is in the middle of one of these behemoths that the words are found in the first chapter of Colossians. Here, Paul tells the

Colossians how he prays and thanks God for their faith and love. He says that he asks God to fill them with spiritual knowledge of God's will to help them live a holy life (verses 9-11.) Then he says, "... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (12-14) The image that stuck with me is this idea of Christians being transferred from the domain of darkness and into the kingdom of light.

What a wonderful thing it will be to "share in the inheritance of the saints in light" and stand in the presence of God one day in heaven! Yet even now, those who are in Christ are already enlightened and better able to see what is happening all around us than those who reject or do not know God. Christians are not darkened in our thinking because God, through His Word, has revealed to us the truth about many things like, where we come from, why things are the way they are, how we ought to live, and where this world is ultimately headed. In other words, Christians have a comprehensive worldview that helps us understand this life, how it began, what it is for, and where it is going. We have wisdom about this world that eludes so many who reject God and the only Savior, Jesus. Christ is truly our light and the light of the world who helps us to see and make sense of everything around us. (John 1:9, 8:12)

Unfortunately, there is a sad part of this light and dark distinction.

Through ignorance or willful rejection, many around us are living in darkness. (See: Eph. 4:17-18) They are lost and whether they realize it or not, are groping around for truth unable to find it for the utter lack of light. They are under the rule of dark powers and as such, their thinking is deluded. God wants them to come into the light. To know the truth and rejoice in what He has done for us in Jesus. (Acts 26:18, 1st Tim. 2:3-4)

In thinking about this Biblical distinction, I invite you to consider the following: First, you can thank God that He has called you into the light and brought you out of the darkness. (1st Peter 2:9) That on account of Jesus, you can look forward to living with God in the Kingdom of light where there is no darkness at all. (1st John 1:5, Revelation 22:5) But you can also think about how you are still tempted by dark thoughts from time to time and how the powers of this present darkness are constantly at work against the world and especially the children of the light. (Ephesians 6:12) Also, how can you be one to share the gospel light with those living in darkness? How do you help the lost to see the light and come to it? And finally, this image may help you to not be upset with those in the world who rant and rage against the light, but rather, it may lead you to have compassion and patience with them like you would a blind person who cannot see and find their way.

I hope this short study provokes some godly thoughts and that you desire to seek more. If so, I encourage you to join in the online Sunday Bible class on Colossians. A link will be sent in a congregational email every Sunday with the necessary information about the time and what access code and information you will need. We would love to have you join the conversation with us on this truly "enlightening" book of the Bible.

PrS



prepare for worship in june

Sunday, June 7: The Holy Trinity

Texts: Gen. 1:1-2:4a; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matt. 28:16-20
Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest," 498

Sunday, June 14: Second Sunday after Pentecost

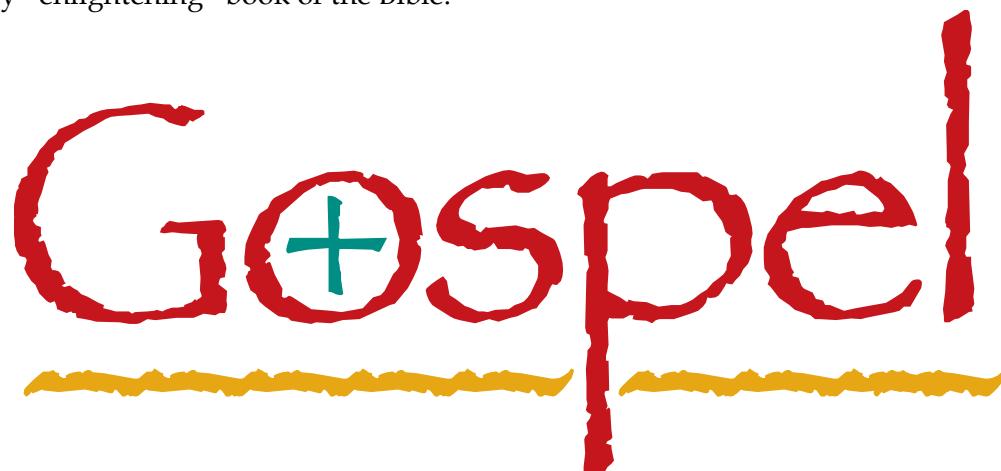
Texts: Ex. 19:2-8; Rom. 5:6-15; Matt. 9:35-10:20
Hymn of the Day: "God Loved the World So That He Gave," 571

Sunday, June 21: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jer. 20:7-13; Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:5a, 21-33
Hymn of the Day: "Lord of Our Life," 659

Sunday, June 28: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jer. 28:5-9; Rom. 7:1-13; Matt. 10:34-42
Hymn of the Day: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," 685



Facing Life Head On

Brothers and Sisters at Lord of Life, during this stressful time and during similar times in the past, I have looked for comforting words published by Lutheran Hour Ministries(LHM) There is much available, in fact there is presently an entire series of video messages at LHM which address the Covid-19 pandemic. But I looked back at daily devotions, and found this one entitled, "Facing Life Head On" from a sermon excerpt from Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer former speaker of the Lutheran Hour. I hope you find the gospel message in this excerpt to be as comforting and encouraging as it was for me. May the Lord be with you in these stressful times.

Dave Peters
Board of Elders

Mark 10:33-34 - (Jesus said) "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise."

Do you want to grow in your faith? Do you want to grow closer to Jesus? The way forward is to follow Jesus' example of service and even suffering.

Facing the problems of life head on, disagreeable as they may be, increases your yearning for the Savior and His Word of grace and mercy. In serving others, even to suffer with them, we begin to understand firsthand how sinful this world is, how fundamentally flawed we are, and how we hurt others despite our best intentions. In short, when you give up being preoccupied with yourself and instead become focused on real people and their problems, then you start to get it. More and more, it gets into your head and heart how desperately all humanity needs a Savior. In lives of service, we see firsthand the necessity of repentance and feel the Savior's compassion for all people.

That's it! That's the way to present the Good News of Jesus. What you are experiencing in your life is real life. Don't wish for an alternate reality. Are you a parent struggling with a child? Are you a caregiver running on fumes? Are you a teacher in a tough school, and underpaid at that? Are you a minister worn down by your congregation, discouraged because they're not showing the love and joy of the Gospel? Are you a social worker or a volunteer at a food bank? Are you in jail? You're experiencing life, real and nasty, in this world of sinful people. Jesus comes to bring redemption and hope to you and through you to the people in your world. In the midst of the day's problems, throw yourself into the arms of God. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68b).

Like Jesus' first disciples, we too are walking with Him, walking to His suffering and death, and each of us should be making our way in repentance and sorrow for sins. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5b). That's promised to you by Jesus, who also says, "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). Jesus has paved the way of our salvation for us; it is now for us to live our lives accordingly.

Therefore, as the hymn tells us, "Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure; Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure. Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above; Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide."

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give us strength to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In His Name. Amen.

From "Thrown into the Arms of God," a sermon excerpt from Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**

Reflection Questions:

1. What kinds of things are you struggling with right now?
2. How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus' words in the text above if you were one of His disciples?
3. How has God worked through the rough patches in your life? Any examples you can share?

STEWARDSHIP

Lord of Life created an Endowment Fund in 2008 and reports are provided annually to the congregation in May of every year on the contributions and earnings. In light of the fact that the recent report was made at the Voters' Assembly on May 3rd, a recap of those 2019 fiscal results are provided below:

Balance @ 1-1-2019	\$56,014.23
Earnings – 2019	1,370.47
Contributions – 2019	4,482.00
Distributions (playground)	1,500.00
Balance	\$57,366.70

Earnings since inception of the Fund total \$4,174.63.

ENDOWMENT

What is an endowment? A congregational endowment is a fund established by the congregation to provide an income for special challenges or opportunities. The principal or corpus of the fund is invested and the income can be used for a variety of missions. Examples of types of missions include:

The identified uses of endowment income are as wide as the congregation's imagination; however, the five specific uses of the LOL Endowment were identified as Outreach, Music Ministry, Education, and possible New Ministry opportunities to further the mission of LOL.

How Does the Endowment grow? Donors to the congregation's endowment may make an immediate gift of any kind, including cash, real estate and securities. Often endowments receive memorial gifts or celebration gifts. Future gifts (planned gifts) include bequests in wills, insurance gifts, gifts through trusts and many others.



Teen Times

It's June, the beginning of summer; time for family vacations, swimming pools at a friend's house, campouts, seeing new places, going to the movie theater, etc., etc., etc.!

NOT!

Well, at least not yet. While the world still struggles to deal with current situations, we find ourselves adjusting to a summer where there will be a lot less activity than we are normally used to. We have had to find ways to keep in touch with our family and friends through alternative means. Fortunately, technology assists us with that, but it's not the same as seeing each other face to face. This may be the "new normal" for the summer of 2020.

As with most any group of people meeting online, the Lord of Life IMPACT youth group have been doing the same. We have met on ZOOM several times over the past two months, and we will begin meeting online regularly every Sunday starting June 7 until the time is right to meet together in person again. "Summer Days" is an 8 week Bible study designed to help us make this summer to be as significant in our lives as summers in our past. Even in the difficult times we live in now, God's Word does not change and we are still instructed to do God's will in these ways:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others."
(Philippians 2:3-4)

AND

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing." (Philippians 2:14)

AND

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

Wow! It's going to be pretty tough to live out these verses this summer, but that's what we are called to do. We may have to get creative, but God is with us; "I will never leave or forsake you." A lot of it is about attitude, and if other people notice this kind of attitude in us, we have an opportunity to point to Jesus. Even though we may not be able to do the things we normally do in summer this year, let's try to make it a summer of significance for ourselves and for others.

Until next time,
God bless.
Scott Peters



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



Due to COVID-19, the first ever virtual LWML Texas District convention will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (CST). It will contain several of the much-loved parts, including worship led by Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. John Heckmann, with Texas District LCMS President Mike Newman as the Proclaimer.

Time has also been set aside for Bible study and you are not going to want to miss Deb Burma's keynote address. Although the time frame is shortened, it will be time well spent in the Word as we study together under the theme Christ our Anchor. Locate information on accessing the convention, donating a convention offering and electronic voting at www.lwmltxdist.com/convention.

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Jeff Prescott |
| 1 | Gary & Shannon Nuschler (46) |
| 2 | Ireland Dillard |
| 4 | Randy Rippey |
| 8 | Scott & Jonelle Peters (29) |
| 10 | Al Manning |
| 13 | Tony Hernandez |
| 14 | Cecilia Paradise |
| 14 | Jack & Nelda Schrank (62) |
| 15 | Kristen Klein |
| 16 | Larry & Judy Dibbern (58) |
| 19 | Thomas George |
| 20 | Kaitlyn Hacker |
| 20 | Jake Tyler |
| 20 | Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (22) |
| 21 | Athan Shaltanis |
| 21 | Tony Vess |
| 21 | Karl & Debbie Olsen (45) |
| 21 | Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (23) |
| 23 | John & Vicki Frinksco (36) |
| 23 | Tim Tischler |
| 24 | Sue Parson |
| 26 | Samson Carter |
| 26 | Jim and Christi Hampton (49) |
| 27 | Sarah Wuollet |
| 29 | Chris Dorak |
| 29 | Melanie Scarth |
| 29 | Helen Wozniak |
| 30 | Greg Moudy |

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

4 Months Ending April 2020

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 20 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$175,226	\$187,830	(\$12,605)	586,549
Other	\$414	\$0	\$414	0
Total Income	\$175,640	\$187,830	(\$12,191)	586,549
 Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$157,714	\$181,589	-\$23,875	\$552,379
Mortgage (P&I)	\$18,014	\$11,364	\$6,650	\$34,092
Total Expenses	\$175,728	\$192,953	-\$17,225	\$586,471
 Surplus or (Deficit)	 (\$89)	 (\$5,123)	 \$5,034	 \$78
 Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$95,619			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$131,796			
Building Loan Balance	\$212,249			

