

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Plano, Texas

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Friends in Christ,

Last Sunday we had a great service for the Festival of the Holy Trinity and the service was followed by a fun potluck-picnic. [Many thanks to Carol Ozlowski and all who helped make the picnic a great success.] The service was a long one! It was Trinity Sunday so we confessed the Athanasian Creed, the readings were longer than usual, and because there was only one service, communion took twice as long to distribute. We also had a children's message at the beginning of the service and a mission presentation afterwards. All of these items added time to the service, though when it was over, it didn't feel too long.

One other addition to last Sunday's service was the use of something we call our "Communion Confession." This is something we developed in 2019 and had decided to use on the 5th Sunday of the month (usually only four times a year.) This addition to the liturgy is used before the preface in preparation to receive Holy Communion.

The confession came about when a member noticed that certain confessions of sin (especially Divine Service IV) do not do as well of a job in preparing sinners to reflect on their sins and their need for forgiveness which is offered to them in the Lord's Supper. He noted that on visiting another Lutheran congregation while on vacation, the church had additional information in the bulletin about the sacrament, and the pastor said something prior to Holy Communion to help prepare the congregation for proper reception. He found this practice quite effective and shared the bulletin with me and commended the practice as something worthy of consideration at Lord of Life. After sharing this with the elders, we agreed something like this might be of benefit, not on a weekly basis, but if used occasionally, it might be quite powerful.

While we did not want to simply copy the other church's liturgy, we composed our own confession based off of Martin Luther's: "Christian Questions with Their Answers". This little piece is introduced: "Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament." It is included in the most recent edition of the Small Catechism published by Concordia Publishing House (p.37-40) and a footnote explains that these questions first appeared in a 1551 edition of Luther's Catechism. [NB: Luther died in 1546] This document asks 20 questions and covers 3 pages. By itself, we did not think it would be suitable for use in the worship service, so, it was edited down to 5 questions with a brief introduction and blessing at the end.

This Communion Confession is included in this newsletter, please look it over and give it your consideration. I think you will find it is a helpful tool in preparing to receive the Holy Sacrament—a good reminder of what it is and why you need it.

One more addition...

At the end of our Sunday announcements, we heard a compelling Mission Presentation by Mr. Stephen Strecker. You will be hearing more in the weeks ahead from other members of the congregation as we continue our push to help raise funds for the seminary. I really hope that our congregation can help the seminary and her faculty and students to be a blessing to many people throughout Latin America. I also hope this entire mission project will help us to think of other ways in which we can be a blessing to others.

PrS

Communion Confession

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” 1st Corinthians 11:27-29

Being admonished to receive the sacrament in a worthy manner, prepare your hearts for reception of this sacrament by giving answer to the questions I will now ask you:

Do you believe that you are a sinful person without hope of eternal life except for God’s mercy?

Yes, I know and believe that I am a sinner and that God has mercy on sinners for Christ’s sake.

Who is Christ and what has He done for you that you trust in Him?

Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who came down from heaven, was born of the Virgin Mary, and is my Savior and the Savior of the entire world. He died on the cross and shed His blood for me, and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.

Do you believe that the true body and blood of Jesus are in, with and under the bread and wine of the sacrament and that He is present there to bless and forgive you?

Yes. I believe what Jesus said: “Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.” And “Drink of it, all of you, this cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

Why do you wish to receive the sacrament?

First, because Christ urges me to come, saying, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Second, so that I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin. And finally, that I may also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

Do you repent of all sin and desire with the help and aid of the Holy Spirit, to lead a godly life?

Yes, I desire to be rid of my sin and want to do better. I pray for God to renew me, and help me to live a life worthy of the calling I have received.

May the Almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit accomplish this in you.

Our Lord Jesus has given this sacrament to His Church, to bless all who in faith look to Him for forgiveness and salvation. Come now and receive the Lord’s gifts offered to you in this holy sacrament for the forgiveness of your sins and the strengthening of your faith.

Amen.

THANK YOU! To all who have contributed already to the seminary in the Dominican Republic. If you would like to help further this worthwhile cause, you can write a check to Lord of Life and put in the memo line "Seminary DR".

Below: Rev. Joel Fritsche speaks to a class of graduates at Concordia Seminario El Reformador.



Below: Drs. Earl and Karen Lund have a translated conversation with Hector, a student from Cuba who attends Seminario Concordia El Reformador in January of 2020.





Get your head in the cloud!

Many of us may have heard the opposite from our parents when we were in our youth at times when we were perhaps not entirely focused on whatever it was that we were supposed to be doing. I can hear the reprimand now; "Get your head out of the clouds!"

However, the writer of Hebrews uses the imagery of a cloud to convey the idea of a believer being surrounded by - and led by the example of - our antecedents in the faith when he wrote:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us Hebrews 12:1

This cloud is one that we should put our heads into!

The writer of Hebrews cited many Old Testament saints in chapter 11 as the members of this cloud of witnesses, but, in our day, we may add to those Old Testament examples:

- that of Christ Himself,
- that of the Apostles,
- that of our faithful grandparents, parents and pastors,
- that of the members of the churches we grew up in, and, finally,
- the examples of our fellow members of the body of Christ.

Paul teaches us to follow the example of Christ and himself (as an Apostle of Christ):
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

The writer of Hebrews goes on in the following chapter to encourage us to follow the examples of our spiritual forebearers:

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13:7

Therefore, let us - as Christians and as members of this congregation - keep our head in the cloud. That is, let us remain in fellowship with one another through frequent attendance in worship, through participation in Bible studies, and through gathering together in social settings.

As we do this, let each of us, as members of Lord of Life, strive to bear witness to one another of what the Lord has done for us and to be an example to one another of faith - and, thereby, I pray that each of us be encouraged in our own faith in Christ.

In Christ,
Mike Kunschke

A GATHERING OF SISTERS IN CHRIST

Saturday, August 7 | 9:30am – 2:15pm

Messiah Lutheran Church - Plano

\$10 Cost Sharing – Lunch Included

Guest Speaker - Bible Study Leader

Donna Snow

LCMS Bible Study Leader, Speaker, Author, Singer, and Worship Leader



PERSEVERANCE:

Praying through Life's Challenges

Donna will be available after the event to sign books. Including her newest book **CHOSEN: A Study of Esther**.

Meet **Triton**, official comfort dog of Messiah Lutheran Church. Triton is trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need; through the **Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dogs Program**.



Ingathering (free-will cash donation) to assist with the cost of Triton's deployment in time of disaster and crisis.

Reservation required, contact your LWML Group President or Priscella Reid at reid.priscella@gmail.com or 214-564-6107 by July 1st. Lead time necessary for lunch order and workbooks.

Hosted by the LWML Texas District - Dal-North Zone

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

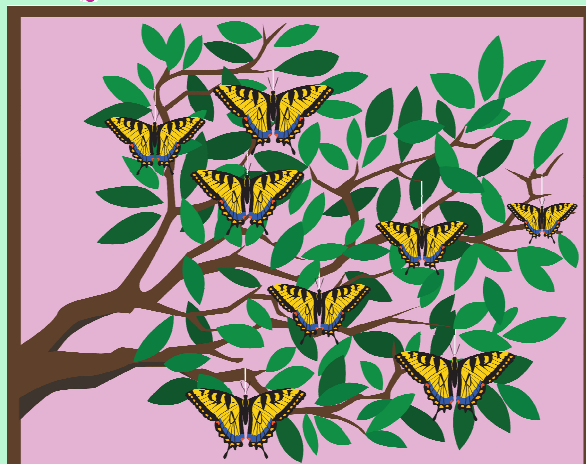
- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Sat.6/19 at 6:30 PM

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



JUNE



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jeff Prescott
- 1 Gary & Shannon Nuschler (48)
- 4 Randy Rippey
- 8 Scott & Jonelle Peters (30)
- 10 Al Manning
- 13 Tony Hernandez
- 14 Tim Wood
- 14 Jack & Nelda Schrank (63)
- 15 Kristen Klein
- 16 Larry & Judy Dibbern (59)
- 19 Thomas George
- 20 Kaitlyn Hacker
- 20 Jake Tyler
- 20 Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (23)
- 21 Athan Shaltanis
- 21 Tony Vess
- 21 Karl & Debbie Olsen (46)
- 21 Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (24)
- 23 Tim Tischler
- 23 John & Vicki Frinksko (37)
- 24 Sue Parson
- 24 Janice Sullivan
- 26 Samson Carter
- 26 Jim and Christi Hampton (50)
- 29 Chris Dorak
- 29 Melanie Scarth
- 29 Helen Wozniak
- 30 Greg Moudy

prepare for worship in june

June 6: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 3:8-15; 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
Hymn of the Day: "Rise! To Arms! With Prayer
Employ You," 668

June 13: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezek. 17:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:1-17; Mark 4:26-34
Hymn of the Day: "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid,"
500

June 20: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Job 38:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
Hymn of the Day: "Evening and Morning," 726

June 27: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Lam. 3:22-33; 2 Cor. 8:1-9, 13-15; Mark
5:21-43
Hymn of the Day: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of
Old," 846



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

4 Months Ending April 2021

		Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2020 Budget
Contributions					
	Regular Offerings	\$192,426	\$182,758	\$9,668	\$581,908
	Other	\$76	\$0	\$76	\$0
Total Income		\$192,502	\$182,758	\$9,744	\$581,908
Expenses					
	Operating Expenses	\$173,404	\$177,297	(\$3,893)	\$550,845
	Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$17,480	\$10,320	\$7,160	\$30,960
Total Expenses		\$190,884	\$187,617	\$3,267	\$581,805
Surplus or (Deficit)		\$1,618	(\$4,859)	\$6,477	\$103
Other Information:					
	Operating Fund Balance	\$118,048			
	Restricted Funds Balance	\$118,638			
	Building Loan Balance	\$176,642			