

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 36, No. 1

Plano, Texas

January 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are still in the 12 Days of the Christmas season and I am basking in the afterglow of a number of great Christmas services. I thought Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were both wonderful experiences. The music was excellent, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated, I was happy with the way the sermons came together, and the overall mood of the people present was one of joy and good will. My sincere thanks to all who participated and worked to make Christmas services a wonderful experience.

Let me also say a word of thanks to all who generously contributed to the staff bonus. I don't spend time thinking about my Christmas bonus or wondering how much it will be. So, it always comes as something of a surprise every year and this year, it was a big surprise. Thank you very much. I appreciate it and plan to put it into savings in anticipation of some upcoming home repairs.

Special thanks also are in order for Vicki Frinsko as her time as our music director is coming to an end. Vicki will be retiring at the end of February and she is going out on top. As noted above, the music at

Christmas was fantastic. We can all think of examples of people who held on too long at their jobs –athletes who played too long and disappointed their fans comes to mind. But Vicki is doing the same excellent quality of work as when she first started. She is appreciated and will be missed.

Along those same lines, it was announced at our December voters' meeting that our plan for a future music director is to try and call a graduate of one of our Concordia Universities to serve as a DPM –Director of Parish Music. The odds of getting a candidate are not good as there are dozens if not hundreds of churches looking for handfuls of graduates. If we are unable to call a graduate, our next approach will be to call someone from the field or look locally. In the meantime we will rely on substitutes to fill in each week.

Finally, I wanted to thank all of you who spoke with me about my recent call to Hope Lutheran Church in Glendora, California. As you probably know, I declined the call and plan to stay at Lord of Life for the time being. I have received a half a dozen or so calls over the years

and they are always an opportunity to stop and consider whether it is time to move on or if there is more work to be done where you currently serve. When representatives from Hope reached out to me months ago and asked if I was open to a call, I told them right away that I had no compelling reason to leave. In several ways things are going better at Lord of Life than ever and I am interested to see where things are headed in the future – what plans the Lord has for all of us. At the same time, I don't ever want to be the guy who stays two years too long, so I paused and took this call very seriously. The deliberation process involves weighing a number of factors and trying to determine where you are best suited for service; where the Lord wants you to be and how and where you can best serve Him and His church. While I was

deliberating, several of you reached out to me and shared that you felt I had more work to do here and that at any rate, I wouldn't be staying too long. Thank you for that encouragement and I think the whole experience will refresh and renew my desire to serve at Lord of Life.

May God continue to richly bless you in the year of our Lord, 2022!

PrS

P.S. I've been meaning to mention this... A number of you have asked me about the wooden US flag near the Veterans' photo wall in the hallway. (If you haven't seen it yet, do check it out.) It was a generous gift from some members. I don't know if they want to be named, so I will just say a sincere "thank you" publicly but anonymously.





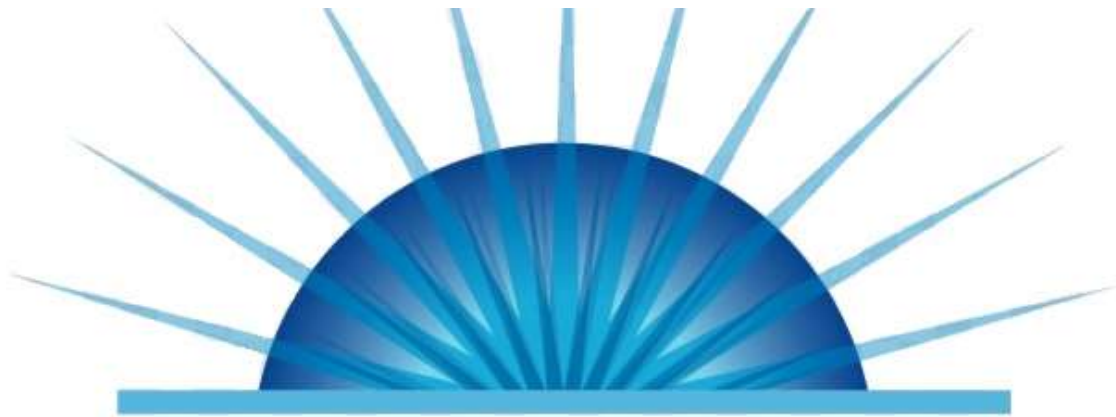
For Giving

We collected \$1,280 for Real Options during the Thanksgiving and Advent services.



Lord of Life staff
would like to thank everyone
for our bonus this year. It
was a most appreciated
blessing.

Happy New Year!



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

*Friday, January 7th
Immediately following your group meetings at 6:30PM*

Lord of Life Small Groups

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. 1/22 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



2	Stu & Sandy Ehrett (35)
5	Nolan Helms
8	Linda Tischler
10	Sandra Paradise
11	Donovan & Nancy Cawood (14)
17	Bonnie Holtzman
19	Elizabeth Beisert
21	Brian Hahn
22	Lora Frinsko
22	Kara Prescott
23	Curtis & Sydney Peters
24	Kymberly Vess
28	Amanda Kunschke
30	Karl Olsen



For my friends at Lord of Life,

My daughter has been ill with cancer these past 9 months. I have been grateful for zoom. She died Nov. 27 and was cremated. To be without a funeral has been very hard for me. She was a Christian and ready to go. She's at peace now and since I'm much older and should have gone first, she promised to save me a seat. With no funeral, the cards meant more to me than usual. The Pastor helped me to understand. What a lovely, blessed group of people you are. I was taken to my granddaughter's in Tulsa and didn't get to say goodbye to you all. Have a better and lovely 2022.

Thanks and Love,

Barbara Sinclair

prepare for worship in January

Jan. 2: Second Sunday after Christmas

Texts: 1 Ki. 3:4-15; Eph. 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

Hymn of the Day: "Within the Father's House," 410

Jan. 9: The Baptism of Our Lord

Texts: Is. 43:1-7; Rom. 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

Hymn of the Day: "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord," 407

Jan. 16: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts: Is. 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Hymn of the Day: "The Only Son from Heaven," 402

Jan. 23: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:16-30

Hymn of the Day: "O Christ, Our True and Only Light," 339

Jan. 30: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Texts: Jer. 1:4-10 (17-19); 1 Cor. 12:31b-13:13; Luke 4:31-44

Hymn of the Day: "Son of God, Eternal Savior," 342



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

11 Months Ending November 2021

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2021 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$521,338	\$524,572	(\$3,234)	\$581,908
Other	\$481	\$0	\$481	\$0
Total Income	\$521,819	\$524,572	(\$2,752)	\$581,908
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$497,639	\$506,051	(\$8,412)	\$550,845
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$39,096	\$28,380	\$10,716	\$30,960
Total Expenses	\$536,735	\$534,431	\$2,304	\$581,805
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$14,916)	(\$9,859)	(\$5,057)	\$103
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$102,105			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$114,174			
Building Loan Balance	\$158,850			