

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PRAYER IS A WASTE OF TIME

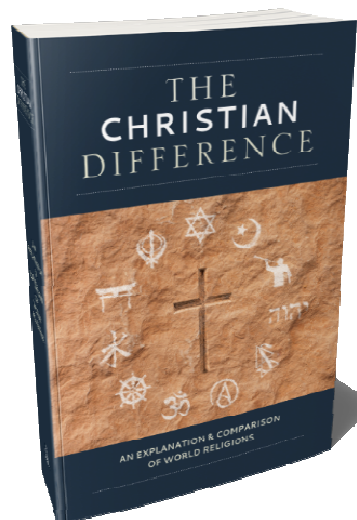
I know, I know, that title caught my attention too; but before you judge, read on to see what it means and I think you will agree. I read the following quote in *Lutheran Forum Letter*, and subsequently bought the book the quote originally came from. I am currently enjoying it and though the author is no Lutheran, (she is a former Roman Catholic nun,) I think you will find the following insight brilliant and helpful, as I did.

“One of the breakthroughs that I have experienced in the understanding of prayer is the significance of ‘wasting’ time. One day I was working at a boring job and a friend came to join me. He loitered about for nearly an hour, perched on the edge of the table, smoking a cigarette and talking occasionally of nothing in particular. When he had gone I was filled with a special joy because I realized that he had deliberately wasted an hour with me; it was not that we were discussing something of importance or that I needed consoling: it was a pure and unsolicited gift of time. If we think about it, for busy people time is often the most precious thing they have to give. Doctors, priest, those who counsel, will always “spend” time with those in need. They may sit up all night with someone who is distressed; they may pass long hours in listening to problems, or in giving advice; but this is all time deliberately spent. We only deliberately waste time with those we love—it is the purest sign that we love someone if we choose to spend time idly in their presence when we could be doing something more “constructive.” And so it is with prayer: there is a very real sense in which prayer is a waste of time. God does not need our prayers and more often than not, we will be unaware that we have “received” anything from the time we

have spent in prayer. It is because prayer is often boring and unrewarding that it is the purest sign of our love for God that we are prepared to “waste” our time with him; and it is only by wasting time in this way that we shall learn that it is not God who needs us but **we** who cannot live without Him.”

The book is *Prayer for Pilgrims* by Sheila Cassidy. I haven’t read it entirely, but so far I have found many helpful insights and wanted to at least share this one with you. May it encourage you to ‘waste’ some time with God in prayer.

Speaking of helpful books, while the aforementioned was written a generation ago (1980), a brand new book has come out from Concordia Publishing House that you ought to know about: *The Christian Difference: An Explanation and Comparison of World Religions*, CPH 2019.



This book is a helpful resource on several different religions. It covers the major monotheistic religions: Judaism and Islam, as well as some cults: Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Scientology. It also deals with the Eastern religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Confucianism, and Sikhism. And last of all,

the book deals with Christianity. There is even a chapter on unbelief, called, “The Skeptics: Atheists, Agnostics, and Spiritual but not Religious.” This part offers helpful insight into the growing number of

people who deny God and eschew religion and religious practice altogether.

Each religion is given a brief introduction and then a history and background along with key teachings, organization, and how Christians can dialogue with a person of another religion. The book is large; over 600 pages, which means each religion is given about 50-60 pages of information. It has several different authors each one an expert in the given field.

If you have a neighbor or coworker who was born in a foreign country and doesn't worship at church, but at a temple or a mosque, this book will help you to understand their religious worldview better. It might also guide you in knowing how to share with them what Christians believe and why we put our trust in Jesus.

To that point, the final chapter of the book is especially interesting. It is a review of Christianity written in the same style as the other religions and from the perspective of a Christian professor who often taught non-Christians about our religion. As a lifelong Christian, it is easy to forget how our beliefs sound to an outsider. This chapter is very helpful to consider the Christian faith in a way that many of us lifelong Christians are not used to talking about it.

- PrS

New Bible Study

A new Bible study is starting up in my Sunday morning class. We will be talking about and watching a video based around the book: *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? 12 False Christs*, by Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard, CPH 2017.

The gist of the book is that instead of believing in the Christ revealed in Scripture, many people—including Christians- reimagine Jesus in ways that are very unfaithful, in fact, they are false idols. For example, some think of Christ as a hippie who doesn't judge anyone or demand holiness. My hope is that by identifying some of the common false perceptions of Christ, we will learn to see Jesus more clearly as He revealed Himself to us and in turn, worship Him in sincerity and truth.

All are welcome and you don't have to read the book to attend or get a lot out of the class, but if you would like to read, you can buy the book on Amazon or through CPH. You can also check out this pretty cool promotional video here: <https://www.cph.org/p-30663-will-the-real-jesus-please-stand-up-12-false-christs-ebook-edition.aspx>



Congratulations to our 6 confirmands who were received into communicant membership after a public profession of faith on May 26th and a public examination the week before. I am so proud of these young adults. They worked hard and took their work seriously. When you see them at church, please congratulate and encourage them. Pictured left to right: Mallia Surdyk, Nate Reinert, Athan Shaltanis, Jonah Carter, Emma Padgett, Ashley Sims, and Pastor Joel Shaltanis.



prepare for worship in June

Sunday, June 2: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 1:12-26; Rev. 22:1-6, 12-20; John 17:20-26

Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is the World's Redeemer," 539

Sunday, June 9: The Day of Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:23-31

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord," 497

Sunday, June 16: The Holy Trinity

Texts: Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 8:48-59

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest," 498

Sunday, June 23: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 65:1-9; Gal. 3:23-4:7; Luke 8:26-39

Hymn of the Day: "Rise, Shine, You People," 825

Sunday, June 30: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: 1 Kings 19:9b-21; Gal. 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake," 688



LWML 38th Biennial Convention Information



Date: June 20–23, 2019

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Theme: "In Praise to the LORD!"

Scripture Verse: *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).*

President: Patti Ross

Convention Goal Statement: Led by God's power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

Convention Objectives -- Each convention attendee will:

- Sing and rejoice in celebration of His Word.
- Tell of His salvation for all.
- Declare His glory among the nations.
- Go forth in His joy!

Register online at:

https://lutheranwomensmissionaryleague.forms.tack.com/forms/2019_lwml_convention

The Ascended Lord – In Control of Life – In the Midst of Life

“And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.” (Revelation 5:7)

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Garofalo's Ascension of Christ depicts Jesus ascending into heaven—but also standing with the Apostles holding a book! In Revelation 5, Jesus ascends into the throne room and assumes control of all things as He takes a book from the Father's hand.

But this reigning King also sent His Spirit and remains among His people. He is in control of life and in the midst of life!

What a message of HOPE!

When life seems out of control, it never is!

When God feels so far away, He never is!

Are you dealing with divorce, abuse, or a crisis pregnancy? Is there someone in your family struggling with a chronic disease, disabilities, or dementia? Do you feel alone, abandoned, or burdened with a past sin?

Don't let the world deceive you into thinking you must take things into your own hands. Jesus is in control. He holds you in His hands!

Don't let the world or your own feelings deceive you into thinking you're on your own. Jesus is with you. He will not forsake you!

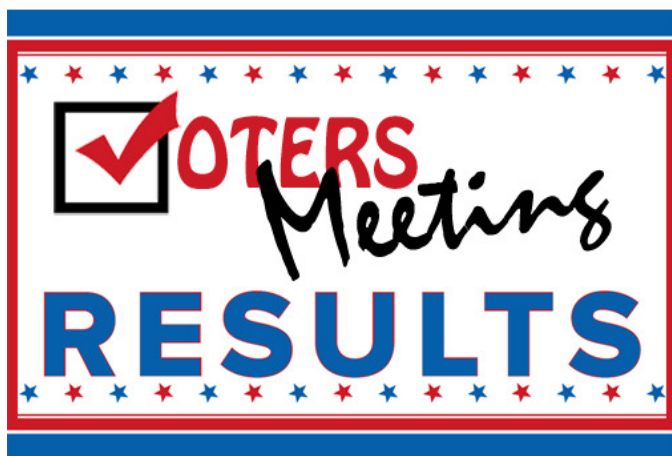
The Ascended Jesus—in control of life, in the midst of life!

Have hope in Him!



*Taken from Lutherans for Life Constant Contact email
Submitted by Dave Peters, Elder*

The Life team is hosting a “hymn sing” at Brookdale Springcreek Gardens (6410 Old Orchard Dr. Plano) on June 30th at 11:00am. We will be leaving from the church as a group around 10:45 am outside of the fellowship hall. We will be singing a few hymns and then visiting with the residents. We have a few Lord of Life members who reside here. This will be during the second service. If you would like to join us and also attend service please attend first service.



**The following candidates were
voted in by acclamation:**

Ben Scarth - President
 Russ Wilkerson - Vice President
 Carolyn Moudy - Secretary
 Rhonda Tabor - Treasurer
 Pat Greer - Chairman, Board of
 Stewardship
 Carol Ozlowski - Chairman, Board of
 Family Ministry
 Charles Hacker - At Large Council
 Member
 Jim Hampton - At Large Council
 Member

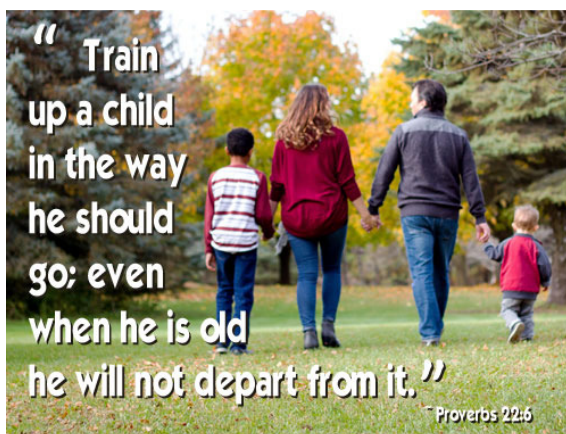
**Current Administrative Council
Members in Mid-Term**

Haley Moore - Chairman, Board of
 Outreach
 Scott Peters - Chairman, Board of
 Youth Ministry
 Alyson Wood – Chairman Board of
 Children's Ministry
 Kara Prescott - At Large Council
 Member

Puzzle!

Write the names of the parents of these biblical children.
 For help, look up the verses in an NIV Bible.

Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A	_____
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:22-24)	C	_____
John the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	D	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	E	_____
	F	_____
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:3, 6)	G	_____
Jezreel (Hosea 1:2-4)	H	_____
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I	_____
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J	_____
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	K	_____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	L	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M	_____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	N	_____
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	O	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	P	_____
	Q	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:23-24)	R	_____
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	S	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	T	_____
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	U	_____
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	V	_____
	W	_____
	X	_____
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	Y	_____
Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1)	Z	_____



Answers: Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedee, Zechariah,
 Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses,
 Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth,
 Saul, David, Mary, Amoz

Teen Times

The season of summer officially starts June 21, however the Memorial Day weekend was the unofficial introduction to summertime events like pool side BBQs, family vacations, warm nights at community band concerts, and going to the movies with friends. The end of May and beginning of June also marks the season of celebration within our congregation for new confirmands and new high school and college graduates. Sunday, May 26 was a special day for 6 youth as they publically confessed their faith and became communicant members at Lord of Life. Please keep Jonah Carter, Emma Padgett, Nate Reinert, Athan Shaltanis, Ashley Sims, and Mallia Surdyk in your prayers that they may continue to be spiritually active and maturing in their faith.

Our congregation is also blessed to have three very talented and gifted graduating seniors in the class of 2019. Adam Buckmeier graduated from Richardson High School and plans to major in biochemistry on a full scholarship to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Cari Reinert graduated from the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science. She will attend the University of Texas at Dallas as a Eugene McDermott Scholar and plans to pursue a double-major in Physics and International Political Economy. Sam Ziegelbein is a National Merit Scholar from Plano West Senior High School and will attend the University of Texas this fall pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Let us pray that as they begin a new chapter in their lives, they will remain grounded in their faith in Jesus as their Savior and that their Christian values are on full display in the collegiate community.



Summer also marks the time of year when our Sr. High youth group makes the annual trip to a youth conference. This year, 20 youth and adults will travel to Seward, Nebraska from June 23-28 to attend Higher Things at Concordia University Nebraska. We will spend three and a half days in worship, Bible study, devoting time to catechesis, and having some fun with approximately 1000 of our fellow Lutheran teens and adults. This year marks the first time that Higher Things will conduct 5 conferences at various Concordia Universities across the country. The attendance has increased substantially over the past few years, and this year the Higher Things staff anticipates the attendance for these conferences will pass 4000 participants. God be praised!

As always, these summer trips and other youth events would not be possible if it were not for the generous financial and prayerful support from you, the members at Lord of Life. It is an honor to be a part of the lives of these young people, and I look forward to the years to come while serving as the Director of Youth Ministry.

Until next time, God's blessings to you.

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 Saturday a month at 2pm

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 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 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 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 the Sat. June 8th 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



- 1 Jeff Prescott
- 1 Gary & Shannon Nuschler (45)
- 2 Ethan Pittson\
- 4 Randy Rippey
- 5 Lance & Kris Crabtree (21)
- 8 Scott & Jonelle Peters (28)
- 10 Al Manning
- 13 Tony Hernandez
- 14 Cecilia Paradise
- 14 Jack & Nelda Schrank (61)
- 15 Kristen Klein
- 19 Thomas George
- 20 Kaitlyn Hacker
- 20 Jake Tyler
- 20 Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (21)
- 21 Athan Shaltanis
- 21 Tony Vess
- 21 Karl & Debbie Olsen (44)
- 21 Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (22)
- 23 John & Vicki Frinksko (35)
- 23 Tim Tischler
- 25 Dave Wilde
- 26 Samson Carter
- 26 Jim and Christi Hampton (48)
- 27 Sarah Wuollet
- 29 Chris Dorak
- 29 Melanie Scarth
- 29 Helen Wozniak
- 30 Greg Moudy

Serving in Worship in June

	June 2		June 9		January 16		June 23		June 30	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Elder	D Peters		Ziegelbein		Read		Moudy		Kunschke	
Common Cup	S Peters	Hite	Read	Moudy	D Peters	Kunschke			Read	Hite
Altar	Neville Vess, Amanda Kunschke, and Lynda Abbott									
Acolyte										
Greeter	Schrank	Riphey	Martin	George	Hampton	Manning	Martin	Bennett/Tyler	Vess	Abbott/Moore
Sound	N Moudy	Hite	J Hacker	Shaltanis	Wilkerson	Reinert	G Hacker	Wolf	N Moudy	Hite
Usher	Bunger	Read	Frinsko	Moudy	Prescott	Oltmann	Schrank	Strecker	Scarth	Ziegelbein
	Shaltanis	Loewecke	Read	Cruz	D Ozlowski	Berger	E Hacker	Buckmeier	Shaltanis	Ozlowski
	Scarth	Ziegelbein	Paradise	Carter	Messinger	Parish	C Hacker	Short	Bunger	Loewecke

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - April, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$197,257	\$185,907	\$11,350
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$197,257	\$185,907	\$11,350
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$193,058	\$190,752	\$2,306
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$4,199	(\$4,845)	\$9,044

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$122,547
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$156,870
3. Building Note Balance	\$257,485