

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Back to Bible Study

Recently we returned to having in-person Bible study at Lord of Life. The study is on the Gospel of Mark and the discussion has been great! We are also live streaming our study so people can participate online. Please join us and take advantage of this opportunity to be in the Word.

In addition to studying Mark, we are also beginning each session with a reading from Brief Insights on Mastering the Bible, by Michael S. Heiser. This book is one of a series of books called the 60-Second Scholar Series. Each of the 80 chapters is about 2 pages long and covers some principle of Bible interpretation (i.e. hermeneutics.) The idea is that by covering briefly some principle of interpretation each week, over time, we will discuss a number of important subjects and improve the way we study Holy Scripture.

Heiser caught my attention when a portion of one these brief chapters was featured in a Christian magazine. Let me share it with you here:

Study is a Verb

If you don't think Bible study is work, you aren't doing it.

Bible study is *work*. The word "study" implies activity and effort. I know from experience that this truism is foreign to many. There are reasons for that.

Some people never graduate from Bible reading to Bible study. Reading doesn't require much effort, especially if you aren't thinking while doing it. Running your eyes over words on a page is one of the easiest things an adult does at any given point of their day. But Bible reading isn't Bible study.

Others associate Bible study with "getting a blessing." This confuses devotional reading with study. The goal of Bible study isn't a spiritual buzz. Bible study isn't in search of a feeling. It's in search of understanding what the Biblical text says and what it means. That isn't to suggest personal application is irrelevant or ought to be avoided. Instead, it's to suggest that "applying" anything in the Bible without knowing what it means is at best useless and at worst dangerous.

Another reason is that small group Bible studies are usually passive. Little actual study happens, at least for anyone other than the person tasked with leading the group. While the leader may have put serious work into the effort, everyone else is a listener. True, the material may stimulate questions, but asking a question isn't Bible study. It's where Bible study often begins.

Most of us know that "study" is a verb. You know that if you went to college, prepared for your driver's license exam, wanted to research a pending medical procedure, or are serious about fantasy sports. A better synonym for Bible study than "reading" would be "research." And research isn't easy. It takes tools, tenacity, and time.

Brief Insights on Mastering Bible Study; 80 Expert Insights Explained in a Single Minute, Zondervan 2018, pg. 41-42.

This insight about “studying” the Bible as opposed to merely reading it or just sharing thoughts about it without actually doing any research struck me as particularly on point. That is, while a lot of people read the Bible and some even talk about it, it seems that fewer actually study/research it. How about you? Do you actually study the Bible as a disciple? (“disciple” is another loaded term having to do with disciplined study!) Or, do you just read the Bible and like talking about it with friends?

On Sunday mornings we do a little of both. I lead a study and try to get people into the text, but we also discuss the implications of it with each other and how to apply the Word to our lives. Hopefully, you will both receive a blessing and do some research.

I hope to see you there!

PrS



Jean Spraez

(October 22, 1930 – February 9, 2021)

Last month, we lost a beloved member of our congregation. Jean was 90 years old, but very young at heart. In fact, recently, she celebrated her birthday by going skydiving and was hoping to do so again when she felt better. This is just one indication of how much Jean loved life and lived it to the fullest. She and her husband Rollie were married 62 years, had a son and daughter, and several grandchildren, and they traveled extensively. Additionally, Jean was a delight to talk to. She was energetic and positive and a very kind soul. She loved quilting with the Comfort Makers and was involved in many other ways at Lord of Life. She will be missed.

When Jean’s health took a turn for the worse a year ago, we talked openly about death and its inevitability. She trusted the Lord and knew that on account of Jesus, she did not have to fear judgment. But she was also determined not to die without a fight. She had several involved procedures last year to remove a cancerous tumor, and though she recovered from her procedures, each time she was a little weaker and a little less like herself. Now, thanks to Jesus’ love for her and for us all, Jean’s suffering is over and she is at perfect peace.

Teen Times

"It's Good to be Back"

It has been a long time coming, but being back in Bible class on Sunday morning teaching the youth felt like a breath of fresh air. I have expressed many times to the kids during our ZOOM meetings over the last 12 months that I really missed seeing everyone and spending time together in God's Word as a group. We started a new study series on Sunday, February 21 entitled ***Your Unshakable Identity in Christ*** which focuses on some characters in the Bible whose identity was shaped by God and used to help us understand our own identities as followers of Jesus. To introduce the topic, all of the youth in the class were asked to write the name of all the other participants on a note card and then write one word about each one that describes their identity. It could be a personality trait or physical feature (long dark hair, tall, generous, competitive) or an activity or hobby (a gamer, musician, athlete, etc...) that described that individual. It was quite interesting and fun to hear the answers and guess the identities of everyone in class. It also gave some insight as to how differently friends identify each other.

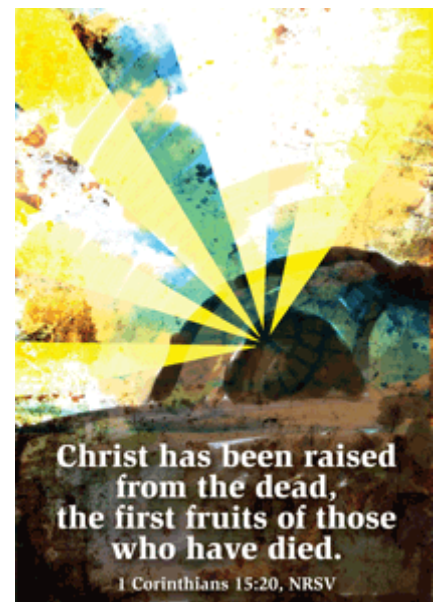
It is also very interesting to realize how many things in today's world can be an influence in developing someone's identity. Social media, the latest clothing fashions, political stances, peer pressure, social status, and geography, to name a few, can define who we are and how we live our lives. Fortunately, as Christians, we have been given an identity that gives us the hope for eternal salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote this to the church in Colossae:

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1-3

Our sins were hidden with Jesus in the tomb, and since He conquered death and the grave by His resurrection, we too have been raised with Him. So join us Sunday mornings in person or online to discover what God's Word says about your special identity in Jesus.

Until next time,
Scott Peters



Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV



Saturday, March 27, 9:00AM – 2:00PM

Bring your gloves and yard tools to help get our church grounds looking good for Easter Sunday! Projects include planting new shrubs, flowers, and ground cover, spreading mulch, laying new grass sod, tree trimming, trimming hedges, and filling low spots around the church yard. Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or sign up online at: www.planolutheran.com/signup/



Lord of Life IMPACT Youth Ministry



Bring your donated items to church during the week of May 10 - 14 and place them in the game room. (Room 121).

Proceeds will benefit the 2021 summer youth trip.



LWML Dal-North Spring Event

“Lutheran Women in Witness”

Speaker – Pastor Mark Taylor

Saturday, April 17th, 2021

3pm – 5pm with dinner following (COVID appropriate)

Faith Lutheran Church, Plano

1701 E. Park Blvd, Plano 75074

- **Registration fee: \$10 requested.**
- **RSVP: None, just come and bring a friend!**
- **Ingathering: Non-perishable food items for local food banks.**
- **Event: Devotion, Guest Speaker, Business Meeting, Free-Will Offering for Mites, Door Prizes and More!**
- **Social Distancing practiced and Masks recommended**

Contact - Charis Bennett

charisbennett@gmail.com or text: 650-759-7759

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
invites you to the
39th Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 24–Sunday, June 27, 2021

Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center • Lexington, Kentucky



Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus

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, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1–2).

Convention Goal

Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.

Convention Objectives

Convention attendees will:

- Focus on Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament.
- Joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer.
- Serve our neighbors through witness and mission.

Convention Logo Explanation



The convention logo incorporates the shape of the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega, and makes reference to the passage from Scripture, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end"* (Revelation 22:13). The symbol is shaped like a horseshoe, which is appropriate, as horses are a large part of the Kentucky culture.



Ancient Greeks awarded horseshoe-shaped laurel wreaths to victors of competitions. In our logo, the laurel wreath symbolizes our victory in Christ.



The banner was a method of announcing an official proclamation. Our banner proclaims that we are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

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

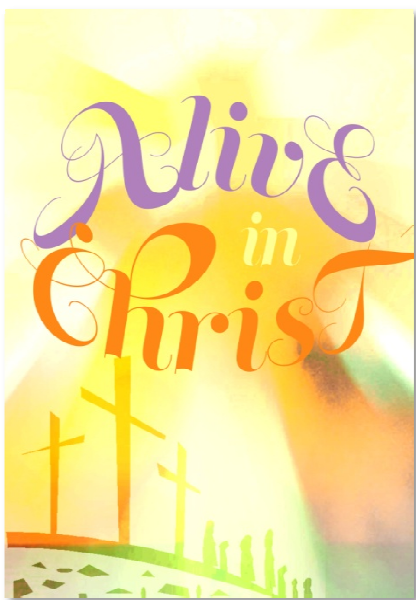
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

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



MARCH



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tammi Chumbley
- 2 Katelyn Payne
- 2 Barbara Sinclair
- 3 Sam Ziegelbein
- 7 Gary Holtzman
- 7 Caroline Loewecke
- 9 Karen Ashburn
- 9 Joanna Smith
- 10 Tom & Carol Read (42)
- 12 Ben & Monica Heffner (8)
- 13 Deb Dorak
- 13 Pastor Joel Shaltanis
- 14 Shelby Lund
- 14 Lindsey Wood
- 16 Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (19)
- 18 Greg Kostrzewa
- 21 Stephen & Teresa Strecker (40)
- 23 Charles Gabriel
- 26 Stephen Strecker
- 27 Mark Ziegelbein
- 29 Cheryl Tyler
- 29 Stephen & Catherine Duff (13)
- 30 Nevelle Vess

prepare for worship in march

March 3: Midweek Lent II, 7 PM

March 7: Third Sunday in Lent

Texts: Ex. 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 2:13-22
Hymn of the Day: "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," 824

March 10: Midweek Lent III, 7 PM

March 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Num. 21:4-9; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Hymn of the Day: "God Loved the World So That He Gave," 571

March 17: Midweek Lent IV, 7 PM

March 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45
Hymn of the Day: "My Song Is Love Unknown," 430

March 24: Midweek Lent V, 7 PM

March 28: Palm Sunday

Texts: Zech. 9:9-12; Phil. 2:5-11; Mark 14-15
Hymn of the Day: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," 442



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1 Month Ending January 2021

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2020 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$54,141	\$50,443	\$3,699	\$581,908
Other	\$24	\$0	\$24	\$0
Total Income	\$54,166	\$50,443	\$3,723	\$581,908
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$40,884	\$45,890	(\$5,007)	\$550,845
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$2,580	\$2,580	\$0	\$30,960
Total Expenses	\$43,464	\$48,470	(\$5,007)	\$581,805
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$10,702	\$1,973	\$8,729	\$103
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$118,414			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$121,887			
Building Loan Balance	\$189,768			

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20th — lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com