

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Internet Home Page: <http://planolutheran.com>

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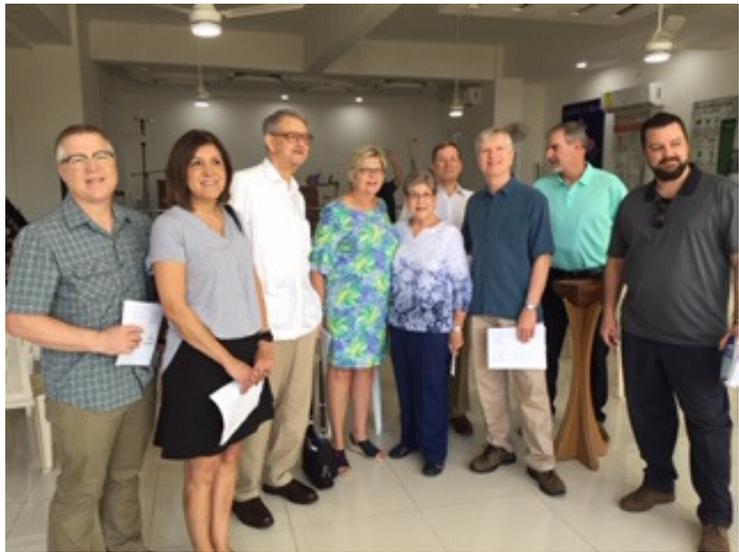
May 2021

### Mission Support for the Dominican Republic

In January of 2020, 10 members of Lord of Life traveled to the Dominican Republic with the goal of seeing the mission work that was taking place there. Our congregation had long supported Rev. Joel Fritsche who serves as missionary in Santiago and is now the Director of Concordia the Reformer Seminary (Seminario Concordia el Reformador). Throughout our trip, the question we asked is: How can Lord of Life support the ministry that is happening in the Dominican Republic?

We saw many amazing things happening in the Dominican Republic. The mercy work to help people with physical and mental disabilities is moving and extraordinary. The schools and churches that are being built are reaching many people with the Gospel. But one thing in particular stood out to our group. Upon our return from the DR, our group met and felt strongly that it would be good for us to ask the members of Lord of Life to support Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CRS.)

The reasons our group wanted to support the seminary in particular is because supporting the students at the seminary has a much broader impact than merely the people of the Dominican Republic. The goal for the men trained at CRS is to have them return to their country of origin (Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, etc.) and establish churches. The seminarians learn how to plant churches and be evangelists. In addition, they receive many of the same kinds of classes taught at our seminaries in St. Louis and Ft. Wayne. They learn distinctly Lutheran theology as well as how to work with the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures. They receive a first rate education and are prepared to go out into the world and make disciples. Accordingly, we felt that supporting the seminary offers a great return on investment. Our dollars in support of that institution would, by God's grace, have widespread and long-lasting impact in a way that is very faithful to our confession of the Christian faith.



*Members of our tour group pose for a picture after worship on a Sunday in February of 2020. We attended the church Rev. Fritsche serves called, Pueblo Nuevo Luterana Iglesia, in the city of Santiago.*



*Members of our group (in our blue Lord of Life polo shirts!) touring the library at the seminary. Boxes of books were being sorted and moved to shelves. The work is ongoing and dependent upon donations.*

land, the entire project was shelved. But I am happy to say that now, in May of 2021, by God's grace, things are starting to return to normal and we are going to resurrect our plan. Starting on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> a number of us will be considering supporting the seminary and the special work taking place in the Dominican Republic. Rev. Fritsche is scheduled to preach at Lord of Life on June 6 and will give a presentation on the work that is taking place there. We hope to gather special offerings on Sundays from May 23 to July 4<sup>th</sup> and then send them to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on behalf of the work in the Dominican Republic. We want the bulk of it to support the seminary, however, we would also allow for a portion of it to go to other expenses as needed in the DR.

You will be hearing more about this in the days to come, but if you would like to read more about the inspiring mission work that is happening in the DR, you can click on the following link which will take you to the synod's webpage. From there you will find several more links to articles about the seminary and the people who serve as well as the work being done. As you read about what is happening, ask yourself, "Is this something I would like to be a part of? How can I use the blessings God has given me to be of service to others and aid in bringing the Gospel to more people so they can share in the hope I have?"

God's blessings,

PrS

At that time, (March of 2020) we devised a plan to ask the congregation for special offerings to support the seminary and related missions. Our plan was to speak to the members of our congregation at an appropriate time on Sunday mornings over a course of several weeks asking them to contribute over and above their normal offerings to support this mission work. At the time, we also had donors who were willing to match offerings up to a certain amount. It was a good plan and we hoped that our enthusiasm would be shared by the congregation. We were looking forward to working together in support of a very worthy cause. We were excited to get started. ... Then COVID-19 hit. And everything was put on hold.

As a result of the pandemic and the general uncertainty in the church and throughout the



*This picture from the LCMS website shows the facility in Palmar Arriba. The lower floors host Concordia Lutheran School (Escuela Luterana La Concordia) –an elementary school, while the upper floors host Concordia the Reformer Seminary. The group home is just 100 yards away as is the dormitory for the seminarians. This picture captures four seminarians in their clerical collars on their way to class along with school children waiting for their parents, a group home resident greeting everyone who enters.*

## Voters' Meeting Notification

On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> after the late service, there will be a voters' meeting to elect the positions listed below and to approve the final copy of our Constitution and Bylaws that were presented at the December, 2020 voters' meeting. For copies of the documents and more information, visit our website:

<http://planolutheran.com/voters-meeting>

The Nominating Committee presented and the Admin Council approved this slate of candidates for the May 2021 election.

We recommend that the congregation vote to approve the following slate of candidates for the Admin Council.

### Officers Election

President	Ben Scarth	1 year term; a new candidate must be identified for next year
Vice President	Russ Wilkerson	1 year term; a new candidate must be identified for next year
Secretary	N/A	Kara Prescott's term continues
Treasurer	Rhonda Tabor	1 year term; a new candidate must be identified for next year

### Board Chairs Election

Outreach	Haley Moore	2 year term
Stewardship	Travis Bennett	2 year term
Family	Gail Senter	2 year term
Children's	Alyson Wood	2 year term

### At Large Member Election

1st	Shelby Lund	2 year term
2nd	Brian Wolf	2 year term
3rd	N/A	Carolyn Moudy's term continues

Our bylaws also require the list of members of each board be presented to the congregation for ratification.

We recommend that the congregation ratify the members of each board as follows.

### Board Membership

Elders	Mike Kunschke, Doug Hite, Tom Read, Mark Ziegelbein, Greg Moudy and Tim Ozlowski
Youth	Scott Peters, Christ Oltman, Greg Moudy and Dixie Hacker
Outreach	Haley Moore, Don Padgett, Mary Ravitz, Caitlyn Moudy, Joanna Smith and Joel Shaltanis
Stewardship	Travis Bennett, Pat Greer, Dave Peters and Karen Lund
Family	Gail Senter, Carol Ozlowski, Mary Ravitz, Joanna Smith, Laurie George, Terry Strecker, Charis Bennett, Melanie Scarth and Kathy Hite
Children's	Alyson Wood
Property	Scott Peters, Stephen Strecker, Karl Olsen, Ernie Gromatzky, Jerry Parish and Carl Carper

# Teen Times

If you pick up a newspaper, turn on the TV, open up your favorite news app, or listen to talk radio, I am sure you will agree that the world has been going through some difficult times. It is not necessary to list examples, because if you engage in just one of the aforementioned media outlets, you are well aware of the messed up things going on. Fortunately, it seems that the year-long pandemic might finally be coming under control. Still, it has been one rough year for all of us, especially for a certain group of people who are supposed to be celebrating one of life's milestones in May.

Lord of Life is blessed to have six graduating high school seniors and one college graduate this spring. If you can recall your own senior year, I doubt it looked anything like the one these folks have had; maintaining social distance and doing things online. Still, they have endured the changes and challenges, while making choices about the next steps in their own life journey. They are:

Ethan Hacker – Homeschool, THEO  
 Garrett Hacker – Homeschool, THEO  
 David Messinger – Plano West Senior High School  
 Daniel Ozlowski – Plano Senior High School  
 Noah Reinert – Wylie East High School  
 Magdalena Shaltanis – Homeschool, Classical Conversations  
 Lauren Chumbley – Concordia University Nebraska

I am so very thankful and fortunate to have been a part of these young people's lives while watching them mature both in person and in their faith. In the midst of all the chaos which has been front and center the past year or so, you have still managed to achieve an important goal in your life. Congratulations to all of you! Best wishes and God's blessings on your future endeavors! Please know that:

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, the he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." **Philippians 1:3-6***

Scott Peters

## 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.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service

*Thank you*

Lord of Life is so blessed with members who step up willingly to assist for special and meaningful services. To state in point, Holy Week. There are four different services of which each one is depicted with a different setting and meaning. Response from members to help out in the services was exceptional. Many thanks to the following members who assisted in the stripping of the altar during the Maundy Thursday service and the preparation for the Easter services: Athan Shaltanis, Sebastian Shaltanis, Nancy Cawood, Laurie George, Caitlyn Moudy, Beverly Moudy, Charis Bennett, Nelda Schrank, Kathy Hite, Shelia Farmer, Scott Peters, and Pastor Joel Shaltanis.

~ Lynda Abbott

# MAY



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ambrose Shaltanis
- 3 Gene & Pat Montalbo (26)
- 6 Fred Bernhardt
- 8 Mike & Cheryl Scaglione (28)
- 10 Laurie George
- 11 Larry Dibbern
- 12 Pat Greer
- 12 Dave Senter
- 14 Elisabeth Bennett
- 15 Alyson Wood
- 16 Suzanne Gabriel
- 16 Abby George
- 16 Sebastian Heffner
- 16 David Messinger
- 17 Paula Bunger
- 17 Max Tyler
- 18 Cari Reinert
- 20 Charis Bennett
- 22 Nicholas Moudy
- 22 Jon & Tammi Chumbley (28)
- 23 Greg & Audrey Kostrzewa (34)
- 25 Ashley Moudy
- 25 Mark Plagens
- 25 Tom & Georgianna Womack (57)
- 26 Stephen & Rebecca LaPlante (14)
- 26 Greg & Beverly Moudy (25)
- 27 Madeleine Barnes
- 27 Trent Barnes
- 27 Audrey Kostrzewa
- 28 June Edelmann
- 28 Dave & Gail Senter (44)
- 29 Cindy Carter
- 29 Paul & Susan Grabow (39)
- 31 Charlie Abbott
- 31 Duffy Carter
- 31 Vicki Frinsko

## prepare for worship in may

**May 2: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4; John 15:1-8  
 Hymn of the Day: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," 633

**May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17  
 Hymn of the Day: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice," 556

**May 16: Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11b-19  
 Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is the World's Redeemer," 539

**May 23: The Day of Pentecost**

Texts: Ezek. 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15  
 Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord," 497

**May 30: The Holy Trinity**

Texts: Isa. 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17, 16:4b-15  
 Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blessed," 498 or 499



## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 3 Months Ending March 2021

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2020 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$147,188	\$138,653	\$8,535	\$581,908
<b>Other</b>	\$68	\$0	\$68	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$147,256</b>	<b>\$138,653</b>	<b>\$8,603</b>	<b>\$581,908</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$125,525	\$133,161	(\$7,637)	\$550,845
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$14,900	\$7,740	\$7,160	\$30,960
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$140,425</b>	<b>\$140,901</b>	<b>(\$477)</b>	<b>\$581,805</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$6,831</b>	<b>(\$2,248)</b>	<b>\$9,080</b>	<b>\$103</b>
<b>Other Information:</b>				
Operating Fund Balance	\$122,562			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$114,748			
Building Loan Balance	\$178,674			

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20th — [lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com)**