

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 36, No. 3

Plano, Texas

March 2022

Dear Friends,

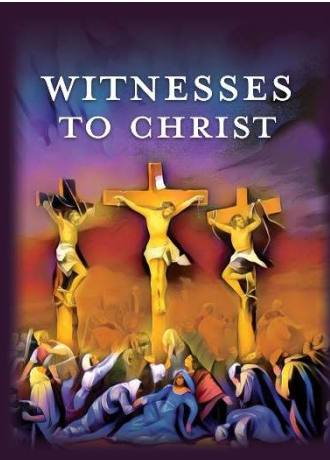
Below are some thoughts on Lent, our Music Director, and the loss of two beloved members.

Lent is *fast* approaching (pun intended). I look forward to Lent every year, but am also very glad when it is over. That is because the additional worship services mean a lot of extra work to be done, but it also means a chance for deeper reflection on what Christ has done as well as a time for more community with brothers and sisters in Christ in worship and in meals. All of this is a great way to reflect and prepare for the great celebration of Easter. I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of these additional worship services, especially Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These two days of the Church Year are the most solemn and offer us such a marked difference from all other days.

The midweek services will be on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm with a soup supper at 5:30 pm (but not on Ash Wednesday.) Holy Week will have services on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm and Good Friday at 7:30 pm (we start later so we can end in darkness at the Tenebrae service.) Our theme for this year is: *Witnesses to Christ: People from His Passion*. This theme was written by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing with the help of others at CPH. It includes sermons on characters in the Passion narrative, worship resources, devotional booklets (which are available in the narthex,) and even a special hymn. “Behold! The Lamb of God,” John Said” was written by well-known Lutheran hymn writer, Stephen P. Starke for use at our services.

A description from Concordia Publishing House:

“This year’s series paints a stunning portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Jesus lead us to meditate on His Passion as recorded by St. John in his Gospel. Our overall theme is “Witnesses to Christ: People From His Passion.” John tells us he wrote his Gospel: “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30–31). This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate; sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus three times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by seven demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver); as well as others.”



Music Director

March will mark the first month without Vicki Frinsko on staff. I am so sad to see her go, as it has been a real joy to work with her. Thank you to all who responded so generously to her retirement gift –and there were many of you! Together we raised just over \$8,000. This should make for a great trip to Alaska. She deserves it! Her retirement

party on the 20th was also a good time. Thanks to all who helped make it happen and special thanks to Gail Senter for all the work she did.

In the months ahead, we have several talented substitutes lined up to play the organ (including Vicki). Meanwhile, we also continue our search for a new Music Director. We have a plan in place, but are also trying to remain flexible in case an opportunity arises. Please pray for the Lord to provide our congregation with a faithful servant (or servants) to fill this position.

Shirley Sparks

(Forgive me for being a little behind in writing this memorial; Shirley passed before Christmas but her memorial service was not until late January. Then for some reason, I didn't write anything for last month's newsletter. But better late, than never.) Shirley was a dear friend and a pillar of the congregation. We have had many members over the years tell me they were greeted by Ray and Shirley on their first visit and that they made such a great first impression that it was one of the deciding factors in joining Lord of Life. I really loved Shirley and I think most people who knew her did too. She had a remarkable faith in Jesus that was at once pious, genuine, loving and caring. She was a lot of fun and frankly, what a lot of us aspire to be: a great example of how to serve God and love others. Her life was drastically changed after suffering some strokes a few years ago, yet even then, with health and memory issues, she was simply a joy to be around.

We had a beautiful and well-attended memorial service for her at the end of January. One of the best parts was after the service at the luncheon when old friends and family shared memories and fond stories of Shirley. She influenced a lot of lives and made all of them better. Rest in Peace.

Al Manning

Al was also a dear friend and (along with his beloved wife, Mollie) a pillar of the congregation. He was the chairman when I came in 2013 but had served in a multitude of roles over the nearly 30 years that he was a member. Most notably, Al retired as the project manager for JC Penney's and went right to work on our building project at Lord of Life. His expertise in construction contributed greatly to ensure the building projects were done on time and according to budget.

Al had a great sense of humor and was fun to be around. He was also committed to his friends. He regularly attended a guy's breakfast with a number of people from church and would also drop in at the church to say hello or take us out to lunch. But I especially remember when his good friend John Anderson, another member of the congregation, was struggling with his health and nearing the end of his life, Al went above and beyond in taking him to the doctor and visiting him in the hospital. His friends could count on him and we will all miss him.

Al was a very creative person and used to do a lot of woodworking and later on, drawing. Several items at the church, like the tables in the narthex and the flower stands near the altar, were built by Al, (or with his help in many cases.) One of his sketches of a cross and chalice on a little Christmas card, has been on the wall in my office for years. Another time he did some great drawings of the church building. (*see below*)

Al died at the ripe old age of 91½ after a short battle with cancer. His funeral had a lot of folks in attendance, including 30 family members from out of town! It was a great day and a fitting memorial to a good man who was loved and will be missed.

PrS



prepare for worship in march

March 2: Ash Wednesday, 1:30 PM & 7 PM

Mar. 6: First Sunday in Lent

Texts: Deut. 26:1-11; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Hymn of the Day: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," 656

March 9: Midweek Lent I, 1:30 PM & 7 PM

Mar. 13: Second Sunday in Lent

Texts: Jer. 26:8-1; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," 708

March 16: Midweek Lent II, 1:30 PM & 7 PM

Mar. 20: Third Sunday in Lent

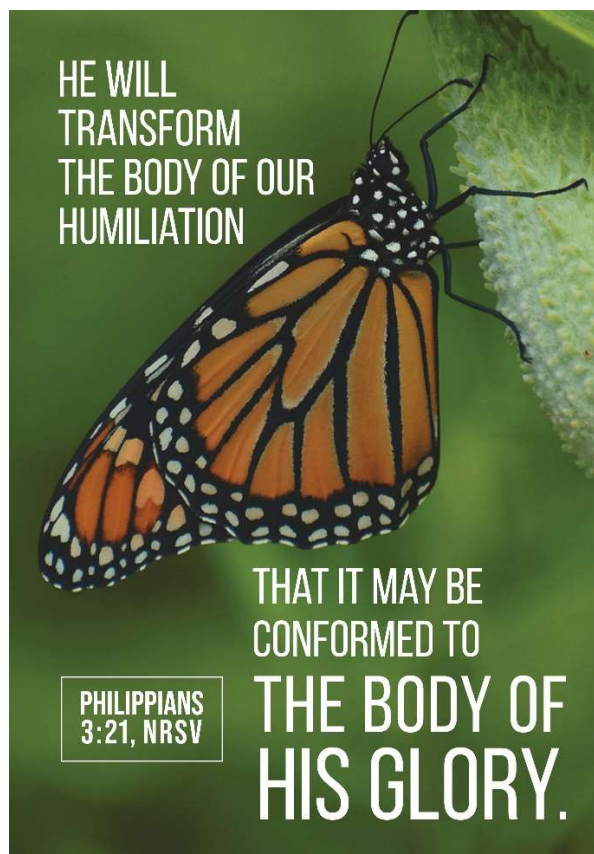
Texts: Gen. 45:3-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Hymn of the Day: "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," 824

March 23: Midweek Lent III, 1:30 PM & 7 PM

Mar. 27: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Is. 12:1-6; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Hymn of the Day: "God Loved the World So That He Gave," 571

March 30: Midweek Lent IV, 1:30 PM & 7 PM



Invite your family! Invite your neighbors!

Hardening the Target at Home



Lord of Life
Thursday, March 31
7:00 - 8:30 PM



Plano Police Department
- Crime Prevention Unit -

The Board of Outreach welcomes Officer Sheldon Krc (pronounced Kirk) as he teaches us ways to secure our home, garage, vehicles parked in the driveway, doors, and windows. This is valuable information we would like to share with the community, so invite your friends and family and let us know you're coming. Officer Krc's presentation is about an hour long and he will answer your questions afterward.

Two Views on Lent - More Work to Do or More Opportunity for God to Bless Us

As we gather for worship on Ash Wednesday and begin another Lenten season, it occurs to me that there are two different ways that I might look at it.

This festival season of the church year certainly brings with it more busyness and more work to do. More work for our Pastor and organist. More work for the office staff in preparing bulletins. More work for the maintenance staff in cleaning up after Wednesday services in addition to Sunday services. More work for our lay volunteers (including Altar Guild, Elders, ushers, sound techs, etc.). As a member of the congregation and follower of Christ, I may also feel a sense of obligation to attend more worship services (twice a week instead of once and done on Sundays) and to give more in offerings (using those purple midweek envelopes.)

But then I think about the key themes and lessons that I am to take from Ash Wednesday and Lent. We are prompted to reflect on our mortality ("...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19b) and we do well to recognize our inability to please God through our own efforts ("for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23). We are also reminded of God's promise of grace and mercy for those who return to Him ("Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" Joel 2:13) and we are offered reconciliation, a righteousness not of our own doing, and salvation through Christ Jesus our Savior ("We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ... Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 5:20b-21 & 6:2b).

As I contemplate these points -- my mortality and my sinfulness, God's love (i.e., grace and mercy) for me, and God's plan for my redemption (i.e., reconciliation, imbedded righteousness and salvation) through Christ, I come to appreciate another way of looking at this festival season.

More focus and attention on those things that are of eternal importance ("Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24). More opportunity to be reminded of God's unfailing love for me and my desperate need for Him ("For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16). More opportunity to confess my sins and to receive absolution in His Name ("...everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43b). More opportunity for God's Word read and preached ("Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching." 1 Timothy 4:13), and therefore more opportunity for my faith to be built up through hearing the Word ("So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17).

The understanding of worship as the Divine Service (i.e., God doing for us and giving to us rather than us doing for Him or giving to Him) can be extended even to these midweek services (even though not using the "Divine Service" format). When we commit to the "more" of the season by attending these services, we put ourselves in position to receive God's blessings. I conclude with these passages from Psalm 84, which I pray are fulfilled for me and for all Lord of Life members each time we attend a midweek service this season.

- How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1-2
- Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Psalm 84:4
- For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Psalm 84:10a

God Bless,
Mike Kunschke, Elder



Teen Times

Lord of Life IMPACT Youth Ministry Dinner Party Fundraisers

In the February issue of Lifelines, a little background was shared about our youth group's history of the Higher Things Youth Conferences we attend in summer, and the recent description of the fundraiser dinners which are usually held at this time of year. However, for various reasons which were also described in last month's newsletter, the fundraising meals that the youth and parents participate in will be different this year. Instead of one large banquet, there will be (at least) four smaller meals at the home of Scott and Jonelle Peters. Starting in March and continuing with one dinner event per month through June, reservations for 10 people can be made on the following dates:

Saturday, March 12

Friday, April 22

Saturday, May 21

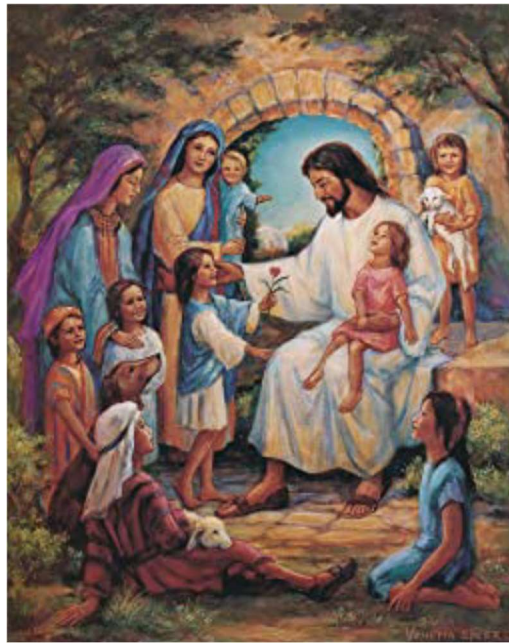
Friday, June 10

A reservation sign-up display will be posted in the narthex at the church beginning Sunday, Feb. 27, which will include the menu for each date as well as space to describe any food sensitivities that participants may have. If the response for these events is greater than expected, additional dinners may be planned to accommodate. As in the past, these are free-will offering fundraisers to support our youth ministry and the trip to Bozeman, Montana to attend Higher Things.

Speaking of Higher Things, our group will be flying this year instead of driving like we normally do. If anyone has a good contact for a travel agent or is well versed in making airline arrangements and finding the best deals, please contact Scott Peters.

We look forward to serving you at our fundraisers and thank you for being such generous supporters both financially and prayerfully over the past several years.

God Bless,
The Lord of Life IMPACT Youth Ministry



LWML DAL-NORTH ZONE EVENT
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

“Let the children come unto me” Mark 10:14 ESV

HOST CHURCH: Our Savior Lutheran Church
2708 West Virginia Parkway
McKinney, TX 75071

Guest Speaker: Holly Snell, Chief Executive Officer
Hope Women’s Center
McKinney, TX 75071

Registration begins at 9:30 am

Program: 10:00-12:00pm

Fee: \$10 includes lunch

RSVP by March 22 to:

Jan Arnold at jaeagle4138@hotmail.com

Ingathering items to benefit Hope Women’s Center

Diapers – Size newborn or 1, wipes, baby bath/wash, baby lotion, baby blankets, gift cards

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

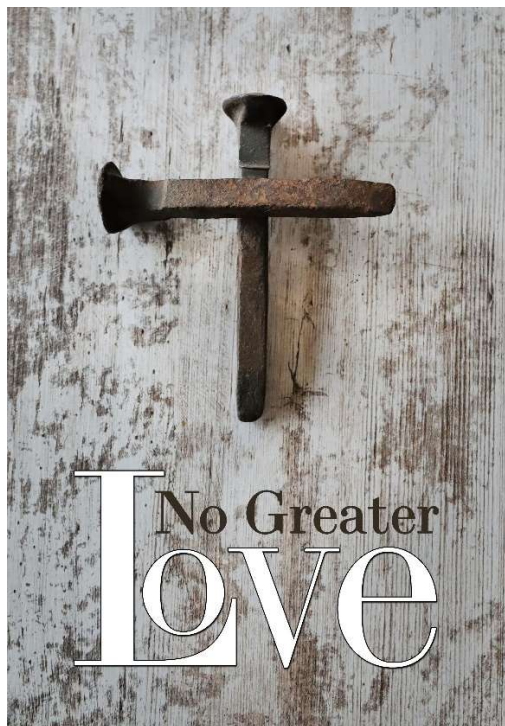
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Sat. 3/19 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



- 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 (43)
- 13 Deb Dorak
- 13 Pastor Joel Shaltanis
- 14 Shelby Lund
- 14 Lindsey Wood
- 16 Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (20)
- 18 Greg Kostrzewa
- 19 Steven & Sara Tweedie (11)
- 21 Stephen & Teresa Strecker (41)
- 23 Charles Gabriel
- 25 Steven Tweedie
- 26 Stephen Strecker
- 27 Mark Ziegelbein
- 29 Cheryl Tyler
- 29 Stephen & Catherine Duff (14)
- 30 Nevelle Vess



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Summarized Statement of Activity
1 Month Ending January 31, 2022

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2022 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	51,921	53,861	(1,940)	560,692
Other	12	0	12	0
Total Income	51,933	53,861	(1,929)	560,692
Expenses				
Benevolences	3,634	3,770	(136)	39,248
Elders	21,440	32,192	(10,752)	386,297
Education	116	50	66	1,000
Outreach	0	50	(50)	600
Office Expenses	777	695	82	12,090
Utilities	3,222	2,870	352	33,415
Property Maintenance	1,126	1,520	(394)	34,440
Stewardship	0	0	0	350
Family Ministries	0	150	(150)	5,290
Youth Board	0	2,200	(2,200)	6,100
Children's Ministry	0	500	(500)	6,700
Admin Council	244	200	44	2,600
Total Operating Expense	30,559	44,197	(13,638)	528,131
Mortgage Payment	2,580	2,580	0	30,960
Total Expenses	33,139	46,777	(13,638)	559,091
Surplus or (Deficit)	18,793	7,084	11,709	1,601
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$107,974			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$122,178			
Building Loan Balance	\$154,660			

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