

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

Vol. 33, No. 3

Plano, Texas

March 2019

Lent

The season of Lent is upon us at last! I say, "at last" because this year Lent begins about as late as Lent can. Easter is a moveable feast based on the lunar cycle and not a fixed date like Christmas. We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This means Easter can be any time between March 22nd and April 25th. This year Easter falls on April 21st, so Lent is late in coming, but we welcome it nonetheless. Our services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. We will have both an afternoon service at 1:00 PM and an evening service at 7:00. See upcoming bulletins for more details.

Scholarships

Each year we dedicate the offerings collected at our Lenten services to charitable causes. This year, I am happy to announce that the offerings will be put in our scholarship fund to benefit those attending Lutheran Schools. Happily, we have several students applying for these scholarships and in order to continue supporting this very worthwhile cause, we need to increase the fund. I hope you will be very generous in doing so, as the applicants are very worthy of our support.

Who are these applicants?

Our congregation currently supports Lauren Chumbley who attends Concordia University in Seward, NE. She is studying to be a Lutheran school teacher and is truly enjoying her studies

and looking forward to serving at an elementary school in the near future. You may recall that Lauren was an active member of our youth group, and then, after her first year of college, she worked in the office as one of our secretaries for her summer job. She is truly going to be a great blessing to whichever school calls her.

Amanda Kunschke has also decided to become a Lutheran teacher and plans to attend Concordia University Wisconsin in the fall. After graduating from high school in Plano, Amanda has continued to be very active at Lord of Life. Currently, she is taking classes at Collin County Community College. By living at home and attending school locally, she has wisely taken many of her general education classes while not incurring student debt. The Concordias (A network of 9 Lutheran universities around the country) are excellent private schools preparing people for ministry, but they are much more expensive than community college. Amanda looks forward to continuing her education in Wisconsin and becoming a teacher in a few years.

Additionally, our congregation has been supporting Nicholas Belcher, a former member who was very active in church and youth group. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force and upon completing three years of active duty, enrolled at Concordia University in Irvine, CA where he is a pre-seminary major. You probably know Nick from both teaching adult Bible classes at Lord of Life and writing articles for this

newsletter. Nick plans to attend Concordia Theological Seminary in the fall and is on track to becoming an ordained pastor in four years. What's more, he and his wife Lauren, are expecting their first child in April!

As many of you recall, going to college is an expensive undertaking. Too often young adults graduate universities with huge loans hanging over them. This is especially difficult for those who pursue church work, as the pay one receives is never exorbitant and is often far from it! Anything you can do to support this cause would be greatly appreciated by these young folks and their families, and by helping them to avoid large school debts, you will be blessing them for years.

And Finally... *Voices of the Passion*

The theme of our Lenten services is: "Voices of the Passion". This is actually an older series published in 1944. I came across this collection of Lenten meditations years ago when I was given a retired pastor's books. What stood out to me about the one called, "Voices of the Passion" was one of the author's names, Rev. Dr. O.P. Kretzmann. Otto Paul Kretzmann was a seminary professor and the president of the University of Valparaiso, an independent Lutheran school in Indiana, for nearly three decades (1940-1968). Kretzmann was a clergyman, a scholar, and the author of several books and articles. This particular collection of sermons was written along with Pastor A. C. Oldsen, and they tell the story of Christ's suffering and death from the perspective of certain eye witnesses. The sermons are given in the first person, from the perspectives of both saints and scoundrels including: Judas, Peter, John, Caiaphas (the high priest), Simon of Cyrene, and the Roman Centurion.

As always, when using someone's sermon series, I will customize the sermons; this means in some cases radically altering them and in others, only updating and changing slightly. Preaching in the first person will be a different approach and I hope you appreciate it. I have used this series before and it was well received. Then again, I have also had to

endure first person sermons that were not so well received! So, I will try to spare you any uncomfortable experiences due to an overly dramatic preacher and hopefully, the series will cause you not to focus on the preacher, but the sacrifice of our Lord, for us and for our salvation.

See you Sunday,
PrS



prepare for worship in march

Sunday, March 3: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Texts: Joel 2:12-19; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

Hymn of the Day: "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair," 413

Ash Wednesday, March 6, Services, 1pm & 7pm

Sunday, March 10: 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

Wednesday, March 13, Services, 1pm & 7pm

Sunday, March 17: Second Sunday in Lent

Texts: Jer. 26:8-15; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," 708

Wednesday, March 20, Services, 1pm & 7pm

Sunday, March 24: Third Sunday in Lent

Texts: Ezek. 33:7-20; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Hymn of the Day: "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," 824

Wednesday, March 27, Services, 1pm & 7pm

Sunday, March 31: 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

Friends in Christ,

Many of us serve our employers over long careers looking forward to a day of retirement with new time and opportunity for adventure and service. As you may know, Laura and I have been planning for my retirement from the insurance industry, and as of March 1st we are entering this new phase of our lives.

Along with this change, we are also fulfilling a dream of relocating to our second home on Lake LBJ in Horseshoe Bay, west of Austin. Our McKinney house sold much quicker than expected so our time in North Texas is now short.

I plan to serve as an elder at Lord of Life through Easter then, God willing, we will be transitioning to serve at our other church home, Genesis Lutheran in Buchanan Dam. I will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas District Church Extension Fund in Austin. We look forward to being much closer to our daughters Kristin and Kate who live in San Antonio, and also having more time to travel and visit our son Trent who lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Laura and I have been part of the Lord of Life Family for many years and will miss each of you as dear friends. We are thankful for Pastor Shaltanis, his faithful teaching of God's Word, and his sincere interest in the faith life of each member of the congregation.

I'm sure we will be making visits back to the area for some time and will look forward to seeing you on Sundays when we visit.



In His Service,

Ben Lutek



Lutheran Podcasts

In my last article, I talked about the podcast “The Life and Times of Martin Luther”. While that podcast is currently stalled in the period of Martin Luther’s life just as he is nailing the *Ninety-five Theses* on the Wittenberg church door, all the earlier episodes are available for your listening enjoyment. So while we wait for additional episodes of that podcast, there are plenty of other Lutheran podcast content that we can both enjoy and learn from. Here are some of my favorites in no particular order -

 <p>Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio www.issuesetc.org</p>	<p>Issues Etc. - is a live radio talk show with a two-fold mission. First, to defend and teach the truths rediscovered at the Lutheran Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture and Christ alone. Second, to challenge today’s relativistic culture with its unbiblical and illogical ideologies. Their podcast has daily content broken into 5-6 daily segments. It is a wonderful mix of historical, biblical, and current issue topics with strong Lutheran content hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken.</p>
	<p>The Lutheran Hour - first broadcast Oct. 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world’s oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. This well known program has weekly content that run around 28 minutes and is currently hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.</p>
	<p>Lutheran Hour Daily Devotions - Daily devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries are 5 minute daily podcasts based on everyday topics to help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others.</p>
	<p>Higher Things : As Lutheran as it Gets - for a deep dive in all things Lutheran, this weekly hour long podcast is the ticket. Hosted by Rev. Donavon Riley and Rev. Christopher Gillespie.</p>
	<p>Higher Things : Daily Reflections - daily 5 minute devotional podcast based upon each day’s texts from the weekly readings in the one year lectionary and from Luther’s Small Catechism.</p>
 <p>why we are who we are BEING LUTHERAN</p>	<p>Being Lutheran - Pastors Jason Gudim and Brett Boe walk through the Book of Concord in this weekly podcast. This podcast runs between 20-25 minutes in duration.</p>

You can find these podcasts in either the Apple or Android platforms, or they can be downloaded directly from their respective websites. They can be wonderful accompaniments for long road trips, or even short trips around town or back and forth to work. It’s really a wonderful blessing to be able to listen to Lutheran-Centered audio content anywhere and at anytime.

Doug Hite
Board of Elders

Teen Times

Greetings my friends and welcome to the season of lent. Every year we take this time before Holy Week to reflect on our sinful condition and how thankful we should be because of the forgiveness we have through Jesus' suffering and death. It may also be a time to realize the situations and circumstances in our lives that might lead us to be tempted to sin. At the beginning of February, the Jr. and Sr. youth groups began a study on Sunday mornings during Bible class on five things that teens deal with and what the Bible says about them. As the study progressed the first few weeks, I realized that teenagers are not the only ones who face these issues; in fact; they are practically lifelong issues that confront everyone. Of course, there are probably more than five that you or I can name, but these five seem to take center stage in a teenager's world and at times are related to each other. The five areas we have been exploring are **stress, peer pressure, honesty, trust, and responsibility**.

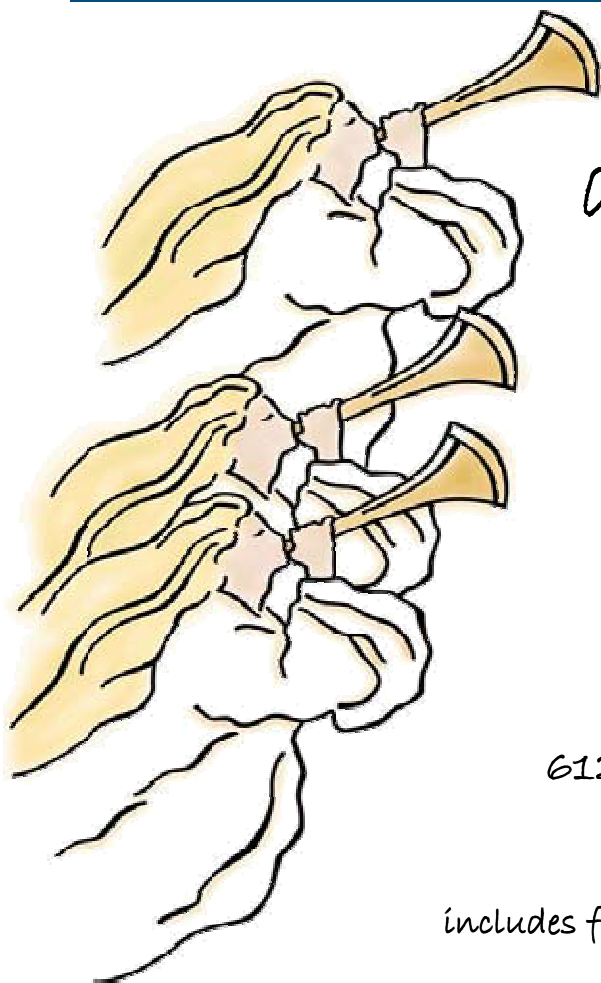
As we explore these topics, it does not surprise me how much our youth at Lord of Life are aware of their surroundings and their willingness to open up and talk about them. I also realize that these five areas of teenage lives are significantly increased compared to my adolescent years. For adults, it is hard for us to imagine the amount of stress, peer pressure, and responsibility put on them from so many angles. One of the main cultural contributors to the teenage world is the use of the media; social, TV, and internet. It is so important to be noticed and accepted in Jr. High and High School that sometimes these forms of media provide a false sense of reality. It portrays a world where you have to have the best looks, the latest technological gadgets, the hottest girlfriend or cutest boyfriend, to be sexually active in order to be recognized, or the most stuff, all to achieve the "look at me" level of confidence. Here is an example of the five areas I mentioned before being relatable in this way. At some point, parents will give their children their first smart phone. With it comes all of the perks and benefits; access to the internet, messaging, social media, gaming, and video content. Parents **trust** their kids to be **responsible** with their new mobile device and **honest** when they ask them about what they have been doing with them. In the meantime, the kids are under tremendous **peer pressure** to conform to the cultural standards that were listed before. This **stresses** them out when they can't measure up or mom and dad find out about something they should not be doing with their phones. This is just one example, but you can insert other factors into the equation like school, work, sports, family situations, and so on. **What a world we live in!**

Fortunately for us, we have a Heavenly Father who loves us so much that he sent Jesus to live among us. He understands the **stress and pressure** of being human, and the **responsibility** he had as our Savior. Furthermore, he wants us to be **honest** in our faith, **trusting** in Him for forgiveness of sins. Jesus told us himself to "*seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness*" (Matthew 6:33). "*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.*" (Psalm 55:22) I pray that your personal season of lent is a time filled with reflection on our human nature, but the comfort of knowing our Redeemer.

Until next time, God bless.
Scott Peters

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the IMPACT Valentine Dinner on Feb. 9. We certainly hope you enjoyed the food, fellowship, and entertainment. We also thank you for the generous donations toward our youth ministry. It will go a long way in helping our group to attend the Higher Things Youth Conference at Concordia University Nebraska this summer!



Rejoice! and again, I say Rejoice!

*Yes! Rejoice in a **Jubilee Celebration**
thanking God for 50 years of
serving Him through the
Dal-North Zone and the Texas Star Zone,
each formed October 1968!*

*Join us at a Joint Spring Event
Saturday, March 23, 2019*

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

6121 E. Lovers Lane • Dallas, TX 75214

Expense Sharing: \$10

Registration from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

includes fellowship, snacks, displays, mixer with prizes

Don't miss!

HOSTS:

*The LWML Daylighters & The LWML Moonlighters, Zion-Dallas
Lutheran Women's Missionary League Prince of Peace-Carrollton*



*Come hear about the Heart to Heart Sisters
with Jan Brunette and others!!*

*Followed by Zone meetings, lunch, meeting 'n greeting,
door prizes, opportunity to gather Mites, special closing*

As to Reservations and onsite Registration...

For Lord of Life:

- Members RSVP to Charis Bennett by March 10
- Registrar contacted by March 13 as to final count
- All sign in at Dal-North table at the Event

Guests are welcome day of the Event!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Invites you to the

38th Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 20–Sunday, June 23, 2019

Mobile Convention Center | Mobile, Alabama

“In Praise to the Lord”

The convention theme is based on the 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).

Convention Goal

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

Convention Objectives

- 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!

Convention Logo Explanation

To declare His glory among the nations is the heart of who we are as Lutheran Women in Mission. Guided by the Holy Spirit and God's marvelous works, we will be equipped in 2019 at Mobile, Alabama, to tell of His salvation from day to day. The **Cross** and the **Heart** mark the work of **Christ Jesus to all the Earth** and lead us **In Praise to the Lord**.



www.lwml.org

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life women will be assembling kits on April 23rd to ship out on April 27th. These kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Please sign up to contribute the items needed for the kits and leave them in the LWR collection box in the narthex by April 14th. Kits include:

- One light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20"x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz) in original wrapping
- One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging (multi-pack toothbrushes may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope)
- One sturdy comb
- One pair of metal nail clippers



Lord of Life women will be assembling kits on April 23rd to ship out on April 27th. These kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Please sign up to contribute the items needed for the kits and leave them in the LWR collection box in the narthex by April 14th.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

The Women of Faith (Faith Lutheran-Plano) invite all of our LCMS sisters in Christ to join us for our annual retreat.

Fri., April 5 – Sat., April 6 (24 hours)
Camp Shiloh Lutheran Retreat - on the shore of Bob Sandlin Lake
3335 FM 21, Pittsburg, TX 75686 * (903) 855-1800 * www.campshilohretreat.org

He Restores My Soul

Bible Study and Devotions led by Rev. James Woelmer based on He Restores My Soul by author Katie Schuermann and a host of literary friends – all strong in the faith LCMS women.

Women: \$35

Young Women: \$20

(High School – grades 9-12)

Devotional Study Book (optional): He Restores My Soul by Katie Schuermann: \$20

Reserve your copy

with your RSVP or order on Amazon

You may pay for retreat at the door or in advance

**To reserve your spot RSVP by March 31 to Mary Afsharirad
 call or text 214-226-0225 or mja8591@gmail.com**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Fri, April 5	Activity	Sat, April 6	Activity
3:30 pm	Carpool from FLC (optional)	8:00 am	Breakfast & morning coffee
6:-6:45	Dinner – Dining Hall at Camp Shiloh	8:45 am	Group Activity
6:45pm	Gather and prepare for study	9:00 am	Morning Devotion
7:00 pm	Hymn Sing	9:15 am	Bible Study
7:15 pm	Bible Study	10:15 am	Free Time
8:45 pm	Evening Devotion	10:45 am	Bible Study & Closing
9:00 pm	Group Activity	Noon	Lunch
10:30 pm	Free time – Bed time	1:00 pm	Pack up and head home refreshed by the Word



It takes so little to do so much to save the life of a child ...

Real Estate for Life makes it easy for you to help **Lutherans For Life** by using funds a real estate company has already earmarked for commission fees at no extra cost to you.

Under real estate law, Real Estate for Life, will receive a referral fee. **Pro-life organizations will receive a donation of 100% of the profits of that fee.**

Here is how it works:

- You or friends decide to purchase a home or sell a home (or commercial property) anywhere in the world.
- You call Real Estate for Life first before you call a real estate company (i.e., an independent agency, Century 21, RE/MAX, etc.), and they will make the necessary arrangements with them to market your home.
- One phone call to Real Estate for Life, and you will be supporting Lutherans For Life!
- With that one call, Real Estate for Life will donate money already being spent on the services of a professional real estate broker on your behalf.



We find you a local experienced Agent in your neighborhood. *Customers assisted to date: 3387



With their help you successfully complete your residential or commercial Realty transactions.



A sizable donation is given to support a pro-life organization at absolutely no cost to you!

visit <https://www.realestateforlife.org/> : call **877.543.3871** :
text **248-431-1440** : email proliferealestate@yahoo.com



February 8, 2019

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
3501 W. 15th Street
Plano, TX 75075

Dear Friends in Christ at Lord of Life Lutheran Church:

Epiphany greetings to you! As we consider the ministry of our Lord during this season, my thoughts turn to exceptional servants of Jesus who help advance the ministry of the Texas District. Among the key individuals who serve so well is your pastor and other pastors who carry out the ministry of Circuit Visitor.

Circuit Visitors are the pastoral representatives of the District President and of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the congregations of their circuit. They help congregations who are in the calling process, give counsel to other professional church workers and lay leaders, strive to bring reconciliation in conflict, and bring a pastoral presence into all their dealings.

The position of Circuit Visitor is not an easy job. It is hard work, and it is usually done at the cost of the pastor's own free time or time with his family. Even more, what is required of him cannot be done without the support and understanding of the Circuit Visitor's own congregation.

I thank God that He has blessed Pastor Shaltanis with wonderful gifts for ministry, and I thank Pastor Shaltanis for his willingness to share those gifts with the larger church. But mostly I am writing to thank you for being willing to share your pastor with the rest of us, for allowing him time to attend special meetings, and for your love and care for him and his family.

When I was a parish pastor, the congregations I served always regarded the time I spent in District leadership as their gift to the church. They knew that they were not only sharing the gifts God had given their pastor, but that he was always learning through the experience in ways that would benefit their own ministry.

I hope you will continue to support Pastor Shaltanis in this special role, and I pray that the Lord will continue to bless our partnership in ministry.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Michael Newman
President

Cc: Rev. Joel Shaltanis

Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

7900 E. Highway 290 | Austin, TX 78724 | P: 512.926.4272 | TF: 800.951.3478 | F: 512.926.1006 | www.txlcms.org

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
- † Will meet on Sat. March 16th at 6:30 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 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. March 16th 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	Barbara Sinclair
3	Sam Ziegelbein
4	Sarah Tischler
7	Gary Holtzman
7	Caroline Loewecke
9	Karen Ashburn
9	Joanna Smith
10	Tom & Carol Read (40)
12	Ben & Monica Heffner (6)
13	Deb Dorak
13	Pastor Joel Shaltanis
14	Shelby Lund
16	Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (17)
18	Greg Kostrzewa
21	Bailey Schaub
21	Mickey & Becky Greer (44)
21	Stephen & Rebecca Strecker (38)
24	Andrew Raj
26	Stephen Strecker
27	Mark Ziegelbein
29	Cheryl Tyler
29	Stephen & Catherine Duff (11)
30	Nevelle Vess

Save the Date!

Take me out to the ballgame!

Frisco Rough Riders Game vs Amarillo Sod Poodles

Friday May 17th, 2019. 7:05 pm game, \$20 per ticket includes premium seating, premium meal basket, bottomless snacks and Dr. Pepper drink products. Parking is not included--\$5-\$10 depending upon where you park. See signup sheet in Narthex.

Serving in Worship in March

	March 3		March 10		March 17		March 24		March 31	
	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	Kunschke		Moudy		Lutek		Lutek		Ziegelbein	
Common Cup	S Peters	D Peters	D Peters	Ziegelbein	Read	Hite	Read	Kunschke	Read	Kunschke
Altar	Lynda Abbott, Kathy Hite and Barbara Sinclair									
Acolyte	Josh	Athan	Athan	Luke	Josh	Emma	Kaitlyn	Nate	Ashley	Mallia
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Manning	Martin	Bennett/Tyler	Hampton	Abbott/Moore	Vess	George
Sound	J Hacker	Hite	Moudy	Wolf	Wilkerson	Shaltanis	G Hacker	Reinert	Wolf	Hite
Usher	Scarth Shaltanis Bunger	Ozlowski Loewecke Ziegelbein	Paradise Read Frinsko	Cruz Carter Moudy	Bunger Ozlowski Messinger Prescott	Oltmann Berger Parish	C Hacker E Hacker Schrank	Buckmeier Short	Schrank E Hacker C Hacker	Buckmeier Short

Midweek Services

	March 6		March 13		March 20		March 27	
	1:00 PM	7:00 PM	1:00PM	7:00 PM	1:00 PM	7:00 PM	1:00PM	7:00 PM
Elder	Kunschke	Lutek	Read		D Peters	Moudy	D Peters	Moudy
Elder Assist	S Peters	Hite						
Sound		Wilkerson		G Hacker		Moudy		Shaltanis

FINANCIAL REPORT

January, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$54,080	\$42,172	\$11,908
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$54,080	\$42,172	\$11,908
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$46,606	\$44,710	\$1,896
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$7,474	(\$2,538)	\$10,012

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$123,153
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$138,091
3. Building Note Balance	\$265,687