

LIFELINES



of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Are you a disciple or a fan?

Popular Evangelical author, Kyle Idlemann wrote a book years ago called, “Not a Fan”. The book explored how so many Christians are more similar to fans of a sports team than to the disciples Jesus calls us to be. For example, sports fans are often fickle and temperamental. When the team is winning, the stands are full, but when the team is struggling, the fans stay home and maybe even switch their allegiance to another team. This is how many are with Jesus. They like Him. They think well of Him. When asked, they say they are on His team: “I’m a Christian.” But when things get tough, when being a Christian means real suffering (like Jesus promised,*) then the fans disappear. Their devotion only goes so far.

Jesus demands a total life-long commitment, not a passing fondness or appreciation whenever it is convenient for you. Think, for example, of His words to the disciples: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:37-39) This command to take up one’s cross is repeated in different contexts and sometimes the word “daily” is added, (see: Luke 9:23). To take up one’s cross also implies that following Jesus will involve punishment and suffering because in His day, crosses were instruments of death, not pretty pieces of jewelry!

It is difficult to think about our commitment to Jesus in these terms –in terms of suffering and dying for His cause. It is much easier to swallow (and you probably get a bigger following in the short term) when you suggest people should become fans of Jesus and root for His team. When we try and make the whole experience of being a Christian something that is fun, easy and enjoyable, we can probably get more hangers-on who claim to be Christians. But like the people at Capernaum who happily accepted free food from Jesus, then abandoned Him when He spoke about the mysteries of the kingdom, (John 6:60 ff.) people today do not stay on Jesus’ team if they are merely fans and not committed disciples.

In our day the world is increasingly hostile to Christians and the Christian Church. Our culture mocks Christian ideas and blames Christian leaders for failures and hypocrisies they readily tolerate among their own preferred leaders. Many fans of Jesus look at the situation and think Jesus’ team is losing. So what do they do? They switch allegiance to science or politics or just lose themselves in celebrity worship, constant entertainment, hedonism, or other idols. It is because so many had it wrong to begin with; they only thought of themselves as fans, not disciples.

The question I want you to consider is: Which one are you?

PrS

*For an example of some of the times Jesus and St. Paul told Christians to expect persecution see the following:

John 15:20: (Jesus replied...) “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. ...”

John 16:33: (Jesus replied...) “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

1 Thessalonians 3:3: ...that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.

2 Timothy 3:12: Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...



- **Reformation Day** was a great day. The church was full, the music was wonderful, and people stayed for hours enjoying each other's company with good food and fun times. Thanks for everybody who worked to make it a great day, especially Vicki and the many musicians who made such a joyful noise, and Carol Ozlowski who organized the meal and festivities, along with Gail Senter and others who put in a lot of work in the kitchen. It is very much appreciated.
- We added three **new members** last month. That is in addition to the 14 we added the previous month. We also have more good prospects on the horizon. God is good and blessing our congregation.
- The **college group** continues to meet on Sundays after the late service starting around Noon. Thanks to all who have made food for the group, it is greatly appreciated. If you know any 18-24 year old Christian youths who might be interested, invite them to join us or put them in touch with me: PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- **Viola Krohn** passed away Wednesday, October 20. She was 93 years old. You may recall that her sweetheart, Bill Pieper, died in April not long before her.

Vi was a fun and considerate person who lived a full life. Bill and Vi started worshipping with us at Lord of Life not long after I got here and I have always had a certain fondness for them both. Bill and Vi enjoyed attending worship and Bible Study, and when they could no longer attend worship, I would visit them in their home. At those times we prayed and read Scripture and I would bring them Holy Communion. Two years in a row, I was invited to their 90th birthday parties and I got to meet their families. I will miss them both. Over the last few years Vi grew increasingly hard of hearing, so much so, the last time I spoke with her, I was practically shouting at her! Nevertheless, even then, she was as sweet and kind as always and we smiled and laughed together. A few months ago, Vi's family moved her to Nebraska, where she grew up and raised her family. Accordingly, the memorial services and committal took place there. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily beareth our burden, Even the God who is our salvation. God is unto us a God of deliverances; And unto Jehovah the Lord belongeth escape from death" (Psalm 68:19-20, ASV).



Wednesday, November 24 at 7PM

Teen Times

I realize this is the November issue of *Lifelines*, but I would like to reflect on Sunday, October 31; the festival Sunday to commemorate the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. What a great day to be a Lutheran celebrating our heritage and the work of the Holy Spirit in Martin Luther who changed the world. Religion, politics, education, economics, and music were all impacted by the Reformation. We should also never forget the many volunteers who put on a fantastic Oktoberfest potluck meal our congregation enjoys following the worship service on Reformation Sunday! Brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, German potato salad, German chocolate cake; things I could dine on day in and day out. God is good!

This year, since Reformation Sunday is actually on Oct. 31, it just happens to be the same day that children looked forward to all month long. The opportunity to dress in their preferred superhero or princess costume and walk their neighborhood to knock on doors and exclaim, “trick-or-treat” hoping for a donation of their favorite candy. Halloween and its origins can be traced back 2000 years to an ancient Celtic festival. It eventually transformed by the 9th-10th century into All-hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day, November 1. As adults, we may reminisce about our own trick-or-treating experiences, but now we go with the flow on Halloween night and look forward to turning out the porch light to let Spider-man and Princess Anna (from the Pixar movie *Frozen*) know the party is over. Then that dreadful knock on the door at 9:30pm after the inflatable decorations have deflated, and a teenager halfway dressed with a skeleton mask, athletic shorts, and a high school hoodie holds a pillow case open for whatever candy you might have left. His friend(s) might look even better with a fake arrow stuck through their head. You might roll your eyes and think, “they are way too old to be doing this.” But, consider this:

These kids could be out partying with the “in crowd” getting sloshed on alcohol and/or drugs. Maybe they are just trying to escape a difficult situation at home for an hour or so, and trick-or-treating gives them the opportunity. Maybe they don’t have many other friends. The fact is that teenagers live in a hazy halfway world. They are not exactly children, but they are not exactly adults either. Next year when those awkward late night moments happen on your doorstep, have something extra prepared to slip into their knapsack with their candy. Perhaps a small flyer or publication explaining the meaning of the Protestant Reformation and the work of Martin Luther might be the seed that needs to be planted in their life sharing the message that we are saved by grace through faith. So when you hear the doorbell ring after all the smaller children have returned home with overflowing plastic pumpkins filled with goodies, place your leftover treats that you would have to eat anyway in their bags and tell them to be safe. It can’t hurt.

Until next time, God’s blessings this month and Happy Thanksgiving!

Scott Peters

*Portions and ideas for this article can be found at:

<https://www.todaysparent.com/kids/tween-and-teen/why-we-shouldnt-judge-teenagers-who-trick-or-treat-on-halloween/> by Kristen Thompson, Oct. 12, 2021



TIME FOR "THE TALK"...

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Any Questions?

Calling all HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

It's all around you – 24 hour news cycles, seemingly inescapable social media outlets – anyone can spread anything in the name of information instantly and worldwide.

*What have you heard about sex? Who do you have this conversation with?
Where do you find answers?*

Start here with "The Talk: What the Bible says about sex and why it says it"

God's Word and our culture say very different things on the topic of sex. Why? Does God want to deny us pleasure? Does being a Christian mean you are supposed to be repressed and uptight? We will look at what God's Word says about the good gift of sex and its proper use, but also the reasons why it says what it does. [Hint: God wants you and your family to be blessed.] We'll also discuss some of the myths and lies our culture tells about sex and leave time for Q&A.



WHEN: Thursday, November 4, 2021, 7:00pm

WHERE: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 3601 West 15th St.,
Plano TX 75075

WHAT: "The talk" all high schoolers need to hear, but likely won't engage their parents with. A Biblical look at the good gift of sex and its proper use presented by Rev. Joel Shaltanis, Lord of Life Lutheran Church Pastor, highly attended & long time presenter at Higher Things Youth Conferences, former college professor, current homeschool dad, and more.

Tell others, bring your friends, bring your questions
(Q & A to follow).

For more information contact info@planolutheran.com



The Endowment Committee is hosting a seminar on wills, estates & trusts November 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Lord of Life. Local family law attorney Susan Periquet returns as our speaker. Susan has conducted this planning event several years for our congregation and attendees have found the session extremely helpful. Hope to see you in attendance.

Pat Greer,
Chair LOL Endowment Committee



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 Fri. 11/19 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



NOVEMBER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Duncan Bennett
- 3 Jeff Loewecke
- 3 Sara Tweedie
- 4 Peggy Stagliano
- 5 Peyton LaPlante
- 7 Leo & Nora Parrent (52)
- 9 Jacob Hacker
- 9 Brooke Wilkerson
- 13 Ken Tabor
- 14 Stephan LaPlante
- 21 Stephani Cramer
- 21 Al Martin
- 22 Linda Delzer
- 23 Cameron Klein
- 24 Tom Ashburn
- 24 Dick Hemingway
- 25 Melissa Kunschke
- 26 Evelyn Buckmeier
- 28 Russ Wilkerson
- 28 Al & Norma Martin (64)
- 30 Haley Moore
- 30 Arlene Munden

prepare for worship in november

Nov. 7: All Saints' Day

Texts: Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Mark 5:1-12
Hymn of the Day: "For All the Saints," 677

Nov. 14: Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Dan. 12:1-3; Heb. 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-13
Hymn of the Day: "The Day Is Surely Drawing
Near," 508

Nov. 21: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Texts: Is. 51:4-6 or Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14; Jude 20-25
or Rev. 1:4b-8; Mark 13:24-37 or John 18:33-37
Hymn of the Day: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds
Descending," 336

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Eve

Texts: Deut. 8:1-10; Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4;
Luke 17:11-19
Hymn of the Day: "We Praise You, O God," 785

Nov. 28: First Sunday in Advent

Texts: Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36
Hymn of the Day: "Savior of the Nations, Come,"
332



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 9 Months Ending September 2021

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2021 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$415,320	\$425,335	(\$10,015)	\$581,908
Other	\$458	\$0	\$458	\$0
Total Income	<u>\$415,778</u>	<u>\$425,335</u>	<u>(\$9,557)</u>	<u>\$581,908</u>
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$414,940	\$410,090	\$4,850	\$550,845
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	\$33,936	\$23,220	\$10,716	\$30,960
Total Expenses	<u>\$448,876</u>	<u>\$433,310</u>	<u>\$15,566</u>	<u>\$581,805</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$33,098)	(\$7,974)	(\$25,124)	\$103
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$85,191			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$112,503			
Building Loan Balance	\$162,963			

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