

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

Vol. 36, No. 11

Plano, Texas

November 2022

### For All the Saints

As I write this, it is once again All Saints' Day – a day in which we traditionally remember those who have died since November 1<sup>st</sup> of last year. This year we have many dear souls to remember, including: Pat Montalbo, Shirley Sparks, Al Manning, Leo Parrent, June Edelmann, Ardis Bang, Helen Dolan, and Vera Hemingway. Yes, it's been a year full of funerals at Lord of Life and that doesn't even include a couple more "family members of members" whose funerals I was also involved with, including Charlie and Lynda Abbott's son, Jeff, and my wife, Phaedra's Aunt Lois.

Preparing funerals and comforting people all year long with our hope in Jesus in the face of death, has kept me constantly thinking about this subject over the last twelve months. It has reinforced for me the seriousness of what we do every Sunday and how so much of our religion is keeping steadfast in the faith so that we are prepared to die – which, of course, means dying with faith in Jesus.

Two such members of our congregation recently died with a strong faith in Jesus.



Helen Dolan is dearly missed by all her friends at church who have many fond memories of her. She died in October, just a few months shy of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Helen was such a unique character, she was full of energy, yet easy-going, joyful, sharp-witted, with a thick New York accent, and always dressed up! She was a very active member of our congregation for the last 17 years. Over the years I knew her, she would often ask me insightful theological questions that gave way to long and interesting discussions.

Helen died suddenly on a Saturday morning, and with just a week to plan it, we came up with an extraordinary service for Helen's memorial on the

following Saturday. She had many special requests for the service, including bagpipes! You can watch the service on our YouTube channel, just search "planolutheran" in the YouTube search bar.

On the same day that we were planning Helen's funeral, I got a call that Vera Hemingway was moments away from death. I got to the hospital in time to be with her when she died, and she passed away peacefully surrounded by family and loved ones as we prayed and read Scripture.



Vera and her husband, Dick, had just celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the month before, and Vera was just a little shy of living to be 100. She struggled these past few years with dementia and was unable to attend church, but when I arrived at Lord of Life 10 years ago, not a Sunday went by without seeing Dick and Vera in the front row at every 8:00 service. These last years I have gone to visit them regularly at their retirement community, to bring them communion, and Dick told me they would still listen to a recording of every church service on Sunday mornings. At Vera's funeral, one of the home health nurses who took care of Dick and Vera every weekend, a lady by the name of Philomena, said it was nice to finally meet me and put a face to my voice since she had been hearing me preach for years!

As I said, I was with Vera when she died. When I finished reading Scripture and saying the prayers and blessings, she had passed. One of the nurses told me it was while I was reading Revelation 7, which is also the text for All Saints' Day. It describes an awesome scene in heaven:

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying: ... <sup>14</sup> "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

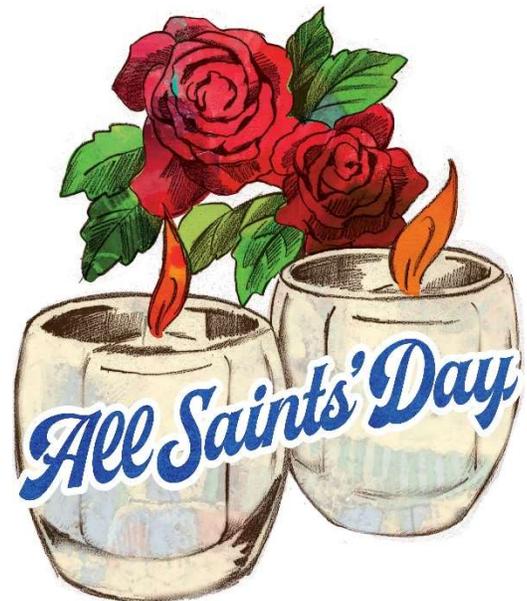
<sup>15</sup> "Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

God grant that all of us may die with this hope in our hearts that looks to Jesus and looks forward to this great gathering of all the saints in the Kingdom.

PrS



## Lord of Life Facilities Update From: The Board of Properties

Most everyone is aware of the construction zone located on the southeast corner of our church property. We were approached by the contractor working for the City of Plano several months ago to use the area while constructing the neighborhood partition along 15<sup>th</sup> Street, just east of our location. In return, a donation will be made to Lord of Life, as well as dressing up and leveling out the large open space of our property to smooth out the many rough and uneven spaces that exist. Having this matter addressed will be beneficial for a couple of reasons. The coarse terrain in the field has been an issue for quite some time, and it tends to be very hard on our mowing equipment. Thus, smoother ground could potentially reduce mower repair and maintenance costs. It will also help eliminate standing water problems after heavy rains. Additionally, at times there is childhood activity on the field and around the playground during church events and on Thursdays when the Classical Conversation Homeschool group meets at the church. Having the uneven areas leveled will help prevent future injuries to children using the field for outdoor activities. The city project is close to finishing, so the improvement to the church property should take place before the end of the year.

On another note, many of you may remember a presentation last summer by the Plano Police Department regarding information addressing an active shooter event. It was well received by both church and community members, and it raised the question: "if this were to happen, how well is Lord of Life prepared?" To help answer this, we requested a walk-through of our facilities by the same members of the Police Department team who gave the presentation. In late August, they spent about 1 ½ hours touring our building, offering advice, and asking questions about our current security systems and protocols. In a nutshell, there are several inexpensive improvements we can and will make to our facilities and procedures that will help increase safety and security in the event of an active shooter. The team of police officers also commented that Lord of Life is currently "very well equipped and far ahead of many area churches when it comes to security and being prepared in case this type of unfortunate event happens." So, any improvements we make will certainly enhance what is already in place. Lord willing, we will never experience this type of tragic incident.

For now, our facilities in are good operating condition. There are unexpected things that come up from time to time (i.e. an A/C compressor goes bad, minor plumbing issues), but it is mostly normal things that surface with an aging building. As a reminder, the last building phase including the church offices, kitchen remodel, fellowship hall, and youth room addition was completed 15 years ago. Times flies doesn't it, but God is good, all the time!

I hope to share updates from the Board of Properties more often with you in the future.

God bless.

Scott Peters  
Director of Property and Facilities



# Property Board

## What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It’s the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:

[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)





Thank you for all the prayers!  
Our sweet Brooks has been gaining weight  
and has his sodium levels under control.  
Please continue to pray for our family as  
we navigate the new "normal".

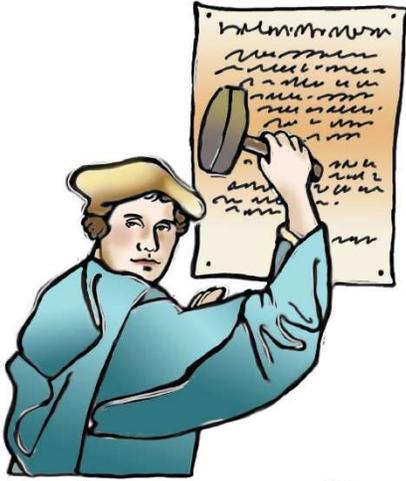
Love,  
Kayla, Nick, Brooks, Hartlyn



Thank you to all who shared such kind words and gave generous gifts in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Day. I was so surprised! I also truly felt appreciated. It is an honor to serve as your pastor and I thank you for the privilege.

-PrS

# Teen Times



## Reformation Day

The last Sunday in October is set aside in the Lutheran Church to celebrate and recognize the beginning of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther's bold act of posting the 95 thesis on the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. The story of Martin Luther's life is the first thing that is shared and discussed with the newest group of confirmation students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Lord of Life. They learn about the strict upbringing in his early childhood and his struggle as a teenager to only know God as an angry judge whom he could never please, and who wanted to punish people. Luther had never seen a Bible until he was a young man in college. He discovered that the Bible

included things that were different from what he had heard and had been taught. God doesn't want to punish sinners, but to save them! And what's more, God's forgiveness is free to everyone who believes because God loves us. It does not have to be earned! This led Martin to do a very heroic thing; to question the church practices and leaders who had mislead the people for a long time. God's Word changed the course of Luther's life and it changes ours as well.

Have you ever thought about how fortunate you really are? The Holy Spirit has been working in you since your baptism and He has helped your faith grow for as long as you can remember. Your parents, pastors, and Sunday school teachers have all played a part in your journey to know God's love through Jesus as your Savior. Your parents brought you to church at a young age to worship and learn stories from the Bible, and then you confessed your faith in front of the congregation when you were confirmed, then continued to grow your faith through the Word and Sacraments; you have been given an incredible gift. It is something you should cherish your entire life. Reformation Sunday is a day to remember that God changed the lives of many, many people through the actions of one man. That man, Martin Luther, was also changed through the actions of one man, Jesus Christ. Just like he changed Luther, he has changed us too.

May God continue to bless you and nurture your faith in Christ.

Until next time,  
Scott Peters

## Lord of Life Small Groups

### 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 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
- † Will meet Sat., November 19 at 3:00 PM

### COLLEGE GROUP

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meet after the late service for lunch and Bible study

## prepare for worship in november

### Nov. 6: All Saints' Day

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

### Nov. 13: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Mal. 4:1-6; 2 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)  
Hymn of the Day: "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near," 508

### Nov. 20: Last Day of the Church Year

Texts: Mal. 3:13-18; Col. 1:13-20; Luke 23:27-43  
Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor,"

### Nov. 23: 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. 27: First Sunday in Advent

Texts: Is. 2:1-5; Rom. 13:(8-10) 11-14; Matt. 21:1-11 or Matt. 24:36-44  
Hymn of the Day: "Savior of the Nations, Come," 332



# NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Duncan Bennett
- 3 Jeff Loewecke
- 3 Sara Tweedie
- 4 Peggy Stagliano
- 6 Hannah Kade
- 9 Jacob Hacker
- 9 Brooke Wilkerson
- 13 Ken Tabor
- 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 (65)
- 30 Arlene McDuffee
- 30 Haley Moore
- 30 Arlene Munden

## Reducing Our Debt

### UPDATE

Note Balance 2/20/2022	\$148,208
Principal Paid since 2/20/2022	<b>\$67,126</b>
Note Balance 10/31/2022	\$81,082



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
**Summarized Statement of Activity**  
**9 Months Ending September 30, 2022**

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2022 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
Regular Offerings	417,558	417,018	540	560,692
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>417,558</b>	<b>417,018</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>560,692</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolences	29,169	29,191	(22)	39,248
Elders	284,156	289,728	(5,572)	386,297
Education	298	750	(452)	1,000
Outreach	94	400	(306)	600
Office Expenses	9,553	9,255	298	12,090
Utilities	29,296	26,380	2,916	33,415
Property Maintenance	28,183	21,530	6,653	34,440
Stewardship	0	350	(350)	350
Family Ministries	1,102	3,490	(2,388)	5,290
Youth Board	2,779	5,300	(2,521)	6,100
Children's Ministry	595	5,150	(4,555)	6,700
Admin Council	1,947	1,950	(3)	2,600
Total Operating Expense	387,172	393,474	(6,302)	528,131
Mortgage Payment	23,220	23,220	0	30,960
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>410,392</b>	<b>416,694</b>	<b>(6,302)</b>	<b>559,091</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>7,166</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>6,842</b>	<b>1,601</b>
<b>Other Information:</b>				
Operating Fund Balance	\$113,359			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$121,264			
Building Loan Balance	\$84,788			