

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Defending Martin Luther

We celebrate the Reformation every October, as it was October 31st, 1517 when Martin Luther, a young Augustinian friar at the time, nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. This event was the spark that ignited the Reformation. What you may not know, is that near the end of his life, Martin Luther wrote an unfortunate treatise that his critics love to bring up and blow out of proportion. Recently, I was asked about (or confronted with) Martin Luther's anti-Semitic comments in his infamous treatise, *On the Jews and their Lies*, first published in 1542. It was a genuine question from someone who was attending our church but in light of Luther's comments, has decided not to be a Lutheran. The person could not comprehend why anyone today

would want to be associated with Martin Luther in light of some positions he held 500 years ago.

The subject of Luther's antisemitism is something that comes up from time to time and is brought up by opponents of Luther seeking to discredit him and the church that bears his name. So, I thought I would share with you my response and recommend to you two books on the matter: *The Fabricated Luther: The Rise and Fall of Shirer Myth* by Uwe Siemon-Netto (which is in our church library) and *In Defense of Martin Luther*, by John Warwick Montgomery. Both of these address this issue in more detail, but here was my quick response. I hope this helps in case you ever find yourself defending Luther against those who seek to cancel him.

Luther's treatise was certainly something that has long ago been condemned. It was an embarrassment when he wrote it 500 years ago and people at the time told him. It is the rantings of an old man who believed a lot of popular yet persistent myths and rumors -like, "Jews have all the money and too much influence in society." Fortunately, that particular writing never had much traction. That is, it was never influential and was largely ignored for centuries, that is, until the Nazis. People have tried to claim that the Nazis were influenced by Luther, (most famously, William Shirer's *Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*) but that is simply untrue. Luther was not opposed to Jews based on race or ethnicity, for example, he never spoke of a "master race". His disappointment with the Jews was largely theological -that they refused to convert to Christianity, something the Nazis didn't care about at all. The Nazi's hatred was fueled by racialism pure and simple, but they saw in Luther's treatise a way to get more people to buy into their antisemitism, so they claimed him as a kindred spirit. Luther was also a nationalist like many in his day, so the

Nazis could also appeal to him on that account. There are books written on the subject that go into depth and we have one in our church library if you are interested in learning more.

But perhaps more importantly you should understand that unlike Roman Catholics with the pope or Mormons with their prophet, Lutherans are not bound to anything Luther wrote or said. Luther is not our pope or prophet. Luther was a teacher of Scripture and like all teachers, he sometimes got things wrong. While Lutherans today appreciate Luther's many great contributions to the Christian faith (like his Catechisms) where he got things wrong, we simply reject it. To that end, there are no Lutherans today who think Luther got it right on the Jews.



Final thought; Luther was a man of his times. Rampant antisemitism has unfortunately been the norm throughout Europe and we still see it today, just as racism and sexism were normal throughout much of history. While Luther's words are horrible to our modern ears, they were less so in his own day. They were condemned, but with an eye-roll and not the outrage they would meet if written today. It is a modern Leftist idea that wants to tear down statues of Thomas Jefferson or George Washington because they held slaves and weren't perfect by today's standards. Most Americans praise Jefferson and Washington for their outstanding contributions to the country (and the world) without condoning their views and practice of holding slaves. I think the same grace should be extended to Luther. While Lutherans rightly condemn and reject Luther's antisemitism, we can also acknowledge and appreciate his great contributions to the Church.

PrS

*“People judge by
outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at
the heart.”*

1 Samuel 16:7b, NLT

Reducing Our Debt

UPDATE

Note Balance 2/20/2022	\$148,208
Principal Paid since 2/20/2022	\$63,420
Note Balance 08/31/2022	\$84,788

Fund balance as of 2/20/2022	\$2,155
From Memorials	\$6,815
From regular givers	\$8,153
From new givers	\$31,430
Total given since 2/20/2022	\$46,398
Regular payments since 2/20/2022	\$15,656
Total funds available this year	\$64,209
Still in fund (subtract)	\$788
Principal Paid since 2/20/2022	\$63,420



Lutheran World Relief

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life will be assembling kits on November 5th to ship out on November 12th. 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 October 30th.

The kits include:

- (1) light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52") dark color recommended,
- (2or3) bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz in original wrapping,
- (1) adult size toothbrush,
- (1) sturdy comb,
- (1) pair of metal nail clippers.



Cash donations are also needed to cover shipping costs. (Make checks payable to LOL, note for LWR shipping)

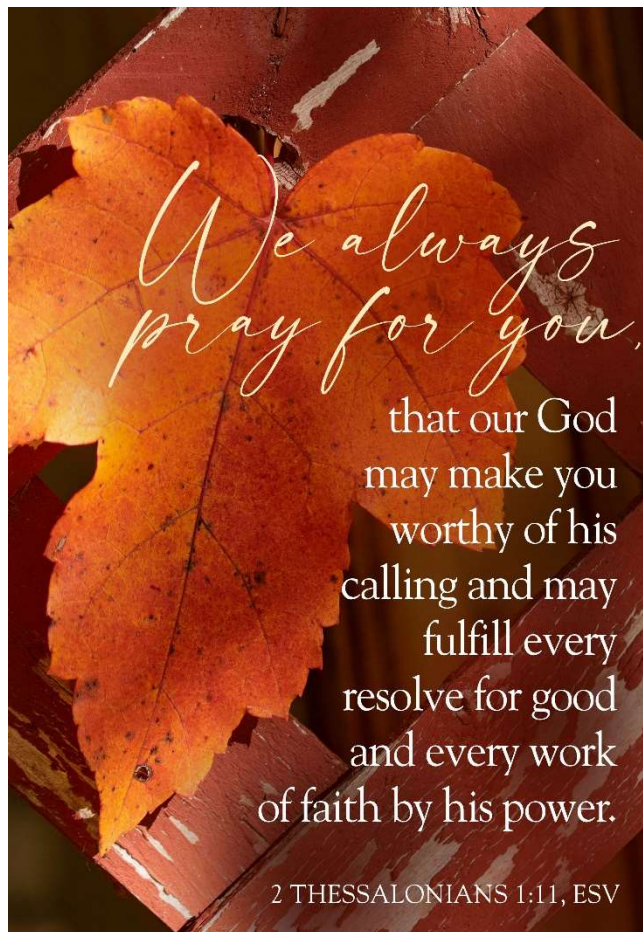


REFORMATION Sunday

An Oktoberfest potluck lunch will be hosted by Family Ministry on Reformation Sunday, October 30th after our **one** service at 10:00 AM. Come enjoy a delicious lunch, play some games, and celebrate the Reformation!

Brats, hotdogs, and sodas will be provided by the church. Attendees are invited (but not required) to bring a favorite side dish or dessert: German potato salad, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage, Green Bean Casserole, Mac & Cheese, Spätzle, Cucumber Salad, Rye Bread, Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, German Chocolate and/or Black Forest Cake, etc.

Please RSVP in the narthex. Contact Gail at 972.672.5769 or gail.senter@yahoo.com if you are available to assist with planning of this event or have ideas for activities.



“We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for



Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



LWML Dal-North Zone Fall Event

SATURDAY, OCT 29, 2022
REGISTRATION AT 9:30

COST SHARING:

\$10 PER RESERVED PERSON

RSVP: BY OCT 8TH TO LISA NUMRICH
JESSICASMOM0425@YAHOO.COM OR
972-841-9941

SPEAKER: DEBORAH ADAMS-PAPER FOR WATER

INGATHERING: FREE WILL DONATION FOR PAPER FOR WATER

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 4000 Midway Rd



Christmas? Already? Yes, it is time to think about attending the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Holiday Concert. This year we will be attending on Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please add your name to the list on the table in the narthex. The tickets are \$40 each. At this time, the Symphony Association is indicating that masks will NOT be required. Payment for the tickets will be due no later than Sunday, November 6, as the symphony is requiring payment one month prior to the concert date. Adding your name to the list does not obligate you to attend; however tickets will not be purchased for you until payment is received. Envelopes will be provided for returning your payment to Gail Senter. Cash or checks made out to Lord of Life Lutheran Church will be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Gail at 972.672.5769 or gail.senter@yahoo.com.

“Little Faith”

Luke 17:5-6 - The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Okay, this bugs me. The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, and what does He say in return? "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed," you could do this and that marvelous thing. But they aren't doing those things right now, are they? So what does that say about the size of their faith? It looks remarkably like Jesus is saying, "You think your faith is small? You're right. It's even smaller than a mustard seed!" Which doesn't seem very helpful.

That may be unfair of me. After all, the disciples actually did do miracles when they were out on their preaching trips. They also did them after Jesus died and rose again, during the days of the brand-new Christian church. So maybe I'm reading this wrong.

But what it also says to me is that the size of our faith might not be the most important thing to worry about. The real question is, who do we have faith in? If we have monumentally huge faith, but it's in the wrong god—a false god, an idol of any kind—well, that does nobody any good. But if we have tiny, tiny faith—smaller than a mustard seed, barely enough to be called "faith" at all—as long as that faith is in Jesus, that is all that matters. The Holy Spirit will do His work in our hearts, and eventually we will grow. But even from the tiniest beginning, we belong to Jesus—saved by His death on the cross, made alive forever by His resurrection power.

And so when Jesus refers to us as "you of little faith," I will maybe hang my head a bit and blush. But He still has His hands around me, and around you, and everyone who trusts in Him—even the littlest of us. And He is great enough to keep us forever, this Savior who gave His own life for us, to make us God's again.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, keep my faith centered in You, and cause me to grow in You. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Reflection Questions:

1. Just for smiles, what size would you rate your own faith at?
2. Do you think it has grown since you first belonged to Jesus?
3. How has God worked to increase your faith in Him?

Today's Bible Readings: [Isaiah 45-46](#) [Romans 8:22-39](#)

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 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., October 29 at 3:00 PM

COLLEGE GROUP

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

prepare for worship in october

Oct. 2: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10
Hymn of the Day: "I Know My Faith Is Founded," 587

Oct. 9: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ruth 1:1-19a; 2 Tim. 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19
Hymn of the Day: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old," 846

Oct. 16: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 32:22-30; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
Hymn of the Day: "I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name," 734

Oct. 23: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 4:1-15; 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-17
Hymn of the Day: "In God, My Faithful God," 745

Oct. 30: Reformation

Texts: Rev. 14:6-7; Rom. 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19
Hymn of the Day: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," 656



OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike Paradise, III
- 1 Mark & Kathy Plagens (45)
- 3 Frank Edelmann
- 3 Curtis Peters
- 6 Norma Martin
- 6 Gary Nuschler
- 6 Bennie & Paula Lowery (15)
- 7 Georgianna Womak
- 9 Susan Gromatzky
- 10 Rose Moore
- 10 Emory Smith
- 10 Craig Stevens
- 11 Tim Ozlowski
- 13 Alex Ozlowski
- 14 Travis & Elisabeth Bennett (5)
- 15 Margaret Duff
- 16 Adam Buckmeier
- 22 Sal & Julz Cruz (11)
- 23 Janet Sanders
- 23 Don & Paula Bunger (8)
- 24 Mike & Sherri Kunschke (35)
- 31 Ruth Bernhardt
- 31 Jonah Carter
- 31 Judie Dibbern
- 31 Daniel Ozlowski
- 31 Kevin & Jessica Reeves (2)



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Summarized Statement of Activity
8 Months Ending August 31, 2022

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2022 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$370,122	\$375,540	-\$5,418	\$560,692
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$370,122	\$375,540	-\$5,418	\$560,692
Expenses				
Benevolences	\$25,849	\$26,288	-\$439	\$39,248
Elders	\$254,403	\$257,536	-\$3,133	\$386,297
Education	\$194	\$600	-\$406	\$1,000
Outreach	\$94	\$400	-\$306	\$600
Office Expenses	\$8,775	\$7,710	\$1,065	\$12,090
Utilities	\$26,032	\$23,555	\$2,477	\$33,415
Property Maintenance	\$19,437	\$20,110	-\$673	\$34,440
Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
Family Ministries	\$1,132	\$3,490	-\$2,358	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$2,723	\$5,200	-\$2,477	\$6,100
Children's Ministry	\$595	\$4,500	-\$3,905	\$6,700
Admin Council	\$1,742	\$1,700	\$42	\$2,600
Total Operating Expense	\$340,976	\$351,089	-\$10,113	\$528,131
Mortgage Payment	\$20,640	\$20,640	\$0	\$30,960
Total Expenses	\$361,616	\$371,729	-\$10,113	\$559,091
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$8,506	\$3,811	\$4,695	\$1,601
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$105,874			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$128,557			
Building Loan Balance	\$91,688			