

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 34, No. 9

Plano, Texas

September 2020

Martin Hans Franzmann

For the past few months I have been preaching from the book of Romans. As mentioned a few weeks ago in a sermon, one of the commentaries I have found particularly helpful was one written by Martin Franzmann. If you do not know this name already, well, you should and you will after reading this!

Martin Hans Franzmann (1907-1976) was a great theologian and churchman. He taught at Concordia Seminary St. Louis from 1946-1969 and was the head of the exegetical department (i.e. the department that teaches how to read the Bible in the original Greek and Hebrew.) Franzmann wrote Bible commentaries on Romans, Matthew, and Revelation and also the Concordia Self-Study Commentary on the entire New Testament. All of this is to say he was an accomplished theologian. However, if you recognize this man's name, it is likely not because of his academic works, but rather, his hymns.

Franzmann wrote several hymns, and six of them are found in our hymnal, Lutheran Service Book. Most notably is hymn # 578, "Thy Strong Word."

Thy Strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness.
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia without end! (verse 3)

We sing this hymn regularly in worship and often on Reformation Day. This relatively recent hymn (it is about 50 years old) is beloved and certainly on the list of all-time favorites among many Lutherans today. One critic wrote of it: "Such a text as this is clearly not "hymn lite." It demands that we think as we sing. It weaves poetry and theology into a sturdy yet beautiful fabric." This was true of "Thy Strong Word" and of Martin Franzmann in general.

As an academic and an artist he excelled in both theology and poetry. This comes through in all of his writings, both hymn texts that cause you to think and textbooks that move you to pause and weigh the powerful and well-crafted words on the page.

As you can probably tell by now, I am a fan of this man and his work. I have every book he wrote. But not until recently. I happened to look at a bibliography and saw a title with which I was unfamiliar. It was a short book of prayers published in 1970 called Pray for Joy. In it, both Franzmann the artist and theologian come through on every page. The prayers offer deep theology for reflection and they are written as poetry to the Lord. They read like contemporary Psalms. Two of them are included below for your consideration. I thought they were timely since one is about protestors and the other is on behalf of politicians! I recommend you read/pray them carefully and more than once. There is much in them to reflect upon if you will take the time.

Many blessings in Christ,

PrS



For Men in Protest

O furious Cleanser
of the house of God,
O blaster of the fruitless tree,
Look in mercy on these men
whose love compels them to spell out in act
their anguished impatience
at the sloth of law,
their no to legal illegalities,
their militant compassion
for the wronged
and all the nameless,
faceless
poor and dispossessed.
Keep them from intoxication
With their rightness.

Give them charity toward those
who cannot be as militant as they,
who walk down other, longer roads
toward the same goal.

Preserve them from driving
the wedge of power
so deep into the grain
of structured equity
that all goes crashing.

Bid them guard with care the flame
that breaks so quickly into a fire
that makes an indifferent holocaust
of all the works
of Your judicial hand.

Lord, give us all
a heart of quick compassion,
wisdom to plan and execute
before the too-late of our action
breeds the swarms of scorpions
whose sting shall make us all
long for death we cannot find.

For Charity Toward Men in Office

Almighty God,
You have ordained the authorities that are;
You have clothed them in a majesty
that is higher and stronger
than the given facts of their history,
a majesty that wakens fear in us
and claims honor from us.

O God, remember in Your mercy
the men who bear the burden of this majesty,
men like us, easily bent
by the pressure of temptation,
by the impact of expediency.

Remember them and strengthen them
when they are moved
to shade the truth to their own ends,
to withhold what should be told,
to distort what must be told,
to disclose what does not serve
our common weal.

Keep intact their honor and their credibility.

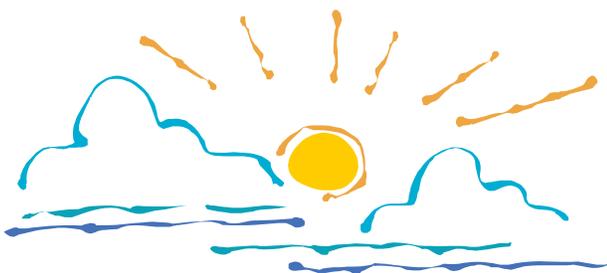
Purge us, O God,
of cynical distrust,
of party passion,
of the deafness
of our rebellious bent.

Teach us, O Lord, the meekness
that would rather be deceived
than be encrusted
with perpetual distrust.

Teach the charity
that will interpret
all uncertainties
toward the side of goodness.

Create in our world
an air in which
the truth can freely breathe,
a sea on which
the ships of truth can sail,
an earth on which
the feet of truth can walk unhurt.

Your Son, our Lord,
would not speak ill of Caesar
even when Caesar's power
nailed Him to the cross.
Give us the Spirit of Your Son.



This too shall pass.



We've heard it said that with every challenge comes an opportunity, and our current pandemic has certainly provided us with some unusual challenges. One of the opportunities that has come from this crisis is the ability to view our services online. We are currently streaming our 8am service real-time to the internet via YouTube. This provides our members who are unable to attend worship to experience the service, listen to the Word and preaching, and provide them with some normalcy regarding their worship life.

Let me provide some information to those who are interested in viewing our services online and perhaps provide some additional tips to those currently streaming the services.

We are utilizing the YouTube streaming service to provide the service video real-time, as well as storage for these videos for future viewing. YouTube provides this service for free, and many churches use them to provide this capability for their members.

Firstly - how do I find the Lord of Life services online? The 2 main ways to find the services are from our website planolutheran.com - or directly from YouTube. There is also an email that goes out on Sunday morning that includes a link to the Lord of Life website where the service videos are listed out along with the bulletins. To find the services directly from YouTube, I have found that the easiest way is to search on YouTube for planolutheran.com. That will bring up the videos from our weekly Sunday live streams and also show the link to the Lord of Life YouTube channel.

What devices can I view these videos on? Really any device that can run YouTube is capable of viewing the videos. Amazingly, YouTube can run on almost any device that has a screen. That includes computers/laptops, ipads, and smartphones. It also includes TVs that are either Smart TVs, or a TV connected to a streaming device like a Roku device or Amazon Fire Stick. Watching the service videos on TV is my favorite way of experiencing them - the screen is bigger, and the sound is typically better as well.

If you have been watching the services you know that the format has changed somewhat since the beginning. We have gotten some improved camera equipment that has allowed us to get better video, and by incorporating the sound system, our sound for the live stream videos has improved as well. We will continue to make some changes to improve the overall quality of the service recordings, and I plan to install some new camera equipment in the next few weeks.

In conclusion, although these Live Stream videos are an imperfect device for participating in worship services - I hope they are a blessing to those members that are unable to physically attend church. They might also be useful as a tool to bring the Word to others outside our church. Consider providing links to particularly meaningful services or sermons to persons that may be interested in what we as Lutherans believe.

If you are a homebound member that would like some assistance or information on viewing these videos or watching the services LIVE - please contact your elder, myself, or the church office and we will do our best to assist you.

Doug Hite
Board of Elders

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
- † Usually meet one Sat. a month at 2:30 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 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
- † Usually meet one Sat. a month 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

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Devrie Hahn
- 2 Bill Bennett
- 2 Candace Klein
- 2 Fred & Ruth Bernhardt (53)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 4 Vera Hemingway
- 4 Sarah Sims
- 6 Joshua Prescott
- 6 Hannah Sims
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (56)
- 8 Myrna Schulze
- 9 Mary Ravitz
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (10)
- 10 Chris & Deb Dorak (37)
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 12 Dick & Vera Hemingway (73)
- 15 Marian Krehmeyer
- 16 Pete Ehrett
- 16 Andrew Short
- 18 Ernie & Susan Gromatzky (49)
- 19 Christian Klein
- 21 Angie Buckmeier
- 21 Christi Hampton
- 21 Mike Scaglione
- 22 Mike Kunschke
- 23 Nora Parrent
- 23 Rob Reinert
- 26 Mirien Senter
- 27 Jerry Parish
- 29 Carl Carper
- 29 David Dorak
- 30 Ardis Bang
- 30 Beverly Moudy





prepare for worship in september

Sept. 6: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezk. 33:7-9; Rom. 13:1-10; Matt. 18:1-20

Hymn of the Day: "My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker," 820

Sept. 13: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 50:15-21; Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

Hymn of the Day: "Come Down, O Love Divine," 501

Sept. 20: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 55:6-9; Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30; Matt. 20:1-16

Hymn of the Day: "Salvation unto Us Has Come," 555

Sept. 27: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezk. 18:1-4; Phil. 2:1-4, 14-18; Matt. 21:23-27

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" 655



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 6 Months Ending July 2020

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 20 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$314,645	\$324,982	(\$10,336)	586,549
Other	\$1,248	\$0	\$1,248	0
Total Income	\$315,894	\$324,982	(\$9,088)	586,549
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$288,833	\$323,491	(\$34,658)	\$552,379
Mortgage (P&I)	\$25,754	\$19,887	\$5,867	\$34,092
Total Expenses	\$314,587	\$343,378	(\$28,791)	\$586,471
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$1,307	(\$18,397)	\$19,703	\$78
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$98,448			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$125,243			
Building Loan Balance	\$206,790			

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