

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Matthew 25:36

In this time of Covid, isolation and loneliness have increased. Due to quarantines and lock downs, many older folks in particular have needed to avoid contact with others. This has raised some concern for the homebound members of our congregation who have been adversely affected. For example, at a recent Board of Outreach meeting, the issue of visiting our homebound members was raised. What can we do to ensure that people are not forgotten? The discussion that followed was a good one, and the upshot was that I would write a few words on the subject for this newsletter.

Visitation is an important part of a pastor's job. I keep a list of the members who are homebound or shut-in and attempt to visit them regularly. At these visits I pray and read Scripture as well as offer them the Sacrament of the Altar. When someone is unable to come to

church, in a small way, I bring “church” to them. Likewise, the elders will also call and check in on members under their care and visit them in the hospital or at other times praying and encouraging them, especially if I am unavailable. As with everything else, Covid has made pastoral visitation more complicated, nevertheless, the visits have continued even if they are not as frequent as before.

While pastoral visitation is expected, it is in no way exclusive. That is, pastors and elders are not the only people in the church who can visit members of the congregation and encourage them with Christian fellowship, prayer, and Bible reading. It's an obvious point, but perhaps, one that needs reminding. As church members, we are all part of a community. That means we share in each other's joys and help to carry one another's burdens. As Paul says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those

who weep.” (Romans 12:15) And, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1st Cor. 12:26) Note the inclusiveness: “all” “together”. Not just the pastor, but everyone shares in each other's joys and burdens even if we don't all do this the same way.

Not every member of the church can or should be involved in visiting the sick and the lonely. For some this is a very natural and easy thing to do, while others find it awkward and uncomfortable. We do not all have the same gifts and interests. But all of us should be mindful of our brothers and sisters. “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4) This is especially important if you haven't seen someone at church in a while or if you know a person is unable to get out and socialize, if they are recovering from some recent illness or procedure, or suffering a recent



trauma like the loss of a loved one. Being mindful of others in our congregation can prompt us to check in on them for a visit. And visitation can also take numerous forms.

As we have learned from the pandemic, much can be done online that no longer requires us to be physically present. The internet allows us to have virtual meetings –which is great in some regards. Yet, we all know there is no substitute for being there. Nevertheless, a Zoom or Facetime call or even just a phone call is better than nothing. Let me encourage you to look in on one another, to pick up the phone and call or drive over to see someone. Isolation and loneliness are no small matters, and simply taking the time to call or visit can brighten your brother or sister's day and assure them they are not alone.

PrS

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James 1:27



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.
Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life will be assembling kits on November 6th to ship out on November 13th. 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 31st.

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 (4 to 5 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)



Janis Faye Carper, 8/29/1941 - 7/10/2021

Jan Carper passed away on July 10. She was dearly loved and is sorely missed. I considered Jan a good friend and I suspect many people did. She truly loved people and could carry on a conversation with anyone. In addition, she was a lot of fun. She loved to laugh and had a great sense of humor. She was generous, kind, and enjoyed serving and volunteering at church. Jan was so well-loved, that she actually required two funerals! We had a well-attended funeral at Lord of Life a week after she died, and another large funeral one week later in Albaton, IA. Albaton is a tiny unincorporated town which is home to Skien Lutheran Church. This beautiful Norwegian Lutheran church is over 100 years old and was where Jan grew up. Family members are still there and her parents are buried out back in the cemetery adjacent to the church. Jan now lies next to them, just as she wanted.

Jan fought cancer for more than a decade. We prayed for her many times, but now she no longer requires our prayers. She is with our God and rests in perfect peace.

Teen Times

This past June, the Sunday morning IMPACT Bible class began a study series titled “Take Aim.” It is part of a six year Bible Study curriculum called *TEACH DEEP* that I acquired several years ago at the beginning of my time serving Lord of Life as Director of Youth Ministry. “Take Aim” focuses on what Jesus commanded us to do in the Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

The lesson that the youth are currently learning deals with Jesus directing us to “make disciples.” In order to do that, we need to know exactly what a disciple is. The lesson uses the word disciple as an acronym, D-I-S-C-I-P-L-E, to form an in-depth description. After all, we need to be clear on what a disciple *is* before we can make one. The following are excerpts from the lesson:

D – Discipline - There were times for those early followers, if they were to be disciples, that it would take some work. It would take discipline. To be a disciple, then, means the same thing. There are times when we are required to do things, unpleasant-at-the-time things, which God asks of us. It is not always easy to do.

I – Identity - To be a disciple means what I am and what is “mine” is now “His”. As a disciple, what things were most valuable to me I am now asked to hold onto loosely. We recognize that we are just “stewards” of the things we have. They really belong to Jesus; they’re just on loan to us here.

S – Student - A disciple today is still a student. We are to take time to learn what He said, and what it means. It takes sacrifice, because time we spend learning about Jesus could obviously be spent doing something else. It takes a deep interest in learning more and more about what Jesus taught, and how that applies to us today.

C – Committed - Commitment is defined as: “the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, or course of action”. It is a resolution to push on without turning back. Jesus clearly teaches the importance of the determination to press on and not turn away when he says

“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

I – Integrity - One definition of this word is “the state of being whole or undivided.” What I am on the outside is what I am on the inside. I can not have a split loyalty with part of me wanting to follow after Jesus and another part of me doing my own thing. Jesus said it plainly; “No one can serve two masters.”

P – Personal - As a human, Jesus chose 12 men to have a very close, cherished relationship with. However, as God, He wants us all to have that same kind of relationship by the power of the Holy Spirit through regular worship, studying His Word, receiving the sacraments, and prayer. This characteristic is the one source for all of the others.

L – Lorded over - Even as Jesus gave the Great Commission, the point of making disciples was that they would be people who would be taught “to observe all that I commanded you.” Whether I live like it or not, Jesus is Lord of everything. But as a disciple, He becomes the Lord over all my decisions. Obedience is the issue.

E – Endurance - It has been said that our journey of faith is not a sprint, it’s a marathon. Nowhere in Scripture do we find that following after Jesus would be easy. Quite the contrary, many trials and difficulties would lie ahead. If we are just “interested” in Jesus, it’s not that difficult. Simply put, it’s hard! To be a d-i-s-c-i-p-l-e, we **MUST** have the “E”.

If you think about it, these are characteristics could be applied to every aspect of our lives. The world we live in today needs to hear the Gospel and the Love of God through Jesus Christ more than ever. As Christians, we are told to baptize first for the forgiveness of sins, and then teach those around us to observe all that Christ commands us. He sums this up in Mark chapter 12. That is to:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Being a disciple of Jesus will never be a walk in the park, but one day, we will get to walk with Him in Heaven. It’s worth it!

Until next time,
Scott

Peters

LWML Dal-North Fall Event

Saturday, October 9, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church, Wylie

615 Parker Road, Wylie 75098



9:30 Registration \$8

10:00 Start Time

12:00 Lunch

Fruit of the Spirit

Bible Study

Business Meeting

Deaconess Amanda Curry, Speaker

Lunch

Ingathering Offering:

LCMS Disaster Response – Haiti

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Helping the hurting amid disaster.

Questions: Roberta Lowery

rklowery@aol.com

469-267-4180





Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ
at Lord of Life,

On behalf of our seminary in the DR, its
faculty and students, I want to express our
thanks for the amazing gift from Lord of Life
to support our scholarships and projects.

From day 1 you have supported my family
and I on the field and with encouragement
and leadership of Pastor Shaltanis, you have
gone all in. We are truly blessed by your

heart for our mission and ministry and look
forward to many more years of partnering
with you for the work of the Gospel of
Christ in the DR and in Latin America.

May God bless your mission and ministry
of the Gospel in Plano and beyond!

THANK YOU!!!

Un abrazo grande en



Dear Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

Thank you all so very much for the generous financial support you provided my family and I recently. Your support has truly been a blessing as it gave us a good measure of financial stability upon entering a new chapter of our journey through Seminary. Please know that I give thanks to God for you and your generosity, and you all are certainly in my prayers.

With your help, my family and I have successfully completed our move from Fort Wayne, Indiana to Capistrano Beach, California, and I've officially been installed as Vicar at Faith Lutheran Church. I'm pleased to say we're settling in well and getting adjusted to life here quite nicely. So far, vicarage has been very busy, but, for the short time I've spent in this role, I can say I've found this labor in the service of our Lord to be eminently gratifying. I pray this trend will only continue in the months to come. If you all are interested, my vicarage congregation will be publishing all of my sermons online at faithcapo.com. Please feel free to listen and email me any feedback you might have (vicar@faithcapo.com).

In any case, my family and I certainly wish to be with you all again in the near future. As I remember you all and think of the time I've spent at Lord of Life, I'm filled with many fond memories. I hope to make more! Thank you all again, and may God bless you and strengthen your faith in our Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.

In His Service,

Vicar Nicholas Belcher



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 Sat. 9/18 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 (54)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 4 Vera Hemingway
- 4 Sarah Sims
- 6 Joshua Prescott
- 6 Hannah Sims
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (57)
- 8 Myrna Schulze
- 9 Mary Ravitz
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (11)
- 10 Chris & Deb Dorak (38)
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 12 Dick & Vera Hemingway (74)
- 16 Pete Ehrett
- 16 Andrew Short
- 18 Ernie & Susan Gromatzky (50)
- 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

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