

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

Vol. 33, No. 9

Plano, Texas

September 2019

The Highest of All Virtues

The readings for last Sunday dealt with the topic of humility. This is an important subject for every Christian to consider. It is also a topic rather difficult to write about. The problem is, the main symptom of sin is selfishness and none of us is a perfect model of humility. Then there is also the difficult trap of false humility. This is the temptation to end up going on about humility so that you end up boasting about how humble you are! Fortunately, many have written well on the topic of humility and I came across many fine quotes in researching my recent sermon on humility. So, I thought I would simply share what some have said well on a topic I find so difficult to write about. I hope these cause you to reflect on the importance of humility and give you something to ponder in the days ahead.

Blessings,

PrS

We can start with the Bible itself. Psalm 131 which says:

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.

²But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

³O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore.

Saint Augustine of Hippo, a Church Father living in the late fourth and early fifth century, wrote to encourage a Christian friend: “I wish you to prepare for yourself no other way of seizing and holding the truth than that which has been prepared by [God]...in that way the first part is humility; the second, humility; the third, humility.” This is sometimes epitomized as: “*For those who would learn God’s ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second, humility is the third.*”

He is also noted as saying: “It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.”

Of course, Martin Luther wrote extensively on humility. (I say ‘of course’ because he wrote extensively on everything!) The following quotes are from *What Luther Says* by Ewald Plass. This book is a compendium of Luther quotes arranged by subject. The references are difficult to find as Plass refers to the German editions of Luther’s works and not the more modern English translations, nevertheless, I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about Luther’s thoughts on a wide range of topics.

Luther called humility “the highest of all virtues,” but also warned against false humility. For example, here’s what he said of the alleged humility of the monks:

Our humility is not monastic. Humility of that kind is pride and humility in oneself, not in Christ. Such humility is a sham. Those, then, are the proudest who are the humblest.

Again in pointing out the dangers in false humility, Luther compared the way truly humble people think with the way the falsely humble concern themselves with glory.

But the truly humble look not to the result of humility, but with a simple heart regard things of low degree and gladly associate with them. It never enters their minds that they are humble. Here the water flows from the well; here it follows naturally and as a matter of course that they will cultivate humble conduct, humble words, places, faces, and clothing, and, so far as possible, will shun great and lofty things. Thus David says in Ps. 131:1: "O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high." And Job 22:29 says: "He who has been humbled shall be in glory; and he who bows down his eyes shall be saved." Hence honors always come unexpectedly to them, and their exaltation is a surprise; for they have been content with their lowly station and have never aspired to the heights. But the falsely humble wonder why their glory and honor are so long in coming; their secret false pride is not content with their low estate but aspires in secret ever higher and higher.

True humility, therefore, never knows that it is humble, as I have said; for if it knew, it would turn proud from contemplation of so fine a virtue.

Perhaps Luther was at his best when he counseled Christians about in the true source of humility, namely our utter dependence on the grace of God:

A man cannot be thoroughly humbled until he gets to know that his salvation lies utterly beyond his own powers, counsels, efforts, will and works and depends absolutely on the pleasure, counsel, will and work of Another, namely, God alone. For if man, convinced that he is able to do the least thing toward his own salvation, retains confidence in himself and does not utterly despair of himself, he is not humble before God.

Similarly, Luther cautioned against Christians boasting and reiterated what Scripture makes so clear: that we earn nothing from God but all is a gift of grace:

In the world inequality of persons, ranks, and gifts must remain; but this does not make us unequal before our Lord God. For since nothing can stand before Him except grace, no one can possibly boast and strut in His presence...All of us should learn this and cling to His grace and mercy.... What we have, we have from Him alone: and of ourselves we have nothing but sin. Therefore no one should become overbearing, but everyone should humble himself and fear. For if there is good, it is the gift of our Lord God. He should boast of it, not you. But you should use it with thanksgiving and in the fear of God; for He cannot tolerate any strutting, any boasting or bragging.

I also really like this one from Charles Spurgeon, the great 19th century English preacher:

Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self.

Finally, let me leave you with one by 20th Century scholar and author, C.S. Lewis:

"If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a bigish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means that you are very conceited indeed."





prepare for worship in september

Sept. 1: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Prov. 25:2-10; Heb. 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14

Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is Our Cornerstone,"
912

Sept. 8: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Deut. 30:15-20; Phil. 1-21; Luke 14:25-35

Hymn of the Day: "How Clear is Our Vocation,
Lord," 853

Sept. 15: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezek. 34:11-24; 1 Tim. 1:5-17; Luke 15:1-10

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive,"
609

Sept. 22: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Tim. 2; Luke 16:1-15

Hymn of the Day: "Seek Where You May to Find a
Way," 557

Sept. 29: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Amos 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My
Heart," 708



*Pastor and members
of Lord of Life,*

*I have avoided sending this
note because I just don't have the
words to express our gratitude for
your kindness, your love, your open
arms, your friendship and your
prayers especially the past months.*

*I want you all to know Mom loved
this church. A little over thirty years
ago she probably would not have
said that. But I know she loved Lord
of Life. I know it was her church
home. I know this is her church
family. She had a memory of just
about every one there.*

*I think it is important for you to
know you touched her life. You gave
her a memory to share. What a
great way to share our God's love by
providing memories.*

*Our family thanks you for all you
have done for Mom and for her
family.*

Janice Sullivan



Teen Times

“Time flies when you are having fun”

How often have we heard this phrase? At this stage in my life it seems that time flies no matter what you are doing. Sometimes I look back on the past few days and think about all of the things that I would like to have accomplished; at work, around the house, with the family, or my leisure time. Then I reflect on the past few months and realize that I had a pretty busy summer. It started with a fun-filled family vacation to New Orleans, LA and Pensacola, FL at the beginning of June. It had been quite some time since my family had spent a week together relaxing and enjoying each other’s company. Later that month I traveled with our youth group to Seward, NE to attend the Higher Things Youth Conference for a week. The kids were great, the content was great, and the fellowship was great, the food was great, the weather was great; in a nutshell, it was well...great!



July brought more family time around Independence Day and then a weekend trip to the Texas coast for some fishing. August rolls around and it’s back to school! Everyone is crazy busy with new school orientations, marching band camps, or helping that first year college student move into their new dorm rooms. Any way you look at it, the summer seemed to fly by! As the Director of Youth Ministry for Lord of Life for ten years, I can look at the past decade and say the same thing. “Time flies when you are having fun!”

It was August 2009 when the position of Director of Youth Ministry was formed at Lord of Life and God has blessed me with the opportunity to fill this role and observe many teens grow from first year confirmation students in the 6th grade into successful young adults who are creating their own niche in the world; including my own two sons. Most of the youth currently at Lord of Life were also involved in Vacation Bible Schools which I have been a part of, or joined me for a children’s message on a Sunday morning. I have been fortunate to be a part of their lives since they were very young. Summer trips are also a vital part of our youth ministry which provide a number of benefits. Inspirational worship services, in-depth Bible studies, serving our neighbors in need, meeting new friends, and enjoying the fellowship within our own group are just to name a few. We have fond memories of all the places that our IMPACT group has visited. Whether it’s been Higher Things, a mission trip, or the National Youth Gathering, we saw places like New Orleans, Nashville, Austin, San Antonio, Bayou La Batre, AL, Seward, NE, Carlsbad, NM, Gainesville, FL, Carbondale, IL, and Somerville, TN. In order to get to all of these places, our youth group participated in numerous fundraising events. Valentines Dinners, car washes, pizza kit sales, Christmas wreath sales, and garage sales were all generously supported by you; our Lord of Life Family! Thankfully, I have been a part of all of them!

I am so grateful that God placed me in this position 10 years ago because all of the memories and friendships I have made are such an important part of my life. I look back on everything we have done and I can truly say, “Time flies when you are having fun!”

God’s blessings to you all!

Until next time,
Scott Peters

Lord of Life to Host **Carter BloodCare** **Blood Drive**

October 6
8 am to 12 pm



**Every participant will be entered
to win a grocery store gift card!**

- Each blood donation saves three lives.
- More than 1,000 donors are needed each day to keep blood on the shelves of hospitals in North, Central and East Texas.
- Six hundred to 800 patients each day could require a blood transfusion. Many will require more than one unit of blood or blood products.
- One in seven patients admitted to a hospital could receive a blood transfusion.
- There is no substitute for human blood. Thus, there is no substitute for blood donors.
- Regularly scheduled blood donations assure there is already blood on the shelves during a disaster/crisis.

LWML Dal-North Zone Event

Sunday, Oct. 20 -2:30-6:00

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
1401 Crosstimbers Road, Flower Mound 75028

\$8.00 registration fee
RSVP by Oct. 13 including number of young
girls attending

Meal served by HOLY COW SMOKERS

**Guest Speaker: Nesa Grider from
Journey to Dream**

Opening doors for homeless and at risk teens across North Texas

Ingathering to benefit Journey to Dream
(See attached sheet)

Special activity for girls age 8 and up

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" - Matthew 19:14

Ingathering items to benefit Journey to Dream

- Gift cards (\$10-\$25) to places like Target, Walmart, Old Navy, etc. to purchase clothing
- Paper products (toilet paper and paper towels)
- Body wash
- Large container trash bags
- Non-perishable snacks

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
- † Will meet Saturday, 9/28 at 2pm

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 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 meets one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

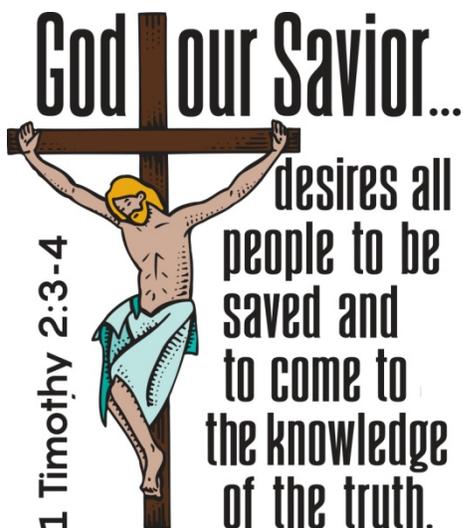
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Saturday, 9/28 at 6:30pm

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



- 1 Devrie Hahn
- 2 Bill Bennett
- 2 Candace Klein
- 2 Fred & Ruth Bernhardt (52)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 4 Vera Hemingway
- 4 Sarah Sims
- 6 Joshua Prescott
- 6 Hannah Sims
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (55)
- 7 Gerry Bryant
- 8 Myrna Schulze
- 9 Mary Ravitz
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (9)
- 10 Chris & Deb Dorak (36)
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 12 Dick & Vera Hemingway (72)
- 12 Bob & Carol Nance (49)
- 15 Marian Krehmeyer
- 16 Pete Ehrett
- 16 Andrew Short
- 18 Ernie & Susan Gromatzky (48)
- 19 Christian Klein
- 21 Angie Buckmeier
- 21 Christi Hampton
- 21 Mike Scaglione
- 22 Mike Kunschke
- 23 Nora Parrent
- 23 Rob Reinert
- 25 Rick & Malinda Pittson (26)
- 26 Mirien Senter
- 27 Jerry Parish
- 29 Carl Carper
- 29 David Dorak
- 30 Ardis Bang
- 30 Beverly Moudy

Serving in Worship in September

	September 1		September 8		September 15		September 22		September 29	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Elder	Kunschke		Moudy		Kunschke		Ziegelbein		Read	
Common Cup	S Peters	Ziegelbein			S Peters	Hite			Kunschke	Moudy
Altar	Nevelle Vess and Kathy Hite									
Acolyte	Kaitlyn	Luke			Josh	Sebastian				
Greeter	Hampton	Dorak	Schrank	Rippey	Martin	Manning	Hampton	Bennett/Tyler	Vess	Abbott/Moore
Sound	Moudy	Shaltanis	Wolf	Reinert	Wilkerson	Wolf	G Hacker	Hite	Moudy	Shaltanis
Usher	Bunger	Ozlowski	Paradise	Moudy	Prescott	Oltmann	C Hacker	Strecker	Frinsko	Cruz
	Shaltanis	Loewecke	Frinsko	Cruz	Ozlowski	Berger	Schrank	Buckmeier	Read	Carter
	Scarth	Ziegelbein	Read	Carter	Messinger	Parish	E Hacker	Short	Paradise	Moudy



FINANCIAL REPORT January - July, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$332,351	\$334,121	(\$1,770)
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$332,351	\$334,121	(\$1,770)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$325,336	\$318,361	\$6,975
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$7,015	\$15,760	(\$8,745)

OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. General Operating Fund Balance \$106,640
- 2. Dedicated Funds Balance \$152,308
- 3. Building Note Balance \$244,493

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