

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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This month we are in the Easter season basking in the glory of Christ's resurrection and the good news that because He rose and defeated death, we too shall rise and live forever. Alleluia! Therefore, let's consider a resurrection question this month, namely: **What will our resurrection bodies be like?**

Among the first Christians in Corinth, some remained skeptical about the resurrection of the dead –both Christ's first resurrection as well as the one to come at the end of days. Because Christ's resurrection victory over death is at the heart of the Christian faith, Paul spent a fair amount of ink dealing with all sorts of issues surrounding the resurrection of the dead in the 15th Chapter of his first epistle to Corinth. Near the end of this chapter, Paul is taking on some of the challenges that people put to the doctrine of the resurrection. **"But someone will ask: 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?'"** (vs. 35) These kinds of questions reflect the thinking of many nihilists today who consider a rotting corpse in the ground to be nothing more than "worm food," or they look at the ashes in an urn and conclude: "There is no way that this can be resurrected." Our best scientists would have to agree. Based on the evidence, there seems to be no valid reason at all to conclude that either substance could come alive again or be raised again from the dead. But Paul doesn't have much patience for those who ask questions like this. He calls them "fools" (vs 36) and goes on to show from nature itself, how as one author put it, "The mystery of the resurrection is contained in every sprouting seed."ⁱ

[36b] What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37] And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. [38] But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ...

I used to have some pinecones and seeds from a Giant Sequoia tree. I picked them up on one of our several trips to Northern California where we would see these massive trees. (If for no other reason, a trip to Northern California is warranted just to see these magnificent creations.) The Sequoias are simply unbelievable. Surreal. Breathtaking. They are one of the largest living organisms on the planet, growing nearly 300 feet tall and having a circumference of over 100 feet. Because of their immense size, no photograph can capture them. A two-dimensional picture cannot convey their awesomeness. One simply cannot comprehend how incredible and unlike anything else they are until you stand in their presence. But these marvelous trees start out very differently. The Sequoia pinecones are small, only about the size of an egg, and the seeds inside look like tiny flakes –at most about ¼ of an inch across. But, O, how God changes these tiny seeds!

(Continued on the next page)

Paul's point to the Corinthians is that the dead will be changed in the same way at the resurrection. Just as a seed (which appears to be as good as dead) is planted into the ground and God changes it into something much different; so it will be with the dead at the resurrection. The bodies of the dead are buried in the ground, but at the resurrection God will raise them up much differently from how they were sown.

[42] So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. [43] It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. [44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

Going further, Paul explains how the first man, our father Adam, was from the earth and was of the dust. He contrasts this with the second man, our Lord Jesus, who is from heaven. **[48] As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. [49] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**

What does it mean that we will "bear the image from the man of heaven?" Is Paul referring to Jesus' glorified body after the resurrection? Recall how at His first appearance to the disciples, Jesus could simply appear to them behind locked doors. Or, perhaps he had in mind His appearance in glory at the Transfiguration? Could this be what it means to bear the image of the man from heaven? He doesn't elaborate and as he continues, he admits he is revealing a mystery:

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory." [55] "O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

[56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What will the glorified, imperishable, immortal, changed bodies of the saints be like at the day of the resurrection? Will we be as different as a seed is from a tree? I can only imagine and I can't wait to find out!

Paul concludes:

[58] Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Blessed Eastertide,
PrS

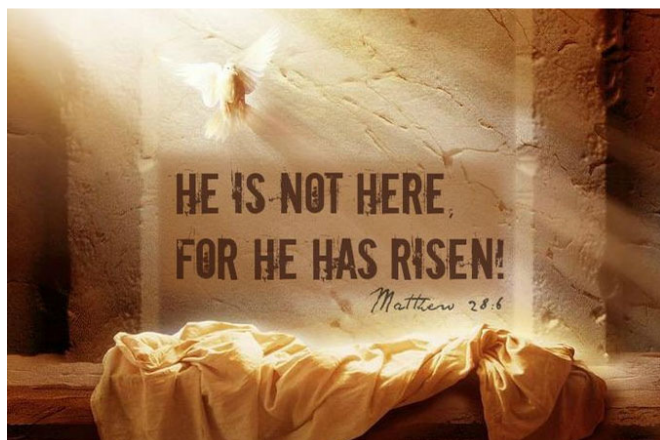
¹ Kretzmann, P.E., *Popular Commentary of the Bible, New Testament Vol. II*, pg. 165.

Elders Column

As you read this brief note, only a couple of weeks will have passed since we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ from His cruel death by crucifixion. But I ask you now to focus on Good Friday when He willingly submitted to death on the cross and accepted within Himself all the sins of mankind, though he had already demonstrated His ability to merely walk away from those who were ready to condemn Him to an earlier death. At that time, He had yet to finish His ministry among us. But with His action on that first Good Friday, He promised that all who believed in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.

But, I am inclined to remember Good Friday, not as a day of celebration, but as a day of mourning and gratitude. For, as you all know, we each remain sinners; though I'm sure we try not to be. Those of you who were able to spend an hour or so in the church sanctuary on Good Friday found in the pamphlet offered for your guidance, St. Augustine's listing of 26 staggering "categories" of sins, to which we all are susceptible. For that reason, I encourage each of us to take time, "every day", to remember why we should be thankful for our Lord's Good Friday gift to all who believe in Him.

Tom Womack, Elder



EASTER

prepare for worship
in april

3 April: Second Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 5:12-20; Rev. 1:4-18; John 20:19-31
Hymn of the Day: "You Sons and Daughters of the King," 470

10 April: Third Sunday of Easter (Order of Matins)

Texts: Acts 9:1-22; Rev. 5:8-14; John 21:1-14
Hymn of the Day: "With High Delight," 483

17 April: Fourth Sunday of Easter—Good Shepherd Sunday

Texts: Acts 20:17-35; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
Hymn of the Day: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," 709

24 April: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 21:1-7; John 16:12-22
Hymn of the Day: "By Grace I'm Saved," 566

Music at Midday Concerts

Music at Midday organ concerts continue throughout the Easter season, from 1.05pm-1.45pm each Wednesday until Pentecost in mid-May. Some of these concerts will feature regular organ music of the season, whilst others will explore hymnody, hymn writers, and composers, using multimedia presentations. Please do join us for these brief musical interludes each Wednesday afternoon!

Teen Times

Ever had a rude awakening? The severe weather that passed through the DFW area in March produced golf ball sized hail or bigger and caused widespread damage to homes and vehicles. Since it happened late in the evening, many people may have been aroused from their sleep to the sound of thunderous pounding on their roof that lasted several minutes. Local news reported that people were measuring the hail stones on the ground up to ten inches deep after the storm passed. The aftermath was the talk of the town and one newspaper article cited the damage estimated at over \$1 billion. Even if you are watching the weather reports on TV and know the severe weather is heading your way, you are never totally prepared for what happens or know what to expect until it is right on top of you. It was a popular topic of conversation for a number of days following the storms and many discussions included the words, "it was really scary!"

The disciples of Jesus were in the same situation. He was giving them a forecast that was not very pleasant when he stated in Mark 8:31-32:

"He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again."

Peter even scolded Jesus but Jesus knew what must be done to free us from sin and give us the hope of eternal salvation. Jesus informed them of exactly what was going to happen and even though they were told about it, they were not prepared for everything that was about to take place. The severity of Jesus' arrest, trial, beating, mocking, flogging, and crucifixion was more than any of the disciples were ready for. Fortunately, Jesus calmed the storms of his suffering by rising from the grave which we just celebrated on Easter Sunday. He also gives us another forecast; when he comes again in the final days. However, since we don't know that exact time or day, like an up to the minute weather forecast, we need to be prepared for it as best as we can. How? Regular attendance in worship and Bible study, daily prayer and devotion, and having the faith that Jesus will calm the storms in our lives just as he told us in the last chapter of Matthew:

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Don't be caught unprepared when Jesus comes again. Unfortunately, if you are not ready, it could be very scary.

Until next time,

Scott Peters

P.S. Thank you to everyone who participated in our restaurant fundraisers. \$280.00 was donated back to Lord of Life from Scotty P's Hamburgers and Dickey's BBQ. We will have more scheduled for the fall. Our next fundraiser is Little Caesar Pizza kits in coming in May.

Insights on Grieving and Funerals

I have attended funerals of friends and congregational family over the years, but the recent deaths of two close family members gave me a new appreciation for what families experience following the loss of a loved one. Here are a few observations.

- As a grieving family member it helps to be able to talk about the life and experiences of the loved one, and verbalize the events surrounding the death. It is often more important for the grieving person to talk than for the listener to share any words of wisdom. I don't think everyone realizes this. It's not difficult to comfort a person in grief. Just spend time and listen.
- Receiving sympathy cards is more meaningful than I would have thought. It's impossible for everyone to spend time with grieving family members, and cards sincerely express concern and comfort, with or without a hand-written message. They are a touching way to show that people care.
- The time following death is really busy for close family members. In addition to grieving the loss there are details and decisions about funeral dates and times, the funeral service, the body, clothing and personal items, obituary, travel arrangements, time off work, financial details, and so on. We shouldn't be surprised when it is hard to reach grieving family shortly following death, or that they are tired or stressed. A visit or call or card several weeks later is appreciated just as much.
- The Christian funeral service is an outreach opportunity. Often there are family members or friends attending who have fallen away or may not belong to a church. At a funeral the pastor has everyone's attention, and the attendees are more likely to be thinking about what happens after death. The reading of a eulogy or stories of the loved one's faith can be a powerful statement, particularly when the pastor weaves these stories into his message.
- There is a special significance to burying the body. Recent trends are toward cremations and memorial services rather than caskets and graveside services. And for LCMS Lutherans this is a matter of Christian freedom and choice. But I found it interesting that a pastor commented to me on his preference to bury rather than cremate because it is like planting the body as a seed. It proclaims our confidence that our bodies will be raised from the dead!

Ben Lutek, Elder



LORD OF LIFE'S COMFORT MAKERS AND LWML ARE SHARING THE LOVE

Comfort Makers are members and friends of Lord of Life who are sharing the love of Christ by making and helping distribute the incredible **quilts** they make.

The number of quilts they complete each year is determined from the date of Easter one year to the next, because the weekend after Easter is when all the quilts and health kits they put together are delivered to a local church. There Lutheran World Relief has a large truck trailer that is filled with these items as well as those from neighboring churches in our area.

Our Comfort Makers have responded to a variety of wonderful opportunities during this "year":

- ~ For the next pick-up from **Lutheran World Relief**, we have completed **170** beautiful quilts this year.
- ~ Our **youth** took **7** quilts to distribute on their **mission trip** to Alabama in June.
- ~ **13** quilts were given to **Upbring** (LSS foster care program) for children going into foster care.
- ~ **The Stewpot Homeless Shelter of Dallas** received **4** quilts in December last year.

SIX of these precious gifts were sent to **Uganda**. The contact person for this project (as well as helping distribute quilts from the Comfort Makers to **Moore, Oklahoma** after the devastating tornado there) is Robert Christiansen, a friend of Dee and Dave Peters, who attends Our Savior Lutheran in Mc Kinney.

Bob and a group of 9 people with 2 pastors, a DCE, and a Concordia Austin student working on her DCE went on a 4-day Teaching the Faith conference to men who lead their congregations in worship. He shared the following information with us concerning their trip:

"There are around 120 Lutheran congregations in Uganda with about 19 pastors, so most congregations do not have a pastor but a lay leader. We led an in-depth class on the chief parts of the Small Catechism. At the same time, the ladies going with us had a conference for women led by Lynn Corker from Michigan, who founded Women of the Pearl. (LWML gave her foundation a large grant this last year for her work in Uganda.) They prayed over the quilts, then shared the quilts at the local children's hospital. These were very important because when a person goes to the hospital in Uganda, they must provide their own linen. ...Many thanks for the quilts."

How incredible this is for us to participate in these mission projects! Many people from 15 to 85 years old are involved in making and distributing the quilts: church and non-church members donate fabric, new and used sheets, embroidery thread, yarn, and batting to make the quilts.

Some people receive the fabric and cut it into different size squares.

Some people receive the cut squares and sew them to complete the top cover of the quilt.

Some people layer a sheet, batting, and top-cover then quilt-tie it together and pin the edges.

Some people sew those layers together to finish the quilt. Then the quilts go on their way!!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who so generously donated items for the **HEALTH KITS!** We exceeded our expectations, but not God's. Your LWML was able to complete **91 kits!** These will truly make someone's day!

MANY hours are willingly given toward these projects. The Comfort Makers and LWML want to thank everyone for sharing their talents that allow the love of Christ to be shared with so many!



John 15:5

June 24-26, 2016: LWML Texas District Convention in Lubbock - "I am the Vine, You are the Branches."

For more information and registration - www.lwmltxdist.org



Connecting Generations

Hosted by the LOL Life Team

Sunday April 24th

Please join the life team for a potluck following late service and then a visit to:

The Waterford

Assisted Living Community in Plano

This is a come-and-go event where you can visit with the residents of Waterford and play board games. LOL member Phyllis Summer is a resident there. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad to the potluck. Dessert will be provided.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Fruit of the Spirit

Vacation Bible School



August 1-5, 2016
9:00 am - Noon

Register online at planolutheran.com/VBS

MISSIONARIES

MUSIC FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

LOL CARE GROUPS

CAREERS IN CHRIST

- † For info contact Heidi Pittson at (214) 315-0302 or Carrie Sanford (903) 388-3081

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
 † Usually meet Sundays after the late service

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net
 † Will meet on a Sat., Apr. 16 at 6:30 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 the 3rd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM

MOMS' GROUP

- † For info contact Kris Crabtree at (214) 705-0710 or crabtreefive@sbcglobal.net

APRIL

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Lorin & Jenn Hoepfner (16)
- 2 Brandon Lund
- 2 Sharon Davis
- 3 Kathy Hite
- 5 Rick Pittson
- 5 Gabriella Stein
- 8 John Chumbley
- 8 Brian Wolf
- 11 George Hawkins
- 11 Grant Kostrzewa
- 12 Jim Roberts
- 14 Bob Helms
- 14 Kristin Lutek
- 14 Cadence Tischler
- 15 Dudley Hall
- 15 Carl & Jan Carper (40)
- 16 Karen Lund
- 17 Jeff Berger
- 17 Peter Kun
- 18 Lorin Hoepfner
- 19 Lynda Abbott
- 22 Scott & Christine Messinger (21)
- 22 Rhonda Tabor
- 23 Tibor Kun
- 25 Kathy Helms
- 25 Rix Scarth
- 27 Mike & Sandra Paradise (53)
- 29 Gideon Selvaraj
- 30 Rachel Cinquepalmi
- 30 Earl & Karen Lund (28)

Request For Input

Concerning Wednesday evening services during Advent and Lent, a number of members have requested that we also offer a mid-day service for those who would prefer it. In order to determine the practicality of adding of such services, probably in early afternoons, the number of worshippers who would regularly attend them needs to be estimated.

Therefore, all who feel they would regularly attend an early service rather than the evening service are requested to contact the church office in the near future and announce their preference.



Asher Schutz 4-27-14

Sarah Schutz 4-27-14

Serving in Worship in April

	March 6		March 13		March 20		March 27	
	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		Acker		Lutek		Hite	
Common Cup	Womack	Carper			Peters	Carper		
Altar	Kay Oltmann and Sandra Paradise							
Alcolyte	Messinger	S. Loewecke	Dowlen	W Gibson	Ozlowski	Stein	E. Hacker	L Gibson
Crucifer		C. Loewecke				Moudy		
Greeter	Vess	Manning	Schrank	Abbott/McVicker	Sparks	Dorak	Martin	McVicker
Sound	Wolf	Selveraj	Botello	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Wolf	Raj
Usher	Scarth Parrent Martin	Kostrzewa Ziegelbein Loewecke	Paradise Read Frinsko	Dolginoff Cruz Moudy	Cinquepalmi Hawkins	Berger McVicker Oltmann	Schrank Hacker Kun	Buckmeier Short Crabtree

FINANCIAL REPORT January- February, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$126,344	\$117,096	\$9,248
	Other	\$1,262	\$705	\$557
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$127,606	\$117,801	\$9,805
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$116,871	\$116,378	\$493
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$10,735	\$1,423	\$9,312

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance \$97,740
2. Dedicated Funds Balance \$144,456
3. Building Note Balance \$688,528