

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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What if there is life on other planets?



Given the popularity of science fiction and all the movies and television that feature lifeforms from other worlds, it is no surprise that Christians ask this question. Even apart from science fiction, it seems more common today to read headlines about the discovery of water on other planets with the implication that water is the building block of life, and where there's water there might be life. I have no idea if the science behind these discoveries of water and the implications that are made from it are legitimate. I'll leave those questions to the scientists. But theologians can say a few things about life on other planets and the implications it would have on our Christian faith. Recently, one of my former professors did just that and his article got me thinking on this topic.

The article is called: [Life on Other Planets? What Does This Mean???](http://www.concordiatheology.org) You can find it by going here: www.concordiatheology.org (and then searching for the title of the article.) The article is by Rev. Dr. Charles Arand, a professor of systematic doctrine at my alma mater, Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. I recommend that you read this article if you have further interest in this topic, otherwise, I will give you an overview here with a few additional thoughts.

Arand raises the question that has been put to many pastors by Christians young and old: *"If life were discovered on another planet, would it undermine or threaten the Christian faith?"* What I appreciate about Arand's response is that he responds by not overreacting. Some Christians might be alarmed at the mere mention of extra-terrestrial life and since the Bible doesn't tell us anything about life on other planets, they might be tempted to quickly dismiss the subject entirely. (I have met Christians who deal with the subject this way.) Arand however does not, nor did another well-known Christian author, C.S. Lewis, who also wrote on the subject in an essay

(Continued on the next page)

titled: Religion and Rocketry.¹ Both authors give calm and rational explanations why the discovery of life on other planets would not undermine Christian faith.

First, Arand points out that if life exists on other planets, the Christian must conclude that God created it. No other view is consistent with the Bible's teaching that God created all things *ex nihilo*—out of nothing, merely by speaking it into existence. In the comments section following the article, a pastor rightly points out how important this first position is. Sadly, there are too many, he notes, who buy into “the religious/philosophical belief in molecules-to-man evolution.” For them, the discovery of life on other planets (even finding something like bacteria) would only confirm their ideas about life evolving by chance, unguided and undirected. The Christian, however, would have to conclude that any life found on other planets was put there by God for reasons known to Him that He has not revealed to us.

The next point Arand makes, is that if God created life elsewhere, he would not be surprised and he explains why: “One thing that we do know about God's work here on earth is that God loves life! Lots of life. And lots of different kinds of life. We see this already in Genesis 1 where the movement of creation is toward the filling of all the spaces on earth (air, water, land) with teeming life. So if God had created life elsewhere in the universe, it will not necessarily surprise me...”

But what about the implications of this discovery on other aspects of Christianity and the most central doctrine of all—salvation in Christ? Arand notes that Genesis teaches that only humans are made in the image of God. This means that in some way humans reflect God unlike all other animals in creation. Further, since Christ Himself is our creator who became human—what would be the implication for redemption? Did Christ's death on the cross redeem aliens from sin as well? While that sounds crazy, consider how Romans 8 talks about the entire fallen creation groaning in anticipation for the redemption in Christ (see Romans 8:18-25 below).

Arand also has thoughts on “the scandal of particularity” that is, those who object on the basis of statements like: “of all the planets in all the universe, do you think God only cares about our tiny little planet earth?” But you'll have to read the article yourself if you want to know more. I also highly recommend the essay by Lewis if you are interested in this topic, as he deals with many of the same questions and as always, offers thoughtful responses. (My favorite one is after discussing the possibility of rational life on other planets and whether they may have fallen into sin or yet remain uncorrupted—like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden- Lewis suggests that perhaps the great distance between our planets is to protect other innocent creatures from us! He calls the vast distance “God's quarantine precaution.”)

As was mentioned earlier, the Bible really doesn't tell us anything about life on other planets. God's revelation to us is satisfied to tell us what we need to know in order to receive salvation through Christ, and that is certainly enough!

(Romans 8:18-25 ESV)

[18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. [19] For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [23] And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. [24] For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

¹ Found in the Book: *The World's Last Night and other Essays*, the article originally appeared in the *Christian Herald* in 1958 with the title: “Will We Lose God in Outer Space?”



prepare for worship in august

7 August: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 15:1-6; Heb. 11:1-16; Luke 12:22-34
Hymn of the Day: "Have No Fear, Little Flock," 735

14 August: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jeremiah 23:16-29; Hebrews 11:17-31,
12:1-3; Luke 12:49-53
Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy
Word," 655

21 August: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isa. 66:18-23; Heb. 12:4-24; Luke 13:22-30
Hymn of the Day: "You are the Way, Through
You Alone," 526

28 August:

Texts: Prov. 25:2-10; Heb. 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14
Hymn of the Day: "Love in Christ is Strong and
Living," 706

Music at Midday Concerts, Fall, 2016

Music at Midday Concerts consist of 35-40 minute mostly organ concerts performed usually on the first Wednesday of every month plus every Wednesday in Advent and Eastertide:

7 September
5 October
No concert in November.
7 December
14 December
21 December

DFW BRASS IN CONCERT

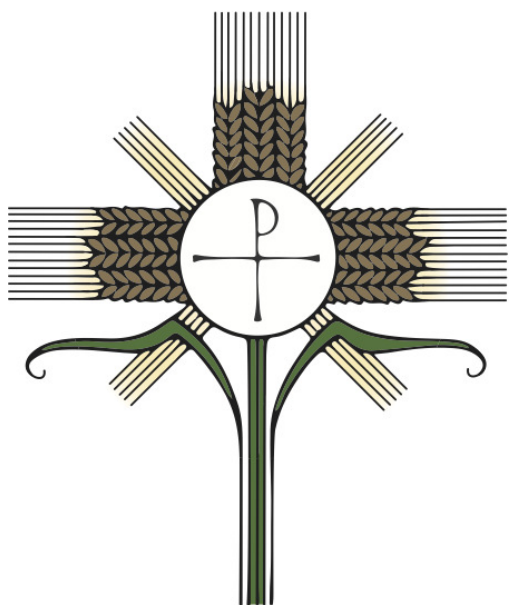


The Fine Art/Concert Series of Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents DFW Brass in concert on Sunday, 11 September, at 4.30pm. Comprised of musicians Lacey Hayes, Adam Miller, Steve Peterson and Jeff Baker, this brass ensemble's enthusiasm is evident in every concert. Featuring a variety of musical styles from marches to jazz to traditional tunes, the concert will include music of Eric Ewazen, James Barnes, Michael Kamen and John Philip Sousa. They will also perform a medley from the beloved musical *Sound of Music* and will be joined by organist Benjamin Kolodziej in Charles-Marie Widor's famous "Toccata" arranged for organ and brass. In addition to performing with local orchestras and organization such as the Dallas Opera, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony, Plano Symphony and Irving Symphony, the members of DFW Brass have performed throughout the world including at the Vatican, Carnegie Hall, cruise liners, the Shanghai Radio Symphony, Italian Opera houses, and multiple international music festivals throughout Europe as well as North, Central, & South America. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be received at the door.

Teen Times

It's a typical Texas summer. Temperatures are hovering around the century mark, humidity levels produce perspiration at a gargantuan rate, and when you think about cooling off in the pool, you discover that the water temperature is not much different than a hot tub. But, we make it through and look forward to the cooler days of fall which seem to arrive right before Christmas around here. The past few months have been very eventful for me and my family and I am sure that your summer schedules have been filled with vacations, trips to see relatives, or just taking a few days off to get some things done around the house. June and July included a flurry of activity for our IMPACT youth ministry as well. Thanks to the members of Lord of Life through generous financial and prayerful support, several of our youth ages 13-18 enjoyed trips that hopefully improved their relationship with each other as friends, and more importantly, knowing the love of Jesus as their Lord and Savior. 15 youth and adults attended the Higher Things youth conference in Nashville, Tennessee June 28-July 1, and 5 youth and adults attended the National Youth

Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana July 16-20. These events are distinctly different in style, but there are some similarities that present a firm foundation of grace and mercy from God our Father, His son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.



The theme for Higher Things was “Bread of Life” focusing on the words of Jesus in John’s Gospel: “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

The focus was on the fact that the children of Israel were given manna (bread) from heaven in the desert to eat and they all died. Jesus is the new bread from heaven given in the form of his body. We are able to enjoy this bread and will never die because when we receive His Words and promises, he gives us his Body and Blood through Holy Communion. The worship services are all traditional, liturgical settings. Matins, Vespers, and Evening Prayer are all included and the conference opens and closes with Divine Service. The plenary sessions and breakout sessions during the day are instructional periods led by Lutheran pastors with topics ranging from simple catechism instruction, to denominational differences, to the moral and spiritual struggles that youth face today. 850 participants (youth and adults) spent 4 days on the campus of Vanderbilt University staying in residence halls and flooding the campus cafeteria at mealtime. When there are that many LCMS members from across the country in one place, new friendships are formed, old friendships are renewed, and reunions are all too common.

The theme for The National Youth Gathering was “In Christ Alone” based on the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him,

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

(Philippians 3:7-9)

The emphasis for this event was that our identities, and everything we have both good and bad, should be considered nothing, or as The Apostle Paul stated, “rubbish,” compared to knowing Jesus as our Lord and Savior. During the morning Bible studies, participants made a list in the backs of their Bibles that completed the statement; “I am...” Lists were comprised of basic descriptions like father, mother, son, or daughter. Some included pastor, youth leader, DCE, volunteer, student, athlete, musician, or gamer. But then the lists were extended to include words like selfish, greedy, lustful, lazy, and disobedient. Youth and adults alike were faced with just how normal yet sinful we are, and all of the “stuff” in this world is worthless compared to our faith in Jesus. It’s “In Christ Alone” we have been forgiven and have the hope of eternal life in heaven with him. The National Youth Gathering also had many pastors as well as DCE’s, Lutheran teachers, and Concordia University professors leading dozens of instructional sessions on a variety of topics during the day. The evening would conclude with a mass event in a contemporary worship setting, highlights from the day’s events, and a message from the pastor or special speaker based on the verses from Philippians. A closing Divine Service on the last day included the praise band, and a 70-member orchestra and 50-member choir made entirely of youth volunteers. Although the attendance for National Youth Gathering was substantially larger, roughly 25,000, the structure of the conference is very similar to Higher Things.



In Christ Alone
LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

Both events start the days with worship or Bible study. They both have instruction sessions that are Biblically based led by pastors or trained church workers. Both give the youth attending the opportunity to meet and interact with other Lutheran teenagers from across the country. Both give our own youth the opportunity to receive Word and Sacrament in a totally new setting outside of our own sanctuary at Lord of Life. The participants are hearing the Gospel and hopefully being moved by the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith. Both events include times of confession and absolution, and both events leave a lasting impression on all who attend.

I am in no way attempting to favor one over the other or attempting to prove one is better than the other. What I do see is the lives of our young people changing for a few days during the course of these youth conferences. They are seeing the bigger picture; that we are ALL part of the church and the body of Christ, and that there are many, many more people just like them who share the same faith in Jesus as the Savior of all mankind. We are fallen, evil, self-absorbed, and dead in our trespasses and sins and trying to do the will of a Holy and Perfect God. My prayer is simply this; that the youth in the LCMS continue to be made aware that it is by Grace Alone through Faith Alone, in Scripture Alone that we have hope of eternal life in Christ Alone. To Him be all the Glory!

Till next time,
Scott Peters

Lutheran Music and Theology Conference Coming this Fall!

As we prepare to return to school and our music ministries begin their Fall preparations, I would like to announce our sixth biennial conference devoted to Lutheran music and theology to be held Monday and Tuesday, 14 and 15 November, 2016. Although it is geared primarily for pastors and musicians, anyone from Lord of Life who is interested is certainly invited to attend. The exact schedule will be released later. This conference has become valued in our region by the many pastors and church musicians who value Lutheran music. Entitled "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice: Five Centuries of Lutheran Sacred Music," this conference will explore Lutheran hymnody, liturgy, and worship practices, with an emphasis upon the intersection of sacred music and culture and is designed to help musicians, both professional and avocational, clergy, and interested laypeople who desire to delve into issues of Lutheran liturgical doctrine and practice. In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, this conference will place a special emphasis on Luther and Reformation principles. I am excited to welcome these three major speakers this year:

Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto is a lay theologian and internationally-renowned journalist. He was born in Leipzig, Germany, where his devoutly Lutheran grandmother was the pivotal figure in his childhood in World War II. He is the former religion editor of United Press International. In mid-career, at age 50, he began his theological studies, first in Chicago, then in Boston. During these studies, Siemon-Netto freelanced as a magazine correspondent. He studied for his M.A. in theology at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. His Ph.D. in theology and sociology of religion is from Boston University under Peter L. Berger, Carter Lindberg and Uri Ra'Anan. He spent a post-doctoral year at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J. working on a project to bridge the gap between theology and the media. He is the author of:

Duc 3rd Edition: Triumph of the Absurd: A reporter's love for the abandoned people of Vietnam

Duc: A Reporter's Love for the Wounded People of Vietnam

The Acquittal of God: A Theology for Vietnam Veterans

The Fabricated Luther: The Rise and Fall of the Shirer Myth

One Incarnate Truth: Christianity's Answer to Spiritual Chaos

Rev. Henry Gerike, a native of Minnesota, graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN (1970), received a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL (1983). He taught at Lutheran elementary schools in the St. Louis and Chicago areas before attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, graduating in 1991. For almost 25 years he directed the Concordia Seminary Chorus and has served as Kantor at Reformation Lutheran Church, Affton, Missouri. He has served as an editor at Concordia Publishing House and has served on the hymnody committees for Hymnal Supplement 98 and Lutheran Service Book. He has helped in planning the Institute for Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music (2014 and 2017). His study with Paul Manz, Richard Hillert, and Carl Schalk has resulted in a number of compositions choirs, concongregation, and instruments.

Rev Dr Timothy Maschke has served Concordia University Wisconsin as a Professor of Theology since 1982. Prior to coming to Concordia, he was a pastor of two Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod parishes in Illinois.

In 1974, Maschke graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with a Masters of Divinity degree and earned a Masters in Sacred Theology from that school in 1981. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1984 and in 1993 earned his PhD in Historical Theology under the late Luther scholar, Dr. Kenneth Hagen at Marquette University.

He has taught courses in biblical, doctrinal, historical, and practical theology, with special interests in Christian doctrine, the life and work of Martin Luther and Lutheran Worship. A second (updated and expanded) edition of his book, *Gathered Guests: A Guide to Worship in the Lutheran Church*, was published in 2009 by Concordia Publishing House.

--Benjamin Kolodziej, Organist and Director of Worship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord tells us in the scriptures to pursue wisdom, even above worldly treasures (Proverbs 3:13-14).

The age old question, of course, is where to find it. I'm guessing the internet isn't the first place you'd look, even if it is sometimes a good source for information (which is certainly not the same as wisdom).

And yet, as I navigate Facebook to catch up on the lives of friends, family and acquaintances who I don't see regularly, I notice an abundance of posts being "liked" or "shared" by my contacts which seem to be intended to convey wisdom.

Lately, many of these are purported (and may actually be) quotes from the Dalai Lama, but there are just as many attributed (accurately or not) to well known sports and entertainment figures, and also from various historical figures.

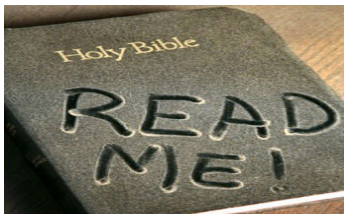
These nuggets of wisdom are often common sense items, sometimes humorous, and occasionally insightful or profound. However, I'm reminded that (even if I trusted the source) human wisdom isn't what I'm after (Proverbs 16:25).



I am reminded that we are urged by the scriptures to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1) and "be shrewd" (Matthew 10:16). This is good advice as we make our way through life and are confronted with human "wisdom".



In the end, as I'm seeking information, I'll accept everything I find on the internet with a healthy dose of skepticism, and I'll look for



wisdom elsewhere - from the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16) and from the saints of old (1 Corinthians 11:1).

And, as I conclude, I leave you with these bits of Jesus' wisdom from the sermon on the mound (Matthew 5-7):

- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
- So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Jesus is a source we can trust for true wisdom!

In Christ,

Mike Kunschke, Elder

Lord of Life Small Groups

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

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

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

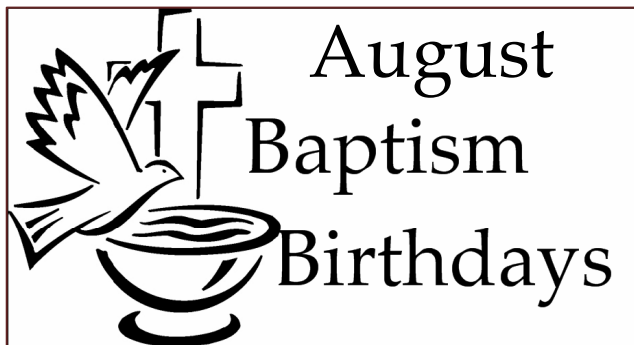
- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net
- † Usually meet on a Sat. at 6:30 PM

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
- † Will meet on Sat., August 13 at 6:00 PM



Kaitlyn Hacker 8-20-06
Aaron Schultz 8-10-08



How sweet
are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth.

—Psalm 119:103

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Brian & Devrie Hahn (36)
- 2 Travis Bennett
- 2 Debbie Olsen
- 2 Leo Parrent
- 2 Carol Read
- 3 Dan Georg
- 3 Shannon Nuschler
- 4 Doug & Kathy Hite (15)
- 5 Sherri Kunschke
- 6 Cathleen Ott
- 7 Scott Peters
- 8 Michael Cinquepalmi
- 8 Peter Hoepfner
- 8 Trent & Jackie Barnes (1)
- 8 Tony & Nevelle Vess (56)
- 10 Ben & Katie Howe (14)
- 12 Carol Ozlowski
- 13 Barbara Botello
- 13 Earl Lund
- 13 Rachel Ozlowski
- 14 Dixie Hacker
- 14 David Klausing
- 14 Phaedra Shaltanis
- 16 Rachel Adcox
- 16 Joanne Keeney
- 16 Mike Paradise
- 16 Audrey Thiel
- 16 Ben & Reba Williams (41)
- 17 Duffy & Cindy Carter (20)
- 17 Tim & Carol Ozlowski (25)
- 18 Sharon Adcox
- 18 Ben Lutek
- 18 Christine Messinger
- 18 Kevin Tyler
- 21 Reba Williams
- 22 Paul Stueckler
- 25 Joseph Acker
- 25 Brian & Gail Wolf (37)
- 26 Jim Ott
- 26 Malinda Pittson
- 27 Mavis Anderson
- 28 Joanne Benner
- 28 Nita Berger
- 28 Bill & Charis Bennett (40)
- 28 Jeff & Nita Berger (23)
- 28 Hayden Crabtree
- 29 Jan Carper
- 29 Lance Crabtree
- 30 Doug Hite
- 30 Tom Read

Serving in Worship in August

	August 7		August 14		August 21		August 28	
	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	Peters		Hite		Lutek		Acker	
Common Cup	Womack	Kunschke			Womack	Kunschke		
Altar	Carol Nance and Carrie Sanford							
Alcolyte	G. Hacker	Loewecke	Adcox	K. Crabtree	Messinger	M. Shaltanis	G. Hawkins	E. Ziegelbein
Greeter	Martin	McVicker	Schrank	Manning	Sparks	Abott/McVicker	Vess	Dorak
Sound	Wilkerson	Hite	Wolf	Raj	Botello	Selveraj	Wilkerson	Pittson
Usher	Parrent Martin Cinquelpalmi	Ziegelbein Loewecke Kostrzewa	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Moudy Dolginoff	Hawkins Scarth	McVicker Oltman Berger	Hacker Kun Schrank	Short Crabtree Buckmeier

FINANCIAL REPORT

January- June, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$359,653	\$323,304	\$36,349
	Other	\$1,867	\$1,970	(\$103)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$361,520	\$325,274	\$36,246
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$351,637	\$347,073	\$4,564
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$9,883	(\$21,799)	\$31,682

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$92,378
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$224,448
3. Building Note Balance	\$637,541