

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Updates

There are two kinds of church newsletters: those that deal with some theological topic or theme and those that give news and updates on the happenings of the congregation. As regular readers of this newsletter know, I normally tend toward the former, but this month I thought it might be beneficial to share with you many recent happenings at Lord of Life.

Secretaries

Recently we concluded a search to fill two secretary positions. Due to the amazing help offered by Cindy Carter, Lauren Chumbley and Winona Parish, we have been able to cover the secretarial duties for the past two months. Bulletins have been printed, newsletters have been sent, phones have been answered, packages received and information has been passed on keeping things on track in the interim until we could find a more permanent solution. Their help has been tremendous and is greatly appreciated. (I should also add that Hillary Klausung and Donna Roberts were extremely helpful in compiling thorough duty lists describing in detail all the tasks that need to be done and have also been available to answer many questions whenever we sought their help. Many thanks for this!)

A decision was made early on to hire secretaries who are not members of Lord of Life. The rationale behind this is that it would eliminate conflicts of interest. We all have had a bad week at work, and when this happens, church is where we go to escape the workplace, to worship and be refreshed. For those of us who work in the church, going to worship sometimes feels like one more day at the office. Jesus even tacitly acknowledges this tension when He pointed out that priests are

guilty of breaking the Sabbath every Lord's Day, that is, on the day set aside for worship and rest, their vocation requires them to work. (Matthew 12:6) For the clergy and other full time church employees this tension is unavoidable, but if possible, we wanted to avoid it for our secretaries.

With the above in mind, we still did not want to hire someone totally detached from the Lutheran Church, much less, Christianity. To that end, we sent announcements advertising the position to local Lutheran churches to include in church bulletins and newsletters. In addition, we also reached out to some local Christian homeschooling groups thinking the position would be attractive to mothers raising a family who might be interested in part-time work. Both of these efforts ultimately yielded much interest in the positions. Our goal was to find people who would be outgoing, competent, pleasant, and kind with a noticeable Christian demeanor. In short, we wanted people who could complete the tasks, and also interact well with our members and represent us well with those outside the congregation.

Resumes were received in June and early July. The last week of July we (Scott Peters, Winona Parish and Pastor Shaltanis) conducted several interviews and met some truly impressive people. As of this writing, job offers have been made and we are

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currently working out the final details for hiring. We hope to announce very soon the names of our new secretaries.

Music at Lord of Life

The last week of July we had a Music Planning Meeting. The meeting included the pastor, an elder, and many of our talented musicians who were willing to think about the future musical needs of the congregation. The stated goal of the meeting was as follows:

The overall goal of our meeting is not to figure out every last detail, but to be sure that we don't let our tradition of excellent music at Lord of Life fall apart. We want to have some idea of where we are heading in the long term and start moving in that direction. In time, the elders and church council will need to make decisions and approve funds, but if we as Pastor and musical leaders in the congregation can begin to think through what is needed and what solutions will be best, that would be a tremendous help. Also, we need to talk about how to hold things together in the interim, until we can come up with some more permanent solutions.

We met for two hours discussing and thinking through a variety of subjects including short and long term goals, and how to address the many facets of our current music program. We will be meeting again to continue the work begun. The following are some of the decisions made at our initial meeting.

Regarding the organ, the short term plan is to continue with substitute organists, though in the long term, it was generally felt that consistency with one primary organist would be preferable. This discussion also addressed hymn selection and music planning. While these tasks may eventually fall under the purview of a primary organist, the idea of a music coordinator or planning committee was also discussed. We decided to appoint a separate committee to address these specific concerns and begin to do some of the midterm planning. Additionally, one of our members has contacted a technician to ensure that our organ

remains well-maintained and in good working order.

Concerning adult choir, two of our members agreed to head this up in the short term. Challenges to be met are whether to rely on volunteers to lead the choir or if a professional director and or accompanist should be hired right away. As these issues are being addressed, we will also be reaching out to current members of the choir and seeking to recruit new members. If you like to sing and have ever thought about joining the choir, please speak with Pastor Shaltanis, Carol Ozlowski, or Vicki Frinsko. It was decided that in the short term we would continue to enlist soloists and small ensembles to sing regularly in our worship services. In addition, two volunteers were recruited to take on the task of keeping our music library organized.

With the youth and children's choir, we face several challenges. Currently, our congregation has a high number of high school and junior high youth, but very few elementary age children. During the discussion we wondered if some of the high school youth should be invited to sing with the adult choir or if we should continue with the youth choir as we have in the past. Additional matters discussed included thoughts of changing the practice schedule and frequency of singing in church. Volunteers stepped up to take on this task and think through some of the necessary changes that will take place with both the youth and children's choir.

The handbell choir was also discussed and here too we face challenges in the form of needing more volunteers. So, if you have ever thought about playing the bells, now would be a great time for you to express your interest. (Let Pastor Shaltanis know.) The fun thing about handbells is that even if you don't have a lot of musical experience or if you cannot even carry a tune when singing, if you can count, we can work with you to play the bells and you can make a joyful noise unto the Lord. In fact, we considered offering an introductory class on how to play handbells to pique more interest among our members. We hope to have something in place by Christmas and more information will be forthcoming on this.

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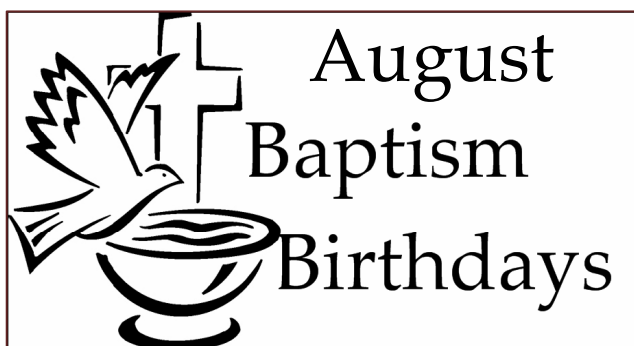
Regarding other instrumentalists, Fred Bernhardt agreed to coordinate brass ensembles for Reformation and Christmas services. Here too, volunteers are needed. Many people in our congregation play an instrument and if you are ready to play in church –whether as a soloist or in an ensemble, please speak with Fred or Pastor Shaltanis. Our goal is to continue to have musicians of all kinds sharing their musical gifts to enhance our divine services and continue our tradition of excellent music at Lord of Life.

Growth

Finally, I am happy to report that we have been blessed to receive new members through Holy Baptism (Luke Sowers was baptized in July and Carter Suarez will be baptized in August.) These families and many others have expressed an interest in joining our congregation. We currently have about 10 people in our Adult Instruction Class and, Lord willing, they will be joining in the coming weeks and months. In addition, a couple of other Lutheran families and individuals have recently moved to the area and have been attending Lord of Life with regularity. They are seriously considering making Lord of Life their new home and we will joyfully receive them if that is what the Lord leads them to conclude.

Blessings,

PrS



Kaitlyn Hacker 8-20-06

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Brian & Devrie Hahn (37)
- 2 Travis Bennett
- 2 Debbie Olsen
- 2 Leo Parrent
- 2 Carol Read
- 3 Dan Georg
- 3 Shannon Nuschler
- 4 Doug & Kathy Hite (16)
- 5 Sherri Kunschke
- 6 Cathleen Ott
- 7 Scott Peters
- 8 Michael Cinquepalmi
- 8 Trent & Jackie Barnes (2)
- 8 Tony & Nevelle Vess (57)
- 10 Ben & Katie Howe (15)
- 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 (42)
- 17 Duffy & Cindy Carter (21)
- 17 Tim & Carol Ozlowski (26)
- 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 (38)
- 26 Jim Ott
- 26 Malinda Pittson
- 27 Mavis Anderson
- 28 Joanne Benner
- 28 Nita Berger
- 28 Bill & Charis Bennett (41)
- 28 Jeff & Nita Berger (24)
- 28 Hayden Crabtree
- 29 Jan Carper
- 29 Lance Crabtree
- 30 Doug Hite
- 30 Tom Read



Profile Series: Vernon & Ardis Bang

By Shelby Lund

Vernon and Ardis Bang have attended Lord of Life since July of 1994, exactly 23 years at the time of writing, after serving as charter members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The pair were born and raised in the Lutheran church, and both said their earliest memories of church involved attending Sunday School. Both have been extremely active in the church during their lifetimes. Ardis participated in youth activities while a teenager, and since becoming an adult has been on Altar Guild, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, sung in choir, and served as president of St. Paul's Chi-Rho group. Vernon has also taught Sunday School, sang in choir, and served in congregational leadership positions, including as a Sunday School superintendent, elder, and even as president of St. Paul's congregation.

The couple has been married for 63 years, having met as young adults at a portable roller skating rink in the summer. Vernon reminisced that a song playing that day had been "Blue Skirt Waltz," and Ardis had, in fact, been wearing a blue skirt. The pair married in Iowa, their shared home state, on June 6, 1954. Interestingly, Vernon, then 20 to Ardis' 21, had to get a signed form from his father in order to marry, as at the time Iowa law stated you had to be 21 to legally marry without a guardian's permission. They had two children: daughter Rhonda, who tragically passed away from cancer, and son Jason, who is currently living with his wife and three sons in Frisco.

Professionally, Vernon worked in engineering and technical sales for multiple companies during his career. Ardis worked in the credit department of an insurance company as a Senior Documentation Specialist, handling billings and contracts. She proudly boasts to have only missed a single day of work due to her double-hip replacement surgery. Both are currently retired and enjoying indulging in their hobbies: photography and "tinkering" for Vernon, and music and cooking for Ardis.

Something most people probably don't know about the Bangs is that they were once extras on an episode of the hit TV show *Dallas*. Vernon submitted a picture of them in response to a newspaper ad requesting "extras with grey hair," and they worked for \$45 a day, Ardis for one day and Vernon for three. As the episode involved the show's cast attending a gala, Ardis had to buy a fancy gown for her costume, while Vernon and the male extras were provided tuxedos by the show. They spent their part of filming standing in the background, having fake conversations and drinking fake martinis. They both enjoyed the experience of seeing all the stars and getting a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes of television.

When asked about their experiences in their relationships with God, the Bangs both seemed to find the greatest meaning in the little things. Vernon cited instances where he would try to figure something out and get a divine answer, saying that the older he got the more he noticed God's role in his life. Ardis mentioned that whenever she would make a trip somewhere out of town, she found it always went smoother if she attended church wherever she was. Of course, that doesn't mean neither felt God's presence during big events; Ardis said she felt at peace during her double-hip replacement surgery knowing God was with her.

In terms of wisdom they wished to pass down to younger believers, Ardis wanted kids to be made aware that God doesn't always answer prayers in the way we want him to. However, that doesn't mean we shouldn't go to Him with our thoughts and concerns; Ardis herself regularly sends up what she calls "dart prayers," quick prayers inspired by fleeting thoughts. For his part, Vernon finds Christians have a tendency to overlook or forget our final goal in life—union with God in heaven—in favor of focusing on the now. He advises young believers to stay aware of the end goal and not lose sight of why we do what we do. Both encourage believers struggling in the faith to keep in constant communication with God, to remember that you can always turn to Him in times of weakness and that faith in Him can give you strength to carry through to the light at the end of the tunnel.

Vernon is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. We ask that you continue to pray for his speedy recovery and return to full health.



Teen Times

The month of August is usually on average the hottest month of the year in Texas. It's also the time of year that many people wrap up their summer vacations and start thinking about going back to school and the return of a routine schedule. Depending on the stage you are at in your life you could be returning to the same school that you attended last year, or you feel the anxiety and excitement of joining your friends on a new campus. Maybe you are moving up from elementary to middle school, or middle school to high school. An even bigger change is high school grads going off to their first year of college. Imagine yourself deciding not to go back to school at a young age. You would stall out and stop growing. If you were to put our lives into a technological perspective, advancement in grade levels can be compared to receiving and downloading updates on our laptops, smartphones, or other similar devices. Why do all of these gadgets and things we can't live without need to do this? Think about it. If you did not continue to keep your devices updated, they eventually slow down, become obsolete, and get discarded into the back of a desk drawer or the donation bin. For this reason, being challenged and learning new things every year in school is good for you; like getting updates. However it should not stop there.

We are in constant need of updates in our journey of faith too. During the middle school years, you are given instruction and memory work from Luther's Small Catechism. Eventually you are confirmed and are able to confess your faith and participate in Holy Communion as a young adult. You just received a major update! But what happens after you are confirmed? What if you do not download any more updates even though they are available? Sunday morning is an opportunity when we get our spiritual updates along with daily prayer and personal devotions. Through regular worship and Bible study we receive the gifts of God and the updates we need. Otherwise, we slow down, become obsolete, and heaven forbid, become discarded. There is one thing you should know about the downloads of faith that are available to you; worship and Bible study GO TOGETHER! You need both to complete your download and keep yourself up to date! God has given you very precious gifts in the form of pastors and teachers, I suppose we can call them programmers, who spend a lot of preparation time to make sure you are receiving the fullness of his Word. Why have the devices if you don't update them? Why get confirmed and then never keep yourself updated? Jesus offered the ultimate update when he died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and then rose from the grave to claim victory over death. The Holy Spirit is working in you and does not want you to be discarded. Don't become obsolete; keep yourself updated through regular attendance in Sunday morning worship AND Bible Study. I look forward to seeing EVERYONE on Sunday mornings!

Until next time,

Scott Peters
Director of Youth Ministry

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 on Sat. August 19th at 5:30 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

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 12th 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

NEW SMALL GROUPS FORMING

- † Watch for information about new small groups starting in 2017
- † One will be led by Tim Ozlowski and aimed at people in their late forties and early fifties. Times and dates TBD
- † In the works: a group for professionals without kids, a group for folks in their fifties, and a Gen X group

Sunday
August 13

10:30 AM

IMPACT
Car Wash
near the pavilion
in the church
parking lot

Drive thru or
have it washed
during the 10:45
service. This is
NOT a fundraiser
but a thank you
service project to
Lord of Life
members for
their support and
contributions to
the youth
ministry this year.

IMPACT Thank You



CAR WASH

In Memoriam

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15

John Anderson

Last month John Anderson was called to glory after a long bout with many illnesses including skin cancer, blood disease, kidney failure and a leaky heart valve. John was well-known among our older members as one who volunteered for many years in many different capacities at Lord of Life. He was also active in his care group. He was dearly loved and his wit and humor will long be remembered. While John's body failed over a long period of time, his mind remained sharp until the end. On more than one occasion I would visit him in the hospital or at a rehab facility intending to pray and give him Holy Communion, only to first have probing discussions on church business! (Rest assured, we did always come around to Scripture, prayer and communion.) But John had a keen interest in the workings of the church and wanted to be sure that all things were done well. He had many strong opinions about how things ought to go and he was never shy in sharing them with me. I will admit that at first this was pretty intimidating, but I realized that John's intentions were good and his motivation was his love for our church and ultimately, his love for the Lord. John is survived by his wife Mavis and son Randy, as well as three grandsons and a granddaughter. They were able to be near him at the time of his death and this was a great comfort to John. Mavis currently resides at a memory care facility in Allen where she receives very good care. She suffers from dementia, and as a result is often confused, but she is cheerful generally happy. On the day of John's funeral, she did very well and was able to recognize and greet many old friends from church. If you would like to join me sometime when I visit her, just let me know and I'll set something up. I'm sure she would appreciate it.

Sharon Davis

On July 29th Sharon Davis died of complications from Leukemia. Sharon and her husband Dean joined Lord of Life just a few years ago after moving to Highland Springs—a local retirement community where several of our members reside. Because Sharon spent much of the last year struggling with illnesses, she was rarely able to attend Sunday services and was probably not well known by many of you. That is too bad because Sharon was a wonderful person with a special personality. She was one of those rare people who could always look on the bright side and wasn't one to complain even when lying weak and sick in a hospital bed. She was truly joyful and a joy to be around. This is in no small part due to the fact that Sharon was a devout Christian. I had the opportunity to speak with her many times this last year in the hospital or at the rehabilitation center and every time she would gladly listen to Scripture, receive the sacrament and fervently pray. Sharon and her husband Dean lived in the Lewisville area for many years and because of this, Dean chose to have the funeral at a funeral home in Lewisville. The service is scheduled for August 11 at 11:00 AM. Sharon and her husband Dean were married 61 years and have three children and several grandchildren.

Serving in Worship in August

	August 6		August 13		August 20		August 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	Lutek		Read		Ziegelbein		Kunschke	
Common Cup	Peters	Hite			Peters	Hite		
Altar	Nelda Schrank, Nevelle Vess, Kay Oltmann, and Lynda Abbott							
Greeter	Martin	McVicker	Schrank	D & C Barnes	Vess	Manning	Martin	J & T Barnes
Sound	Wilkerson	Selvaraj	Hacker	Pittson	Wolf	Raj	Botello	Hite
Usher	Bunge Scarth	Ziegelbein Ozlowski Loewecke	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Moudy	Hawkins Cinquelpalmi	McVicker Oltmann Berger	Hacker Schrank	Crabtree Buckmeier Short

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - June, 2017

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$339,172	\$355,701	(\$16,529)
	Other	\$3,468	\$200	\$3,268
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$342,640	\$355,901	(\$13,261)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$340,771	\$362,229	(\$21,458)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$1,869	(\$6,328)	\$8,197

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$102,836
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$152,276
3. Building Note Balance	\$392,107

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