

LIFELINES



of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

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Plano, Texas

April 2018

“We made it through Easter!” This is the mood for many church workers and volunteers at this time of year. A lot of work is done in preparation for the great feast. Lent and Holy Week, with their extra services, demand much effort from many people. When the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection finally arrives, we want it to be grand, something that rightly exudes the hope and joy we have on account of Christ’s victory over death and the grave. When everyone plays their part well, it all comes together and the work of dedicated individuals is barely noticed. So, lest we forget about that work or take the workers for granted, allow me to say here publicly: “Thank you very much”.

In particular, I want to acknowledge our musicians including choir members (both bell and voice,) but also our brass and timpani players, for giving their time and sharing their gifts. Special thanks also to Dave Senter for directing the choir and to Fred Bernhardt for organizing the brass players. And, of course, many thanks to Vicki Frinsko, our organist and Director of Music. All of you added so much to our celebration of Lent and Easter!

Another group that puts in extra work this time of year is the altar guild. With one notable exception, when they do their part well, you hardly notice it. They set up the altar with the paraments and flowers and also prepare the sacrament before most people even show up to church. To be sure, their work is much more involved than just coming in a little early on Sunday morning. They plan for months in advance, they come in on Saturdays, arrange flowers, clean robes, fill the candles with oil, change the paraments, hang new banners, etc. But like I said, you wouldn’t know this just by showing up on Sunday. When you come to church at 8:00 or 10:45, their work is already done –it’s like it just happened on its own, but of course, that isn’t the case. The one great exception to this rule is on Maundy Thursday. On that night, members of the altar guild participate in the stripping of the altar. This is the only time (I can think of) when the congregation sees them doing their work in the chancel –and even then, the focus is not on them or on how much work they are doing, but on our Lord who was stripped and beaten and humiliated at His arrest.

The position of church secretary requires much more effort this time of year as well. Bulletins abound, but that is not all. With all the extra activity at the church, the secretaries are on the front line of answering phones, answering questions, receiving deliveries, counting offerings, recording data, did I mention bulletins and newsletters? -And sometimes they even get to deal with the occasional stranger who just wanders up to the church door looking for money! Cindy Carter and Winona Parish have been great blessings and I really appreciate the work that they do.

There are many others I could acknowledge, such as elders and sound technicians, acolytes, and ushers, all of whom put in extra time during Lent and Easter. But for now, let me just say one comprehensive “thanks” to all who worked especially hard these last few months in helping us make it through Easter.

With much gratitude,

PrS

Tithing and Tax Laws: *Whom do we Serve?*

Recently one of my adult children asked about tithing and taxes. It was an interesting conversation and I also found it encouraging to see them evaluating every-day issues from a Biblical perspective.

The foundational point of the conversation was the Biblical perspective that everything belongs to God.

The Old Testament people were required to give a tithe, which was 10% of the first fruits of their labor, plus freewill offerings in addition to the tithe (Lev 27:30). In New Testament times we are not bound by the Old Testament's Levitical laws but rather we are encouraged to give cheerfully of our first fruits to support God's work (2 Cor 9:7). We are God's stewards (managers) rather than owners of our time, talent and treasures.

On this point I have always felt that giving 10% of my gross monthly income, plus additional amounts for special causes and capital campaigns, is a starting point for my Christian stewardship – and looking back I have never wished I had given less. Others who tithe have said the same thing.

Whether we tithe at 10% of gross income or 10% of net income or give proportionally at some other level (1 Corinthians 16:2), we know that God wishes us to do so willingly and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) and blesses us as we give back to Him just a portion of what He has given us.

Then there is the question of taxes.

In Romans 13 Paul tells us to submit to governing authorities for their authority is given by God. Jesus paid taxes and called on His disciples to do so (Matt 17:24-27) so we should certainly pay our taxes, and also exercise our civic right to vote and make our voices known on matters of government finance.

With the 2018 tax law changes some charitable organizations are concerned that people will have less incentive to give. The concern arises because for many donors the higher standard deduction exceeds the taxpayer's potential itemized deductions (including charitable giving) so the financial incentive to donate is reduced. Furthermore, tax accountants are advertising creative strategies to minimize taxes.

What is our responsibility as Christians?

We must look to the Biblical view of giving, that everything belongs to God and we are His stewards. Church members give as faithful managers of God's gifts so tax benefits of giving are a secondary consideration. Of course, we need to be smart about how we conduct our business but no tax laws should get between us and God – It is still our duty to give first to God off the top, and then pay the taxes that are due.

Does this make sense? If you have thoughts or comments just send me an e-mail or find me at church.

Ben Lutek,
Elder



“My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and
they follow me.”

– John 10:27

Teen Times

Join

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church at Dugg Burger - Plano for a Fundraiser!

Just present this flyer (print out or on your phone)
at Dugg Burger and dine-in or take-out (including online
orders at www.duggburger.com) on

Sunday, April 29th
any time between
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
and 20% of sales will be donated to



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Dugg Burger is located at
4701 W Park Blvd #110
Plano, TX 75093
972.964.3844



Turning the world of burgers *upside-down*

Thank you from the music office . . .

Being offered the position of Director of Music for Lord of Life has been a big and amazing change in my life. Because of all the good wishes and appreciation extended to me from everyone, joining this staff has been an easy and pleasant transition. I've received so many gifts of encouragement and am very grateful for your support. Words alone are not enough to express my thanks.

I was honored to be offered this position, and humbly pray that my work and ministry among you will be blessed, and that it will enrich your worship life at Lord of Life.

Victoria Frinsko



***40th Biennial Convention - LWML Texas District
July 5-8, 2018 - Waco Convention Center***



*Whoever believes in me, as the
Scripture has said, "Out of his heart
will flow rivers of living water"
John 7:38 ESV.*

Information on Texas District LWML website:
<http://www.lwmltxdist.org/2018-waco-convention.html>



**Give
blood
to give
back.**



Blood Drive
Sunday, April 22, 2018
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Lord of Lutheran Church
Carter BloodCare Bus in Parking Lot

Contact: Winona Parish | (972) 867-5588

DAL-NORTH ZONE SPRING EVENT

Grace Lutheran Church

2411 Woodlake Rd

Denison, TX 75021

Sin, Repentance & Redemption
A Discussion with Nancy Beckcom



RSVP to Chrissie Gilbert at: cgilbert@glcidenison.org
by 4/15/2018.

INGATHERING

Full size towels

Wash clothes

Travel-Size Toiletries

Cash Donations



APRIL 21, 2018 (Saturday)

9:15 AM Registration / 10:00 AM Start Time

Cost: \$8 for Lunch



Lilies have long been a symbol of Easter and immortality. The bulb decays in the ground, yet from it, new life is released. The flowers given this Easter are in thanksgiving for, and in memory of family and friends of our congregation.

Given By:

Mickey & Rebecca Greer
David & Dee Peters
David & Dee Peters
Joyce Bamsch
Mickey & Rebecca Greer
Joyce Bamsch
Ben & Melanie Scarth
Doug & Kathy Hite
Lance & Kris Crabtree
Tony & Nevelle Vess
Charles & Dixie Hacker
Pat Greer
Don, Paula & Carter Banger
Barbara Sinclair
Bill & Charis Bennett
Tom & Karen Ashburn
Tom & Karen Ashburn

Given By:

Jack & Nelda Schrank
Tim & Carol Oxlowski
Tim & Carol Oxlowski
Chris & Deb Dorak
Chris & Deb Dorak
Mike & Sandy Paradise
Stan Brown
Charlie & Lynda Abbott
Mary Ravitz
Doug & Kathy Hite
Gideon Selvaraj & Annie Joseph
Lance & Kris Crabtree
Jerry & Winona Parish
Tony & Nevelle Vess
Jean Spraez
Don, Paula & Carter Banger
Earl & Karen Lund
Carl & Jan Carper
Jeff & Nita Berger
Phil & Candace Klein

In Thanksgiving for:

Their Parents
Their Children
Their Grandchildren
Her Church Family
Their Children & Grandchildren
Her Family
Their Family
Their Family
Their Family
Their Family
Her Family
Jesus Christ Raising and Friends, Family & Church
Her Family
Their Family
Their Family
Their Sister

In Memory of:

Kay
Jonh Oxlowski
Helen Miessler
Robert Behnle
Melvin Dorak
Our Parents
Donna
Their Parents
Her Parents
Alec
D.C. Selvaraj
Our Grandparents
Winona's Mother, Bette Taylor
Our Daughter, Stephanie
Rollie
Those Whome were Lost
Our Parents
Our Parents & Loved Ones in Iowa
Our Mothers and Fathers
Our Parents

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. April 21st at 6:30 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. April 14th at 6:30 PM

TWENTY SOMETHINGS

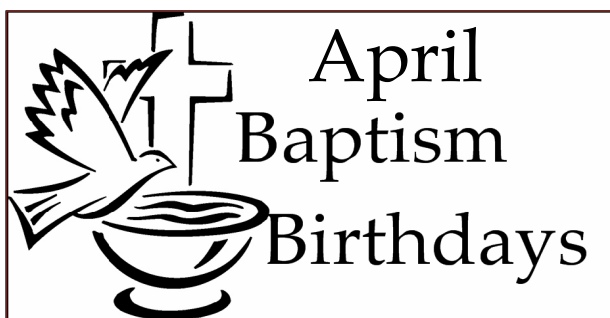
- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service

Birthdays and Anniversaries

in

APRIL

- 2 Brandon Lund
- 3 Kathy Hite
- 5 Rick Pittson
- 8 Jon Chumbley
- 8 Brian Wolf
- 11 Grant Kostrzewa
- 14 Bob Helms
- 14 Cadence Tischler
- 15 Dudley Hall
- 15 Carl & Jan Carper (42)
- 15 Brooks & Joanna Smith (23)
- 16 Karen Lund
- 17 Jeff Berger
- 17 Luke Reinert
- 19 Lynda Abbott
- 22 Scott & Christine Messinger (23)
- 22 Rhonda Tabor
- 25 Kathy Helms
- 25 Rix Scarth
- 25 Laurie & Tom George (31)
- 26 Bon & Becky Padgett (21)
- 27 Mike & Sandra Paradise (55)
- 28 Amanda Matthys
- 28 Katherine Short
- 29 Gideon Selvaraj
- 30 Earl & Karen Lund (30)



Luke Reinert – 04-23-2007

Save the Date!

Take me out to the ballgame!

*Frisco Rough Riders Game
vs Arkansas Travelers*



Friday June 1st. 7:00 pm game, \$20 per ticket includes premium seating, all you can eat hotdogs, brats, peanuts, chips and Dr. Pepper products, Rough Rider souvenir, \$10 concession stand voucher. Parking is not included--\$5-\$10 depending upon where you park. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Serving in Worship in April

	April 1		April 8		April 15		April 22		April 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	Lutek	Hite	Peters		Read		Ziegelbein		Kunschke	
Assist	Kunschke	Ziegelbein			Lutek	Hite			Read	Peters
Altar	Nelda Schrank, Kathy Hite and Lynda Abbott									
Acolyte	Cadence	Nate	Emma	Sarah	Cadence	Jonah	Noah	Hayden	Athan	Sarah
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	McVicker	Vess	Manning	Martin	Barnes	Schrank	Dorak
Sound	Hacker	Raj	Wolf	Selvaraj	Botello	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Hacker	Raj
Usher	Bunger Scarth	Ozowski Loewecke Ziegelbien	Frinsko Paradise Read	Cruz Moudy	Bunger	Oltmann Berger	Hacker Schrank	Buckmeier Short Crabtree	Paradise Read Frinsko	Moudy Cruz

FINANCIAL REPORT

January, 2018

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$36,782	\$50,250	(\$13,468)
	Other	\$41		\$41
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$36,823	\$50,250	(\$13,427)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$43,344	\$48,901	(\$5,557)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	(\$6,521)	\$1,349	(\$7,870)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$88,164
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$142,633
3. Building Note Balance	\$332,258