

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

Vol. 30, No. 12

Plano, Texas

December 2016

College Prep at Lord of Life

Shortly before graduating from seminary, I was given this advice about preaching: "You should spend your first three years preaching on the Gospel readings, the next three on the Old Testament readings, and then, you might be ready to preach on the Epistle readings." This advice was given to me by my old friend Henry Gerike. Henry is an ordained minister and talented musician who directed the choirs at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (he was also one of the presenters at last month's worship conference here at Lord of Life.) The advice was given to challenge young and inexperienced preachers. I followed that advice and learned that it was not only a benefit to preachers, but it was also a great blessing to members of their congregations as well. I'll explain why in a moment, but first, some background on the assigned readings for the day.

As you probably know, the readings for each Sunday are assigned for that day and follow the Christian Church Year calendar. We refer to these readings as the "lectionary," and that term is also used to describe the book that contains these readings. The purpose of the lectionary is to order our worship around the life of Christ as revealed in God's Word. The lectionary we use is a version of the Revised Common Lectionary used by many Christians including Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and others. It is divided into three years, with Gospel readings from Year A coming mostly from the Gospel of Matthew, Year B from Mark, Year C from Luke, while readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed among years A, B, and C. The Gospel reading sets the theme for the day, while the Old Testament readings are chosen to relate to the theme in the Gospel reading. The Epistle readings follow a continuous reading, that is, over the course of three years, we have the opportunity to read through most of the Epistles in the New Testament beginning to end. A Psalm, or a portion of one, is also assigned to each day of the Church Year. (To see the lectionary, you can find it easily online by searching "LSB lectionary" or simply browse the front of your hymnal.)

The lectionary is a great tool for ordering our worship with the benefit that over the course of 3 years, we read a vast amount of the Bible, (though not all of it.) By following the advice given, the congregation has the opportunity to hear sermons on different texts for 9 years! Following the lectionary also provides the preacher the occasion to mine the rich depths of the Bible and proclaim what the Apostle Paul called "the whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) This also keeps the preacher from simply repeating his favorite talking point over and over, but instead has him focus on the variety of themes found in Holy Scripture. In this way, the lectionary is a real blessing for both the preacher and the congregation.

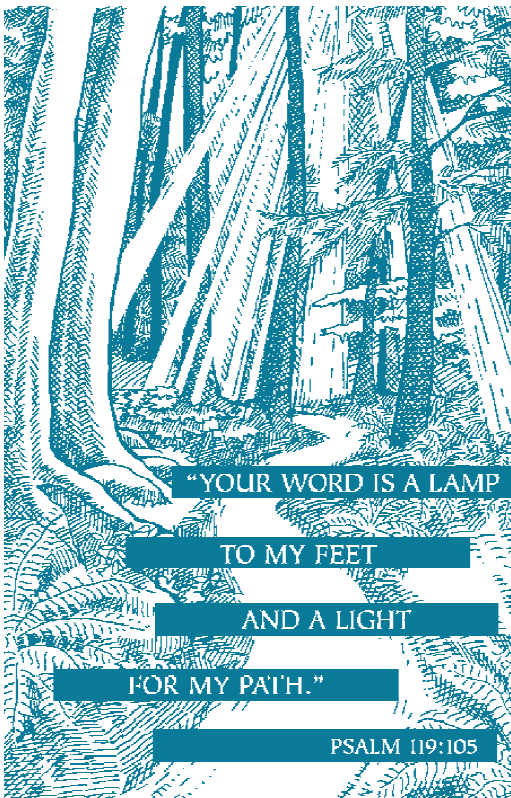
(Continued on the next page)

Which brings me to the reason I'm even mentioning all this stuff about lectionaries: with this new Church Year and for the two following, my plan is to preach on the Old Testament readings. For the last 4 years I have preached on the Gospel readings, but I am looking forward to this new focus and if all goes well, I will also plan to preach on the epistles for the next 3 year cycle.

Finally, I also want to mention something about our midweek Advent services. This year I am using a preaching resource called, "Sermons for Advent and Christmas" published in 2008 by Concordia Publishing House. It contains several resources for Advent services including sermons and themes. I have decided to use a series called, "Stop! Look! Listen!" written by Rev. Gerhard H. Bode and Rev. Jonathan Rathjen. As with any preaching resource used, I will edit and amend them to suit my own style, but I do want to acknowledge this helpful resource and give proper credit.

Happy New Church Year!

PrS



prepare for worship in December

Sunday, 4 December: Second Sunday of Advent

Texts: Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12
Hymn for the Word: "On Jordan's Bank," 344

Wednesday, 7 December: Advent Midweek Evening Prayer, 7pm

Office Hymn: "Arise, O Christian People,"
354

Magnificat: "My Soul Now Magnifies the
Lord," 934

Sunday, 11 December: Third Sunday of Advent

Texts: Is. 35:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matt. 11:2-15
Hymn for the Word: "Hail to the Lord's
Anointed," 398

6pm: Nineteenth Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

(please note earlier time)

Wednesday, 14 December: Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm

Office Hymn: "Jesus Came, the Heavens
Adoring," 353

Magnificat: "Song of Hannah," 928

Sunday, 18 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Texts: Is. 7:10-17; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25
Hymn for the Word: "O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel," 357

Wednesday, 21 December: Advent Midweek Evening Prayer, 7pm

Office Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My
People," 347

Saturday, 24 December: Christmas Eve Divine Services, 5 and 7pm

Sunday, 25 December: Christmas Day

Texts: Is. 52:7-10; 1 Jn. 4:7-16; Matt. 1:18-25
Hymn for the Word: "Of the Father's Love
Begotten," 384

There is no New Year's Eve Service this year.

*Music at Midday concerts have been cancelled
until further notice.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December

- 1 Tim & Alyson Wood (9)
- 3 Joyce Bamsch
- 4 Mollie Manning
- 4 Monique Phelan
- 5 Helen Dolan
- 6 Steve Klausing
- 6 Frank & June Edelmann (35)
- 6 Bob & Kathy Helms (29)
- 9 Amanda Belcher
- 11 Jennifer Chappelle
- 11 Paula Lowery
- 11 Karl Keffer
- 13 Gail Wolf
- 14 Stu Ehrett
- 14 Samantha Howe
- 14 Jack Schrank
- 15 Sebastian Shaltanis
- 15 Holly Bowman
- 15 Phyllis Summer
- 17 Jonathan Bowman
- 17 Joe & Laura Isbell (6)
- 17 Marty & Angie Buckmeier (28)
- 18 Stephanie Tabor
- 19 Luis & Barbara Botello (24)
- 20 Susie Hawkins
- 20 Dave Peters
- 21 Lizzy Short
- 22 John & Mavis Anderson (60!!)
- 23 Katie Howe
- 23 Shirley Sparks
- 23 Kevin & Cheryl Tyler (23)
- 26 Andrew Buckmeier
- 26 Lauvenia Barry
- 26 Josh Hoepfner
- 26 Ben Scarth
- 27 Phil Klein
- 27 James Schutz
- 27 Andrew & Rebecca Short (13)
- 28 Jennifer Beaudreau
- 28 Steve & Hillary Klausing (41)
- 30 Dori Stofer
- 30 Ken & Rhonda Tabor (33)

Lord of Life Small Groups

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

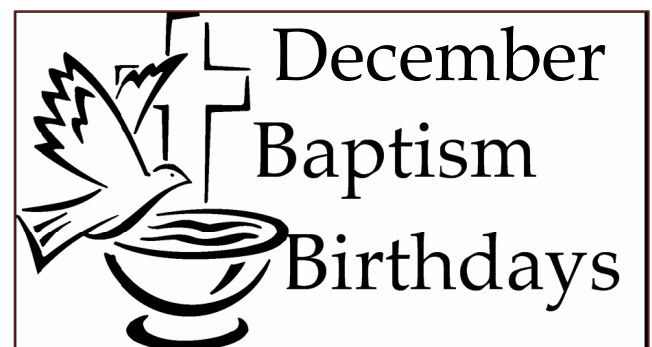
- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net
- † Will meet on Sat. Dec. 10th at 6:00 PM

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 on a Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM



- Lillie Chappelle - 12-30-12
- Samantha Howe - 12-30-07
- Elijah Isbell - 12-11-11
- Sebastian Shaltanis - 12-27-06
- Lizzy Short - 12-29-13

Serving in Worship in December

	December 4		December 11		December 18		December 24		December 25
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 AM
Elder	Kunschke		Peters		Ziegelbein		Read	Lutek, Moudy	Lutek
Common Cup	Womack	Hite	Lutek	Kunschke	Carper	Hite	Womack	Ozlowski	Peters
Altar	Linda Abbott and Carol Nance								
Alcolyte	E Hacker	E Ziegelbein	J Hawkins	K Crabtree	Adcox	W Gibson			
Crucifer	G Hacker	Loewecke	G Hawkins	Tischler	Messinger	N Ziegelbein			
Greeter	Vess	McVicker	Schrank	Dorak	Martin	Manning			
Sound	Wolf	Hite	Botello	Selveraj	Wilkerson	Pittson	Hite	Wolf	Wolf
Usher	Sarth Parrent Martin	Ziegelbein Loewecke Ozlowski	Frinsko Read Paradise	Dolginoff Cruz Moudy	Hawkins Cinquelpalmi	Berger McVicker Oltman	McVicker Scarth Parrent	Dolginoff Moudy Ozlowski	Kun Crabtree Schrank

Midweek Advent Services

December 7

Sound Tech: Raj
Elder: Hite

December 14

Sound Tech: Hite
Elder: Kunschke

December 21

Sound Tech: Wolf
Elder: Womack

Lessons and Carols

Elder: Kunschke
Sound Tech: Pittson

FINANCIAL REPORT

January- October, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$616,619	\$565,791	\$50,828
	Other	\$2,637	\$3,170	(\$533)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$619,256	\$568,961	\$50,295
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$612,764	\$575,396	\$37,368
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$6,492	(\$6,435)	\$12,927

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance \$86,978
2. Dedicated Funds Balance \$146,876
3. Building Note Balance \$490,986