

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Plano, Texas

January 2016

Looking Forward in the New Year

We are just days into the New Year and already I am trying to catch up! As always, the holidays were a busy time, but they also provided us with many opportunities to worship and celebrate all our gracious God has done in sending Jesus into the world.

Quickly, here are a few things you might want to know about that are happening this month at Lord of Life...

I will be attending a continuing education course in San Antonio the first week of January. The program is called Doxology and it is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. It is aimed at increasing competency in pastoral care. The full course is comprised of three different conferences (January, August, and November.) One is attended by me alone, another with my wife, and the final conference with a lay leader from the church. To learn more about it, you can check out their webpage: <http://www.doxology.us/> I have heard only good things about it for years from friends and colleagues, but have not had the opportunity to be involved before now. I am looking forward to it very much and thank you all for the opportunity to do so.

The second week in January, we will receive a special visitor from California, the Rev. Dr. Andy Wu. Pastor Wu was a good friend of mine and a colleague at one of the neighboring churches where I served in Southern California. I have invited Pastor Wu to help communicate with the Chinese congregation that meets at Lord of Life, Lutheran Church of the Way (LCW).

As I announced at the December voters' meeting, the good people of LCW have recently expressed

a renewed interest in joining the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. I have discussed the matter with district officials and learned that this is not a simple matter, but one that requires (above all) unity in doctrine as well as consent in various matters of congregational polity. What further complicates the situation with LCW is the fact that their congregation does not have a pastor. Currently, they are being served by Pastor Edward Shyu, but Pastor Shyu is only serving in the interim and would like to see the congregation call a Lutheran Pastor. But as you might have guessed, calling an LCMS Pastor who happens to be fluent in Chinese, is not as easy as calling up the seminary or contacting the district president. One has to go looking far and wide for eligible candidates and sometimes it is easier to raise up a new pastor from the existing congregation. Well, Pastor Wu is going to help explain all of that to our friends at LCW as well as answer many other questions they have about the LCMS and he will do this in Chinese. (He told me he is not only fluent in English, but Taiwanese, Cantonese, and Mandarin so he is well-equipped for the task!)

Please pray for our two congregations, Lord of Life and Lutheran Church of the Way, that if God wills, He will help us to find a God-pleasing unity and partnership that results in walking together in service to our English and Chinese-speaking community.

In addition to these things, I look forward to getting back to Confirmation classes and Wednesday morning Bible Classes –both beginning on the 13th.

God bless and Happy New Year!

Pr S

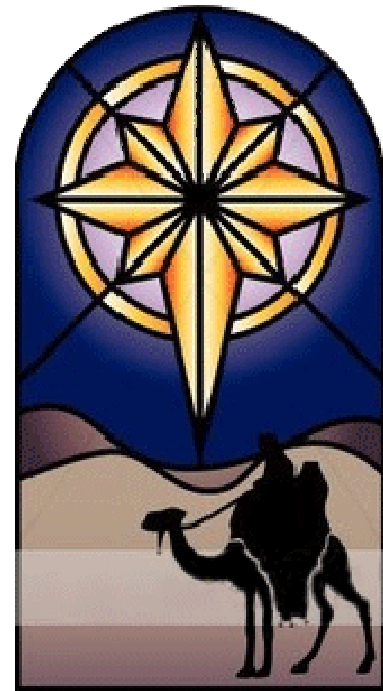
Music at Midday

This month's Music at Midday organ concert falls on Wednesday, 6 January, which is Epiphany Day! Therefore, we'll explore music dedicated to this ancient Christian holiday which precedes even the celebration of Christmas. Come join us at 1.05pm for about 35 minutes' worth of music.

Music Rehearsals Resume

After a well-needed break after Christmas, musical ensembles will resume rehearsals this month:

- Adult Choir: Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, 6 January at 7pm.
- Children's Choir: Rehearsals resume on Sunday, 10 January at 11.45am in the SS opening room.
- Youth Choir: Rehearsals resume on Sunday, 10 January at 11.45am in the choir room.
- Handbell Ensemble: Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, 13 January at 6pm in the sanctuary.



prepare for worship in January

3 January, 2016: Second Sunday after Christmas

Texts: I Kings 3: 4-15; Ephesians 1: 3-14; Luke 2: 40-52

Hymn of the Day: "Within the Father's House," 410

10 January: The Baptism of Our Lord

Texts: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Romans 6: 1-11; Luke 3: 15-22

Hymn of the Day: "God's Own Child," 594

17 January: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Texts: Isaiah 62: 1-5; I Cor. 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

Hymn of the Day: "Come Join in Cana's Feast," 408

24 January: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Texts: Nehemiah 8: 1-10; I Cor. 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 16-30

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," 655

31 January: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Texts: Jeremiah 1: 4-10; I Cor. 12: 31b-13: 13; Luke 4: 31-44

Hymn of the Day: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed," 398

Its Hockey Time!

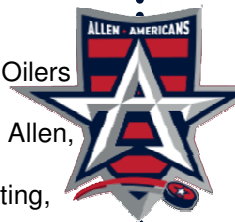
Allen Americans Hockey Club vs. Tulsa Oilers
Friday January 29, 2015 at 7:05 pm
Allen Event Center, 200 E. Stacy Road, Allen, Texas

Tickets are \$20 each for center ice seating, hot dog & drink.

Please sign up in the narthex. Make payments to Lord of Life Lutheran Church, and note that it is for Hockey.

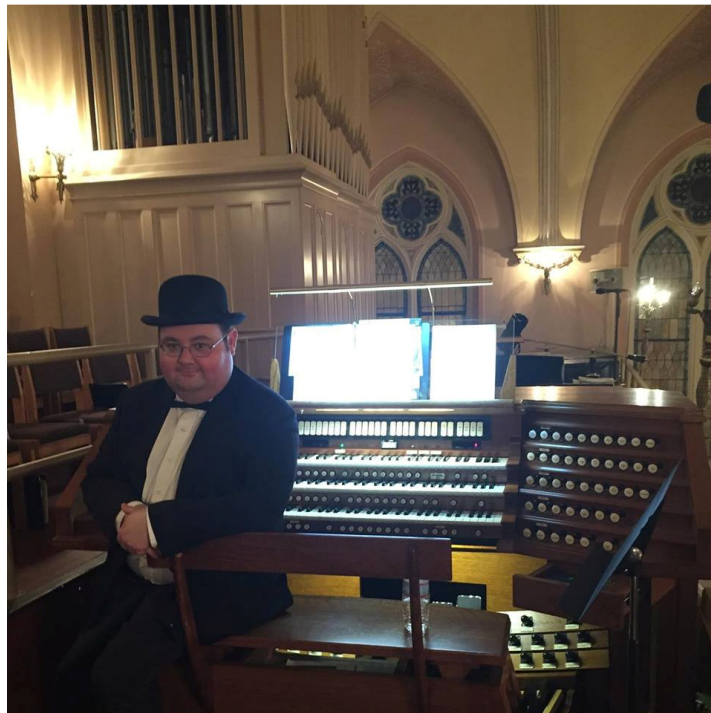
Please contact Charis Bennett with any questions.

"There is a post-game skate with the players on that evening, so everyone is welcome to stay after and participate in that. They can bring their own skates or rent them at the community rink."





Lord of Life Lutheran Church Fine Arts/Concert Series presents a screening of Harold Lloyd's silent movie, *The Kid Brother* (1927) on **Sunday, 10 January at 6pm**. Organist **Benjamin Kolodziej** will perform a live soundtrack composed specifically for this moving picture and in a style reminiscent of the 1920s. Harold Lloyd, one of the great silent movie actors along with Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin, specialized in roles that featured an underdog character who is out of their element. In this case, Lloyd plays the role of a younger brother who must prove himself to his father. This delightful comedy was hailed by one critic in 1927 as “. . . absorbing, amusing, and a delight every foot of the way.” With its many visual delights and rustic setting, this family-friendly comedy has been a favorite of audiences for decades. Organist Benjamin Kolodziej will perform a unique musical score to highlight the on-screen action, just as would have been the practice when the film was released in 1927. This event is free and all are invited. Popcorn will be served.



from our Elders

My Dear Friends,

As we conclude another year and look forward to beginning the next, it's a good time to take stock of where we've been, where we are (and who and whose we are), and where we're going.

I'm sure we've all heard the maxim: the only constant in life is change. And, given the speed at which life comes at us these days, that often seems like the truth.

However, and thankfully, that is not the only truth. From the scriptures (Heb. 13:8), we know that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We have a "sure hope" (Heb 6:19) and an "ever-present help" (Psalm 46:1), and these do not change with the passing of the years.

I've been praying through the 25th Psalm lately, and I commend it to you as well. I've found it to be a good way to put my life perspective at this turn of the year.

These words summarize the life of discipleship to which I aspire.

- Know God (v. 2)
-
- Study the Scriptures (v 4)
- Trust in God for Salvation (v.5)
-
- Repent and Receive Forgiveness (v. 11)

And, verses 16-18 are a prayer that can help us overcome whatever challenges we face in this life.

In the end, I conclude that the only proper response to my year end stock taking (and the only New Year's resolution that I need) is summed up in Psalm 136: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

In Christ,
Mike Kunschke, Elder

Elder Announcements

After many years of service, Jim Roberts is retiring from the Board of Elders. We thank Jim for his faithful service to our congregation in this capacity and we look forward to his continued involvement in other ministries here at Lord of Life.

Going forward, we have asked Joseph Acker to serve with us as an Elder and he has accepted this responsibility. You will see him beginning to take up these duties in the coming month.

Finally, we thank God for both Jim and Joseph, and for all volunteers who have said yes to serving our congregation at Lord of Life.

Thank You

Many thanks for a nice raise again this year and a much appreciated Christmas bonus. Sometimes I have wondered when reading St. Paul in 1st Corinthians 9, if, like him, I could earn my own wages by working a trade and serving as a pastor without pay. It's an interesting idea, (though I doubt I would make it as a tentmaker like the Apostle) and it is probably one idea better suited for a man like St. Paul who did not have a wife and four children! So, from me and my entire family, thanks again, we truly appreciate it.

PrS

Special Thanks

I also want to acknowledge a special gift received from an anonymous givers. My family and I were astounded both by the generosity and the manner in which a gift was secretly given to us this Christmas.

It is a rare thing for someone to give a generous gift without any expectation of recognition. It is also a great way to receive a gift. Let's face it, sometimes when you receive a nice gift it leaves you feeling uncomfortable, or it imposes a feeling of obligation: "*Since this person gave me X, I better get them X.*" Or, if you can't afford X, then you are left feeling indebted to the giver. Consciously or not, some people give gifts and attach strings to the gift with their expectations of repayment in some fashion, and if you accept the gift, you accept the obligation.

The generous gift our family received was not given this way. I really don't know who gave it to us, so I don't have that uncomfortable feeling, nor do I have any feeling of debt or obligation. The giver was not looking for accolades or expecting anything in return, which again, is a great way to give.

I mention this now to acknowledge the gift and let the giver know it was very well received and will be put to good use. But also, I hope that by giving at least this much attention to this wonderful way of gift-giving, it might inspire others to be generous to friends, neighbors, and those in need, and to consider doing so in the same manner, without the need for recognition or repayment.

To the giver: Thanks for your gift and thanks for your example.

PrS

A REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Many of us longtime members of Lord of Life have seen the church building go through a lot of big changes over the years. Those of us who were around remember meeting in rental facilities on Frankford Rd. and then later trailers at the current property. We were so blessed to be a part of the construction of the current building and we hope that it continued to serve as a house of worship for many years to come.

A key part in the process that led to the church being built, and later on the expansion of the kitchen and classroom and office areas, was an organized capital campaign. Our members joined in pledging their support of the building so we could construct the facility we have now. At our last voters meeting on December 6, it was reported that the outstanding debt of the congregation is currently \$759,012. Recently, we have concentrated on paying off more of that debt (reducing our principal by \$63,040 last year). Paying off this debt will put our congregation in a better position for future ministry and perhaps even further building expansion if we have the need.

I would like to encourage all of you, and especially our newer members who might never have had a chance to be a part of the previous building campaigns, to consider making a special over and above commitment to paying off the church's debt. There are many ways that this can be done. There is a special "Building Fund" envelope in your offering envelopes that can be used as an annual gift (as many of our members have done each year.) Others have designated special memorial gifts for the building fund in honor of their friends and loved ones. There are many ways to help and all of us working together can pay off our debt and prepare our church for future ministry opportunities.

Sincerely,
 Gil Manning

Lutherans for Life

Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

We often look down on the Middle Ages by calling it the "Dark Ages." Recently, our own society seems to have entered a spiritual and cultural dark age. Signs of this include:

- We do not allow certain scientific "facts" such as evolution and global warming to be questioned. Universities deny tenure to those who question evolution, and some students have been denied a passing grade if they dissent. In addition, some supporters of evolution and global warming are wreaking havoc on the value of human life. For example, evolutionary thought has led several ethicists including Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, to advocate for infanticide and voluntary euthanasia. And, environmentalists groups such as the Sierra Club believe that global warming is caused by overpopulation. Thus they are partnering with various groups including Planned Parenthood, the United Methodists Church's Healthy Families Healthy Planet, and the Guttmacher Institute on a United Nation program called "Universal Access Project," which gives women in third world countries access to abortion and contraceptives.

- We do not honor marriage as God intended. Living together before marriage is rampant, and same sex marriage is condoned. Those who question these trends are labelled as judgmental or bigoted. The family unit is undergoing unprecedented destruction, and this destruction is celebrated by Hollywood, who portrays broken or atypical families as the norm. Same-sex marriage has been ruled as a law of the land by the Supreme Court, overturning the will of the people in many states.

- We sacrifice our children to the gods of pleasure and sex. In the US, over 56 million children have been killed since the legalization of abortion on demand. And, if we want children at all, we want "perfect" children. We do not want children who are found to be "defective" in the eyes of the world,

especially unborn children who have Downs Syndrome. They have an 85-90% chance of being aborted.

- We entertain ourselves to death. We spend more time in front of media than we do reading the Bible, teaching our children God's Word, attending church and Sunday School, etc.

- The leadership of our country fails to defend Christians who are being persecuted throughout the world. The frequent news of yet another massacre of Christians, military personnel, or other group by Islamic terrorists is very disheartening.

- We cede more and more power to our government to "fix" our societal problems, while we lose our freedoms. With the advent of same sex marriage, our religious liberty is at risk. The plain meaning of our law is twisted by the courts so that new "rights" abound: a woman's right to privacy includes the right to end her child's life; a right to government-run healthcare means that the government has the power to "tax" us for health insurance which funds abortions; and a right to contraceptive coverage (including abortion-inducing drugs) must be so universal that Catholic nuns, the Little Sisters of the Poor, are forced to purchase healthcare plans with contraceptive coverage or face millions of dollars in fines from the IRS.

As our country slips further down the slippery slope of immorality, we must persevere, repent of our own failings, and hold fast to our faith. As Christians in this "dark age," we know the "Light" that overcomes all the darkness in our world.

January is Life Month at LOL in honor of the tragic "Roe vs Wade" decision of January 22, 1973. Please take resources from our table in the narthex January 10th and 17th and feel free to check-out books from our new library cart. A "Prayer to End Abortion" will be included in your Sunday bulletin. Please pray for an end to abortion throughout the month.

President Matthew Harrison sees this time of darkness as a time of opportunity for us. If you visit www.lcms.org, and click on the "social issues" tab,

you will find resources to help you and your family persevere as well as some encouraging words.

And, take comfort in the words of our Lord and Savior:

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Jennifer Cinquepalmi
Life Team Leader
Lutherans for Life



LUTHERAN EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In December the Board of Elders approved a new scholarship program for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year to assist parent and students with the costs of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary Missouri Synod Lutheran educational programs.

The Elders have been accumulating a dedicated Scholarship Fund through memorials and other contributions. Additional donations are welcome at this time. Scholarship amounts will depend on several factors, including the amount of funds available and the number of applicants.

Students must be members of the church attending school full-time. Applications and eligibility requirements are available on the Lord of Life website.

The deadline for applications is January 31st, and awards will be announced by the end of March.
How to Apply

1. Complete the 2-page Application Form from the church website.
<http://planolutheran.com>
2. Attach a description of the educational program (from school website)
3. Attach prior transcript or report cards available as of date of application
4. Submit completed application to the Pastor or Board of Elders by e-mail or via the Church Office by January 31st

Still have questions? Please contact Pastor or your Elder for more information.

Ben Lutek, Board of Elders

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., Jan. 16 at 6:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

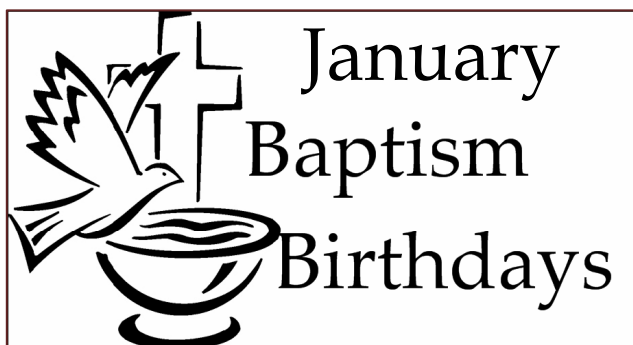
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
 † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
 † Will meet on a Sat., Jan. 23 at 6:30 PM

MOMS' GROUP

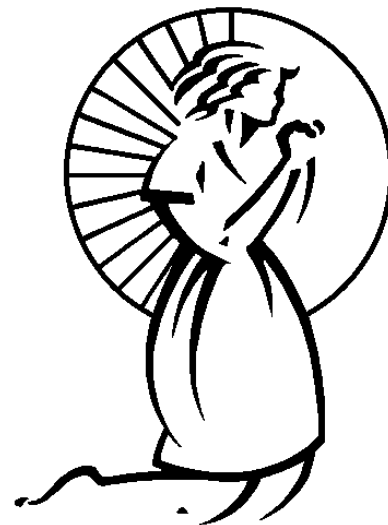
- † For info contact Kris Crabtree at (214) 705-0710 or crabtreefive@sbcglobal.net



Stephen Adcox – Jan 25, 2004
 John Hawkins – Jan 25, 2009
 James Schutz – Jan 27, 2013



- 1 Bob Nance
- 1 Judy Dolginoff
- 1 Margaret Bush
- 2 Stu & Sandy Ehrett (29)
- 5 Dominic Cinquepalmi
- 5 Jennifer Cinquepalmi
- 5 Hannah Greer
- 5 Nolan Helms
- 6 Pat Montalbo
- 7 Justin Mutinta
- 8 Lauren Chumbley
- 8 Lauren Howe
- 8 Linda Tischler
- 8 Jim & Donna Roberts (33)
- 10 Abigail Beaudreau
- 10 Sandra Paradise
- 17 Jonathan & Holly Bowman (16)
- 21 Brian Hahn
- 22 Lora Frinsko
- 24 Kymberly Vess
- 26 Aliny Carvalho
- 28 Amanda Kunschke
- 30 Karl Olsen



*Let us kneel before
 the Lord, our Maker!
 Psalm 95:6*

Serving in Worship in January

| | January 3 | | January 10 | | January 17 | | January 24 | | January 31 | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 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 | Womack | | Carper | | Lutek | | Kunschke | | Hite | |
| Common Cup | Peters | Hite | | | Womack | Kunschke | | | | |
| Altar | June Edelmann and Carol Nance | | | | | | | | | |
| Alcolyte | G. Hawkins | S. Belcher | A. Shaltanis | N. Moudy | S. Tabor | E. Ziegelbein | E. Hacker | K. Crabtree | G. Hacker | S. Carter |
| Crucifer | G. Hacker | C. Loewecke | | | M. Shaltanis | Carter | | | | |
| Greeter | Martin | McVicker | Schrank | Manning | Sparks/Ehrett | Abbott/McVicker | Vess | Dorak | Martin | McVicker |
| Sound | Wilkerson | Raj | Wolf | Selveraj | Botello | Pittson | Wilkerson | Hite | Wolf | Raj |
| Usher | Martin Scarh Parrent | Loewecke Kostrzewa Ziegelbein | Paradise Read Frnsko | Moudy Dolginoff Cruz | Klausing Cinquelpalmi Hawkins | Oltman Berger McVicker | Kun Schrank Hacker | Crabtree Buckmeier Short | Frnsko Read Paradise | Cruz Moudy Dolginoff |

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - November, 2015

| | | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VARIANCE |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| RECEIPTS: | Regular Offerings | \$612,403 | \$606,808 | \$5,595 |
| | Other | \$6,402 | \$170 | \$6,232 |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$618,805 | \$606,978 | \$11,827 |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$627,941 | \$623,703 | \$4,238 |
| | RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES | (\$9,136) | (\$16,725) | \$7,589 |

OTHER INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. General Operating Fund Balance | \$90,112 |
| 2. Dedicated Funds Balance | \$137,279 |
| 3. Building Note Balance | \$746,530 |