

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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I have a confession to make: I'm a news junkie. My main interest is in news and politics. I read news websites on a regular basis to find out what's going on in the world. For the most part, I think this is a harmless addiction, in fact, one could argue that staying well-informed is a duty for responsible citizens. But here's the problem, and it has to do with the way the news is reported: turn on the nightly news or scan the headlines and what you see is not good. What you see is scandal and tragedy, death and calamity, with the underlying implication that the whole world is falling apart! And with this being an election year, we also have the added noise of each side doing everything they can to tear down the other in an attempt to whip up fears about how awful it will be if their opponent is elected. Such is the world of news and politics.

If you spend a lot of time in this world, then you may notice as I have, that you can easily find yourself getting anxious over the sad state of the world. You start to believe the hype and suspect it might be as bad as they say. After all, when all you see and hear is bad news and threats from politicians of how it is only going to get worse, well, what else would you conclude? So in light of this, let me share a simple lesson from the prophet Elijah, as recorded in 1st Kings.

Elijah was a prophet of Israel at a time of rampant unfaithfulness, a time, you might say, not unlike ours. The people had abandoned their exclusive devotion to the Lord and made alliances with the Gentile nations around them. Talk about an upsetting political situation, the King Israel, Ahab, married the evil princess Jezebel of Sidonia. As his queen, she proceeded to influence him and even got Ahab to introduce Baal worship in Israel.

In spite of the unfaithfulness all around, Elijah remained faithful. He stood fast against the ungodly culture. At one point, he even challenged many prophets of Baal to a memorable "prophet's duel" at Mount Carmel (chap. 18). Elijah humiliated the false prophets of Baal when the Lord sent down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice Elijah offered, and in the aftermath of the contest, hundreds of false prophets were put to death. Surely, Elijah would be elated at the new development! Now Israel would turn back to the Lord. After this stunning victory, a renewal of faithfulness would spread throughout Israel. The Lord had shown His strength, now faithful Israelites would have nothing to fear! Or so you would think, but this is not what happened.

When Jezebel heard what happened to the prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel, she sent Elijah a note threatening to do the same to him. And what did this great prophet of the Lord do? Did he laugh at the thought that this heathen whose prophets had just been slaughtered could possibly hurt him? Did he renew his faith and pray ever more earnestly for the Lord to display his power against the wicked? No, sadly Elijah did nothing of the sort. Rather than continue to stand firm, this great prophet was afraid and fled for his life. He ran for a day, then exhausted, prayed to

(Continued on the next page)

God to take his life, but instead, God gave him food to sustain him for 40 days until he reached Mt. Horeb. There, he spoke to the Lord and complained. Saying: *"I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."* (19:10) His words to the Lord are whiney and weak and display an utter lack of trust.

While God could have chastised Elijah for being a grumbler, instead, the Lord spoke words of assurance. Saying, *"Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha ... you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."* (1 Kings 19:15-18 ESV)

The Lord assured Elijah that despite what Elijah thought he knew, the Lord knew better. He knew that in spite of all the unfaithfulness, Elijah was not the only faithful one left. Far from it! God reserved for himself 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal. Further, despite Elijah's complaints that the kingdom was overrun with corrupt and wicked officials, The Lord God informed Elijah that he was to go and appoint new kings and rulers and a new prophet to replace him, with the promise that these men would continue to clean up the mess in Israel. In other words, God told Elijah what he already knew, yet somehow forgot: The Lord is in control.

It seems like a simple lesson and it is, but what Elijah forgot, I too forget from time to time and perhaps you do as well as you look around at the decline in faithfulness, the decaying culture, the rampant paganism, the corrupt and unfaithful public officials and the endless fear-mongering you hear on TV. It's easy in an election year to get caught up in all the hype. But despite all of this noise, rest assured, God is still in control. The earth is His and everything in it. He directs it and guides it and He will not let the whole thing fall apart. And while wickedness may increase and kingdoms and nations may fall, nevertheless, the

Lord and His faithful will never cease to be in the world –Christ even promised the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church. And what's more, believers in Jesus also know that one day He will bring about an end to all wickedness and He will make right every injustice. We know that we will also join in the triumph of Christ and live in the new heaven and earth.

In conclusion, let me leave you again with this simple truth. I know you have heard it many times before, but it is also something that we can all be reminded of from time to time: GOD IS IN CONTROL.

PrS

Lord of Life Fine Arts/Concert Series, 2016-17

Lord of Life's concert series committee is pleased to announce the concert season for 2016-17. We have striven to sponsor a variety of musical events, each with a different appeal to our community and parish. You can find more complete descriptions on www.planolutheran.com/finearts. We hope to see you at some of these musical events!

Fred Bernhardt	Pat Greer
Pat Montalbo	Doug Hite
Pastor Shaltanis	Vicki Frinsko
Carol Nance	Benjamin Kolodziej

Concert Series Committee Members

Sunday, 11 September, 2016, 4.30pm: DFW Brass

Sunday, 13 November, 2016, 7pm: Trevor Magness, Pianist

Sunday, 13 November, 2016, 7pm: Worship Conference Hymn Festival

Sunday, 11 December, 2016, 6pm: Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 8 January, 2017, 6pm: Silent Movie with Organ Accompaniment

Sunday, 26 February, 2017, 4.30pm: Michael Patilla, Classical Guitar

Sunday, 23 April, 2017, 4.30pm: Sacred Music Scholarship Competition for High School Students

Monday, 15 May, 2017, 7pm: Slideshow Trombone Ensemble



**prepare for worship
in July**

3 July: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isaiah 66: 10-14; Galatians 6: 1-10, 14-18;
Luke 10: 1-20

Hymn of the Day: "Hark! The Voice of Jesus
Calling," 827

10 July: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Leviticus 19 9-18; Colossians 1: 1-14; Luke
10: 25-37

Hymn of the Day: "Where Charity and Love
Prevail," 845

17 July: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Genesis 18: 1-10; Colossians 1: 21-29; Luke
10: 38-42

Hymn of the Day: "Oh, Blest this House," 862

24 July: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Genesis 18: 20-33; Colossians 2: 6-15; Luke
11: 1-13

Hymn of the Day: "Our Father, Who in Heaven
Above," 766

31 July: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2 18-26; Colossians
3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21

Hymn of the Day: "All Depends on Our
Possessing," 732

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Fruit of the Spirit

Vacation Bible School



August 1-5, 2016
9:00 am - Noon

Register online at planolutheran.com/VBS

MISSIONARIES

MUSIC FROM
AROUND THE WORLD

In the Footsteps of Luther

Last month, I led a group of fifteen travelers to Germany, where we walked “In the Footsteps of Luther” on the 499th anniversary of the Reformation. We spent time in Berlin, Leipzig, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Eisleben, Eisenach, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, and ended up in Bavaria for some refreshments (where there were also no Luther sites to tempt us!) Since the state church in Germany has been derelict and lukewarm for centuries, I had wanted our group to experience real confessional Lutheranism, and as such we made three stops associated with the SELK (Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche), the independent Lutheran church with which the LCMS is in fellowship. In fact, Lord of Life has supported some German missionary efforts in the past. First, we visited the Old Latin School in Wittenberg. This historic building, where Phillip Melanchthon taught and where the modern classical curriculum developed, was



Outside the Old Latin School in Wittenberg. (Trying to read Latin over the Door.)

recently bought by the LCMS, restored, and will be used for evangelism, meetings, performances, as well as a base for missionary activities in Wittenberg, where only 10% of the population professes a Christian faith. The new director of the Latin School, Kristin Lange (from Kansas), gave us a tour of the building, told us of their ministry to the Wittenbergers, and encouraged us to sing some Lutheran hymns in their chapel. (They had an organ, so I couldn't resist.) Lord of Life's elders have supported this mission in the past, and Miss Lange not only expressed her thanks to us and her many American benefactors, but explained exactly how our support has been used for evangelistic purposes.

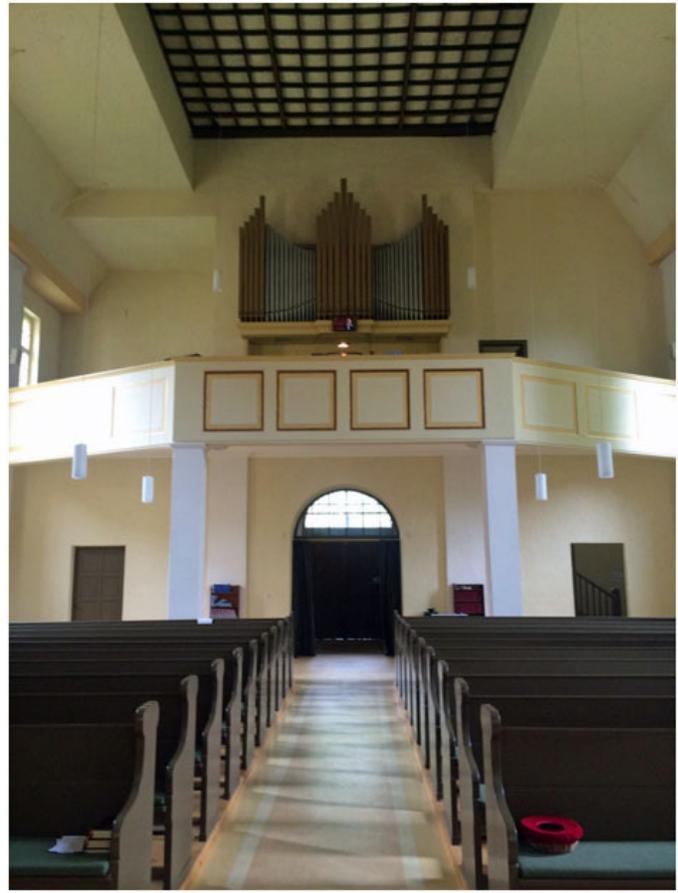
<http://thewittenbergproject.org>

We also visited the Lukaskirche in Leipzig. The pastor, Christopher Ahlman, is a missionary



The Lukaskirche (SELK) in Leipzig.

who has played an organ concert here at Lord of Life, and whom the elders have supported in the past. He has a doctorate in organ performance and part of his job is to interface with the artistic and cultural community in Leipzig. The Lukaskirche edifice is being restored and is still owned by the German state church. The congregation hopes to purchase it so they can inhabit the building permanently. The signs of growth are evident—while we were there, jackhammers and the sounds of workmen permeated the building as renovations continue with the 103-year-old building. Pastor Ahlman reported that the Lord has brought 30 people to the waters of Holy Baptism since the beginning of 2016.



Later, in Erfurt, the town where Luther professed his vows as an Augustinian monk, I played an organ concert at the Christuskirche, one of two SELK churches in town. Pastor Karpe and his wife were great hosts to us, and my organ concert ended up with a good crowd! This beautiful church, built in 1903, has always

belonged to the SELK, and they currently have about 50 people in worship every Sunday. He reported that the SELK church throughout Germany is healthy and vigorous, if small. He likewise covets our prayers.

I think it is always important to remember the concerns of Christians around the world, in whom we are united in “one Lord, one faith, one birth.” And as we approach the anniversary of the Reformation, I think it is equally important to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in Germany in our prayer.

INJ+
Benjamin Kolodziej





Teen Times

Hi, this is Lauren Chumbley! Some of you may know me from church, as I am a member in the youth group. This summer, I have the amazing opportunity to intern at Lord of Life! I will be working in the office during the week days and teaching Sunday School some Sundays. I am very excited!

Interning at Lord of Life is very helpful to my career decision. I plan on pursuing a career in ministry either way, but I am stuck between two similar (but different) professions: teaching at a Lutheran school or becoming a Director of Christian Education. This past school year (my junior year), I took a class which allowed me to be a student teacher in a first grade classroom for an hour and a half a day, three days a week. In the classroom, I was expected to manage behavior, help struggling students, and even create and implement my own lesson plans! I had two shadow days where I stayed the entire day with my students and I even went to the zoo with them for their field trip! It was such a great experience and it helped me to realize that teaching wasn't just a desire, it was a passion.

But do I want to teach a subject or a grade at a school, or do I want to be involved in Youth and Children's Ministry at a church?

This internship will help me decide that. During the summer, I will be writing "Teen Times", teaching Sr. High Bible Studies, Jr. High Bible Studies, and Children's Sunday School, creating Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Nights, assisting in developing the 2017 youth ministry budget, conduct the July Children's Message, assisting with coordinating VBS, leading youth volunteer training for VBS, and researching and developing VBS for 2017. But these are just the youth and children's ministry jobs. I will be working with all members of the staff and helping around the church as needed—like a typical intern!

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*

Working for God doesn't only show itself in ministry work, but in all kinds of work. I feel like I am being called to ministry, and I will be eagerly taking advantage of this internship. I want to get the most of it so that I can make the best decision for my future!

God's Blessings,
Lauren Chumbley



 **Carter BloodCare**

A Life of Purpose Produces Passion

Ruben Escobedo

Visit CarterBloodCare.org/GiveLife
to hear Ruben's whole story.

Blood Drive

Sunday, July 24, 2016
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lord of Lutheran Church
Carter BloodCare Bus in Parking Lot

Contact:
Donna Roberts
(972) 867-5588

Blue Bell  Ice Cream

#GIVEFORLIFE

When you #GiveForLife July 11-24,
you will receive a voucher for a free
pint of Blue Bell Ice Cream!

*While supplies last.



 CarterBloodCare.org 800-366-2834



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
 † 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., July 23 at 6:30 PM

MOMS' GROUP

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



July 5, 2009 - Kyle Beaudreau
 July 3, 2005 - Athan Shaltanis

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Emily Scarth
 2 Ana Scarth
 2 Vincent & Peggy Scagliano (56)
 3 Nelda Schrank
 5 Mike Phelan
 7 Joe Bob Isbell
 8 Robert Adcox
 10 Luis Botello
 10 Nathan & April Schutz (12)
 11 Kelsey Cooper
 11 Jenn Hoepfner
 11 Aaron Schutz
 13 Sandy Ehrett
 13 Ethan Hacker
 13 Garrett Hacker
 14 Carol Nance
 14 Eric Wilde
 17 Annie Joseph
 17 Ben & Melanie Scarth (6)
 18 Debbie Keffer
 18 Stan & Donna Brown (31)
 19 Carolyn Moudy
 19 Emma Ziegelbein
 19 Noah Ziegelbein
 20 Vernon Bang
 20 Daniel Frinsko
 20 Ruth Kun
 20 Magdalena Shaltanis
 23 Charlie & Lynda Abbott (50!!)
 24 Jonelle Peters
 26 John Frinsko
 26 Winona Parish
 29 Benjamin Kolodziej
 29 Phil & Candace Klein (27)
 30 Michael Beckemeier
 30 Kenneth Tabor
 30 Charles & Dixie Hacker (22)

Serving in Worship in July

	July 3		July 10		July 17		July 24		July 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		Lutek		Kunschke		Acker		Peters	
Common Cup	Hite	Kunschke			Lutek	Hite				
Altar	June Edelman and Carol Nance									
Alcolyte	Hawkins		G Hacker	S Loewecke	Messinger	N Ziegelbein	Adcox	Ozlowski	E Hacker	W Gibson
Greeter	Vess	Abbot/McVicker	Schrank	Dorak	Sparks	Manning	Martin	McVicker	Vess	Dorak
Sound	Botello	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Wolf	Raj	Botello	Selveraj	Wolf	Pittson
Usher	Martin Hawkins Parrent	McVicker Kostrzewa	Paradise Read Frnsko	Moudy Dolginoff Cruz	Cinquepalmi Hawkins	Oltmann Berger McVicker	Kun Schrank Hacker	Crabtree Buckmeier Short	Hawkins Cinquepalmi	McVicker Oltmann Berger

FINANCIAL REPORT January- May, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$308,553	\$289,407	\$19,146
	Other	\$1,854	\$1,670	\$184
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$310,407	\$291,077	\$19,330
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$303,383	\$295,789	\$7,594
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$7,024	(\$4,712)	\$11,736

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$91,925
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$226,724
3. Building Note Balance	\$646,690