

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### “The only constant is change.”

*-Attributed to Heraclitus, circa. 500 BC*

Although we know intellectually that change is unavoidable, it doesn't make experiencing it emotionally any more comfortable. Most of us at Lord of Life tend to be very conservative by nature. Among other things, that means we do not like change. We are a “traditional” church with ancient forms of liturgy. We aren't the types who jump on every latest bandwagon and follow every passing fad. We tend to like things the way they are, and like to keep them that way. The result is that sometimes we may even fool ourselves into thinking that if we just get a few things into place, everything will be just the way we like it and we can keep it that way for the long term. But changes always come. Some changes are trivial and annoying, while others are simply life-altering: Microsoft keeps updating my computer, hardly ever improving it! More and more cars fill the roads so the trip that used to take half an hour, now takes half a day. The radio doesn't play the music I like any more. Things that were never acceptable when we were growing up are now celebrated as normal. Neighbors move away. Our favorite place goes out of business. The kids grow up and leave the house. Our bodies grow older and frequently less healthy. Friendships fade. Loved ones pass away.

At times the changes can leave us feeling helpless as though nothing is in our control. And, of course, with many things, this is

precisely the case. We are not in control. Not of the world outside us, the people around us, and not even of our own lives. It is God's world, and the story of the world is His to write and we are only allowed to play a small part in it for as much time as He determines. This realization is humbling and it might even be frightening for those who are reluctant to acknowledge it. But as Christians, we take heart, knowing not everything changes.

One is reminded of the beautiful words of that beloved hymn, *Abide with Me*:

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

While many throughout history have commented on the inevitability of change, the Biblical authors remind us of another truth. The prophet Malachi, informed the people: “**I the Lord do not change...**” (Malachi 3:6) The writer to the Hebrews said, “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.**” (13:8) The Scriptures are concerned to tell us that while life may be unpredictable and scary, our Lord is not capricious or fickle. Indeed, “**His mercy endures forever,**” meaning He is not warm toward us one moment and cold the next. He keeps His promises to love and forgive us,

(Continued on the next page)

and stands by them forever despite our unpredictable lives.

God's Word is also our constant throughout our pilgrimage.

**“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for**

**“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains  
forever.”**

**1st Peter 1:22-25, (citing Isaiah 4:6-8)**

In the midst of difficult changes in life, it is good for us to remember that not every change is bad and not everything and everyone changes. The Lord is faithful and keeps His promises. His Word remains forever, and just as His Word has preserved so many before us through so many difficult and trying changes, God will also keep us steadfast till our tumultuous time in His world is done.

PrS



**Remember,  
Remember!**

Several years ago I became friends with a married couple, Ralph and Phyllis, who were lifelong LCMS Lutherans. We shared our faith and often spoke of our love for our Savior. Ralph died a few years later after we became acquainted and Phyllis called me and told me Ralph wanted me to have some of his cherished devotional books and prayer books that he read often through the years. Most were published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, one in particular published in 1939, entitled REMEMBER. Its chapters include, Your Life, Your Savior, Your Church, Your Communion, Your Work, Your Bible, Your Prayers, Your God.

I opened this devotional book recently and turned to the Chapter entitled, Your Confirmation Day. It contained the following:

"As a child of God you have two birthdays. The first is the day of your birth into the world. The second is the day of your birth into the Church. Some time after your first birthday you were baptized and became a member of the eternal body of Christ. You probably do not remember the day of your baptism. Your sponsors spoke for the faith God the Holy Spirit had planted in your heart long before you were able to speak of it. In order that you might confirm publicly what they promised years ago, the Church has instituted the rite of Confirmation. With your own lips you repeated the solemn vows they made for you. Surely this is a holy day for you.

It is a day to be remembered always for it is a beginning, not an end. As you begin to make your way through life, there will be a thousand voices trying to tell you to forget it. There will be sins in your life. There will be temptations. All of the world outside of your Church will conspire to persuade you to lay aside the burning memory of the day of your Confirmation. But you will remember! You will remember the many, long hours of preparation for the brief moment in your Confirmation services when you stood up and took your place beside your Savior forever. You will remember the voice of your pastor pleading with you to be faithful unto death. You will remember the hymn you sang with your friends who were also joining the everlasting army of God. And whenever any sin or trouble or temptation in your life threatens to make you forget this day, you will run to Him who said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He will be forever where He was on the day of your Confirmation, near you with the Crown of life in His nail-torn hands.

A prayer: Lord Jesus, help our new confirmands at Lord of Life remember their holy day. Thank you for making them children of Yours. Keep them ever close to You so that they may never forget Your Love in bringing them into Your Kingdom. Give them Grace especially to remember the day when they stood before You and Your Church and promised to be faithful unto You. In Your Name we pray. Amen

Peace to all,

Dave Peters (whose holy day of confirmation was April 3, 1955)



# Teen Times



It is hard for me to imagine what it is like to be a teenager in today's approval and material driven society. The pressure to have the good looks, the popular friends, the nice car, the newest smart phone, the attention on social media, the athletic abilities, the hottest guy or the good-looking girl, good grades, and the list goes on. As we all get older, there is a well-known quote that always seems to come up; "when I was a kid, we had to ..." or "when I was your age we didn't have..." These famous words usually tend to surface when parents are talking with their children about things they should or should not do, or what material things their kids want but will not be able to acquire. I know that I have said these words a time or two to my own two boys. Peer pressure has existed since man could walk the earth, and it doesn't go away when you turn a certain age. However, it is more difficult for teens to cope with this type of pressure because their mental and physical development changes so rapidly through the adolescent years. It doesn't help that media outlets, both social and production types, usually dramatize and romanticize real life and create a fantasy that young people wish for but can never actually achieve. Again, this is just more pressure for teens to believe their lives should be like characters online, on TV, and on the movie screen.

Throughout the year during Sunday morning Bible class or whenever the opportunity arises at youth events, I remind the youth of the summer trips that I have been privileged to lead over the past 8 years. Whether it is Higher Things, the National Youth Gathering, or mission trips, these are opportunities for teenagers to get away from the many of those earthly things that produce so much pressure in their lives. These youth trips are not fantasy. It is a chance to spend time with real people their age, of the same Christian faith, and to create memories through worship, study, prayer, servant events, and friendships that leave life-long impressions. It is a time to focus on Jesus as our Savior, or a part of God's Word that directly affects their lives as teenagers.

This month, 20 youth and 3 adults from Lord of Life will attend The Higher Things youth conference in San Antonio. The focus will be on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation entitled "Here I Stand". Now, can you imagine the peer pressure that Martin Luther faced after he nailed the 95 theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg? He basically put his life on the line and challenged the leadership and teachings of the church in his time. If you think about it, Luther's actions, beliefs, and teachings WENT VIRAL! He was threatened with excommunication and received death threats, but God's plan for him was not to succumb to the pressures of society. God used Martin Luther to spread the Gospel, and Luther boldly professed it when he said, "Here I stand!"

"When I was a kid..." I did not have the opportunity to attend youth events like Higher Things. Oh, our family was very involved in our youth group at church and we did a lot of youth events that I enjoyed and remember to this day, but Higher Things can be something special to you as a teen. Enjoy it, relish it, learn from it, and leave the pressures of your daily life behind; even if it is for just a short time.

Until next time, God bless.  
Scott Peters

## 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](mailto:itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net)
- † Will meet on Sat. June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

### EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth [BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

### TWENTY SOMETHINGS

- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto: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 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



James Hawkins 6-19-05



## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Kristi Gibson
- 1 Jeff Prescott
- 1 Gary & Shannon Nuschler (43)
- 2 Ethan Pittson
- 5 Lance & Kris Crabtree (19)
- 6 Will Gibson
- 6 Vernon & Ardis Bang (63)
- 7 Karl & Debbie Keffer (48)
- 8 Scott & Jonelle Peters (26)
- 9 David & Jennifer Beaudreau (16)
- 10 Al Manning
- 13 Tony Hernandez
- 13 Joseph & Wendy Acker (25)
- 14 Cecilia Paradise
- 14 Linda McVicker
- 14 Jack & Nelda Schrank (59)
- 15 Kristen Klein
- 20 Kaitlyn Hacker
- 20 Jake Tyler
- 20 Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (19)
- 21 Donna Brown
- 21 Athan Shaltanis
- 21 Tony Vess
- 21 Ben & Laura Lutek (31)
- 21 Karl & Debbie Olsen (42)
- 21 Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (20)
- 23 John & Vicki Frinksko (33)
- 23 Tim Tischler
- 25 Ben Williams
- 25 Dave Wilde
- 26 Samson Carter
- 26 Jim and Christi Hampton (46)
- 28 Lisa Beckemeier
- 29 Chris Dorak
- 29 Melanie Scarth
- 29 Helen Wozniak
- 30 Greg Moudy

*To Our Friends at Lord of Life,*

*We would like to thank everyone who supported us during our twenty plus years of service to the congregation. For the past two or three years, we have been contemplating when would be a good time to retire, and since January we have discussed it more frequently. Because we worked so well as a team, we always said we would retire together. We struggled with our timing because we knew this would leave the office in a state of flux, however, with the recent changes, we felt it was a good time to step aside to allow the leadership to focus on a new direction with a clean slate.*

*We have genuinely enjoyed our work at Lord of Life, and it has been our privilege to serve you.*

*Blessings,*

*Donna Roberts and Hillary Klausung*

**“But those who  
hope in the LORD  
will renew their STRENGTH.  
They will SOAR on  
wings like eagles;  
they will RUN and  
not grow weary,  
they will WALK  
and not be faint.”**

Isaiah 40:31



# Serving in Worship in June

	June 4		June 11		June 18		June 25	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	10:00 AM	10:45 AM
<b>Elder</b>	Peters		Ziegelbein		Kunschke		Read	
<b>Common Cup</b>	Read	Hite	Lutek	Kunschke	Peters	Ziegelbein		
<b>Altar</b>	Lunda Abbott and Nevelle Vess							
<b>Alcolyte</b>	Madeline P	A Shaltanis	S Adcox	TBD	TBD	N Ziegelbein	TBD	Ashley S
<b>Crucifer</b>	TBD	TBD	J Carter	TBD	TBD	TBD		
<b>Greeter</b>	Martin	Abbott/McVicker	Schrank	Dorak	Sparks/Vess	Manning	Martin	Manning
<b>Sound</b>	Botello	Selveraj	Wilkerson	Pittson	Wolf	Raj	Hacker	Hite
<b>Usher</b>	Bunger Parrent Scarath	Loewecke Ziegelbein Ozowski	Frinsko Read Paradise	Dolginoff Cruz Moudy	Hawkins Cinquelpalmi	Berger McVicker Oltman	Hacker Schrank	Short Crabtree Buckmeier

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### January - April, 2017

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$236,706	\$236,939	(\$233)
	<b>Other</b>	\$3,400	\$100	\$3,300
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$240,106	\$237,039	\$3,067
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$234,719	\$235,870	(\$1,151)
	<b>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$5,387	\$1,169	\$4,218

#### OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$104,181
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$151,454
3. Building Note Balance	\$405,542

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20TH — [lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com)