

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### Spiritual Gifts

In a recent Bible class we were discussing spiritual gifts in light of 1st Corinthians 12. This passage, is one of many that speaks on this subject and I think this subject is one that every Christian ought to spend some time thinking about. After all, several questions immediately come to mind when discussing spiritual gifts, for instance: What about talking in tongues, prophecy and healing? All of these things seem to be a normal part of life in the New Testament, so why don't we experience them today? Or, do some Christians actually experience this like they claim, but just not us Lutherans? Is there something to the so-called charismatic movement and these people on TV who claim direct revelation from God, claim to pray in strange tongues, and also claim to have the miraculous ability to heal?

Like I said, it's worth having an opinion on the matter especially when you encounter Charismatics who would question the sincerity of your faith. To respond quickly to this, the position of many Lutherans and other Christians throughout history is that God can and still does bestow miracles wherever and whenever He chooses. However, since the beginning of the church there have been false prophets and hypocrites claiming divine powers they do not have and leading people astray (you can read about it in the New Testament: Gal. 1:6-12, 2 Tim 3:14-4:5, 2 Peter 2, 1 John 4:1-6, etc.) Further, it seems that ever since the age of the Apostles, the kinds of amazing miraculous gifts mentioned in the New Testament have diminished significantly. The theory is, that these things were much more prevalent in the early church and these special manifestations of the Holy Spirit were gifts of grace which helped the young Church spread and reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus. However, this was before the New Testament was written or widely known. Now, since the Scriptures have been written and widely disseminated, the Spirit primarily works in a different way, namely, through His Word.

This is the short answer to a big question. Books have been written about this and those interested can search deeper. Ask me and I can talk with you about this or point you in the right direction for your own study. But the main question I wanted to address in writing on this topic has to do with another question that was raised in our class on 1st Corinthians 12.

In our class, someone said they had wondered if they too might have a spiritual gift, and if so, what it might be. Have you ever thought this way? If so, let me assure you that in fact, you do have spiritual gifts. How do I know this? Because every Christian does.

1st Corinthians 12:7 says: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." This verse along with the rest of the passage assures us that every Christian has been blessed by the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to teach how the members of the Church are like members of a body and how in our bodies, every part performs different tasks but works for the good of the whole. In the same way, just as everyone in the Church is blessed, so they ought to in turn use their gifts to bless others.

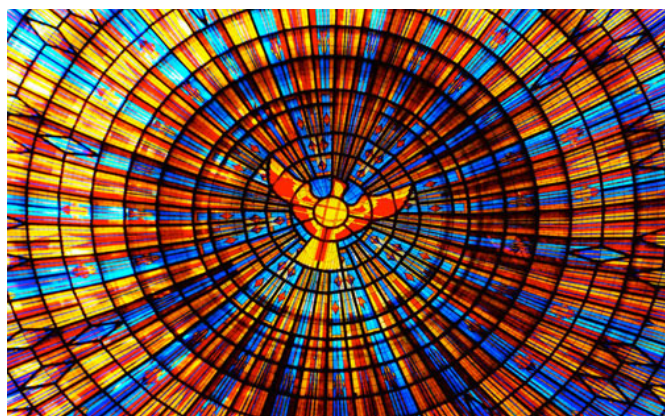
You should not wonder if you have a spiritual gift, but rather, which ones? Thinking about the unique ways God has blessed you and how you can use these gifts for building up the Body of Christ, is important to do. There are tools you can find online like “spiritual gifts assessments” which may help you reflect on these issues, but a much better way to assess your gifts is to talk to a close friend or someone knows you well. Ask a fellow Christian who is close to you and will tell you the truth -even if you don’t want to hear it! This is important because even in Corinth, people were desiring gifts they did not have. So too, you may want badly to have a certain spiritual gift, but that might not be the one you have received. Instead of working miracles or being a prophet (gifts that are truly rare and may not even be present in our age) you probably have far more common gifts that build up the church, for example: mercy, encouragement, giving, prayer, service, administration, discernment, teacher, evangelist, etc.

To consider what kinds of gifts you might have, you can read about the gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. But keep in mind, while Scripture gives lists of gifts in a number of places (Romans, 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28, Ephesians 4:11) these lists are not exhaustive. That is, we should not think as though these mentioned specifically are the only way the Spirit can bless. God can equip His Church however He sees fit.

In thinking about spiritual gifts, our task is to consider how we have been blessed by God and how we can use these blessings for the building up of the Church. So give it some thought. Think about how you can serve the Church and build up the body. Consider not what you have time to do or what you would like to do; but instead, think about what you have been gifted to do.

Blessings,

PrS



## **prepare for worship in June**

### **Sunday, June 3: Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Deut. 5:12-15; 2 Cor. 4:5-12; Mark 3:20-35

Hymn of the Day: “Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You,” 668

### **Sunday, June 10: Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Gen. 3:8-15; 2 Cor. 5:1-10 (11-17); John 17:11b-19

Hymn of the Day: “Christ is the World’s Redeemer,” 539

### **Sunday, June 17: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

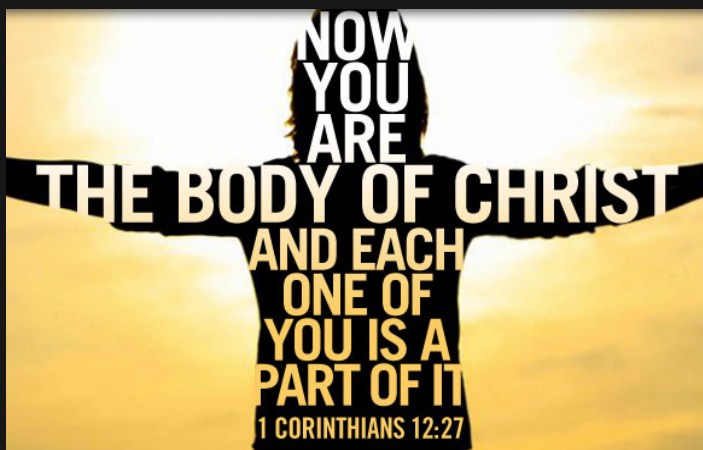
Texts: Ezek. 17:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:1-10 (11-17); Mark 4:26-34

Hymn of the Day: “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid,” 500

### **Sunday, June 24: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Job 38:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Hymn of the Day: “Evening and Morning,” 726



With June here, it is the beginning of the summer vacation season, and yet, for me it feels a little more like a season of Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to enrich the music program and therefore, the worship life here. At the risk of missing someone, I want to give a whole-hearted thank you to everyone who has participated. Still, it is fitting to identify some.

Thank you to the choir volunteers for their untiring dedication to rehearsals, Sunday mornings, and special services (and that includes being good sports when there are last minute changes and taking parts that they are less than comfortable with singing). Some have even sung solos and led the responsive Psalm. Thank you to Dave Senter for bringing his leadership to the choir, both in practice and in worship, as a conductor when his schedule allowed.

Thank you to Fred Bernhardt for not only coordinating the instrumentalists, but also for lending his talents to various services by playing as well. Having him as a resource is such a blessing!

We have a hand bell choir now, which is larger than any here I can remember, thanks to the leadership of Becky Greer. In a hand bell choir, each part is so important, and the time and dedication to practice and to each other is paramount. Thank you, Becky and the hand bell players!

Besides song, our services have been enhanced with instruments: including Magda with her harp, Phaedra with her oboe, Curtis Peters and Daniel Ozlowski with the French horns, Pete Ehrett with his trombone, Don, Robert and Esparanza Padgett with their violins, and Brian Wolf on timpani. And, the exciting thing is that there are more instrumentalists in the "pipeline".

Thanks also to our staff, Tony and Nolan for helping to move furniture (piano, chairs, whiteboard, etc.), and a big thank you to Scott for cheerfully doing these things in Tony's absence, or whenever help is asked.

Other "behind the scenes" help comes from two more people. Thank you to Paul Grabow for monitoring and scheduling piano and organ tuning. Regular maintenance for these instruments is very important. Thank you also to Sherri Kunschke, who organizes choir music in folders as the season progresses. Her work can go unnoticed, unless I bring it to the forefront with a last minute change, allowing her no time to prepare all of the folders

And finally, a special thank you to Pastor Shaltanis for his support and enthusiasm, especially through this time of transition.

It is customary that we do not rehearse in summer, for the most part, so that everyone can be refreshed for rehearsal again in late August/early September. We may have an occasional small group sing or a soloist give of her/her talent. If you would like to do something like this, please let me know. This may be an especially good time to participate for those of you who cannot always commit to the schedule in our regular season.

Again, thank you to the many who have helped me, and helped to lead in worship!

In Christ, Victoria Frinsko

## HELP NEEDED

Choir music needs to be counted and organized this summer. If you have an hour or a few hours to give to this effort, we will be meeting working on this the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping, please email me, call or speak to me at church. I would like to schedule a few hours, like noon to 3 p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. However, if that is not a convenient time but would like to help, I am happy to work with you. Your time would be much appreciated.

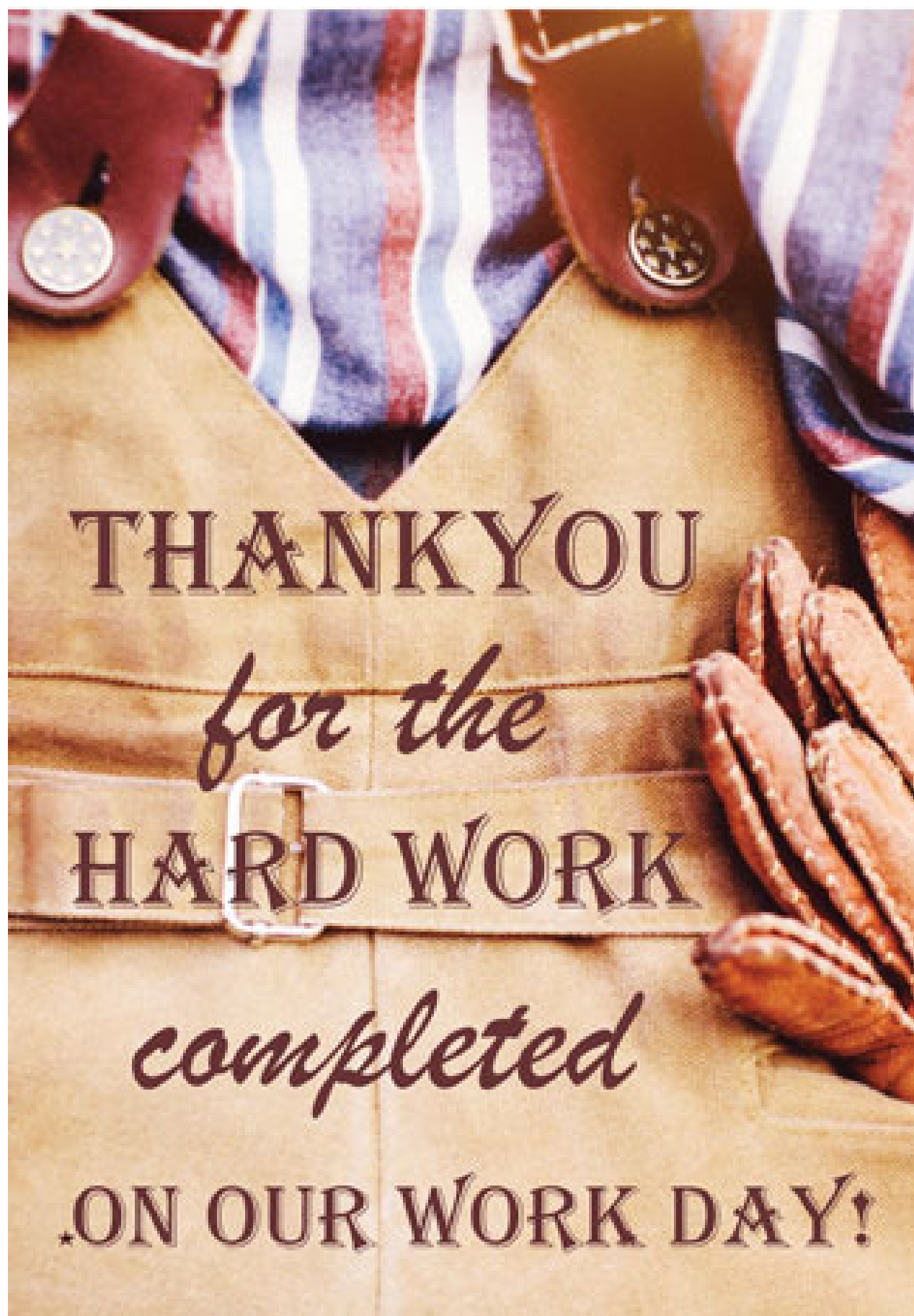
# Teen Times

# Sunday June 24

## 10:45 AM ~ 1:00 PM

Support our youth and have your car cleaned while you worship!









- 1 Kristi Gibson
- 1 Jeff Prescott
- 1 Gary & Shannon Nuschler (44)
- 2 Ethan Pittson
- 5 Lance & Kris Crabtree (20)
- 6 Will Gibson
- 8 Scott & Jonelle Peters (27)
- 9 David & Jennifer Beaudreau (17)
- 10 Al Manning
- 13 Tony Hernandez
- 14 Cecilia Paradise
- 14 Linda McVicker
- 14 Jack & Nelda Schrank (60!!)
- 15 Kristen Klein
- 20 Kaitlyn Hacker
- 20 Jake Tyler
- 20 Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (20)
- 21 Athan Shaltanis
- 21 Tony Vess
- 21 Ben & Laura Lutek (32)
- 21 Karl & Debbie Olsen (43)
- 21 Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (21)
- 23 John & Vicki Frinksko (34)
- 23 Tim Tischler
- 25 Ben Williams
- 25 Dave Wilde
- 26 Samson Carter
- 26 Jim and Christi Hampton (47)
- 27 Sarah Wuollet
- 29 Chris Dorak
- 29 Melanie Scarth
- 29 Helen Wozniak
- 30 Greg Moudy

## 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. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 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

### FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or [speters@planolutheran.com](mailto:speters@planolutheran.com)

### 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. May 12<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



## Serving in Worship in June

	June 3		June 10		June 17		June 24	
	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		Ziegelbein		Kunschke		Read	
Assist	Peters	Hite			Peters	Hite		
Altar	Neville Vess, Lynda Abbott, and Barbara Sinclair							
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Manning	Martin	Abbott/Moore	Vess	Barnes
Sound	Hacker	Selvaraj	Botello	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Wolf	Raj
Usher	Bunger Scarth	Loewecke Ziegelbein Ozowski	Frinsko Paradise Read	Cruz Moudy	Paradise Bunger	Oltmann Berger	Schrank Hacker	Crabtree Buckmeier Short

“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

