

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

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

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“When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:36-38

In January's newsletter, I mentioned that we would be hosting a Chinese pastor from California to help us work with Lutheran Church of the Way, the Chinese congregation that has met at Lord of Life for the past several years. I asked for prayers of guidance as we sought to find ways to bring our congregations together, especially since LCW had recently shown new interest in joining the LCMS. The meeting was a fruitful one in that it that it helped to explain to the members of LCW what would be involved in joining the Missouri Synod and what they could expect in trying to call a pastor from the LCMS. Sadly, the outcome was not what many of us had hoped.

Pastor Wu, of Chino Hills California, painted a realistic picture of how challenging it is to train Chinese pastors and how few are available. Currently, there are about 30 Chinese speaking pastors serving in the LCMS. Of those pastors, most speak Cantonese, while the members of LCW predominantly speak Mandarin. While the languages are related, and both are called “Chinese,” they are not the same thing. The result is, that there are only a few Mandarin speaking pastors in the LCMS who are eligible for a call and of those eligible, most are currently serving congregations or are in the mission field or have plans to work as missionaries. That being the case, it could be several years before more pastors could be available to serve a Chinese congregation. And it turns out, this problem is not unique to Lutheranism. I have since been told that it is estimated that nearly half of the Chinese

churches in North America are currently without a pastor. In other words, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

This information about the scarcity of LCMS Chinese pastors coincided with the pastor currently serving LCW, Pastor Edwin Shyu, announcing that he would no longer be available to serve LCW after February. Thus, LCW faced a difficult decision. They had been getting along with guest preachers and interim pastors for the past four years since their pastor, Rev. Timothy Fong took a call to another church. Given where they had been and the long and uncertain road that lay ahead, the lay leaders of the congregation felt that they should vote on whether to continue as a vacant congregation hoping to call a pastor sometime in the unforeseen future, or to dissolve the congregation and have the members join other Chinese churches in the area. On February 21st, that vote was taken and the congregation formally decided to dissolve. Last Sunday, February 28th was their last worship service as a congregation.

I attended the final worship service with them and have been in close contact with different leaders of the congregation for the past several weeks. I have also been working with leaders in the Texas district of the LCMS over the past few months trying to secure pastoral help for LCW. Recently, the new Mission and Ministry Facilitator of the district, the Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab met with their leaders as well to encourage them that we are still interested in reaching out to the Chinese speaking people in our area with the

Good News of Jesus Christ –news which is unknown to many in the Chinese community.

There are a few from LCW who have expressed interest in joining Lord of Life and possibly working on starting a new Lutheran Chinese mission out of our congregation or perhaps even subsidized by the district. I also made an appeal to the congregation at their final service, to any who might be interested in forming a Chinese ministry at Lord of Life. While there may yet be a remnant who want to pursue a Lutheran Chinese ministry at Lord of Life, it seems the vast majority will be moving on to other Chinese congregations in the area, given their preference to worship in their native tongue and pray and hear the Scriptures proclaimed in the language of their birth.

The dissolution of LCW is not at all what I had hoped would happen, but often times it is the case that the Lord's plans are different from our own. This situation has really brought home to me the truth of Jesus' words about praying for workers of the harvest. I feel strongly that if more Chinese speaking pastors were available for a call, LCW could have continued and, Lord willing, thrived in our community where many Chinese people live. Perhaps this may still happen one day, God only knows. For now, we can only pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers to meet this emerging mission field in our own backyard.

Lord, you desire that all would come to a knowledge of salvation in Jesus and receive forgiveness and life through faith in Him. Grant a desire to serve among those who know you and raise up many who will bring the Gospel to people of all nations. Grant willing hearts among all Your people to support and encourage future pastors and missionaries, so those who answer Your call to serve will have the training and tools necessary to proclaim your marvelous deeds; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Pr S



**prepare for worship
in march**

6 March: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3a, 11-32

Hymn of the Day: "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered," 612

9 March: Lenten Midweek Service

13 March: The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; Luke 20:9-20

Hymn of the Day: "My Song is Love Unknown," 430

16 March: Lenten Midweek Service

20 March: Palm/Passion Sunday

Texts: Deuteronomy 32:36-39; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:1-23:56

Hymn of the Day: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," 442

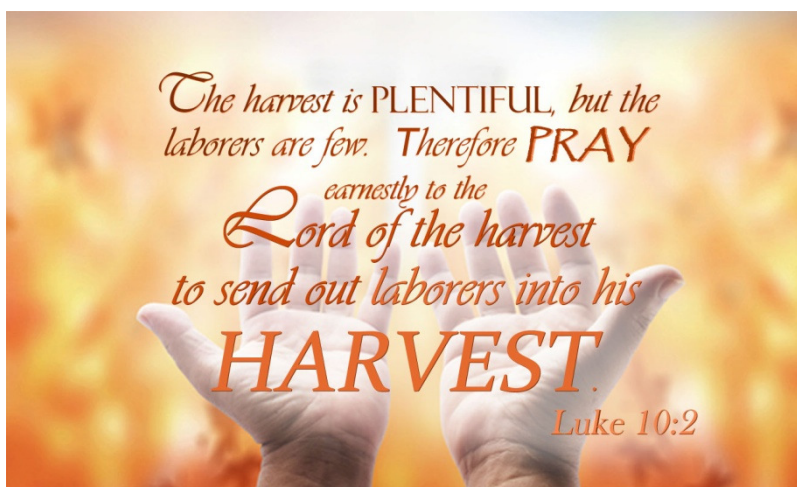
24 March, 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

25 March, 7:30pm: Good Friday Tenebrae

27 March: Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Texts: Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," 457



Teen Times

Last month I traveled to Iowa to celebrate the life of my uncle who passed away after a long up and down battle with several health issues. He was a very well-known and respected member of the community, and there were literally hundreds of people who paid their respects over the course of the weekend when his funeral was held. The town of Manning, Iowa has a population of about 1500 people, most of whom are lifelong residents. So, it should be no surprise that everyone practically knows everyone else. Even though I don't live there, when I do visit, I can drive down Main Street or walk through the neighborhoods and people will give a "hello" wave as if we have been lifelong acquaintances. It's the culture of small town Iowa to be friendly. It is also fun to see the reaction of some of the youth who attend the local Lutheran Church when I tell them that the high school graduating classes here in our area are almost the same size as the town of Manning itself. When you have a graduating senior class of 60 kids or so like Manning, you tend to know everyone. Not so much in the North Dallas area.

How many people do you know? If you were to sit down and write the names of everyone you know outside of your immediate family, you might surprise yourself by having a list of 100 names or more. In fact, I read an article which appeared in *The New York Times* stating research which suggests that the average American knows about six-hundred people.

600!

Now let's just say that most of us will profess that there is no way we know that many people. How about one-third that many? I'll bet you do know 200 people but have never really thought about it. So let's say you know 200 people through school, sports, work, your neighborhood, community organizations, and of course social media, how many of them know that you are Christian? How many know you are Lutheran? How many even know you attend church? All of them? Some? None?

On Good Friday, March 25, we will recognize Jesus' suffering and death on the cross for our sins. Then on Easter Sunday, March 27, we will celebrate the most important event in human history; Jesus' resurrection and His victory over death and the grave! How many people do you know need to hear about that? All of them! There is no better time to share your faith and extend an invitation to everyone you know to join you for worship and fellowship with other believers! I know it might be intimidating to share your faith with everyone you know, so try this.

Start with one.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going.

Until next time,

Scott Peters

IMPACT events in March

Sunday, March 13 – Jr. IMPACT night 6-8pm

Sunday, March 20 – Dickey's BBQ restaurant fundraiser

Sr. IMPACT movie event to see "RISEN" – date and time TBD



On Sunday, February 21, Lord of Life sponsored the second annual Sacred Music Scholarship Competition for High School Students. From a recorded round, six students were selected to compete in this final round. There were three pianists, two vocalists and a violist. Having been assigned to perform a set of music lasting 7-10 minutes for this final round, they played works of Bach, Liszt, Tchaikowsky, Malotte, Mozart, and others, with each musician performing at least one “sacred” work, some of which were based on hymn tunes. The judges for the competition, representing professionals from public school, church, and university levels, were Derrick Brookins (Director of Choral Activities at Plano Senior High School), Enric Madriguera (professional guitarist and professor at Collin College and UTD), and Sam Eatherton, Minister of Music at Zion Lutheran Church, Dallas. After much deliberation, the judges declared the winners to be Luke Fullington (viola—first place, \$1500), Joanna Ryland (piano—second place, \$1000) and Jonathan Zhi (piano—third place, \$500.) Two of last year’s winners have been involved occasionally in Lord of Life’s music ministry in the past twelve months (Ashleigh Yan, the first place winner, has played flute several times for services, and Sarah Briney, the third place winner, has accompanied the children’s choir on the piano several times.) Likewise, expect to hear and meet some of these six talented musicians on Sunday mornings over the next year.

Music at Midway

The first of this month’s concerts is Wednesday, March 2, at 1:05pm. There will also be concerts every Wednesday following Easter through Pentecost, starting on Wednesday, March 30. Some of these concerts will feature regular organ music of the season, while others will explore hymnody, hymn writers, and composers, using multimedia presentations. Please do join us for these brief musical interludes each Wednesday afternoon!

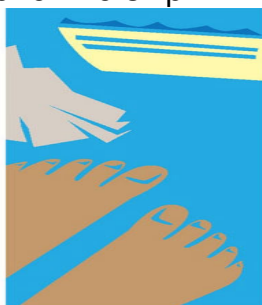
Sundays “in” Lent

Now that we are in Lent, that time of penitential preparation, our liturgy takes on a different cast. You will notice that Sundays are properly “in” Lent, rather than “of” Lent, as would be the common parlance for all the other liturgical seasons. Lent, by technical definition, lasts 40 days, but does not include Sundays, for every Sunday is to be celebrated as a “little Easter.” Our Wednesday services are more penitential and certainly our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services have a somber character unlike any other. But Sundays still reflect that joy of Christ’s resurrection that is year-round. They are most properly within the season of Lent, while still maintaining the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

You will notice that our paraments are purple—a dark shade that not only suggests penitence, but in ancient times was a costly dye to produce and hence represented royalty, for they were the only ones who could afford the luxury of purple. On Transfiguration we bid “farewell to alleluia” in our last hymn, singing that ancient verse, “Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below; alleluia, our transgressions make us for a while forgo; for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.” In children’s choir, we always make and decorate little alleluias which we then bury (in a watertight Ziploc bag) in the church yard. After Easter, we will dig them up, having set the alleluias free! You will notice that our hymns will not use “alleluia” in Lent, and any liturgical element which uses it (such as “Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise”) is omitted, as is the *Gloria in Excelsis* and the “This is the Feast.” Our music is simpler during Lent, and we refrain from festive brass music, which is saved for the joy of Easter morning.

These traditions are not commanded in scripture to be done, and Christians of good conscience can disagree with them. In fact, the Eastern Orthodox churches keep their liturgical alleluias all throughout Lent, even emphasizing them specially as a reminder that Lent is still filled with joy, albeit somberly. In the Western tradition, though, our minor liturgical changes are meant to communicate the uniqueness of each liturgical season, from the somberness of Lent, to the joy of Easter, to the red, fiery color of Pentecost. Each is meant to take us through a yearly remembrance of the narrative of scripture as we not only recall the histories, but experience them through sight, sound and action.

Blessed Lententide,
Benjamin Kolodziej
Organist and Director of Worship



LENT

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., Mar. 19 at 6:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

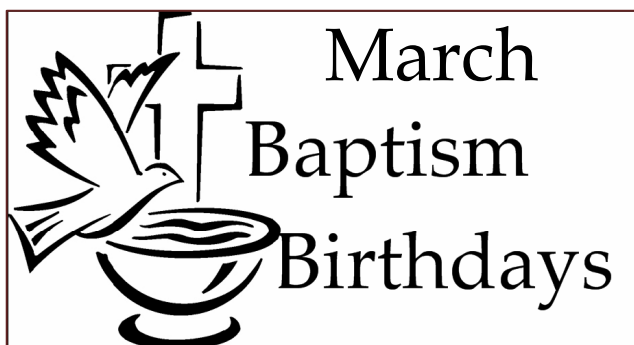
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
 † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
 † Usually meet the 3rd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM

MOMS' GROUP

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



Josh Hoepfner 3-22-09



- 1 Tammi Chumbley
- 2 Barbara Sinclair
- 3 Sam Ziegelbein
- 4 Sarah Tischler
- 6 Asher Schutz
- 6 Sarah Schutz
- 7 Donna Roberts
- 7 Caroline Loewecke
- 9 Karen Ashburn
- 10 Tom & Carol Read (37)
- 13 Deb Dorak
- 13 Pastor Joel Shaltanis
- 14 Hillary Klausing
- 14 Shelby Lund
- 15 Matthew Cinquepalmi
- 16 Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (14)
- 17 Nathan Schutz
- 18 Greg Kostrzewa
- 19 Doris VonGlahn
- 21 David Beaudreau
- 24 Andrew Raj
- 27 Mark Ziegelbein
- 27 Paul & Vickie Krehmeyer (12)
- 29 Ben Howe
- 29 Cheryl Tyler
- 30 Nevelle Vess



Serving in Worship in March

	March 6		March 13		March 20		March 27	
	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	Peters		Peters		Womack		Kunschke	
Common Cup	Womack	Hite	Acker	Hite	Lutek	Carper	Lutek	Carper
Altar	Lynda Abbott and Carol Nance							
Alcolyte	A. Shaltanis	C. Loewecke	Tabor	Payne	Hawkins	N Ziegelbein	G Hacker	Crabtree
Crucifer	Stein	E Ziegelbein	Messinger	Ozlowski	Dowlen	Belcher	M Shaltanis	Moudy
Greeter								
Sound	Wilkerson	Selveraj	Wolf	Pittson	Botello	Hite	Wilkerson	Raj
Usher	Scarth Parrent Martin	Kostrzewa Ziegelbein Loewecke	Paradise Read Frinsko	Oltmann Cruz Moudy	Cinquepalmi Hawkins Klausing	Berger McVicker Loewecke	Schrank Hacker Kun	Buckmeier Short Crabtree

Midweek

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 24	March 25
	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
Elder	Carper	Hite	Acker	Kunschke	Womack
Common Cup				Hite	
Sound	Hite	Botello	Selveraj	Wolf	Hite
Usher				Dolginoff Ziegelbein Hawkins	Paradise Kostrzewa Cruz

FINANCIAL REPORT

January, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$63,169	\$63,057	\$112
	Other	\$785	\$405	\$380
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$63,954	\$63,462	\$492
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$54,945	\$57,884	(\$2,939)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$9,009	\$5,578	\$3,431

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$88,328
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$136,154
3. Building Note Balance	\$696,648