

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 2017

Lenten Services

Growing up I can remember attending circuit wide worship services, usually for Reformation Day. Sometimes our congregation would host it and other times our family would travel to another church in a neighboring town or suburb to attend the service. Wherever it was, usually the church was packed with fellow Lutherans. It was an opportunity to see lots of unknown faces in church, yet there was also something very familiar about these faces: they knew and loved the same hymns and liturgy, and even if you had never seen them in church before, they could still sing along and pray like they belonged. It seems nowadays it's just tough enough for each church to get their own people to show up! But this year for our Lenten midweek services, we are going to partner with our fellow congregations in the area and participate in a pulpit-share for four of our services.

What this means, is that instead of having the congregation travel to another location, a number of us pastors are going to travel around and preach at other congregations and Lord of Life will host four other pastors. Our liturgy will remain the same, (this year it will be Evening Prayer,) and you will recognize the familiar Lenten hymns and readings, but the style and voice of the shepherds will be different. Our theme is: **"People at the Cross"** We will focus on various people involved in the Passion of our Lord, such as Peter, Judas, Pilate, Simon, Barabbas, and, of course all of it will revolve around Christ Himself and what He endured for our salvation.

I've done this sort of thing a few times before at my previous congregation and both times it was met with wide approval. Even if you like the way your pastor preaches, it is still nice to hear the Gospel presented by another faithful shepherd. –And, of course, if you don't like the way your pastor preaches, then you can think of it as a nice break! Experiencing other pastors lead worship and preach, also provides you with some idea of what our sister congregations are like. Above all, hopefully this pulpit exchange will remind us how we are a part of a much larger church body with brothers and sisters in different places but with the same faith in the same Lord.

Blessings,

PrS



prepare for worship in march

Sunday, 5 March: First Sunday in Lent

Texts: Gen. 3:1-21; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11
Hymn for the Word: "A Mighty Fortress," 656

Wednesday 8 March, Midweek Service, 7pm

Sunday, 12 March: Second Sunday in Lent

Texts: Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17;
John 3:1-17
Hymn for the Word: "Lord, Thee I Love with
All My Heart," 708

Wednesday, 15 March, Midweek Service, 7pm

Rev. Micah Miller, guest preacher

Sunday, 19 March: Third Sunday in Lent

Texts: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-
26
Hymn for the Word: "May God Bestow on Us
His Grace," 824

Wednesday, 22 March, Midweek Service, 7pm

Rev. Stace Rollefson, guest preacher

Sunday, 26 March: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14; John
9:1-41
Hymn for the Word: "God Loved the World, So
That He Gave," 571

Wednesday, 29 March, Midweek Service, 7pm

Rev. Irfan Mahmood, guest preacher

In Memoriam.

On February 6th, Jim Ott passed away from this life after battling cancer for years. He was 55 years old and was preceded in death by his two sons, Matthew and Bradley. He is survived by his wife, Cathleen, who is a cherished member of our congregation. We had a beautiful funeral at Lord of Life on February 10th in which more than a hundred people attended and many stayed for a luncheon and then traveled to the committal in Arlington.

As many of you correctly guessed, Jim was the main inspiration behind last month's newsletter article about "preparing for heaven." (If you didn't read it, I recommend that you find it on our website. It has been by far the most well-received article I have written. Thanks to many of you for your kind words to that effect.) Jim was the one who found out he was terminal and would likely not live long in this world. He asked about getting ready for heaven and reading something (in addition to the Bible) to prepare.

In the weeks leading up to Jim's final day, it was refreshing to talk to both he and Cathleen so frankly about his impending death. -Not that I enjoy talking about death! Jim's passing, like all others, was a sad occasion with many tear-filled goodbyes. But what I mean is that Jim and Cathleen were not terrified of death or in denial about it. On the contrary, they exhibited an incredible faith in God that simply believed His promises and trusted that Jim would soon be with the Lord and that everything would be alright. Jim died with devout faith in Christ and Cathleen grieves with sure and certain hope.

Being around Christians like Jim and Cathleen is an inspiration. So, I am saddened that I won't be around Jim any more, but I thank God for him and rejoice that Jim is now with the Lord, and that he will no longer suffer or weep, or mourn, for the old order of things has passed away. (Rev. 21:4)

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life women will be assembling kits on April 11th to ship out on April 20th. These kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Please sign up to contribute the items needed for the kits and leave them in the LWR collection box in the narthex by April 11th.

The kits include:

- one light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52") dark color recommended,
- two bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz) in original wrapping,
- one adult size toothbrush,
- one sturdy comb,
- one pair of metal nail clippers.
- Cash donations are also needed to cover shipping costs. (Make checks payable to LOL, note for LWR shipping)



Save the Date!

Take me out to the ballgame!

Frisco Rough Riders Game

Wednesday June 14th, 2017

7:05pm game, \$20 per ticket includes premium seating, all you can eat hotdogs, brats, peanuts, chips and Dr. Pepper products, Rough Rider souvenir, \$10 concession stand voucher. Parking is not included--\$5-10 depending upon where you park. Stay tuned.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION SPRING EVENT
Saturday, April 22, 2017

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28: 19a)

Host Church: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2708 West Virginia Parkway, McKinney, TX 75071

- 9:30-10:00 am Registration and Meet and Greet in church atrium**
- 10:00 am Opening Devotion, Pastor Tim Radkey in Sanctuary**
- 10:30 am Program: God's Work in Uganda--Pastor Tim Radkey and Bob Christiansen in Fellowship Hall**
- 11:30 am SHORT BREAK**
- 11:45 am Business meeting: Priscella Reid, President Dal North Zone**
- Closing devotion and meal prayer, Pastor James Woelmer**
- Lunch following meeting in Fellowship Hall--Cost: \$8**
- RSVP: Please provide a head count to Carol Long at long3575@bellsouth.net by April 15.**
- Ingathering: Cash donations or checks made payable to LWML to purchase bibles for seminarians at LTCU (Lutheran Theology College Uganda)**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



Top 3 Myths of the Altar Guild

1. You must be over the age of 50 to be on the Altar Guild.
FALSE – Young and old can be a part of this ministry
2. Only women can serve on the Altar Guild
FALSE - Men have a place in this ministry too
3. Altar Guild duties look really hard. I might mess up!
FALSE - Our Altar Guild veterans will walk you through it. No sacristy shenanigans here!

It's time to de-mystify Altar Guild! This is one of the coolest and vastly underrated ministries in the church. The Altar Guild is more than just a holy housekeeping task force. It is a spiritual community, and there is a place for YOU in it.

If you would like to learn more about Altar Guild and how you can become a part of it, please contact Lynda Abbott at lyndakabbott@yahoo.com or Carol Nance at chnance6262@gmail.com.

Are You Prepared to Make a Defense?

The Bible instructs us to “honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15. God also tells us to “contend for the faith.” Jude 3. Finally, Paul teaches that “[w]e destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5.

So how do we make a defense and contend for the faith? By knowing the Bible. And history. And archaeology. And science. Okay, maybe you don't have to know all of these things, but they do point to a creator God.

Starting with the Bible, fulfilled prophecy supports your faith. The Bible contains numerous prophecies concerning the Messiah. For example, the Bible predicts that: (1) He would be born in Bethlehem (Michah 5:2); (2) He would be preceded by a messenger (Isaiah 40:3); (3) He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9); (4) He would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9); (5) He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12); (6) He would be pierced in the hands and feet (Psalm 22:16); (7) the 30 pieces of silver would be given for the potter's field (Zechariah 11:13); and (8) He would be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies—and many others. The probability that any man might fulfill these eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} . Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* at 193 (1999). To put this in perspective, imagine that you covered the state of Texas with 10^{17} silver dollars. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Mark one of those dollars and mix them all up. Now blindfold a man and tell him that he must pick the one dollar with the marking. The chance of him picking the right one is the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in one man. *Id.* The prophets, however, did not have to rely on chance, as they were speaking for God.

Archaeology and history also demonstrate the reliability of the Bible. Archaeologists have uncovered inscriptions that identify 50 different kings/rulers that are mentioned in the Bible. See <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/50-people-in-the-bible-confirmed-archaeologically/>. From the Book of Acts, archaeological (and other) data have confirmed 162 details (such as places and people). http://www.harvardhouse.com/correlate_1.htm. Renowned archaeologist William Albright stated, “There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition.” William F. Albright, *Archaeology and the Religions of Israel* at 169 (1969). Professor Nelson Glueck, an archaeologist, said, “I have excavated for 30 years with a Bible in one hand and a trowel in the other, and in matters of historical perspective, I have never yet found the Bible to be in error.” <http://creation.com/archaeologist-confirms-creation-and-the-bible>

Science has shown us that the universe is incredibly fine-tuned, which supports the existence of a Creator. The fine tuning of the cosmological constant (the energy density of free space) has “conservatively been estimated to be at least one part in a hundred million billion billion billion billion billion.” Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* at 133 (2004). If the constant were changed by a small fraction, life would not be possible. Other constants, such as the ratio of electrons to protons, and the ratio of the electromagnetic force to gravity, show that the universe is precisely tuned. See <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/designun.html>.

Logic and experience add further support to our faith. No one knowingly dies for a lie. The Apostles, however, were willing to endure flogging, other forms of torture, imprisonment, and martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel. Why? The most reasonable explanation is that they had seen Jesus alive after his crucifixion. Indeed, if Jesus were still in the grave, it would have been easy for the Romans or Jews to produce the body and put an end to Christianity before it even started. But they could not produce the body because Jesus is alive.

If you are interested in additional material on defending the faith, I would point you to the following: (1) Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (1999); (2) Josh McDowell, *Evidence for Christianity: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith* (2006); (3) Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (1998); (4) Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* (2004); and (5) William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith* (3rd ed. 2008). Further, if you are interested in learning approaches to sharing your faith with others, I would recommend Gregory Koukl, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions* (2009).

Finally, in witnessing to others, we should remember that It is not our burden—nor is it in our power—to convert someone. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, we should bear in mind Peter's admonition that we “do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15. We are not trying to “win” an argument with someone. Instead, we are trying to lead a lost soul to the truth of God's plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Teen Times

As many of you know by now, my oldest son entered the wonderful journey of marriage last month. Maybe you learned of it from the plethora of postings on social media, heard it mentioned in the prayers during worship service, or perhaps you were directly involved in the ceremony. Marcus and Cassie had been dating for a couple of years. They met at a campus ministry retreat one weekend associated with The University of Texas at Dallas. Last October, Marcus proposed to Cassie while surrounded by family and friends, and after 5 ½ months of planning and organizing, they exchanged their wedding vows before God and about 225 guests on Saturday, February 25. It seemed like a typical wedding ceremony lasting about 25 minutes followed by a reception filled with eating, dancing, and an onslaught of photography. However, there was something I realized that happened after all of the celebrating had converted to a decrescendo before they confessed their love for each other and made the pledge “till death do us part.” Marcus and Cassie, along with everyone attending, confessed something else.

As previously mentioned, it seemed like a typical wedding ceremony. It began with the processional of the bridesmaids and groomsmen, followed by the Cassie’s father escorting her down the center aisle to give her to Marcus (and like all new brides, she was radiant). An opening prayer was followed by the officiating pastor sharing a “sermonette” with a couple of humorous quips on being married. Then two things happened; one I believe was unique and the other showed who is at the center of their marriage. Marcus and Cassie turned to face the congregation and helped lead everyone in singing two songs of worship. The songs were of a contemporary nature, but nevertheless, were led by the two people you might least expect. This special moment was followed with everyone reciting the words to the Apostle’s Creed. Marcus and Cassie wanted to make sure that before they publically confessed their love for each other, they wanted all of their family and friends to confess their belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What an awesome display of their faith and love for their Savior and to show that He is at the center of the life they will spend together!

It is vital for us as Christians to confess that faith in which we believe every Sunday while worshipping the God who loves us so much He would send Jesus to die for us. Since that time of the year is upon us, it is also the main reason for the season of lent. We reflect on the suffering and death of our Savior and believe that through this we have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. So before you make a lifelong commitment to someone through marriage, make sure that you understand and believe that Jesus Christ made an eternal commitment to you first.

Until next time, God bless.

Scott Peters
Director of Youth Ministry

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
- † Will meet on Sat. Mar. 18th at 6:30 PM

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth 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 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. Mar. 18th at 6:30 PM

TWENTY SOMETHINGS

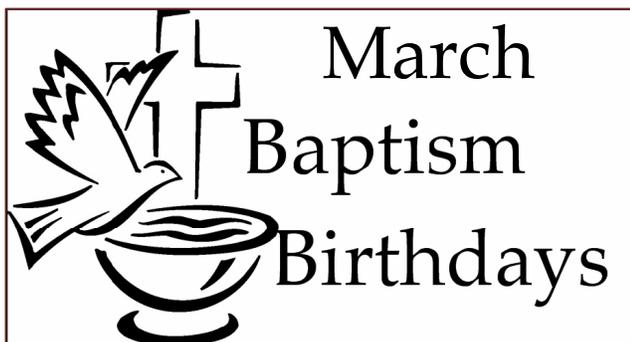
- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service

NEW SMALL GROUPS FORMING

- † Watch for information about new small groups starting in 2017
- † One will be 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



- 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 (38)
- 13 Deb Dorak
- 13 Pastor Joel Shaltanis
- 14 Hillary Klausning
- 14 Shelby Lund
- 15 Matthew Cinquepalmi
- 16 Russ & Brooke Wilkerson (15)
- 17 Nathan Schutz
- 18 Greg Kostrzewa
- 19 Doris VonGlahn
- 21 David Beaudreau
- 24 Andrew Raj
- 27 Mark Ziegelbein
- 27 Paul & Vickie Krehmeyer (13)
- 29 Ben Howe
- 29 Cheryl Tyler
- 30 Nevelle Vess



Abigail Beaudreau – March 22, 2009

We bid farewell to Susan Williams, who has accepted the position of Organist/Choirmaster at St Matthias Anglican Church in Dallas. The musicians at Lord of Life wish to thank her for her musical service here and hope the best for her as she assumes this new job which offers her additional responsibilities and opportunities.

–Benjamin Kolodziej

Serving in Worship in March

| | March 5 | | March 12 | | March 19 | | March 26 | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 8:00 AM | 10:45 AM | 8:00 AM | 10:45 AM | 8:00 AM | 10:45 AM | 5:00 PM | 7:00 PM |
| Elder | Peters | | Lutek | | Kunschke | | Ziegelbein | |
| Common Cup | Lutek | Hite | Womack | Peters | Read | Ziegelbein | Peters | Kunschke |
| Altar | Carol Nance and Kay Oltmann | | | | | | | |
| Alcolyte | G Hawkins | K Crabtree | E Hacker | A Shaltanis | Adcox | Gibson | Prescott | Carter |
| Crucifer | J Hawkins | Sims | G Hacker | Tischler | Ozlowski | S Loewecke | M Shaltanis | H Crabtree |
| Greeter | Martin | Dorak | Schrank | McVicker | Sparks/Vess | Barnes | Martin | Manning |
| Sound | Wilkerson | Selveraj | Botello | Pittson | Wolf | Hite | Botello | Raj |
| Usher | Parrent Martin Scarh | Ziegelbein Loewecke Ozlowski | Paradise Read Frinsko | Dolginoff Cruz Moudy | Cinquepalmi Hawkins | Berger McVicker Oltman | Schrank Hacker Kun | Buckmeier Short Crabtree |

Midweek Services

| | March 8 | March 15 | March 22 | March 29 |
|--------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 7:00 PM | 7:00 PM | 7:00 PM | 7:00 PM |
| Elder | Peters | Hite | Kunschke | Peters |
| Sound | Hite | Botello | Selveraj | Pittson |

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2017

| | | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VARIANCE |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| RECEIPTS: | Regular Offerings | \$67,236 | \$58,961 | \$8,275 |
| | Other | \$30 | \$100 | (\$70) |
| | TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$67,266 | \$59,061 | \$8,205 |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$56,754 | \$62,929 | (\$6,175) |
| | RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES | \$10,512 | (\$3,868) | \$14,380 |

OTHER INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. General Operating Fund Balance | \$109,993 |
| 2. Dedicated Funds Balance | \$137,375 |
| 3. Building Note Balance | \$462,395 |