

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days. Job 12:12**

As I'm sure you all know, the month of May is "Older Americans Month." (Okay, I didn't know it either,) but a recent mailing to the church informed us of this fact and suggested creative ways to celebrate older people in your congregation. One of those suggestions was to tell the story of some older people in the congregation and have them talk about what it means to be a child of God. We thought this idea was such a good one that we are beginning a new series of articles that focus on the lives and Christian experiences of some of our elderly members. Shelby Lund happily agreed to take on the task of interviewing some of our fine old folks and writing up an article about them. The first such article appears in this month's newsletter and focuses on Paul and Gay Stueckler. See below to read about this wonderful couple.

In the months ahead we plan to have more articles like this sharing the stories of our treasured elderly members. We hope you will be edified by them as they pass on their Christian wisdom you, and perhaps it may even get you to consider what kinds of things you want to pass on to the next generation.

God's blessings in Christ,

PrS

### **Profile Series: Paul & Gay Stueckler**

**By Shelby Lund**

By their estimate, Paul and Gay Stueckler have attended Lord of Life for the past twelve years. Prior to joining our congregation, they had never had to "pick" a church; they had always lived in smaller areas where there really only was one Lutheran church. Upon moving to Fairview, Texas, they were amazed at the large number of churches they could choose from. But of all the churches they visited, they liked Lord of Life the best because we had a traditional late service, meaning they could worship the way they wished while attending service at a reasonable time for their needs.

Both Paul and Gay have been Lutherans since their marriage 63 years ago. As the son of a Lutheran pastor from Alexander, Louisiana, Paul has been Lutheran his entire life. His earliest memory of being in church is that, as the pastor's kid, he had to memorize things to recite for the Christmas services. Indeed, he nearly followed in his father's footsteps by studying to enter the ministry while attending Concordia University in Austin, Texas. But after he took a job as a

(Continued on the next page)

basketball coach, he realized his calling lay in his passion for sports. Paul coached basketball for 58 years before retiring, and remains an avid fan of the sport, particularly college basketball.

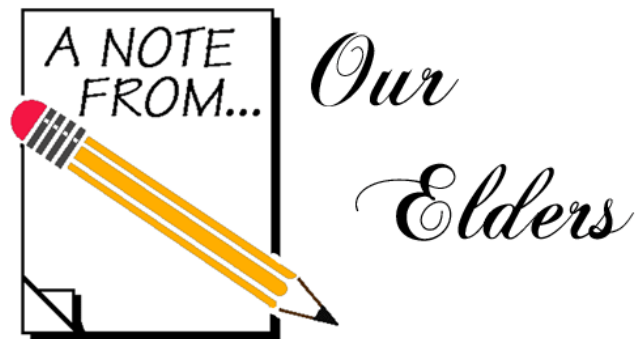
Gay was born in Seattle, Washington and was initially raised as a Christian Scientist, though her family left that group after her grandfather's death. As her father made his career in the Army, both during and after World War II, she largely attended services at the military chapel on whatever base her father was currently stationed at, as the family moved around quite a bit after the war. She met Paul when they each went out on a date with a friend of the other's, and when those relationships didn't work out they began dating each other. They were together for two years before they married. At that time, Gay was baptized as a Lutheran by Paul's father, who also served as her one-on-one confirmation instructor and subsequently confirmed her in the faith. She went on to serve on the altar guilds of every church she and Paul attended before coming to Lord of Life, at which time she decided she had grown too old to continue helping out.

God blessed the couple with two children: daughter Laura and son Dave. Laura married into a Lutheran family and now lives in Garland, where she works as a personal trainer while teaching piano and voice lessons, as well as singing in the Dallas Symphony Choir. She also recently became a grandmother, making the Stuecklers great-grandparents. Dave, who is four years younger than Laura, is the president of Linbeck, a construction firm headquartered in Houston that is responsible for building the Winspear Opera House in Dallas.

The couple currently lives in a retirement community, and while Gay

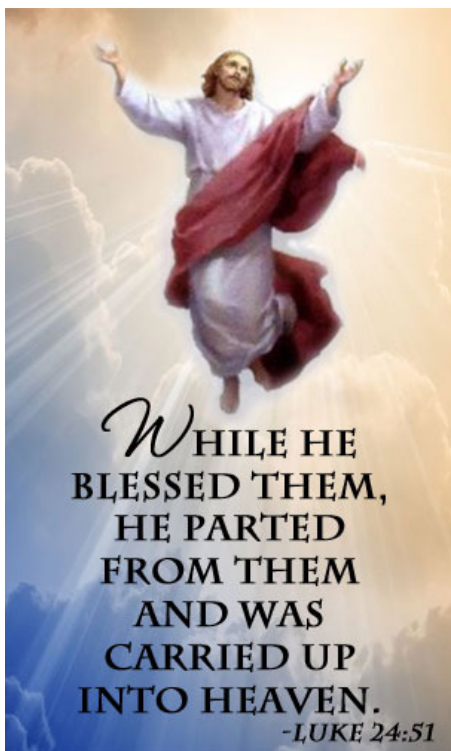
regularly attends late service, Paul's ability to attend church has grown more limited since he was partially crippled by a hip replacement surgery gone wrong, forcing him to rely on a motorized chair to move around. However, he views the botched surgery as a time when God accomplished something in his life, as it ended up strengthening his relationship with God. Gay similarly views Paul's medical struggles as having brought her closer to God, as when Paul nearly died several times while in the hospital she began a daily regimen of prayer that bolstered her faith. She encourages younger believers to adopt a similar habit of praying daily, as through her practice she has learned that God always answers prayer and does help you when you ask Him to. Paul wholeheartedly agrees with her, and adds that regular Bible studies have also helped him to remain faithful. He himself does a study twice a day, with Gay joining him for one of them.

Paul has recently been injured again, breaking three ribs in a bad fall. We ask that you please join Gay in praying daily for his speedy recovery.



The Lord of Life Board of Elders announce a change on our board.

Tom Womack has retired from the Board of Elders. We thank Tom for his many years of faithful service to Lord of Life in this capacity.



**prepare for worship  
in may**

**Sunday, 7 May: Good Shepherd Sunday**

Texts: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Hymn for the Word: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," 709

**Sunday, 14 May: Fifth Sunday of Easter (Rite of Confirmation at 10.45am)**

Texts: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Hymn for the Word: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," 633

**Sunday, 21 May: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 17:16-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Hymn for the Word: "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice," 556

**Sunday, 28 May: Seventh Sunday of Easter (one service at 10am followed by picnic.)**

Texts: Acts 1:12-26; 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Hymn for the Word: "Entrust Your Days and Burdens," 754

Rev. Ric McMillian, Guest Preacher

**Lord of Life Educational Scholarship News**

Congratulations to Lauren Chumbley, recipient of a \$3,000 award from the Lord of Life Lutheran Educational Scholarship Program for the academic year 2017-2018!

Lauren will be studying Elementary Education at Concordia University – Nebraska, one of the most well-established institutions of secondary education in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod system.

Lord of Life enjoyed the services of Lauren as a staff intern last summer writing "Teen Times" in the newsletter, teaching junior and senior high school Bible studies, Sunday School, leading Youth Nights, assisting with development of the 2017 youth ministry budget, conducting Children's Messages, assisting with VBS coordination and development, as well as leading youth volunteer training for VBS.

The Lutheran Educational Scholarship Program is administered by the Board of Elders for the purpose of assisting parents and students with the costs of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary Missouri Synod Lutheran educational programs.

Scholarship funds have accumulated over many years through memorials and other contributions. Additional donations are welcome at this time. Future scholarship grants will depend on several factors, including the amount of funds available and the number of applicants.

Please join me in congratulating Lauren and praying for her to have a wonderful and fulfilling educational experience at Concordia Nebraska.

In Christ,

Ben Lutek, Board of Elders

## SACRED MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

On Sunday, 23 April, Lord of Life sponsored its third annual Sacred Music Scholarship Competition for high school students. Sponsored by youth, outreach, and music ministries, the event seeks to encourage exploration of sacred music by young people. Seven finalists, who had been selected from a recorded round of eleven applicants, performed on piano, cello, violin, and saxophone. Competitors, from grades 10-12, all played well with much musicality, but the judges ultimately selected Jasmine Lin (cello) as recipient of the third place, \$500 scholarship; Suzie Chang (violin) received the second prize of \$1000; and Anna Weyenberg (piano) was awarded the \$1500 first prize. Judges were Mary Medrick, Professor of Music at UTD; April Kondrat, orchestra director at Vines High School and first violist with the Plano Symphony; and Dr. Charlotte Kroecker, Executive Director of Church Music Institute of Dallas. Be looking out for the young winners of this competition to enliven our worship services with their music in the near future.

--Benjamin Kolodziej



*Jasmine Lin, Suzie Chang, Anna Weyenberg*

## 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 20<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

### 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 20<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

## BIRTHDAYS and Anniversaries

- 2 Ambrose Shaltanis
- 3 James Hawkins
- 3 Gene & Pat Montalbo (22)
- 6 Fred Bernhardt
- 6 Gideon Selvaraj & Annie Joseph (25)
- 8 Mike & Cheryl Scaglione (24)
- 12 Pat Greer
- 12 Dave Senter
- 13 Carrie Sanford
- 15 Alyson Wood
- 16 David Messinger
- 17 Max Tyler
- 18 Marcus Peters
- 18 Cari Reinert
- 20 Charis Bennett
- 20 Vickie Krehmeyer
- 20 Aaron Raj
- 22 Elise Crabtree
- 22 Nicholas Moudy
- 22 Jon & Tammi Chumbley (24)
- 23 Greg & Audrey Kostrzewa (30)
- 24 Al McVicker
- 25 Ashley Moudy
- 25 Tom & Georgianna Womack (53)
- 26 Dominic & Jennifer Cinquepalmi (27)
- 26 Greg & Beverly Moudy (20)
- 27 Trent Barnes
- 27 Audrey Kostrzewa
- 27 Robert & Sharon Adcox (17)
- 28 Kyle Beaudreau
- 28 June Edelmann
- 28 Dave & Gail Senter (40)
- 29 Cindy Carter
- 31 Charlie Abbott
- 31 Duffy Carter
- 31 Vickie Frinsko



Rix Scarth: 5-31-15

He who began a  
good work in you  
is faithful to  
complete it.  
~ Phillipians 1:6



# Serving in Worship in May

	May 7		May 14		May 21		May 28
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Elder</b>	Lutek		Ziegelbein		Read		Kunschke
<b>Common Cup</b>	Peters	Hite	Peters	Kunschke	Lutek	Hite	
<b>Altar</b>	Bette Martin and Nelda Schrank						
<b>Alcolyte</b>	E Hacker	H Crabtree	S Adcox	N Ziegelbein	A Shaltanis	J Carter	A Sims
<b>Crucifer</b>	G Hacker	Nathan Reiner	M Prescott	E Ziegelbein	J Hawkins	C Tischler	
<b>Greeter</b>	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Manning	Sparks/Vess	Barnes	McVicker
<b>Sound</b>	Botello	Selveraj	Wilkerson	Pittson	Wolf	Raj	Hite
<b>Usher</b>	Scarth Bunger Parrent	Ziegelbein Ozlowski Loewecke	Paradise Frinsko Read	Cruz Moudy Dolginoff	Cinquepalmi Hawkins	McVicker Loewecke Berger	Short Crabtree Buckmeier Schrank

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### January - April, 2017

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$173,707	\$177,657	(\$3,950)
	<b>Other</b>	\$111	\$100	\$11
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$173,818	\$177,757	(\$3,939)
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$170,451	\$177,568	(\$7,117)
	<b>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$3,367	\$189	\$3,178

#### OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$102,268
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$179,939
3. Building Note Balance	\$438,690

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