

LIFE LINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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College Prep at Lord of Life

“If you are not offering college prep courses for the youth at your church, you are not doing your job!” This was a comment I heard earlier this week when I attended the Texas District Pastor’s Conference in Houston. Our plenary speaker, author Haydn Shaw, said this while making the point that in any city across America, high schools must offer Advanced Placement courses to their students. This is seen as so completely necessary, he said, that if a high school did not offer these classes, the administration would be removed. But then Shaw turned the analogy on the church: If it is a given that in terms of academics college prep courses are offered to high school students, so too should churches work to prepare students to face the social, philosophical, and spiritual challenges that await them at the university.

He makes an excellent point and it is one that I have tried to make again and again, that too many of our youth fall away from the church and even lose their faith when they go to college and this is because we do not adequately prepare them for the challenges they face. I had never thought of putting it in terms of AP classes and college prep in high school, but with these terms in mind, I am happy to report that college prep is happening with our youth at Lord of Life!

On Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22, seven of our youth attended a “ReThink” conference called: Who is Jesus? Getting Beyond the Clichés. The event was put on by Stand to Reason (www.str.org). This group is not Lutheran, though two members of their staff –including a good friend of mine are LCMS Lutherans. While the speakers and authors are Evangelicals of a Calvinist background, their message is what C.S. Lewis famously referred to as “Mere Christianity.” In other words, they deal with apologetics, the defense of the faith, and their appeal is not to persuade people to become Baptists, Pentecostals, or non-denominational, but to teach and defend the central tenants of Christianity and offer up responses to the cultural issues of our time, especially those where Christianity is attacked. So, for example, on Friday evening, the speakers answered the question raised by the title of the event: Who is Jesus? The speakers each focused on a foundational aspect of Christ: that He is truly God and truly man, that His death paid for the sins of the world, and that salvation can only be found in Him. It was an essential presentation of the Gospel, powerfully and faithfully presented.

The next day began with one of the most compelling presentations I have ever heard on the case for life and the issue of abortion. The speaker was of the Life Training Institute. Klusendorf is an author and lecturer and has engaged in some high-profile debates on the issue of abortion. (If you are interested, you can find several videos of him speaking on the internet.) Next, we got to choose from several topics for breakout sessions and then heard a presentation by Sean McDowell called: “Would Jesus be tolerant?” The issues addressed got right to the heart of where so much of modern culture is headed. Many outside the Church view the exclusiveness of Christianity along with its claims of absolute moral truth to be unacceptable. They think Christians are intolerable, but McDowell exposed the double standard and explained how their views are just as exclusive and it’s Christians who are, in fact, more

(Continued on the next page)

open and tolerating of others. Another breakout session followed and then the event concluded with "The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus" by J. Warner Wallace.

Some of you will recognize that name because in 2013, a number of you bought his then new book called, "Cold Case Christianity." Wallace was a cold case detective for the LAPD and approaches the evidence for Christ's resurrection like a detective would evaluate a crime scene. It is a fascinating approach and he gave a truly world-class presentation of the information. Many of us hung on his every word and laughed along with his fun sense of humor as He powerfully explained the evidence that convinced him of the truth of Christ's resurrection and brought him out of agnosticism. He ended his presentation with a bold challenge to the students telling them they are the future and that they should go and make the case for Christ and change the world.

There was a lot of information covered and it was a lot to take in during a short amount of time, but it was also time very well spent with the youth. It was like giving them an AP youth group experience - "college prep" preparing them to face the non-Christian worldview and ideas they will encounter in such a short time. Fortunately, this conference is not the only opportunity we have to do something like this. We also have been taking the youth to Higher Things each year, which is an uber-Lutheran youth organization which also offers another kind of "AP" experience for our youth.

If you want to know what our youth are up to and would like to see what they thought about the event, ask some of those who attended about it. They might find it really neat if some of our older members showed an interest in them and encouraged them to keep learning and increasing in faith.

Blessings,
PrS



prepare for worship in november

6 November: All Saints Sunday

Texts: Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Hymn of the Day: "For All the Saints," 677

13 November: Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Malachi 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-28

Hymn of the Day: "The Day is Surely Drawing Near," 508

20 November: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Texts: Malachi 3:13-18; Colossians 1:13-20; Luke 23:27-43

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor," 534

Wednesday, 23 November: Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service, 7pm

27 November: First Sunday in Advent

Texts: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 21:1-11

Hymn of the Day: "Savior of the Nations, Come," 332

Wednesday, 30 November: Advent I Divine Service, 7pm

Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord
Psalm 98:4



The Fine Art/Concert Series of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Presents

Concert Pianist Trevor Magness

Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 7pm

Mr. Magness has placed in a number of piano competitions including first place prizes at the Nebraska Music Teachers Association Competition in 2011 and the UNL Undergraduate Concerto Competition in 2012 and 2014. He has given solo performances in many locations, including Fort Worth, Tulsa, Lincoln, St. Louis, Chicago, and Italy. During his undergraduate years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln he also gave multiple chamber music performances with the Capri Trio. Mr. Magness was the recipient of the 2014 Glenn Korff Distinguished Undergraduate Artist/Scholar Award and is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda music honor society. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Piano at Texas Christian University, where he is a student of Dr. Tamás Ungár.

Mr. Magness' performance will primarily feature the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, including selections from his Well-Tempered Clavier and the English Suite #1. In addition, he will play Felix Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Opus 35, No. 1. This concert is free and open to all.

DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE: FIVE CENTURIES OF LUTHERAN SACRED MUSIC

Sunday, November 13 - Tuesday, November 15, 2016

As we enter 2017--the 500th anniversary of the Reformation--this conference will explore Lutheran sacred music, its doctrine and various practices, with an emphasis upon the intersection of sacred music and culture. This event, the seventh sponsored by Lord of Life since 2004, is designed to help musicians, both professional and avocational, clergy, and interested laypeople who desire to delve into issues of Lutheran liturgical doctrine and practice. Practical seminars will be offered for church musicians, while plenary sessions will challenge all participants to think critically about liturgy, worship, and church music. For those able to arrive early, the conference begins with a concert of baroque music by pianist Trevor Magness on Sunday night and concludes with a hymn festival Tuesday evening. This conference is free to Lord of Life members who are free to join us as able. Contact Benjamin Kolodziej, Director of Worship, for more information.

Presenters:

Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto is a lay theologian and internationally-renowned journalist. He was born in Leipzig, Germany, where his devoutly Lutheran grandmother was the pivotal figure in his childhood in World War II. He is the former religion editor of United Press International. In mid-career, at age 50, he began his theological studies, first in Chicago, then in Boston. During these studies, Siemon-Netto freelanced as a magazine correspondent. He studied for his M.A. in theology at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. His Ph.D. in theology and sociology of religion is from Boston University under Peter L. Berger, Carter Lindberg and Uri Ra'Anan. He spent a post-doctoral year at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J. working on a project to bridge the gap between theology and the media.

Henry Gerike, a native of Minnesota, graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN (1970), received a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL (1983). He taught at Lutheran elementary schools in the St. Louis and Chicago areas before attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, graduating in 1991. For almost 25 years he directed the Concordia Seminary Chorus and has served as Kantor at Reformation Lutheran Church, Affton, Missouri. He has served as an editor at Concordia Publishing House and has served on the hymnody committees for Hymnal Supplement 98 and Lutheran Service Book. He has helped in planning the Institute for Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music (2014 and 2017). His study with Paul Manz, Richard Hillert, and Carl Schalk has resulted in a number of compositions for choirs, congregation, and instruments.

Rev Dr Timothy Maschke has served Concordia University Wisconsin as a Professor of Theology since 1982. Prior to coming to Concordia, he was a pastor of two Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod parishes in Illinois. In 1974, Maschke graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with a Masters of Divinity degree and earned a Masters in Sacred Theology from that school in 1981. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1984 and in 1993 earned his PhD in Historical Theology under the late Luther scholar, Dr. Kenneth Hagen at Marquette University. He has taught courses in biblical, doctrinal, historical, and practical theology, with special interests in Christian doctrine, the life and work of Martin Luther and Lutheran Worship. A second (updated and expanded) edition of his book, *Gathered Guests: A Guide to Worship in the Lutheran Church*, was published in 2009 by Concordia Publishing House.

WORSHIP CONFERENCE DAILY SCHEDULE**Sunday, 13 November:**

7pm: Concert, Trevor Magness, pianist

Monday, 14 November:

10am: Morning Prayer and Welcome

10.45am: Lecture: "Luther's Multidimensional View of Worship: Relevance for the Twenty-First Century Congregation," Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke (fellowship hall)

12pm: Noonday Prayer (Sanctuary) and Lunch (fellowship hall)

1.45pm: Lecture: "Church Music: Enhancement or Proclamation," Rev. Henry Gerike (fellowship hall)

3pm: Break

3.15pm: Music at Midday: Organ Recital, Benjamin Kolodziej (sanctuary)

4pm: Break

4.15pm: Sectionals:
"The Word in Worship," Rev. Henry Gerike (fellowship hall)
Hymn Playing Masterclass for Organists, Benjamin Kolodziej (sanctuary)
"Teaching the Teacher: (Re)introducing Martin Luther's Hymns," John Krueger (choir room)

5.30pm: Dinner

7.00pm: Lecture: "Kyrie under Bombs: The Blessing of Memorized Liturgy," Dr Uwe Siemon-Netto (fellowship hall)

8.15pm: Compline (sanctuary)

Tuesday, 15 November

9am: Morning Prayer (sanctuary)

9.30am: Lecture: "Mission in Japan: From Gregorian Chant to Bach," Dr Uwe Siemon-Netto (fellowship hall)

10.45am: Break

11am: Sectionals:
"Teaching the Teacher: (Re)introducing Martin Luther's Hymns," John Krueger (choir room) (repeat from Monday)
"Building Trust Between Organist and Congregation," Rev. Henry Gerike (sanctuary)
"Singing Luther's Catechism: Why Singing Serves and Saves," Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke (fellowship hall)

12.30pm: Service of Prayer and Preaching followed by Lunch

2:30pm: Sectionals:
"Singing Luther's Catechism: Why Singing Serves and Saves," Rev Dr. Timothy Maschke (repeat from 11am) (fellowship hall)
"Exploring Lutheran Service Book as a Choir Resource," Rev. Henry Gerike (choir room)

3.45pm: Break

4pm: Round Table Panel Discussion (Gerike, Siemon-Netto, Maschke) with Questions (sanctuary)

5.30pm: Dinner (fellowship hall)

7pm: Hymn Festival



Outreach

Our congregation has about 300 members but with an average attendance just a bit over 200. The Elders and others are interested in significantly increasing our numbers. And the question is, what can each of us do. The broad answer is “outreach”. Its reported that that in the United States and in our community there are huge numbers of unchurched individuals and families. While too many of these profess no religious faith at all, many call themselves Christians but don’t actively practice their faith. The answer is that each of us should actively engage in personal “outreach”.

If you are so inclined, consider volunteering your services on our Board of Outreach. Members of that board are engaged in choosing various means of advertising our congregation with the hope of encouraging large numbers of local individuals to visit our congregation and hoping that some of them will visit and consider joining our fellowship.

If board membership isn’t your calling, remember our Lord’s command to his disciples in Mathew 28:19-20 saying “Go therefore and make all disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you to the end of the age.” And they did so: e.g. Mark, Luke and John to name just a few. More than 2000 years later, **WE are His disciples.**

We all have friends and neighbors who are not members of our congregation or perhaps any church. When talking with them, you might mention something interesting that you are involved in at church. If they question you, you can elaborate. If you know them to be a member of some other church (NOT LCMS), you might ask what’s going on in their congregation. If a conversation develops, invite them to visit us and reciprocate by joining them, if invited, for one of their services. Let the Lord take it from there.

If a neighbor professes to be Christian, but not a member of a church, consider inviting them to join you for some church activity other than a church service as a start; e.g. to a meeting of the quilters, if that is one of your activities, or a group outing for a baseball game, or a church bus trip, etc. If you have a child (or a grandchild) who is engaged in our Youth Group and your friend also has a child in that age group, you might invite their child to participate in some Youth activity; discuss this with Scott in advance. If there are younger children, inviting them to participate in Vacation Bible School might be appropriate. Whatever, if your friend, coworker, or whoever seems to feel comfortable with your church friends, follow up with inviting them to a church service, but not a communion service where they might feel excluded. Introduce them to the Pastor.

Should an acquaintance state that they are not Christian (or of any other faith), don’t ask them why. Instead, tell them briefly why you are; you must prepare in advance for this. If they then reply with some reason for their disbelief, it’s probably best to suggest that the two of you share your thoughts on this sometime in the near future. Remain congenial and seek the guidance of the Lord.

These have been just a few thoughts; surely there are more. Following them will not always yield fruit, but some might. Keep trying.

In His name,
Tom Womack, Elder

Lord of Life Small Groups

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † Usually meet Sundays after the late service

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

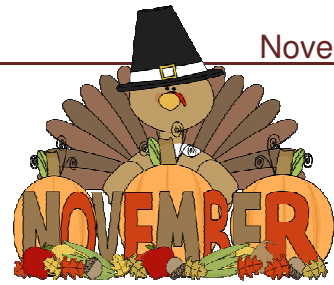
- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net
- † Usually meet on a Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM

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

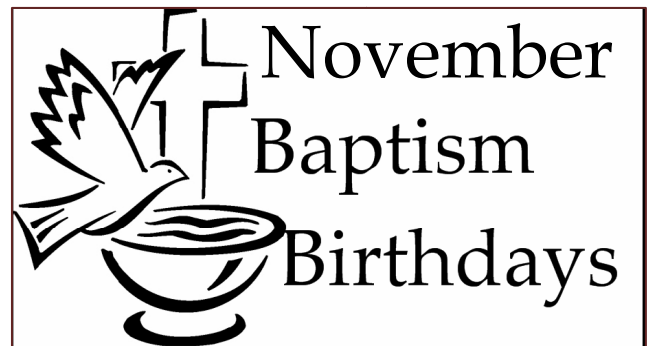
MIXED BLESSINGS

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



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Peter & Ruth Kun (38) |
| 3 | Jeff Loewecke |
| 4 | Caitlyn Moudy |
| 4 | Peggy Stagliano |
| 7 | Stephen Adcox |
| 7 | Leo & Nora Parrent (47) |
| 9 | Jacob Hacker (99) |
| 9 | Brooke Wilkerson |
| 11 | Dolores Stormont |
| 12 | Lillie Chappelle (12) |
| 13 | Ken Tabor |
| 16 | Lauren Gibson (01) |
| 16 | Laura Lutek |
| 18 | Michael & Susie Hawkins (16) |
| 21 | Stephani Belcher |
| 21 | Al Martin |
| 22 | Joe Isbell |
| 23 | Cameron Klein |
| 24 | Dick Hemingway |
| 24 | Tom Ashburn |
| 24 | Dave & Kathy Wilde (32) |
| 25 | Melissa Kunschke |
| 26 | Evelyn Buckmeier |
| 28 | Russ Wilkerson |
| 28 | Al & Norma Martin (56) |
| 30 | John Hawkins |



- Virginia Chappelle – 11-21-04
 Ana Scarth – 11-7-04
 Emily Scarth – 11-21-04

Serving in Worship in November

	November 6		November 13		November 20		November 23	November 27		November 30
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	7:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	7:00 PM
Elder	Kunschke		Ziegelbein		Lutek		Kunschke	Read		Hite
Common Cup	Womack	Hite			Womack	Ziegelbein	Womack			
Altar	Kay Oltmann and Sandra Paradise									
Alcolyte	Adcox	Tischler	M Shaltanis	H Crabree	G Hawkins	Loewecke		Ozlowski	Payne	
Crucifer	J Hawkins	Loewecke			Adcox	Gibson		A Shaltanis	M Shaltanis	
Greeter	Vess	McVicker	Schrank	Dorak	Martin	Manning		Sparks	Abbott/McVicker	
Sound	Wilkerson	Selveraj	Wolf	Pittson	Botello	Hite	Selveraj	Wilkerson	Raj	Botello
Usher	Parrent Martin Sarh	Loewecke Ziegelbein Ozlowski	Hacker Frinsko Read	Cruz Moudy Dolginoff	Cinquelpalmi Hawkins	McVicker Oltman Berger	Cinquelpalmi Cruz Oltman	Schrank Hacker Kun	Buckmeier Short Crabtree	

FINANCIAL REPORT January- September, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$550,138	\$493,602	\$56,536
	Other	\$2,591	\$2,870	(\$279)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$552,729	\$496,472	\$56,257
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$557,018	\$517,910	\$39,108
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	(\$4,289)	(\$21,438)	\$17,149

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$75,292
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$140,926
3. Building Note Balance	\$497,689