

# LIFE LINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **Bibles, Bottles and Diapers**

Supporting the cause of life today, one must not get discouraged. A war is raging all around us. The secular culture continues to champion Planned Parenthood and other organizations committed to abortion despite recent gory revelations about what really goes on in the abortion industry, (harvesting and selling fetal tissue, for example.) Secularists are so committed to abortion, that some have even called abortion the “sacrament” of feminism! As Christians committed to cherishing God’s gift of life, we must remain resolute in this battle of ideas and speak up for life. We must also take the long view. One person or church cannot resolve the conflict and we cannot do it overnight. But we can do our part.

As I see it, there are three arenas of battle for those who love God’s gift of life: There is an educational component (teaching that all life is a precious gift from God and responding to those who approach the issues with secular values;) a political component (encouraging people to elect leaders who value life and raising awareness of the current issues in the public square;) and there is an immediate mercy component (helping women with an unplanned pregnancy to choose life, as well as valuing the elderly and those with physical or developmental disabilities who are often marginalized by those who rally for assisted suicide or so-called “mercy killing.”)

The Life Team at Lord of Life is doing an excellent job of supporting the cause. While we do not see our role as political (for example, we have opted not to protest and picket, nor are we actively campaigning for prolife politicians,) we do engage in the arenas of education and mercy.

Concerning education, we have provided and will continue to provide resources for people to learn why life is a precious gift from the Lord of Life. We have passed out books like Randy Alcorn’s Why Pro Life and several other tracts and pamphlets that address various life issues. We are building a Life Library with such resources on hand for anyone dealing with a certain issue or just interested in learning more. We have also conducted Bible Studies on life issues and will continue to do so. Recently, the elders also approved funds for Lutherans for Life to support the excellent work that this organization does in publishing works and sending speakers to teach in various forums.

(Continued on the next page)

Concerning mercy, the Life Team is supporting a great local pregnancy center called Real Options for Women. The women who work for this organization are wonderful Christian people. They provide valuable counseling and even sonograms for women who view their pregnancy as a crisis and are tempted to abort their child. Real Options is on the front lines of saving young lives and they need the support of individual Christians and congregations like ours to help them accomplish their noble goal. The funds from our recent “baby bottle boomerang” went to support them. We have also been collecting specific recommended items to give to young mothers who choose life. Recently, our Life Team decided to narrow our focus to providing three things to young mothers who choose life: Bibles, Bottles and Diapers.

We provide children’s Bibles in the hope that as the child grows, their parents will share God’s Word with them and raise them in the faith. The bottles also provide a necessary tool for helping the mothers feed their children, and the diapers, well, you know what they are for! You probably also know that they can get quite expensive and so Real Options provides diapers for the first year to mothers who choose life. Thus, a variety of sizes are needed and not just diapers for newborns.

The Life Team purchases the Children’s Bibles with funds from their budget and provides them to Real Options as needed. If you would like to support Real Options by purchasing bottles or diapers, please do so. If you bring them to church, we will see to it that they get to where they are needed. If you prefer instead to simply make a financial contribution, this too is greatly appreciated. Please write “Life Team” on the memo line of the check if you would like the Life Team to do the shopping. Our Life Team will buy whatever size diapers are requested from Real Options. Our goal is to have a supply on hand so they can count on us when their supplies run low.

“Bibles, Bottles, and Diapers” –Has a nice ring to it, doesn’t it? We hope you will remember it and consider how you can help support.

God bless,

PrS

Behold, children are a heritage from the  
Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Psalm 127:3





**prepare for worship  
in september**

**4 September: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Deut. 30:15-20; Phil. 1-21; Luke 14:25-35  
Hymn of the Day: "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord," 853

**11 September: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Ez. 34:11-24; 1Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10  
Hymn of the Day: "Jesus, Sinners Doth Receive," 609

**18 September: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Amos 8:4-7; 1Tim. 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15  
Hymn of the Day: "We Give Thee But Thine Own," 781

**25 September: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Amos 6:1-7; 1Tim. 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31  
Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," 708

**Music at Midday Concert  
Wed, Sept. 7, 1:05 – 1:40 PM**

Benjamin Kolodziej will play the programme he will have played the week before at St Patrick's Cathedral in NYC:

- Prelude and Fugue in Eb, BWV 552 ("St Anne") ..... Johann Sebastian Bach
- From *Seven Allegorical Pictures*.....
- ..... Sverre Eftestøl "Til høgtid ny"
- Improvisation on the Celtic Hymn: AR HYD Y NOS ..... Benjamin Kolodziej

**DFW BRASS IN CONCERT**



The Fine Art/Concert Series of Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents DFW Brass in concert on Sunday, September 11, at 4:30pm. Comprised of musicians Lacey Hayes, Adam Miller, Steve Peterson and Jeff Baker, this brass ensemble's enthusiasm is evident in every concert. Featuring a variety of musical styles from marches to jazz to traditional tunes, the concert will include music of Eric Ewazen, James Barnes, Michael Kamen and John Philip Sousa. They will also perform a medley from the beloved musical, *Sound of Music*, and will be joined by organist Benjamin Kolodziej in Charles-Marie Widor's famous "Toccata," arranged for organ and brass. In addition to performing with local orchestras and organization such as the Dallas Opera, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony, Plano Symphony and Irving Symphony, the members of DFW Brass have performed throughout the world including at the Vatican, Carnegie Hall, cruise liners, the Shanghai Radio Symphony, Italian Opera houses, and multiple international music festivals throughout Europe as well as North, Central, & South America. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be received at the door.

# Teen Times

Dear Jr. IMPACT and Sr. IMPACT youth and parents, greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

As the summer months wind down and we get back to the routines of fall, it is also time to consider what a great opportunity it is to get into, or back into, the routine of regular attendance in Sunday worship and Bible class. Starting September 11, the Jr. High and Sr. High Bible classes on Sunday morning will once again be separate study groups.

I will be leading the Sr. IMPACT class in a study from the Faith on the Edge Series. In this we will discover the relationship between science, technology, and faith beginning with a look into *The Unexplained* that explores the fascination people have with miracles, mysticism, near-death experiences, and other similar topics. Later this fall we will go *Off the Edge*. A study of faith, science, and our future as a space-faring people by looking at the creation of the universe, the end of the universe, and the possibility of life on other planets.

Dixie Hacker will be leading the Jr. IMPACT class on a journey through the Old Testament. We all love a good story. Stories entertain, but they also deliver messages. The Bible tells the greatest story ever told, the account of God's love for His people, a people "gone bad." However, God is the hero of one great story, and the rescuer and redeemer of all mankind. We will divide the Old Testament into ten eras into which the stories naturally fit. More than tales of who, what, when, and where, this study will follow three threads: God speaks, God acts, and God reveals His person and His purposes as He interacts with fallen people in a fallen world.

With that, here are five things you can take away from attending Bible class on Sunday mornings:

## 1. Being around other Christian teenagers with the same beliefs is healthy.

It may not be totally obvious, but you are part of a big family at Lord of Life. We are interconnected by our faith and our beliefs as Lutheran Christians. It is similar to being around family on holidays or vacations where you feel that you belong to something special and with people you have a relationship with through Christ. When you study God's Word with other teens, you are growing with each other and striving toward the goal of eternal life in Heaven together.

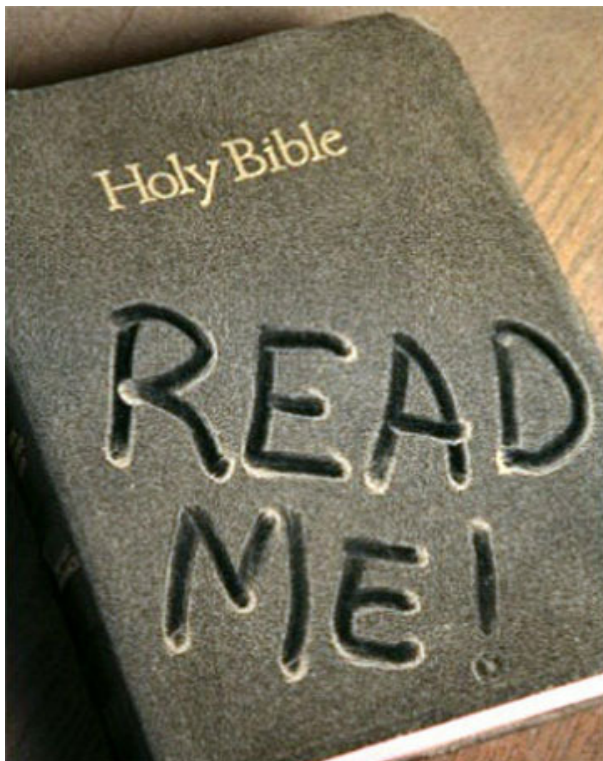


## 2. You might be surprised at how much you like it and what it means to you!

Bible class can often have the label of being dull, boring, nerdy, or just plain weird. I have attended a few study sessions myself that have held one or more of those descriptions. However, studying the Bible in ways that teens can relate to is a huge challenge, and there are more resources today than ever before to help youth understand how much God loves and cares for all of us. The Bible is full of stories about people and places that are interesting and enlightening to young people. There are many times I have seen an "AH-HAH" moment during Bible class.

### 3. The Bible has a lot more to teach you than you realize.

Did you know that approximately one-third of Christ's teachings were in the form of parables and parables were also used in the Old Testament? How much can we really learn from a man swallowed by a great fish, or a donkey that talks to his master? The Bible instructs us in many ways that directly apply to our lives today. Topics like self-image, body modification, eating disorders, maturity, decision making, use of time, risk taking, and thinking for yourself are just a



few examples of contemporary issues the Bible addresses. God's Word may have been written nearly two-thousand years ago but it relates to every part of our daily living.

### 4. You need food to survive!

The average person eats a meal three times per day. When your body does not get the proper nutrition, bad things happen. During the Service of Prayer and Preaching, we hear the pastor say during the Collect for the Word; "Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart..." In the past, the words "inwardly digest" were used in place of "take them to heart." The Bible is food for the soul. Nutrition is vital for survival. Without it, you will die. The same is true for our spiritual life. It needs to be sustained. This is done through worship, prayer, **and** the study of God's word. Consider it a spiritual "breakfast" on Sunday mornings.

### 5. God wants you to be there to learn about His grace and mercy through Jesus.

*"My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for a hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."*

*(Proverbs 2:1-5)*

Simon Peter confessed it out loud:

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."*

*(John 6:68-69)*

God created you, He loves you, and He sent his Son to die for the forgiveness of your sins. Giving God our complete attention for one hour per week to study His Word is not too much to ask, is it?

In conclusion, if all of the Jr and Sr. High youth attend their respective Bible classes, there would be almost 40 in attendance! I would love to post a picture of that on the church website! Make it your goal to join the IMPACT Bible classes on Sunday, Sept. 11. I am looking forward to it!

God's Blessings,  
Scott Peters

## Self-Righteousness

*Some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt... Luke 18:9*



The devotion I read this morning made some great points, so I share a few paragraphs<sup>1</sup>:

“Self-righteous people aren’t uncommon. They’re also not alone in thinking they’re the right kind of people. Usually there’s a group, maybe a race or nation, that agrees with them. In fact they’re a devilish mutation of something good that God created with the nature of man: a feeling of justice, ambition, sense of duty, responsibility for the community, the will to do what’s right. The things they do are to a large degree correct and proper. The things they condemn and repudiate are often times harmful and shameful. Still there’s something askew with it all”.

“This self-righteousness can have a political dimension. We feel that those who belong to our party or our ideology are right. The others are selfish, ruthless, power-hungry, and, at the very least, blind...”

“Jesus tells us today, however, that self-righteousness can be considered pious – and that’s when it’s especially bad. It can be so deep-rooted in us that we don’t see it even when Jesus puts the Pharisee in the temple in front of us...”

“What would a pious Pharisee look like today? He would go to church, be respectable, conscientious, and generally revered. He would be a proponent of law and order, pay his taxes, respect traffic regulations, and be an exemplary employee...”

“You see the best picture of yourself reflected in the mirror because we all have in us the old Adam, who is always inclined to find himself righteous and has very good reasons to find contempt in others. It’s good for us to see that picture of ourselves. It can help us sincerely say as the publican did: God, be merciful to me, a sinner”.

As Christian witnesses, sometimes the world sees us as self-righteous and objectionable. And the devotion suggests this can really be a problem, even to other Christians. It’s worth asking ourselves, “Am I the witness I want to be?”

In Christ,

Ben Lutek, Board of Elders

<sup>1</sup> *To Live with Christ, Daily Devotions by Bo Giertz, Concordia Publishing House, 2008*

The Lord of Life Board of Elders announces several changes in our board. Joseph Acker has stepped down and will no longer serve as an Elder. We thank Joseph for his faithful service to Lord of Life in this capacity, and we ask God's continued blessing on Joseph and his family.

Tom Read and Mark Ziegelbein have each been asked and both men have agreed to serve Lord of Life as Elders. We appreciate their willingness to serve, and we ask God to bless their service in His house.

In Christ,  
Mike Kunschke

## Lord of Life Small Groups

### COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net)
- † Will meet on Sat., Sept. 17 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 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., Sept. 10 at 6:30 PM



Rachel Adcox 9-30-07  
Peter Hoepfner 9-24-06



**"I AM THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD.**

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER  
WALK IN DARKNESS,  
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12

## September's Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Devrie Hahn
- 2 Bill Bennett
- 2 Candace Klein
- 2 Fred & Ruth Bernhardt (49)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 4 John Anderson
- 4 Vera Hemingway
- 5 Paul & Gay Stueckler (63)
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (52)
- 7 Alex Moudy
- 9 Brian Gibson
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (6)
- 10 Chris & Deb Dorak (33)
- 11 Stan Brown
- 11 Justin Dowlen
- 12 Susan Colles
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 12 Dick & Vera Hemingway (69)
- 12 Bob & Carol Nance (46)
- 15 Marian Krehmeyer
- 16 Pete Ehrett
- 16 Abigail Nash
- 16 Andrew Short
- 18 Ernie & Susan Gromatzky (45)
- 19 John Ehrett
- 19 Christian Klein
- 21 Angie Buckmeier
- 21 Daniel Sanford
- 21 Mike Scaglione
- 22 Mike Kunschke
- 23 Nora Parrent
- 25 Rick & Malinda Pittson (23)
- 26 Mirien Senter
- 27 Jerry Parish
- 27 Dean & Sharon Davis (60)
- 29 Carl Carper
- 29 David Dorak
- 30 Ardis Bang
- 30 Beverly Moudy
- 30 Ruth Landry
- 30 Brian & Kristi Gibson (16)

# Serving in Worship in September

	September 4		September 11		September 18		September 25	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
<b>Elder</b>	Kunschke		Lutek		Peters		Hite	
<b>Common Cup</b>	Roberts	Hite			Lutek	Kunschke		
<b>Altar</b>	Gail Senter and Nevelle Vess							
<b>Alcolyte</b>	Messinger	Loewecke	Ozlowski	K. Crabtree	A Shaltanis	N Ziegelbein	Carter	K Payne
<b>Crucifer</b>	Adcox	W Gibson			M Shaltanis	E Ziegelbein		
<b>Greeter</b>	Martin	Manning	Schrank	McVicker	Sparks	Dorak	Vess	Abbott/McVicker
<b>Sound</b>	Botello	Hite	Wolf	Raj	Wilkerson	Selveraj	Wolf	Pittson
<b>Usher</b>	Hawkins Parrent Martin	Loewecke Ziegelbein	Paradise Read Frinsko	Dolginoff Cruz Moudy	Cinquelpalmi Hawkins	Berger McVicker Oltman	Schrank Hacker Kun	Buckmeier Short Crabtree

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### January- July, 2016

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$436,863	\$394,305	\$42,558
	<b>Other</b>	\$2,012	\$2,270	(\$258)
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$438,875	\$396,575	\$42,300
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$422,613	\$404,022	\$18,591
	<b>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$16,262	(\$7,447)	\$23,709

#### OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$99,445
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$226,934
3. Building Note Balance	\$612,153