

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bring-A-Friend Sunday, September 30

Do you know someone who doesn't go to church? Of course you do; we all do. But do you know someone in particular, a friend, neighbor or co-worker about whom you have thought: *I should invite him to go to church with me?* If you have thought this, but have put off inviting him or her, now is the time to stop procrastinating. On September 30th, the Board of Outreach is sponsoring a "Bring a Friend Sunday." Our hope is that by providing this opportunity, some will be encouraged to talk about their faith with a friend, and in doing so, share the Gospel with those who either do not know Christ, or if they do, are missing out on the benefits of having a church.

What do we have planned for this day? -Nothing earth-shattering. We do not want to give people a false impression of who we are. Our church is a traditional Lutheran church and we are not one of those places that is constantly reinventing itself to try and keep up with whatever is popular. That being said, we are going to have a meal following the service to facilitate lots of social interaction. We will also present our guests with a special gift that day and try to make sure the service contains nothing too difficult or inaccessible –especially to those who are unfamiliar with Lutheran worship or liturgical worship in general. The hymns will be well-known tunes and the choir will sing the psalm or an anthem. We will use Divine Service IV which has the least amount of chanting and congregational response –something which many non-Lutherans find challenging and strange. One thing we are going to do that is different, is we are not going to celebrate the Lord's Supper that day, even though it is typically our custom to offer the sacrament on the 5th Sunday of the month.

I hope this last change doesn't disappoint anyone. This isn't something we plan to do on a regular basis. In fact, personally, I think we need the sacrament as often as we can get it, and that we ought to look for more opportunities rather than fewer. Nevertheless, because we especially want to encourage people to invite guests on this day, we (the Board of Outreach, the Board of Elders, and me) thought it would be best not to invite folks to church and then have a portion of the service that might exclude some.

For most people, not being welcomed to receive communion when you are a guest, is no big deal. Unfortunately, for others it is taken as an insult. Believe, me, I have had people get very angry with me when I have asked them to respect our practice of closed communion. Typically this doesn't happen and most people understand that as guests, they follow the custom of the place they are visiting. (For example, if you were invited by a Jewish friend to attend his synagogue, would you take offense if he asked you to cover your head, or would you politely go along with the custom and put on a yarmulke so as not to give offense?) Still, if the person you might invite to a bring-a-friend-Sunday is the kind of person who might be turned off by closed communion, we thought it best to deal with that issue before their second visit hopefully allowing for a reasonable discussion on the issue instead of simply being faced with it on the first visit.



prepare for worship in september

Sunday, Sept. 2: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Deut. 4:1-2; Eph. 6:10-20, Mark 7:14-23

Hymn of the Day: "By Grace I'm Saved," 566

Sunday, Sept. 9: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 35:4-7; James 2:1-10; 14-18; Mark 7:24-37

Hymn of the Day: "Praise the Almighty," 797

Sunday, Sept. 16: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 50:4-10; James 3:2-12; Mark 9:14-29

Hymn of the Day: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," 849

Sunday, Sept. 23: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jer. 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37

Hymn of the Day: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us," 851

Sunday, Sept. 30: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5; Mark 9:38-50

Hymn of the Day: "Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay," 505

If you have someone in mind that you would like to invite, but are nervous about asking them, then keep the following kinds of things in mind: share with them the blessings of belonging to a church. Tell them that in Church you hear the Word of God, have your sins forgiven, are built up in your faith, grounded in timeless spiritual truths, and are refreshed to face another week in this increasingly secular world. You might also point out that with your church, you have another layer of community and in many ways a second family. In your congregation you have people who help and support you and look out for you, people who will laugh and rejoice with you as well as cry and mourn with you. (Romans 12:15)

There are lots of reasons you might give when you invite someone to attend church with you. Or you might not have to give a reason at all. Many people who do not attend church simply need a little nudge to do the right thing and get back to worshipping God. They feel as though they have gotten lazy or realize they had just fallen into bad habits. In fact, the person you invite may be looking for an excuse to go to church again and will truly appreciate your thoughtful invitation. Others who haven't been to church in a while have stayed away because of some hurt or fear or difficult life change. They too may be longing for encouragement and a place where they belong and have fellowship. Still others may never have heard the Good News of what God has done for us in Jesus, they especially ought to be encouraged to come and interact with Christians in a friendly environment and hear the Word and learn about our faith, and Lord willing, one day share it.

See you in Church,

PrS



Music Ensembles Resume in September!

Adult Choir

Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday evening, September 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New members are always welcome, whether you can read music or not! If you have questions, please contact vicki@planolutheran.com, or 972-867-5588.

Sunday School Little Bells

Ages 5 - 15+ meet every Sunday in the Sunday School room from 9:15 - 9:30 am to ring hymns with the small, colored bells. At 9:30 am the children are taken to their class rooms. Please encourage your child/children to come ring. They will be working toward ringing for service when they are ready.

Handbell Rehearsals

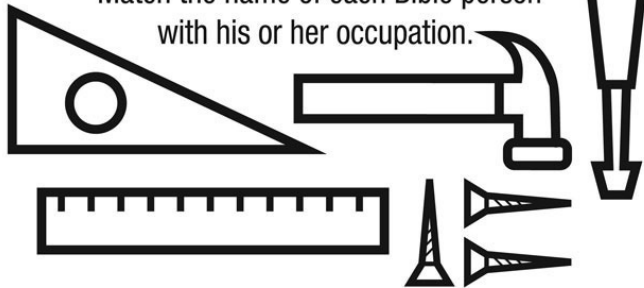
Our three octave Handbell Choir (ages 12 to adult) will continue to meet on Saturdays from 10am - 11:30am.

We are starting a new Beginner Choir on Wednesday of this coming week, for ages 12 to adult. Please join us if you would like to learn to play the bells or if you are experienced and just can't commit to participating in the Saturday Handbell Choir. Wednesday rehearsals will be held from 5pm - 6:15pm.

We are also looking for experienced substitutes, if you would like to participate only occasionally. If you have any questions please contact Becky Greer.

Puzzle!

Match the name of each Bible person with his or her occupation.



- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah | A. soldier |
| 2. Luke | B. carpenter |
| 3. Demetrius | C. cupbearer |
| 4. Matthew | D. clothseller |
| 5. Lydia | E. fisherman |
| 6. Joseph | F. shepherd |
| 7. Paul | G. tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. tailor |
| 9. Tabitha | I. silversmith |
| 10. Amos | J. priest |
| 11. Eli | K. tentmaker |
| 12. Peter | L. physician |

Bible Quiz



Who was Moses' father-in-law, and what was his occupation?

- A. Joshua; shepherd
- B. Miriam; tentmaker
- C. Aaron; farmer
- D. Jethro; priest

Witnessing

We have started talking about witnessing in Bible class. Part of being a good witness is knowing what you believe and why you believe it. I have identified a few resources that are helpful in showing that the faith rests on solid ground.

I recently came across a doctoral dissertation that examined the historical evidence for the martyrdom of the apostles. See Sean McDowell, *A Historical Evaluation of the Evidence for the Death of the Apostles as Martyrs for Their Faith* (Dec. 2014) (Ph.D. dissertation, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) (available at <http://digital.library.sbts.edu/handle/10392/4857>). He concludes that (1) all of the apostles were willing to be martyred, (2) it is “the highest possible probability” that Peter, Paul, and James were martyred, (3) it is “very probably true” that James, the brother of Jesus, was martyred, and (4) it is “more probable than not” that Andrew and Thomas were martyred. *Id.* at 424-29. For me, the apostles’ willingness to suffer is important in determining that the resurrection is true, as argued by one of the founders of Harvard Law School:

Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, revilings, bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing. As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution. . . . They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency. It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.

Simon Greenleaf, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists* 53 (1846).

I have seen some critics contend that the New Testament was written too many years after the events in the Gospel accounts. However, a summary of the Gospel message was contained in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians:

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (ESV). Dr. Gary Habermas has an interesting discussion explaining that Paul likely “received” this information of “first importance” in approximately 35 A.D. See Gary R. Habermas, *Evidence for the Historical Jesus: Is the Jesus of History the Christ of Faith* 9-16 (2015) (available at http://garyhabermas.com/books/EvidenceBook/GaryHabermas_Evidence-for-the-historical-Jesus-Release_1point1.pdf). The resurrection was not something that was told years later. Rather, it was being reported right after Jesus rose from the grave.

Wisdom of God Meditation

By Nicholas Belcher

The Wisdom of God can indeed seem to be a strange thing; it can seem as though the things of God are flipped upside down. Think on it for a moment. We proclaim that our Savior's victory over the Prince of the Power of the Air is in dying on a cross, scorned of men; we know that those who would seek to save their lives will lose them, but those who lose their lives for the sake of Christ will find them; though social Darwinism appears to say otherwise, we believe the meek will inherit the Earth rather than the mighty. And the list goes on.

The Scriptures tell us that His ways are higher than our ways and that His thoughts are higher than our thoughts, yes, but do we humans take that to heart? Who *is* this God of the Bible that would send a Redeemer to rescue His creation that willingly rebels against Him? The Gospel of John says in its first chapter, “[the] true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him” (Jn. 1:9-11). The very Wisdom of God, whose ways are higher than ours, came into the world and was not only unrecognized but also put to death. Now that says something (a lot of things really).

St. Paul says the “wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’” (1 Cor. 3:19). That means the cross of Calvary was a snare by which God caught that “Serpent [who] was more crafty than any other beast of the field” (Gen. 3:1). In a certain sense, the cross snares us too because of our daily transgression of God's Holy will. Indeed, it would be folly for us to believe as the world does when it says people are basically good, that if we live a decent and honest life we can believe God will probably look favorably on our efforts, or maybe that we can even blot out the

bad things we've done by taking up the causes of social justice while we polish our idolatrous images on social media for everyone to see. The fact is, Jesus had to die because of our sins, and what fallen man thinks is wisdom turns out to be no wisdom at all.

Thanks be to God for His Wisdom, for “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). What is more, being conformed to the image of Christ, undergoing sanctification by the power of the Holy Spirit, results in our lives becoming beautiful as He is beautiful. “[T]hanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Cor. 2:14-15).

The world may look upon us Christians as the most foolish of all people, we who retain our faith in the midst of suffering and persecution. It may see our foolishness as a poison to mankind and as a backwards, bigoted belief system detrimental to the progress of civilized society. The Christian procession Paul wrote of may also seem to be one of sheer folly—but so be it. Although the world does not recognize the Christian's life as being a part of any triumphal procession, keep in mind there will come a day when the Wisdom of God comes again on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory to lead His people in a procession to the promised land He has prepared for us. There will come a great and awesome day when the Wisdom of God wipes away all our tears and no evil will escape His perfect justice.

If the world seems upside down to you in light of the Wisdom of God, you should know you're actually being placed right side up and seeing the world as it really is.



- 1 Devrie Hahn
- 2 Bill Bennett
- 2 Candace Klein
- 2 Fred & Ruth Bernhardt (51)
- 2 Randall & Rose Moore (51)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 4 Vera Hemingway
- 4 Sarah Sims
- 6 Joshua Prescott
- 6 Hannah Sims
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (54)
- 7 Gerry Bryant
- 8 Myrna Schulze
- 9 Brian Gibson
- 9 Mary Ravitz
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (8)
- 10 Chris & Deb Dorak (35)
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 12 Dick & Vera Hemingway (71)
- 12 Bob & Carol Nance (48)
- 15 Marian Krehmeyer
- 16 Pete Ehrett
- 16 Abigail Nash
- 16 Andrew Short
- 18 Ernie & Susan Gromatzky (47)
- 19 John Ehrett
- 19 Christian Klein
- 21 Angie Buckmeier
- 21 Christi Hampton
- 21 Mike Scaglione
- 22 Mike Kunschke
- 23 Nora Parrent
- 23 Rob Reinert
- 25 Rick & Malinda Pittson (25)
- 26 Mirien Senter
- 27 Jerry Parish
- 29 Carl Carper
- 29 David Dorak
- 30 Ardis Bang
- 30 Beverly Moudy
- 30 Brian & Kristi Gibson (53)

Answers: D (See Exodus 3:1)

Answers: 1. C, 2. L, 3. I, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. K, 8. A, 9. H, 10. F, 11. J, 12. E

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. Sept. 22nd, 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

FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or speters@planolutheran.com
- † Will meet on Sun. Sept. 23rd at 5:30 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
- † Will meet on Sat. Sept. 15th 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



A
GOOD NAME
 IS TO BE CHOSEN
 RATHER THAN GREAT RICHES,
and
FAVOR
 IS BETTER THAN SILVER OR GOLD.
 PROVERBS 22:1

Serving in Worship in September

	September 2		September 9		September 16		September 23		September 30	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	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	Kunschke		Ziegelbein		Read		Moudy		Lutek	
Assist	Peters	Ziegelbein			Peters	Kunschke				
Altar	Nelda Schrank, Barbara Sinclair and Amanda Kunschke									
Acolyte	Athan	Jonah	Kaitlyn	Luke	Josh	Sebastian	Cadence	Emma	Ashley	Hayden
Greeter	Schrank	Manning	Vess	Bennett/Tyler	Hampton	Dorak	Martin	George	Vess	Abbott/Moore
Sound	Botello	Raj	Wilkerson	Pittson	Wolf	Hite	Hacker	Selvaraj	Botello	Raj
Usher	Scarth Bunger Shaltanis	Ziegelbein T Ozlowski D Ozlowski Loewecke	Paradise Frinsko Read	Moudy Cruz Carter	Bunger Scarth Messinger	Parish Oltmann Berger	C Hacker Schrank E Hacker G Hacker	Crabtree Buckmeier Short	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Moudy Carter

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - July, 2018

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$339,983	\$358,146	(\$18,163)
	Other	\$555	\$0	\$555
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$340,537	\$358,146	(\$17,609)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$330,967	\$343,350	(\$12,383)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$9,570	\$14,796	(\$5,226)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$121,032
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$164,459
3. Building Note Balance	\$311,628

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20TH — lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com