

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 38, No. 4

Plano, Texas

April 2024

"I find that Holy Week is draining; no matter how many times I have lived through his crucifixion, my anxiety about his resurrection is undiminished—I am terrified that, this year, it won't happen; that that year it didn't. Anyone can be sentimental about the nativity; any fool can feel like a Christian at Christmas. But Easter is the main event; if you don't believe in the resurrection, you're not a believer. If you don't believe in Easter," Owen Meany said. "Don't kid yourself—Don't call yourself a Christian."

John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

As I write this it is Holy Saturday and we are on the threshold of the great celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. It is the High Holy Day of the Christian church and the quote above from a popular novel offers an interesting challenge to ponder: Can one deny the truth that is celebrated on this High Holy Day and still be a Christian?

I suppose that one can call them self a Christian and deny the resurrection if their use of the term 'Christian' is so watered-down and redefined to mean nothing more than a cultural association with the Christian church. But is that what it means to be a Christian? To simply be born into a Christian family? To celebrate Christmas instead of Hanukah or Ramadan? Is being a Christian like being an Irish-American or Italian-American, that is, someone who identifies with one culture first, but happily acknowledges certain historical cultural phenomenon especially on holidays? Sadly, for many Christian-Americans, I suppose it is. Rather than holding to a specific worldview and set doctrines and having a

real relationship with the Living God, those who are merely cultural Christians have only a historical connection to true believers. But that is Owen Meany's point: cultural Christians are not real Christians nor should they self-identify as such: "Don't kid yourself—Don't call yourself a Christian."

Scripture defines what it is to be a Christian in terms far different than merely a loose cultural association. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: "... **if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**" (Romans 10:9-10 ESV) Notice that Paul is specific; saving faith does not merely parrot the words "Jesus is Lord" but true faith trusts in the heart that Jesus was raised from the dead. More texts could be brought to bear on the question of what it means to be a Christian, but for now, let's agree that 'confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that God

raised Him from the dead' is what it means to be a Christian with saving faith. Let's also agree that there is no meaningful way to call yourself a Christian and at the same time deny that Christ is risen from the dead.

Each week we confess with our lips in the words of the creeds, "I believe ... in one Lord Jesus Christ... who rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures..." We regularly confess this with our lips and by God's grace we trust in our hearts that Christ died and was raised "for us and for our salvation". Yet, the season of Easter is that special time in the Church Year that we set aside to focus on this all important truth that He lives and because He lives, we too will never die. Only real Christians know this and trust in it. How blessed we are to be among those know and believe!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Bluebonnets

As I write this, our bluebonnets in front of the church are in full bloom and are looking beautiful. Please enjoy them and snap a picture or two. Hundreds of people will visit our church over the next few weeks to do the same. If you happen to be coming or going to church for service or Bible class or whatever, please consider walking out to the front lawn and welcoming our guests with some friendly conversation. I assume most of the people visiting will have a church of their own or no interest in church at all, but some might and it would be a great thing to let them know they are welcome here.

 A graphic featuring a white shield-like shape with a dashed red border. Inside the shield, the word "MARK" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, the word "your" is written in a smaller, red, cursive font. At the bottom of the shield, the word "CALENDARS!" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Two black arrows point horizontally towards the shield from the left and right sides. The shield is set against a background of light green and dark red rectangular blocks.

MARK
your
CALENDARS!

Pastor Ric McMillan

Pastor Ric was the dearly-loved pastor who founded Lord of Life more than 30 years ago. He is now retired and lives in the Houston area. He has accepted our invitation to be with us on Sunday, May 26 for our annual Memorial Day weekend service and picnic. Please mark the date and plan not to miss it.

And while you're at it... Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 9th. That weekend we will have a special guest and dear friend visiting us, **Rev. Dr. Korey Maas**. Dr. Maas is the dean of the history department at Hillsdale College and an ordained clergyman in the LCMS. He has authored and edited several books and articles including one we recently used in our Sunday morning Bible class. He will give a couple of special lectures and preach and teach Bible class on Sunday June 9th.



prepare for worship in april

April 7: Second Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
Hymn of the Day: "O Sons and Daughters of the King," 470

April 14: Third Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49
Hymn of the Day: "With High Delight Let Us Unite," 483

April 21: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Hymn of the Day: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," 709

April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-11 (12-21); John 15:1-8
Hymn of the Day: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," 633

LWML Dal-North Spring Event

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church
1801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano

9:30 Registration (\$10)
10:00 Starting Time
12:00 Lunch



"Bloom Where You are Planted"

Welcome and Devotion

Dana Riley, Speaker
Samaritan Inn McKinney

Business Meeting

Ingathering Offering: Jelly, chips, fruit cups, granola bars, napkins, sauces (BBQ, hot, ketchup)

Hair products like gel, hairspray; foot/body powder; loofahs/washcloths; body lotion; Tylenol Cold & Flu (adult and children); allergy medicine (adult and children); Men's undershirts (L, XL, 2XL)

**Visit with Messiah's Comfort Dog
Triton**



Questions: Mary Jane Tobaben
rtobaben@verizon.net
469-693-7219

RSVP by April 5, please



LWML TEXAS DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

LWML Texas District 43rd Biennial Convention
June 13–15, 2024
Omni Hotel Corpus Christi

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:23–24).

Convention Goal

Hold fast in Christ, our source of hope, living out our faith without wavering.

Convention Objective

Attendees will:

- Be strengthened in faith through worship and fellowship.
- Honor God by showing love to one another.
- Witness boldly, anchored in Christ.

Registration and Hotel Reservations — Now Open

<https://www.lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions>

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

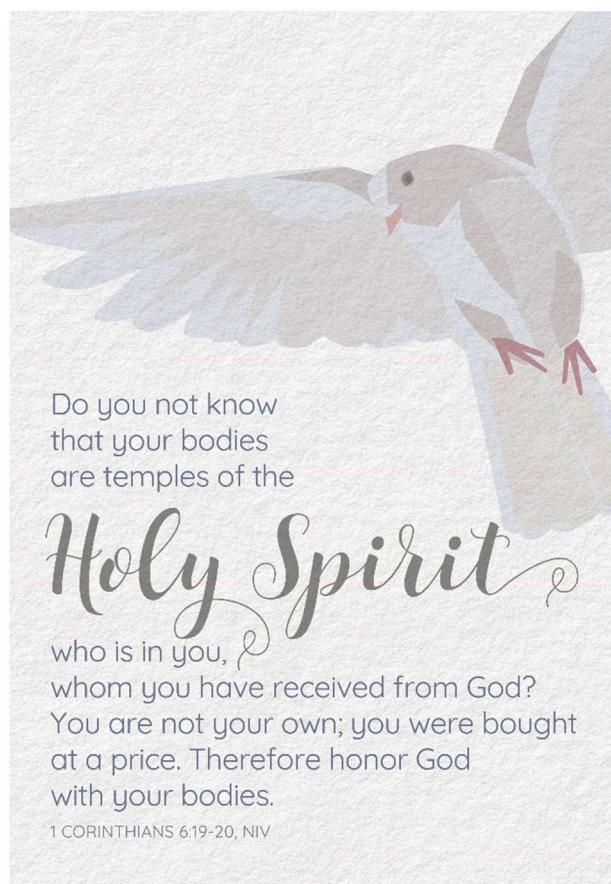
You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



Lord of Life Small Groups

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 Sat., April 13 at 6:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., April 13 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

COLLEGE GROUP

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † Usually meet after the late service for lunch and Bible study



**Youth
FUNdraiser**
**One
More
Time!**

Join us
FOR
Breakfast
9 - 9:30 AM
April 14

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Brandon Lund
- 3 Kathy Hite
- 6 Benjamin & Grace Slater (5)
- 7 Bob Hixson
- 8 Brian Wolf
- 11 Grant Kostrzewa
- 14 Bob Helms
- 15 Dudley Hall
- 15 Louetta Sistik
- 15 Brooks & Joanna Smith (29)
- 16 Karen Lund
- 17 Jeff Berger
- 22 Charles & Suzanne Gabriel (24)
- 22 Scott & Christine Messinger (29)
- 22 Rhonda Tabor
- 23 Heather Padgett
- 25 Kathy Helms
- 25 Rix Scarth
- 25 Laurie & Tom George (37)
- 27 Margaret Chambers
- 27 Mike & Sandra Paradise (61)
- 28 Sylvia Seymour
- 28 Katie Short
- 30 Earl & Karen Lund (36)



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Summarized Statement of Activity
2 Months Ending February 29, 2024

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2024 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$98,213	\$86,134	\$12,079	\$589,196
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$98,213	\$86,134	\$12,079	\$589,196
Expenses				
Benevolences	\$12,277	\$10,767	\$1,510	\$73,650
Elders	\$54,025	\$53,440	\$585	\$320,639
Education	\$0	\$100	(\$100)	\$1,000
Outreach	\$666	\$100	\$566	\$3,900
Office Expenses	\$1,906	\$1,440	\$466	\$12,090
Utilities	\$7,562	\$6,715	\$847	\$38,245
Property Maintenance	\$7,150	\$10,630	(\$3,480)	\$83,540
Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
Family Ministries	\$95	\$500	(\$405)	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$585	\$2,500	(\$1,915)	\$6,600
Children's Ministry	\$635	\$800	(\$165)	\$6,500
Admin Council	\$355	\$400	(\$45)	\$5,200
Total Operating Expense	\$85,256	\$87,392	(\$2,135)	\$557,004
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$12,956	(\$1,258)	\$14,214	\$32,192

Other Information:

Operating Fund Balance	\$187,009
Certificate of Deposit	\$130,373
Restricted Fund Balance	\$137,711
Endowment Restricted CDs	\$64,377