

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588

Fax: (972) 985-5588

Internet Home Page: <http://planolutheran.com>

Vol. 39, No. 4

Plano, Texas

April 2025

### Holy Week and Easter

Our midweek Lenten services have been well attended and well-received. Our sermon series *Reflections on Repentance* have offered us a series of deep meditations on Psalm 51 and the many different facets of sin and repentance. We will have one more on Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM, with a soup supper before the evening service.

Please also plan to take advantage of the Holy Week and Easter services coming up April 17, 18, and 20. We will offer afternoon and evening services at 1:00 and 7:00 on Maundy Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper and observe the stripping of the altar, then leave the church in silence. On Good Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, the church will be available for prayer that afternoon for any and all interested in coming to pray. That evening at 7:30 (Not 7:00! –We start later so the service ends after sundown) we will celebrate our traditional Tenebrae service, or “service of Darkness.” If you have not experienced this yet, please plan to be there. If you have friends who haven't attended this service, invite them. This is the most solemn day of the church year. The congregation assembles in silence and there is no sermon, just many readings of the Passion story drawn from all four Gospels with prayers, choir, and hymn singing. The service ends in darkness and silence. It is a great way to solemnly reflect on what was done for us and to prepare for a joyful Easter celebration.

Easter Sunday will be a day of joy as we thank God again that: Christ is risen! – He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Service times are 8:00 and 10:45 with a delicious brunch in between services. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to bring food items for the meal.

**New Members at Lord of Life:** we recently welcomed 5 more newly confirmed Lutherans into church membership on Sunday March 30: Phoebe Cave, Mike and Lane Montgomery and their son, Logan, and Emory Thomason.

**Portals of Prayer:** Many have asked: Where are the new Portals of Prayer? For some reason we did not receive the smaller ones, but only the large print. We have reached out to CPH and are trying to get more sent to the church. Sorry for the delay.

**Dominican Republic:** We continue to support the mission of making Christ known by supporting the Seminario Concordia el reformador in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic and we also give generously to the LCMS' Cuba Mission. I was privileged to attend a number of meetings in Santo Domingo recently where I heard updates on the mission in the DR and Cuba. I gave a long update at a Bible class on March 23. If you missed it and would like to know more about what we are doing, just reach out to me and I would be happy to let you know about it.

**Susan Gromatzky:** Recently we had to say goodbye to a dear friend to many of us. Susan had a traumatic brain bleed that ended her life on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral service will be Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM with a closed casket visitation an hour before and a luncheon following. The committal service will be Monday April 14 at 10:00 AM at DFW National Cemetery. Susan was a fun and feisty lady who served on the altar guild and loved to travel and sew, and was always active in Bible class. She and her husband, Ernie, were married over 53 years. She was loved and will be missed.

PrS



## A Letter from Our Deaconess Intern

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In last month's newsletter, I touched on Christ's Great Commission in Matthew 28 (*not* Matthew 29 like I erroneously typed - whoops!) and how it relates to witnessing and evangelism. Guess what? I'm going to continue on that theme by talking a bit about what we've gone over so far in our Everyday Evangelists "small" group - which, praise God, has become not-so-small! The book we're going over together, "Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life" by Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, breaks up the subject of witnessing into two parts. Part 1 explores what it means for us to be Christ's witnesses, and Part 2 is about how we can be effective witnesses to those we have relationships with. So far, our group has only gone through Part 1, so that is all I will touch on in this newsletter.

Now while witnessing is defined as telling others what you know to be true, evangelism is defined as proclaiming the Gospel to others - and you can't do either of these without God's guidance! The Good News of salvation sounds foolish to the world around us and that shouldn't surprise us since it always has (1 Cor. 1:18-25; Ecc. 1:9). Today, being Christ's witnesses means navigating a world where almost everyone views life through a relativistic and often morally-gray lens - a "who cares as long as my beliefs don't hurt anyone else" kind of attitude. People will continue to scorn His Word, refusing to hear about a God Who really loves and cares for them and wants to be united with them.

Although the task before us is weighty, thankfully it is not our mission we are striving towards - it is His! It is only by His grace that we have been saved through faith, not because of our own works or merit (Eph. 2:8-9 - *Sola Fide*). Because of this truth, it takes the pressure off of us to "convert" others - because ultimately, we don't convert anybody. It is God who gives the growth, we're simply along for the ride (1 Cor. 3:5-9). We don't have to "prove" our faith to anyone - not even to God - because that is not what He asks of us. Rather, as soon as He gave us faith to believe, He transformed us into His chosen people in order that we may "declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9-10).

In a sermon on 1 Peter 2, Martin Luther says that, "*We live on earth only so that we should be a help to other people. Otherwise, it would be best if God would strangle us and let us die as soon as we were baptized and had begun to believe. For this reason, however, He lets us live that we may bring other people also to faith as He has done for us...Everything then should be directed in such a way that you recognize what God has done for you and that you, thereafter, make it your highest priority to proclaim this publicly and call everyone to the light to which you are called.*" Our lives are not our own, they are a gift from God. It is only by His grace that we were stationed in the place and time and with the people around us, so that we might be His witnesses to them - evangelizing every day about His goodness despite the hard reality of life in this dark world.

It's daunting when you sit and consider the weight of the call to be Christ's witnesses. Even more so when you consider that we are "sent as He was sent" (Wood, pg. 18). This means that we could be crucified - maybe not on a cross like our Lord - but bruised and bloodied when it comes to our relationships with our family and friends, our co-workers and neighbors. Being a witness of Christ comes with a cost, yet the salvation and forgiveness He has given us by His grace is far more valuable than anything we could ever hope to possess this side of heaven. It is out of thankfulness to Him for His great gift to us, and out of love and care for our lost loved ones, that we can boldly proclaim His mercy for all who call on His name!

In Christ's love,

Julie Baumann  
Deaconess Intern



The  
fruit of the  
Galatians 5:22-23 **SPiRiT**

April 26, 2025

LWML <sup>dal-</sup><sub>north</sub> **ZONE**  
spring workshop

\$12  
cost-  
sharing

9:15 AM REGISTRATION  
9:45 AM OPENING  
10:00 AM PROGRAM  
10:30 AM BIBLE STUDY BREAK-  
10:50 AM out sessions  
11:10 AM

11:30 AM BUSINESS MEETING  
LUNCH FOLLOWING  
INGATHERING, SUPPORTING  
REAL OPTIONS

Lord of Life, 3601 W 15th Street, Plano, TX  
rsvp by april 6 at: [planolutheran.com/rsvp](http://planolutheran.com/rsvp)



## ***God's Instruments, God's Stewards***

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



Watch for the next fundraiser breakfast in June!



- 2 Brandon Lund
- 3 Kathy Hite
- 6 Benjamin & Grace Slater (6)
- 7 Bob Hixson
- 8 Brian Wolf
- 11 Grant Kostrzewa
- 14 Bob Helms
- 15 Dudley Hall
- 15 Louetta Sistek
- 15 Brooks & Joanna Smith (30)
- 16 Karen Lund
- 17 Jeff Berger
- 22 Charles & Suzanne Gabriel (25)
- 22 Scott & Christine Messinger (30)
- 22 Rhonda Tabor
- 23 Heather Padgett
- 25 Rix Scarth
- 25 Laurie & Tom George (38)
- 27 Margaret Chambers
- 27 Mike & Sandra Paradise (62)
- 28 Sylvia Seymour
- 28 Katie Short
- 29 Mark & Madison Conrad (2)
- 30 Earl & Karen Lund (37)

## Lord of Life Small Groups

### EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth  
[BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com](mailto:BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meets one Sunday a month in the afternoon or evening

### FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

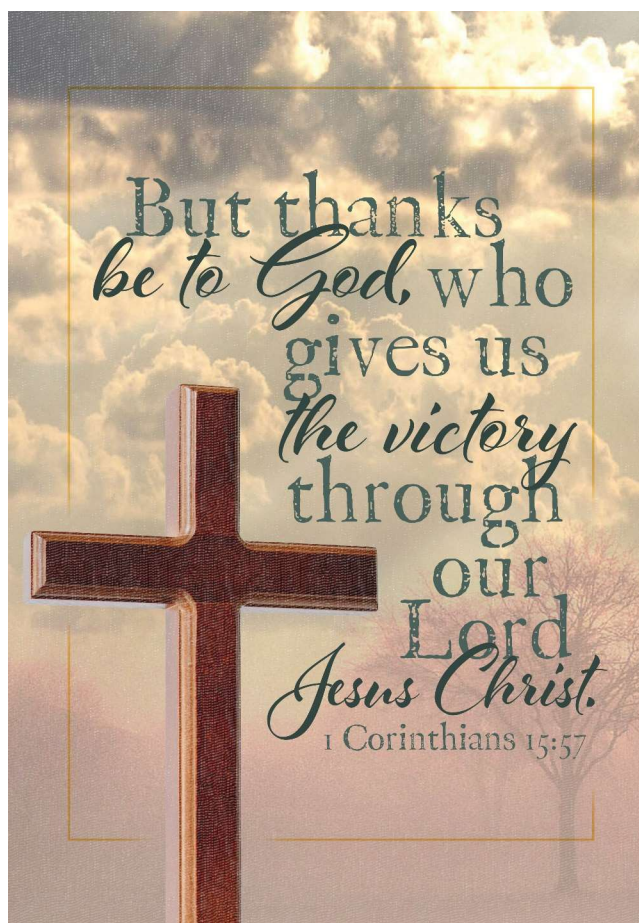
- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or [speters@planolutheran.com](mailto:speters@planolutheran.com)
- † Usually meets on Saturday a month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., April 12 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Lauren Moudy at [laurenemoudy@gmail.com](mailto:laurenemoudy@gmail.com) or (214) 415-8939
- † Will meet Sun, April 20 at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner



## prepare for worship in april

April 2: Midweek Lenten Service, 1 & 7 PM

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Is. 43:16-21; Phil. 3:4b-14, Luke 20:9-20  
HotD: "My Song Is Love Unknown," 430

April 9: Midweek Lenten Service, 1 & 7 PM

April 13: Palm Sunday

Texts: Deut. 32:36-39; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:1-23:56 or Luke 23:1-56 or John 12:20-43  
HotD: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth," 438

April 17: Maundy Thursday, 1 & 7 PM

April 19: Good Friday Tenebrae, 7:30 PM

April 20: Resurrection of Our Lord

Texts: Is. 65:17-25 1 Cor. 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12  
HotD: "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands," 458

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

Texts: Ezk. 33:7-20; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9  
HotD: "O Sons and Daughters of the King," 470



We've move the church's financial statements offline. They are available to members at your request through the office. Thank you for your understanding.

Join Us  
For  
Holy Week!

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