

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Letter from the Pastor

Friends in Christ,

This month we welcome to Lord of Life, our new Deaconess Intern, Julie Baumann. Thank you to everyone who helped make her installation day a great celebration with the potluck luncheon on 7/28.

Since her installation, a few people have asked me, "What does a deaconess do?" or "What will our intern be doing?" Perhaps you have wondered the same thing, so I will briefly share with you our plan for Deaconess-Intern Baumann.

Her responsibilities are divided up into several different areas, one of those will be administrative work. While Julie is not preparing to be a church secretary, nevertheless, a deaconess (and all church workers!) tend to fill-in where needed. We have some things we need help with in the office, so a small amount of Julie's time will be devoted to things like answering the phone and receiving packages when our Office Manager, Cindy is out, and proofreading bulletins and newsletters. She will also participate in our weekly staff devotions. She will be sending out the weekly prayer announcements and birthday and anniversary cards.

Another portion of her internship will be dedicated to outreach, per the seminary's requirements. One of the assignments given to all deaconess interns is the completion of an outreach project. Julie and I will be developing this and I have asked her to work closely with the Board of Outreach. We may even have her lead a study on personal witnessing and evangelism.

One of our requests from the seminary was to have a candidate with musical abilities. Julie sings and plays piano, and is learning to play the organ. She has much to share with the congregation in this area! We plan to have her participate in choir and work on playing the organ. We have talked about the possibility of her playing hymns on the piano for the Thursday morning homeschool group for their opening services. She will also be looking into the possibility of organizing and leading a bell choir.

Christian education is one of the main areas where deaconesses are taught to serve. Accordingly, Julie will be leading Sunday school classes for all ages. She will take a turn leading the women's Bible Study on Tuesdays and look into the possibility of organizing a college ministry group. I have also asked her to join all of the care groups and offer to lead a session when and if that would be appropriate.

Visitation is another important area that Julie will be concentrating on. You may be receiving a call from her on the phone or even a personal visit at home. I also plan to have her help me visit the sick and homebound members. Closely related to that last point is the responsibility of Mercy Work. In addition to visiting the sick and homebound, she will be serving those in need with counsel, comfort, and prayer. I have asked her to look into the possibility of serving at Real Options (the crisis pregnancy center we have supported for years) and meeting the needs of families with children in the NICU at Plano Medical City (the hospital close by the church). She will also get to work with the poor and needy who come to the church looking for assistance.

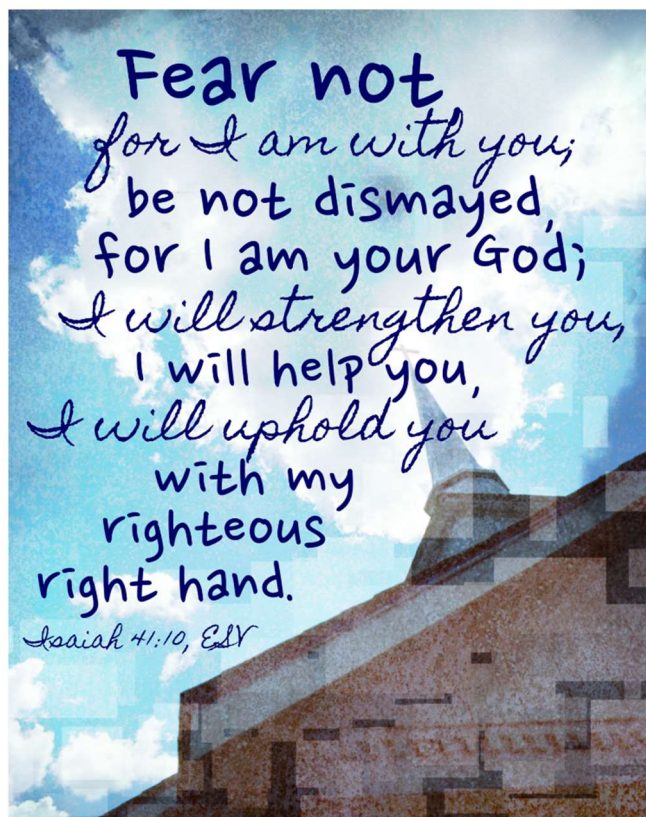
On Sunday mornings, in addition to teaching Sunday school and helping with music, she will be greeting worshippers at the church door in an effort to get to know people by name. We may also have her do the weekly announcements in an effort to help people get to see her. Julie has also expressed an interest in helping with the Altar Guild, so you may see her setting up before the service.

Finally, we have set certain professional growth goals. One of the requirements of the internship is weekly meetings with the pastor. Some of that time will be spent reading and discussing books on various topics in an effort to learn and grow in knowledge for ministry. The first book we will be discussing is Rev. Mark Wood's book, *Meaningful Outreach: An Essential Guide for Churches*.

I hope that helps give you an idea of what our deaconess intern will be doing and how she will be serving our congregation. I also hope you will consider how you can make Julie feel at home and have a great year. Perhaps you can take her out to lunch or even have her over for dinner at your house, or find some other way to let her know she is appreciated.

Blessings,

PrS



prepare for worship in august

August 4: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ex. 16:2-15; Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:22-35

Hymn of the Day: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer," 918

August 11: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: 1 Kings 19:1-8; Eph. 4:17-5:2; John 6:35-51

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

August 18: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Prov. 9:1-10 or Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Eph. 5:6-21; John 6:51-69

Hymn of the Day: "O God, My Faithful God," 696

August 25: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 29:11-19; Eph. 5:22-33; Mark 7:1-13

Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain," 865

Lord of Life Small Groups

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth
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
- † Will meet Sat., August 10 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

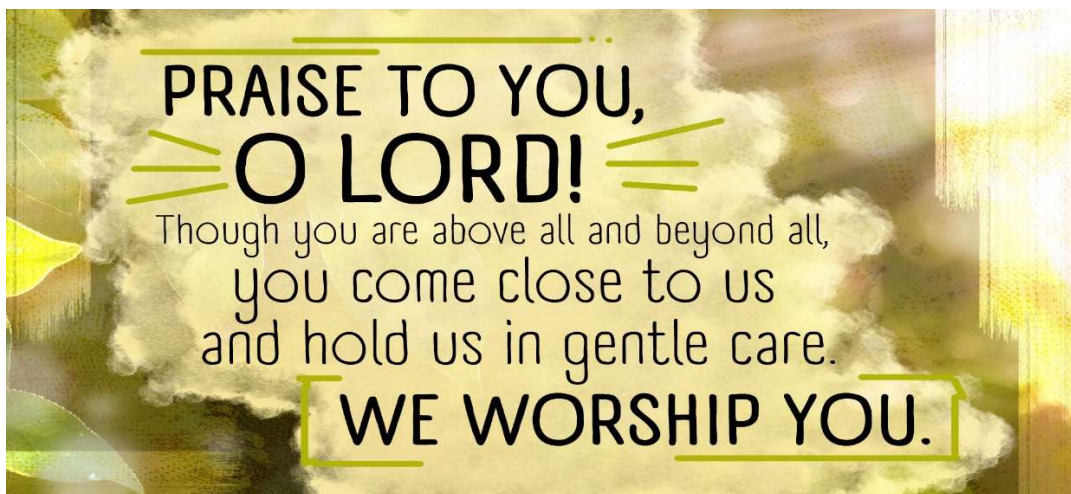
- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., August 17 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

COLLEGE GROUP

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



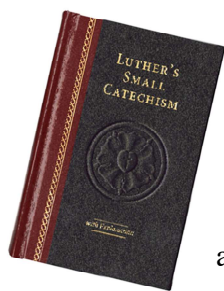
| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Travis Bennett |
| 2 | Debbie Olsen |
| 2 | Carol Read |
| 3 | Shannon Nuschler |
| 4 | Doug & Kathy Hite (23) |
| 5 | Sherri Kunschke |
| 6 | Cathleen Ott |
| 6 | Emory & Suzanne Smith (62) |
| 7 | Scott Peters |
| 8 | Tony & Nevelle Vess (65) |
| 12 | Carol Ozlowski |
| 13 | Earl Lund |
| 13 | Rachel Ozlowski |
| 14 | Dixie Hacker |
| 14 | Phaedra Shaltanis |
| 16 | Robert Duff |
| 16 | Mike Paradise |
| 16 | Audrey Thiel |
| 17 | Duffy & Cindy Carter (28) |
| 17 | Tim & Carol Ozlowski (33) |
| 18 | Christine Messinger |
| 18 | Kevin Tyler |
| 18 | Erica Vogt |
| 22 | Sydney Peters |
| 23 | Jessica Reeves |
| 25 | Gary Bennefeld |
| 25 | Noelle Kim |
| 25 | Brian & Gail Wolf (45) |
| 26 | Jan Doughtie |
| 27 | Nick & Lauren Moudy (2) |
| 28 | Joanne Benner |
| 28 | Bill & Charis Bennett (48) |
| 30 | Doug Hite |
| 30 | Tom Read |
| 31 | TJ Kade |



Teen Times

The month of August usually means that our calendars at church and at home will begin to fill with new things and new experiences in our lives to gear up for fall. Young adults may be leaving home to start their college careers or return to school to continue their pursuit of a degree. Some of our youth at Lord of Life will begin their final year of high school, and some will begin their final year of Jr High and confirmation classes. There will be one young member from our church who will begin his Jr High years and confirmation instruction.

His name is Sean Tweedie.



Our confirmation instruction lasts three years and begins when a young person starts 6th grade. The 7th and 8th grade years cover the instruction of Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Shaltanis. The first year, however, is what I lead. It focuses on several introductory topics as the youth learn much more about the Christian faith and our Lutheran heritage. It begins with a study of the life of Martin Luther, progressing into a study of our worship service, including the meanings surrounding the liturgy, symbols, order, and the responses between God and the congregation. Following this is a look into the calendar of the church year with the explanations and significance of colors, scripture readings, and celebratory events during specific church seasons. Wrapping up the first year of confirmation instruction is a general overview of the four Gospels and the New Testament. I have had the privilege of teaching the first year of confirmation instruction for many years, and am always excited to see the growth of young people as they discover new things about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. Another thing that also happens in the first year of confirmation is learning to serve in worship as an acolyte. This can be an exciting (or sometimes scary) time for a first-year student, because it's something totally new to them. However, Sean has been asking his parents (and me) for the past several weeks when he will begin his confirmation instruction and acolyte training because he is enthusiastic about it! He is ready to start, and it is such a great thing to see and hear; the longing to be more and do more in God's kingdom. This will also give members of Lord of Life the opportunity to see a new face assisting in worship services soon.

To be a part of a young person's journey of faith and to see the eagerness he or she displays gives me a sense of assurance that the Holy Spirit is at work in their life, and the fruits which come from that faith will be a blessing to many people. I look forward to working with Sean and all of the kids that will begin their confirmation instruction over the next several years. May God bless him and all of us!

Until next time,
Scott Peters



Recapping Lord of Life's relationship with and support for LCMS mission work in the Dominican Republic

Lord of Life has supported the DR since 2018 when we began supporting Rev. Joel Fritsche and his family. Over the course of his tenure as a missionary to the DR, Lord of Life contributed over \$40,000 toward his work.

A number of our members traveled to the DR in early 2020 to see the mission work being done there by the LCMS first hand, and those members came away impressed and motivated to engage the rest of the congregation to expand the congregation's support for that work.

In 2021, you may recall that we did a campaign to raise funds in support of Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the DR. That campaign resulted in a gift of over \$50,000 (including matching funds) to help the seminary continue to train pastors and deaconesses for service throughout the Caribbean, Latin America and Northern South America. In addition to that one-time large gift, the Elders have continued to support the seminary with over \$10,000 from our Mission Fund.

In these last two years, Lord of Life has supported Concordia the Reformer Seminary through its annual budget in lieu of our customary support for our District. The total in additional funds given to the Seminary to date through this process is over \$24,000.

Altogether, our support for LCMS mission work in the Dominican Republic has exceeded \$132,000. We have made this strong of a financial commitment to that work in part because it has been our congregation's regular practice to support God's church through mission work, but, in this case, also due to our close connection with the DR through Rev. Fritsche, and through the experiences of those of our members who visited the DR in 2020, and were so impressed with all that is being done there.

In order to continue this close connection with the mission in the DR, we are contemplating another congregational trip (likely aiming for spring 2025). In addition to witnessing the work being done there with our help, that trip will also include some aspect of mercy work to support the ongoing efforts by the LCMS in the DR. If you think you may have interest in joining such a trip, please call or send a note to the church office, so that we can put you on the list when we begin planning.

Mike Kunschke



But you, O Lord,
are a God
 merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and
 abounding in steadfast love
 and *faithfulness.*

Psalms 86:15



Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work.

Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 LCMS Stewardship Ministry –
<https://www.lcms.org/stewardship>
 Newsletter Article – August 2024**