

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37–38)

On the first Sunday in August we are excited to commission and install our deaconess, Paige Rebber. As a deaconess, her job involves visiting the sick and lonely, teaching Sunday school and women’s Bible classes, helping with music (including choosing the hymns,) office and administrative work, highlighting our charitable work, and even more as needed. But I want to remind you that one of the main reasons we decided to call a deaconess was also to help our congregation improve our outreach efforts.

You may recall that when our strategic planning committee met in 2024, the suggestion was made that we find and hire a Director of Outreach with the idea that a commissioned deaconess could fill that role. For this past year, that role has been taking shape as Paige has completed her internship. She has already been working on regularly posting information on our social media outlets, Facebook and Instagram. Now, as she begins her role as a called and commissioned deaconess, that work of outreach and evangelism will continue to expand.

The Board of Outreach will soon be getting a fresh new start. We plan to meet this month, get reorganized, and go after the work of outreach— especially now that we have a full-time employee helping us to get the work done. What is that work, specifically? The Board of Outreach has three areas of focus:

- **First is the website and social media.** We currently post twice a week on our socials and we seek to be vigilant about keeping our website up-to-date and without broken links or expired information. We also have lots of ideas about how to expand the use of our YouTube channel.
- **The second area of focus is advertisement and promotional items.** You probably have seen our magnets and stickers as well as our pens that we make available for people to share. In the past we have also made polo shirts and sweatshirts with the church logo on them. Promotional items are easy ways to help every member advertise the church and hopefully start a meaningful conversation about spiritual matters, which brings us to our third focus area.
- **Third is witnessing and evangelism.** This is the actual work of spiritual conversations. How do I speak to my family, neighbors and friends about eternal matters and share with them the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? Where do I begin and what do I say and not say? Our hope is to start offering regular training classes for people to learn more about this important work.

If you have any interest in getting involved with any of these three things, please let me know and I can plug you in.

Our Lord calls workers into the field to reap a harvest. On August 2nd we will celebrate the call and commissioning of one of those workers. But the call to share the Gospel and participate in gathering the Lord’s harvest is not limited to professional church workers. Every disciple of Jesus can help make more disciples by being a faithful relative, friend, and neighbor to the people whom God places in your life. So, pay attention to those relationships and opportunities and pray for the right words to share with others the hope we have in Jesus.

PrS



A Letter from Our Deaconess

A Season of Light

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." This opening statement from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* seems to reflect the upheaval of the past month. First, my Grandma, lovingly called Bunk, died. But before I went up for her funeral, I got to spend the week at Higher Things. Then, my Grandpa, lovingly called Bap, died a month and three days after Bunk. But even in the wake of his death, the excitement of my installation is just around the corner. It seems there are many parallels like this in life: great sadness and great joy, "...it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." In grief, it is easy to fall into despair. The world seems a bit dimmer, positive emotions seem distant, and the loss seems crushing.

After Bunk died, we knew that it would only be a matter of time until Bap joined her in eternal glory. Still, we hoped that time was in the distant future. We had just had one loss, and we didn't want to repeat it so soon. Bap was an amazing man. He worked hard and loved fiercely, and there was no one he loved more than his wife and his Lord. After all, he and Bunk were married for nearly 73 years, and during that time, he rarely missed a Sunday at the church he was a charter member of, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seymour, Indiana. Looking back, there are so many joys that I was able to share with Bap, so much so that facing the present and future where he is not here is heartbreaking. Even so, there are still new beginnings and new joys to be discovered. Death is not allowed to swallow up hope. It can't. It has no power to do so because Christ crushed it for us. Life continues on in all senses of the phrase. Although grief has its time and place, it's something to move through and on from. It won't be the season of darkness forever; the season of light prevails. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

The next season of light is one I'll be stepping into soon: being installed as a called and commissioned Deaconess here at Lord of Life. I am so blessed to have been called down to this wonderful congregation, full of warm and loving people. You all have become my family, and I am forever grateful for all of the support and hospitality you have shown me over this past year. I pray that as I continue to serve you in this role, our bonds of friendship will grow stronger. I'm very excited to be the Director of Outreach here and can't wait to see what the fruits of our labors will produce! I'm so incredibly grateful to be able to lead two women's Bible studies (well, at least until the end of August, then Charis will take over the 12:00 women's Bible study, and I'll be teaching the 7:00 study only) and dig into so many exciting topics. Right now, the noon Bible Study is going through different women of the Bible (the women we will study in August are Mary Magdalene, Rahab, Hannah, and Phoebe), and the 7:00 Evening study is analyzing the apocalyptic prophecies of Daniel. It has been such a joy to teach and learn alongside the women of this congregation.

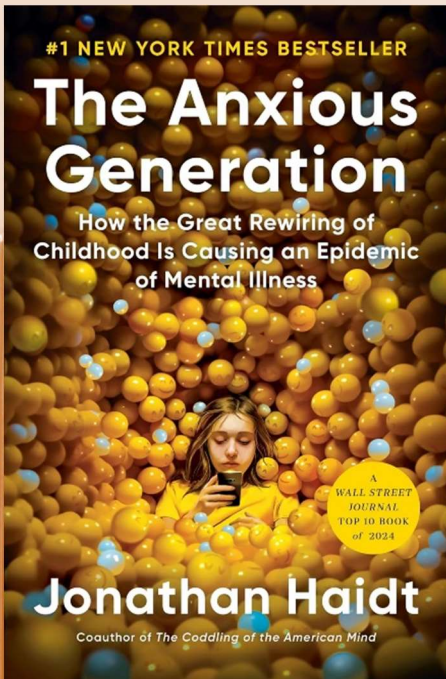
I am also glad that I get to serve you all through visitation and prayer. In seminary, we are taught a formula on how to do visitations, but much like many things on paper, it doesn't capture the warmth and emotion of actually being able to pray with and comfort those who need care. If you ever would like a visit from the Deaconess about anything, whether it's a personal struggle, or you're sick, or just need an extra friendly face, let me know. You heard me say this when I was installed as an intern, and you'll hear me say it again when I get installed as Deaconess: "I want to serve."

So friends, thank you for walking with me through this season of darkness and rejoicing with me in this upcoming season of light. I'm so blessed to be able to serve you, and I hope to do so for many years to come! "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers," (Ephesians 1:16).

Soli Deo Gloria,

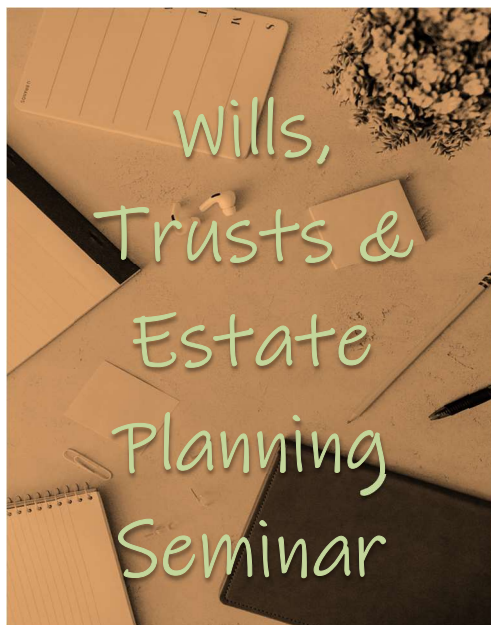
Deaconess Paige Rebber

Women's Summer BOOK CLUB



Women of all ages are invited to join our Summer Book club! We are meeting to discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt on **August 6 at 6PM.**

Bring a light potluck dish to share along with any discussion ideas or favorite passages from the books. We look forward to meaningful conversation, good food, and great company - *hope to see you there!*



We all love our families and want to do the best for them, which means we have an obligation to have our financial affairs in order prior to any unforeseen circumstances are presented to us. In past years this topic has been addressed at Lord of Life as a service to our congregation with the help of local Family Law Attorney, Susan W. Periquet. Susan has served Collin County families for many years and is a knowledgeable and reliable lawyer to present her knowledge to us.

Join us on Saturday September 5th in the Fellowship Hall of Lord of Life. She will present information and facts relevant to all of us and will answer questions as she has done for a number of years for our congregation.

Teen Times

I once saw a video where an old rotary type phone was placed on a table in front of several young teens, and they were asked if they knew what it was and how to use it. Very few, if any, could identify it or knew how it worked. When they were told it was an old telephone, they replied “how do you call someone with that!” In the world of smart phones and hi-tech devices, it is very easy to contact a person via text message, Facetime, emails, and the like. Furthermore, you can now connect your device to your car and call or text someone while you drive and not even pick up a phone to dial the number. In addition, Caller ID has been around for many years so you can choose to answer a call or text or choose not to, but what if it is a totally different type of call?



On the first Sunday of this month, Lord of Life will install Ms. Paige Rebber as its full-time deaconess. Paige received a call long before she was even a part of the Lord of Life family. However, the call did not come from a rotary phone, smart phone, a text, or an email. The Holy Spirit spoke to her through His Word and her baptism to serve the church. God’s Word is filled with many stories in both the Old and New Testaments of how He calls his people to serve Him, to do His will, and to serve the church. Martin Luther wrote in the meaning of the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed that *“I cannot by my own reason our strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith.”*

As you grow in your faith during your teenage years with the help of the Holy Spirit, do you think God might be calling you for something special? Right now you may be serving the church as an acolyte, singing in the choir, a greeter on Sunday mornings, helping out with a Vacation Bible School or a church work day, but He might be preparing you for something greater. Perhaps He might call you to full-time ministry as a pastor, a deaconess, a DCE, or a Lutheran school teacher. Maybe you have a future as an elder of the church, a music director or organist, or a member of one of the various boards of church ministry like the altar guild, outreach, or family ministry. My hope and prayer is when the caller ID says “GOD”, you will answer it gladly and say ...*“Here I am! Send me.”* (Is.6:8)

Until next time, God bless you and the calling He has in store for you!

Scot Peters

The Visual Word

By Susan Knowles

One of the first memories of God's love for me was visual. Every Good Friday our church draped the large wooden cross in the front of the sanctuary in a black veil. No colorful paraments graced the altar, rather it was stripped and veiled in black, as well. No flowers. No banners. The candles were lit, only to be extinguished, slowly, while the Pastor solemnly read the scriptures of Jesus's brutal betrayal, crucifixion, and death. Then, shrouded in heavy silence, the congregation exited into the night. As a young child I felt fear; I tried to walk as close to my father as possible, I sought his reassuring presence. Was our hope dead?

Then Easter morning! Before any Word was spoken, or instrument sounded, or choir sung, all of us entering God's Sanctuary were greeted with the Good News: glorious light filled the Sanctuary, the cross was draped in a vibrant white veil and adorned with Easter Lilies, and the altar was dressed in white and gold paraments. The flower arrangements of lilies and spring flowers, proclaimed, "He is Risen, Just as He said." (Matt. 28:6) Banners declared, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning, (Ps 30:5), and "I AM the Resurrection and Life. Whoever believes in, though he die, yet shall he live," (John 11:25). The Visual Word prepared our hearts and minds to receive God's spoken Word and to join in the joyful chorus of hymns worshipping our Risen Savior. No, our hope is not dead!

This visual message of hope still comforts me in times of grief or uncertainty, when I am tempted to believe that I have "no hope in this world" (Eph. 2:12) about a situation, need, or concern for a beloved person. The powerful Good Friday and Easter imagery reassures me that I no longer live in fearful darkness, instead I live in the Light of Christ's Love. Colossians 1:27 tells us, "God chose to make known [to us] how great ... are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." This is most certainly true.

Today, I am blessed to take part in assisting in proclaiming the Good News visually. I will be creating some of the floral arrangements for Lord of Life's Divines Services, plus, perhaps some other visual communications in the future.

Would you like to help glorify our Savior visually, as well?

Are you interested in learning some floral arrangement skills?

Do you have time to commit to a weekly opportunity to serve?

*Artistic and creative aptitudes are a bonus,
but COMMITMENT is a requirement.*

If yes, please contact me, at Sukiq61@gmail.com or text me at (214)803-1777.

May God grant His grace to us.

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – <https://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

Newsletter Article – August 2026 (Originally published in August 2023)





PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In August

August 2: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 55:1-5; Rom. 9:1-5 (6-13); Matt. 14:13-21

HotD: "O Living Bread from Heaven," 642

August 9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Job 38:4-18; Rom. 10:5-17; Matt. 14:22-33

HotD: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," 717

August 16: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 56:1, 6-8; Rom. 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matt. 15:21-28

HotD: "When in the Hour of Deepest Need," 615

August 23: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 51:1-6; Rom. 11:33-12:8; Matt. 16:13-20

HotD: "Built on the Rock," 645

August 30: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Jer. 15:15-21; Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

HotD: "Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus," 531

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

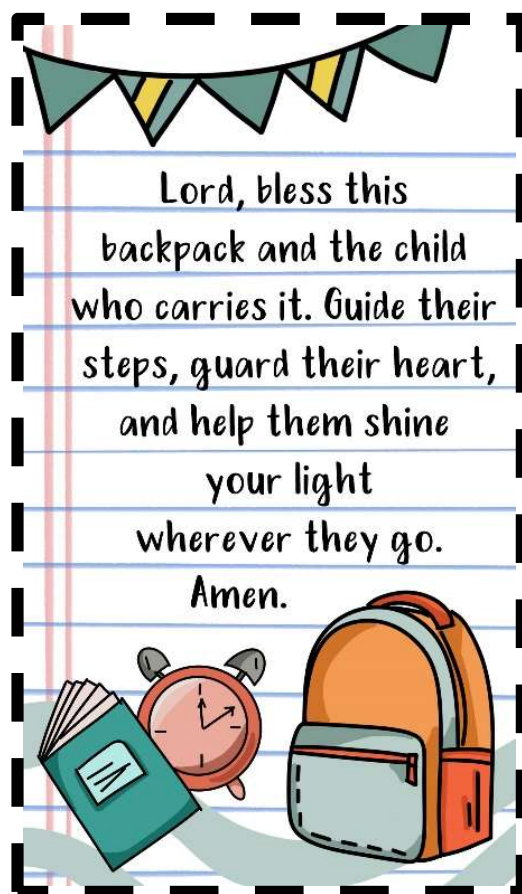
- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or speters@planolutheran.com
- † Will meet Aug. 28th at 6:00 PM for Bible study

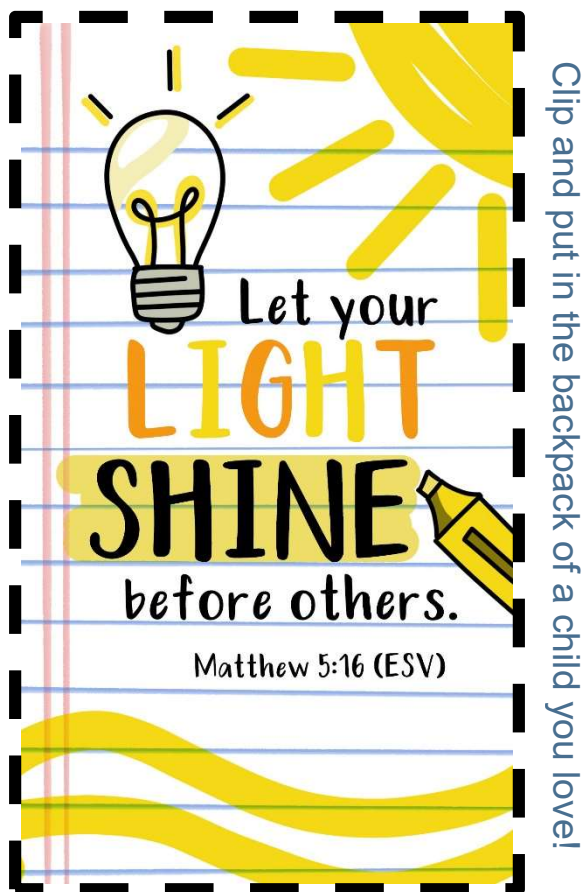
GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., Aug. 8th at 6:30 PM for Bible study

YOUNG ADULTS

- † For those in their 20's and 30's
- † For info contact Lauren Moudy at laurenemoudy@gmail.com or (214) 415-8939
- † Will meet Sun, Aug. 16th at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner





- 1 Paul Rice
- 2 Travis Bennett
- 2 Debbie Olsen
- 2 Carol Read
- 3 Paige Rebber
- 4 Doug & Kathy Hite (25)
- 4 Eric & Elizabeth Wilde (2)
- 5 Sherri Kunschke
- 6 Cathleen Ott
- 6 Emory & Suzanne Smith (64)
- 7 Scott Peters
- 12 Carol Ozlowski
- 13 Earl Lund
- 13 Jonathan Slater
- 13 Timothy Slater
- 14 Dixie Hacker
- 14 Phaedra Shaltanis
- 16 Mike Paradise
- 17 Duffy & Cindy Carter (30)
- 17 Tim & Carol Ozlowski (35)
- 18 Christine Messinger
- 18 Kevin Tyler
- 18 Erica Vogt
- 19 Mike & Michelle Sparks (37)
- 22 Sydney Peters
- 23 Jessica Gavit
- 25 Gary Bennefeld
- 25 Noelle Kim
- 25 Garrett Newton
- 25 Brian & Gail Wolf (47)
- 26 Jan Doughtie
- 27 Nick & Lauren Moudy (4)
- 28 Bill & Charis Bennett (50)
- 30 Doug Hite
- 30 Tom Read
- 31 TJ Kade