

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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What Would You Do?

What would I do if an angry mob of protesters showed up at our church and disrupted our worship service on Sunday morning? That is the question that has been bouncing around in my head since I saw the reports of what happened at Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota last month. What would you do in such an event? Would you keep cool and composed, perhaps praying silently? Would you try to calmly reason with the uninvited guests? Or, in the midst of so much chaos, would you lose it, start shoving and shouting and giving the crowd a piece of your mind – and thereby also something for them to post online to mark you as a hypocrite? This issue was taken up recently by two Lutheran pastors in a short podcast you can watch here: <https://youtu.be/f9f9T9TYLoM>

Many questions are raised, but few answers are given. The biggest problem in the situation is, you don't know the intent of the mob. Are they just there to make noise and cause a scene? Or, are they there to harm and destroy? Not knowing the intent, changes the way one should respond, it also makes the solution to the problem elusive. The safety of our worshippers is our greatest concern, but what kind of policy do you put in place to balance safety

against other concerns? For example: How does the church remain a warm and welcoming place for visitors without also being an obvious soft target for evil doers? What message does it send if we hire armed guards or lock the doors as soon as the service starts?

These, and other questions will be raised at our next elders' meeting and we will try and come up with a plan like we did after a number of church shootings occurred a few years ago. If you have thoughts on what the church should do, let me or your elder know and we will take it into consideration. Mercifully, these events are rare in our day and riots at a church in a place like Plano, Texas seems highly unlikely. However, for churches in political hotspots that have seen rioting in recent years, this may be a much greater concern.

These kinds of matters have always been and always will be a concern for the people of God. For example, in 1st Chronicles 9:17-27, we read how certain Levites formed the temple guard and were in charge of locking the doors and keeping watch. Throughout church history and even

In the event of an active shooter at Lord of Life, emergency panic buttons are located around the church and an usher, sound tech or elder will activate them and the police will be on their way. Until then you should:

Run: Know where all the exits are located. If you can safely get out of the building, do so as fast as you can. Call the police and keep a safe distance from the scene.

Hide: If you are unable to run, the next best thing is to hide. Get down on the floor, find a classroom, office, or bathroom. Barricade the door. Call the police. Note that every room in the church has a number over the door. Alert the authorities to your specific location in the building.

Fight: This is a last resort. Some members have a license to carry a firearm and the proper training to use them. On any given Sunday, it is likely that if a bad guy with a gun starts shooting, he will be met with return fire. If you do have a weapon, be sure to put it down and show your hands to the police when they arrive.

in our own day in places where Christians are a religious minority surrounded by hostile people, we can read examples of how Christians experienced persecution and what they did to prepare themselves for it.

In the penultimate chapter of the Bible, the New Jerusalem (Heaven,) is described as a place where no security is needed, for even though the city has gates, they never close. Only then, in the nearer presence of Almighty God will the people of God at last experience perfect peace and safety.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:22-27)

-PrS

Lenten Theme: Places of the Passion

With our trip to the Holy Land in mind, I thought it might be good to revisit a Lenten series we did eleven years ago called Places of the Passion. This series goes through the events of Christ's Passion chronologically and geographically starting in the upper room, traveling to Gethsemane, Golgotha, and ending at Christ's grave. I based these sermons on a Lenten series written over 100 years ago by a Rev. R.E. Golladay. Pastor Golladay was pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio. His book, Lenten Outlines and Sermons was published in 1920 by the Lutheran Book Concern. That publisher was the official publishing house of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States, or, more commonly, the Ohio Synod. The Ohio Synod was a German speaking group out of Ohio that was generally more conservative and was even in fellowship with the Missouri and Wisconsin Synod for some time, but broke away over the Predestination Controversy in 1881 and merged with the American Lutheran Church in 1929. For a brief time we were in fellowship with the ALC, but it eventually merged with the LCA and AECL to form the ELCA in 1988.

PLACES OF THE PASSION LENT 2026

February 18 Ash Wednesday

The Upper Room – Matthew 26:17-29

February 25

Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36-46

March 4

Betrayal – Matthew 26:47-56

March 11

Before Caiaphas – (Various readings from John 18, Matt 26, Luke 22)

March 18

Before Pilate – (Various readings from John 18&19, Luke 23, Matt 27)

March 25

Via Dolorosa (Passion account)

March 29 Passion Sunday

Cross – Mark 15:1-46

April 2 Maundy Thursday

Grace – (Assigned readings for the day)

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., February 20 at 6:00 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., February 14 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, February 15 at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner



A Letter from Our Deaconess Intern

Six Months at Lord of Life

Wow! Time really does fly when you're surrounded by wonderful people. I can't believe I've been at Lord of Life for six months already. It seems like I just got here yesterday. So many good things have happened since I've been here. I've had the privilege of getting to know the people of Lord of Life better over the months, and I have made amazing friends along the way. I have been able to go out on visits to your homes to offer encouragement and prayer. I'm still going out on visits and love hearing your stories and life experiences. Thank you all for being so welcoming to me! I really and truly appreciate it. I've learned so much from just getting to know you, and I look forward to continuing to know you all better.

Bible study has been a big part of my first six months here as well. I really enjoy going to Pastor's midweek Bible study. Getting to know everyone there has been the biggest blessing. It's been fun to listen to Pastor teach and hear what everyone has to say regarding the topic of the day. I have also been attending Charis' noon Bible study. In our first study, we learned to lean on Jesus in all aspects of life. Now, we are learning to be strong and courageous by studying Joshua. Being surrounded by such faithful women with different stories to tell has been a major point of growth. I feel like I'm a better person today simply by being around these faithful women. Finally, I'm leading my own evening Bible study. So far, we have studied Ruth and have had a crash course on Advent hymns. We are currently working through the book of Esther. I am so grateful to everyone who has come and supported me in leading these studies. I have learned so much from putting them together, and I'm glad we can share fellowship while talking about such important topics.

Music has also been a large part of my internship so far. I have been able to sing in the choir and play flute for multiple services. The musical abilities present in this congregation are such a blessing to the church! Handbells has also been a wonderful experience. Before this, I had only played hand chimes in third grade, so having the opportunity to be in an ensemble such as this has been so much fun. I have also been picking the hymns for worship since September. Learning which hymns I know and which this congregation knows has been really cool. I look forward to the next six months of music, especially as we head into Lent and Easter!

I have also had the opportunity to work with the children and youth here. I have taught Sunday School on multiple occasions, which is something I really enjoy. The biggest thing that I've been able to do with the little ones and youth was the Christmas Program. I'm so happy with how well the Program was received. The kids all put so much time and effort into making it work so well! I was just there for encouragement and stage directions. We have great children and youth here, and it was so fun to see them all work together to do something so special.

I've been pretty busy so far with my internship! I absolutely love being able to serve Lord of Life as your deaconess. Another major thing I have been doing is social media. It's taken a lot of meetings, strategic planning, and content proposals, but what we have planned for outreach online is pretty cool. The results of all of these efforts should start to roll out sometime in mid to late February. I'm excited to be able to start putting out these posts on our social media to help

Lord of Life in her outreach effort! Outreach and fellowship are such big parts of church life. I'm so glad I've been able to be a part of so many fellowship opportunities here as well, such as quilters, potlucks, choir, handbells, and women's socials. I'm sure there are plenty of things that I've been able to be a part of here that I've forgotten to mention. I absolutely love being down here, and I can't wait to serve Lord of Life for the rest of my internship!

Teen Times

Time once again to begin the detailed process of planning a summer trip for our IMPACT youth ministry. This means that fundraisers will be hitting the calendar soon for the Lord of Life members to support our youth ministry, and for the youth and their parents to thank and serve the members of our congregation. But first, let me share where our group is planning to go this summer and what they will be doing. The Higher Things youth conference has been a summer staple on the youth event calendar for the last decade. This year is no different; however, the conference will be at a location that our youth group has not been to before. For the first time we will travel on June 23-26 to St. Louis, MO and spend 4 days on the campus of Washington University which happens to be right next door to the Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. The theme for this year's conference is "Dying Church, Rising Hope." If you would like to view an introductory video for the conference theme, check out;

<https://higherthings.org/dcrh/>

After the conference, our group will plan to spend a few days enjoying the sights and sounds of St. Louis including the seminary, the Arch, the St. Louis Zoo, and maybe a few other things.

For fundraisers, our youth ministry will once again be hosting and serving a couple of breakfast buffets on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 Bible class hour. These events have been well requested and well received for the past few years and we would like to continue the success. Dates are yet to be determined so stay tuned. Another fundraiser that may take place would be at a local restaurant which would return a percentage of sales from church family and friends on a selected day back to the youth ministry. Announcements for this fundraiser will be shared once a location and date are secured. The IMPACT youth ministry is very appreciative of the support that our congregation members provide, and we welcome the opportunities to serve our church with fundraising events like these. Thanks to all of you and thanks be to God!

Until next time,

Scott Peters

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.



February BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Bette Martin
 3 Julz Cruz
 3 Marcia Huebel
 4 Cheryl Scaglione
 5 Becky Armstrong
 6 Sal Cruz
 6 Dee Peters
 6 Tom Womack
 8 Marty Buckmeier
 11 Clarice Lundquist
 11 Paula Prestemon
 13 Stephen Belcher
 14 Tom & Karen Ashburn [61]
 14 Jerry & Winona Parish [20]
 15 Kevin Doughtie
 19 Paul Grabow
 19 Charles Hacker
 19 Rebecca Short
 23 Madison Conrad
 23 Sarah Loewecke
 27 Ernie Gromatzky
 27 Bailey Lund
 28 Wendy Cleavenger



PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In February

February 1: Fourth S. a. the Epiphany

Texts: Mic. 6:1–8, 1 Cor. 1:18–31, Matt. 5:1–12
 HotD: “Son of God, Eternal Savior,” 842

February 8: Fifth S. a. the Epiphany

Texts: Is. 58:3–9a, 1 Cor. 2:1–12 (13–16), Matt. 5:13–20
 HotD: “Thy Strong Word,” 578

February 15: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Texts: Ex. 24:8–18, 2 Peter 1:16–21, Matt. 17:1–9
 HotD: “O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair,” 413

February 18: Ash Wednesday 1PM & 7PM



2025 Giving Statements are now available.

In an effort to save trees and postage, we are making year-end giving statements available upon request.

To request your year-end statement, please go to planolutheran.com/statement and fill out the online form to let us know if you would like your statement.