

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 40, No. 6

Plano, Texas

June 2026

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This Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday -a day of the Church Year dedicated to a doctrine. In reading a sermon for this Sunday, an author cited C.S. Lewis' brilliant analogy of why doctrine matters from his book *Mere Christianity* (Macmillan, 1952). Lewis used the following analogy to discuss the importance of doctrine in general and the Holy Trinity in particular.

He begins by pointing out common objections to doctrine used in his day and we hear the same ones today. People object to complicated dogmas and creeds and scoff at them with questions like: *Who cares about doctrine? Isn't a personal relationship with God all that really matters? Who needs creeds and dogmas when you've encountered the real thing?* Lewis agreed that going from a personal experience with God to doctrines about God are going from something real to something less real, but then he offers this:

... In the same way, if a man has once looked at the Atlantic from the beach, and then goes and looks at a map of the Atlantic, he also will be turning from something real to something less real: turning from real waves to a bit of coloured paper. But here comes the point. The map is admittedly only coloured paper, but there are two things you have to remember about it. In the first place, it is based on what hundreds and thousands of people have found out by sailing the real Atlantic. In that way it has behind it masses of experience just as real as the one you could have from the beach; only, while yours would be a single glimpse, the map fits all those different experiences together. In the second place, if you want to go anywhere, the map is absolutely necessary. As long as you are content with walks on the beach, your own glimpses are far more fun than looking at a map. But the map is going to be more use than walks on the beach if you want to get to America.

Now, Theology is like the map. ... Doctrines are not God: they are only a kind of map. But that map is based on the experience of hundreds of people who really were in touch with God-experiences compared with which any thrills or pious feelings you and I are likely to get on our own are very elementary and very confused. And secondly, if you want to get any further, you must use the map. You see, what happened to [a man who had a personal experience with God] was certainly exciting, but nothing comes of it. It leads nowhere. There is nothing to do about it. In fact, that is just why a vague religion-all about feeling God in nature, and so on-is so attractive. It is all thrills and no work; like watching the waves from the beach. But you will not get to Newfoundland by studying the Atlantic that way, and you will not get eternal life by simply feeling the presence of God in flowers or music. Neither will you get anywhere by looking at maps without going to sea. Nor will you be very safe if you go to sea without a map.

I couldn't work that long quote into the sermon, so I thought I would share it here. If you've never read *Mere Christianity*, or it's been a long time since you picked it up, do yourself a favor and check it out. Lewis was truly an excellent communicator and defender of the Christian faith.

-PrS



## A Letter from Our Deaconess Intern

### *Finishing Seminary and Getting Called*

This past month, I finished my seminary journey. Well, mostly. I'm still technically your intern until the end of July! And if you haven't heard, I will officially be your Deaconess after my installation on August 2nd. I'm getting a bit ahead of myself, though. Let me tell you how my seminary career at CTSFW wrapped up.

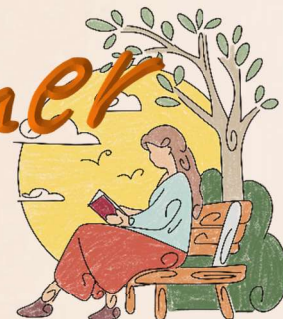
Our final course as Deaconesses is called the Deaconess Formation Intensives. This means that for an entire week, I was in a classroom from 7:30 in the morning until 4:30 at night. That part was grueling. The good news about it, though, is that all of the homework for the course was due before the course began, so I didn't have to worry about doing anything after the class concluded for the night. In the intensive, the distance deaconesses (those of us who take the online route) and the residential deaconesses (those of us who take the on-campus route) present what we have done over the past year in our internships. It was inspiring to see how many amazing things the other deaconesses in my class accomplished. From youth ministry to international missions, it seemed that every aspect of ministry that deaconesses do was represented.

Throughout the week, we also presented Bible studies that we had written. There were Bible studies on a wide range of topics! I chose to teach my Bible study on Ruth as it was the first Bible study I had put together for the ladies here at Lord of Life, and I am pretty proud of the work I did on it. Other Bible study topics included: the names of Leah's sons, a Biblical response to assisted suicide, wrestling with abandonment, and the importance of the liturgy in worship. Each woman had a personal connection to each topic, and their passion was evident in how they taught. In addition to teaching a Bible study, we were also required to lead a devotion. Throughout the week, we read through the book of Philippians and were required to connect our devotion to an assigned reading from Philippians and to a psalm or hymn. It was truly a blessing to spend devotional time with all of the women who would soon become my Deaconess sisters.

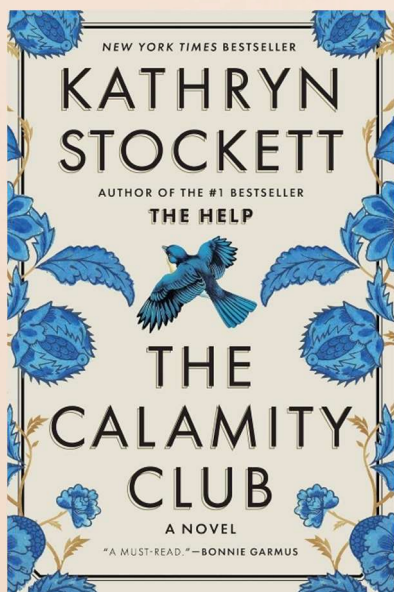
Finally, we were required to do a vocational interview. This was the part of the process I was most nervous about. For these interviews, we met with one faculty member and one deaconess for an hour. In that hour, they quizzed us on the practical application of theological concepts, our ability to explain difficult topics in a helpful manner, our conflict-resolution skills, and anything else that could come up in diaconal ministry. Since I have been doing a lot of outreach and social media at Lord of Life, a majority of my questions were based around those topics. One thing we were all asked about was how to apply the diaconal virtues of patience, prudence, compassion, humility, hospitality, and stewardship wherever we were called. Once I got into my interview, I was fine, but the anticipation beforehand was stomach-churning. I'm thankful to each and every one of you who gave me advice beforehand when I expressed concern about the interview in Wednesday Morning Bible Class. It really helped me calm down and remember that I do, in fact, know what I'm talking about and that just because my professors are asking me questions, they are wishing me success.

And then, just like that, after we passed our interviews, we got our calls and graduated! It was exciting to be back on campus and to participate in all the traditions associated with graduation. I can't even begin to tell you how excited and grateful I am to have been called to Lord of Life. I look forward to continuing to serve you and to learn and grow alongside all of you. Thank you so much for making my internship experience a positive one, and I look forward to continuing the work that has been started as your called Deaconess so I can serve you all with a glad and thankful heart. God bless all of you!

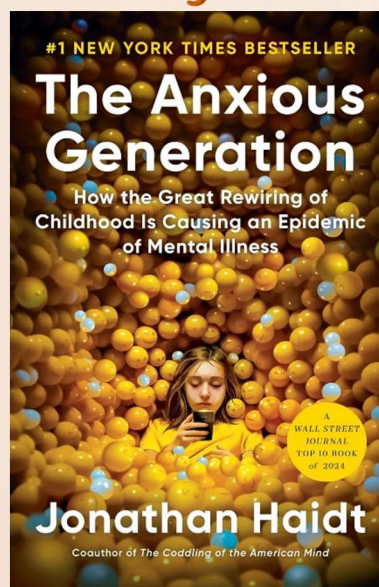
# Women's Summer BOOK CLUB



## June



## July



Women of all ages are invited to join our Summer Book club! We'll be reading *The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett in June and *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt in July.

Join us for discussion nights:

- **The Calamity Club - July 9 at 6PM**
- **The Anxious Generation - 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!*

## What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



## 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 meet one Saturday a month at 6:00 PM for Bible study

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., June 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:laurenemoudy@gmail.com) or (214) 415-8939
- † Will meet Sun, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner



### Tom Womack

Last month we had a funeral for Tom Womack who passed on April 11 at the age of 86. Tom was a lot of things (committed husband for 60 years, loving father and grandfather, Captain in the US Navy) as well as a faithful believer and an excellent churchman. He served as an elder at our congregation for many years and was even the chairman of the board for a time. Tom was very active in worship, fellowship, and Bible study until his health prevented him from participating. I have many fond memories of Tom who was something of a father-figure to me. From my first days at Lord of Life, he took me under his wing and looked out for me. What a dear and faithful friend.

*“Well done, good and faithful servant. ... Enter into the joy of your master.” –Matt 25:23*

**2 Kevin & Jan Doughtie (53)**  
**4 Sean Tweedie**  
**6 John & Linda Francis (62)**  
**8 Scott & Jonelle Peters (35)**  
**10 AJ & Tasie Kade (9)**  
**14 Tim Wood**  
**14 Jack & Nelda Schrank (68)**  
**16 Vivian Bennett**  
**16 George Munden**  
**16 Larry & Judy Dibbern (64)**  
**19 Thomas George**  
**20 Kaitlyn Hacker**  
**20 Mark & Carrie Ziegelbein (28)**  
**21 Sally Barr**  
**21 Athan Shaltanis**  
**21 Tony Vess**  
**21 Karl & Debbie Olsen (51)**  
**21 Pastor Joel & Phaedra Shaltanis (29)**  
**23 John & Vicki Frinksco (42)**  
**24 Sue Parson**  
**26 Samson Carter**  
**29 Melanie Scarth**  
**29 Helen Wozniak**  
**30 Greg Moudy**

### Me and Tom in June of 2023



## Reflecting the Father's Name

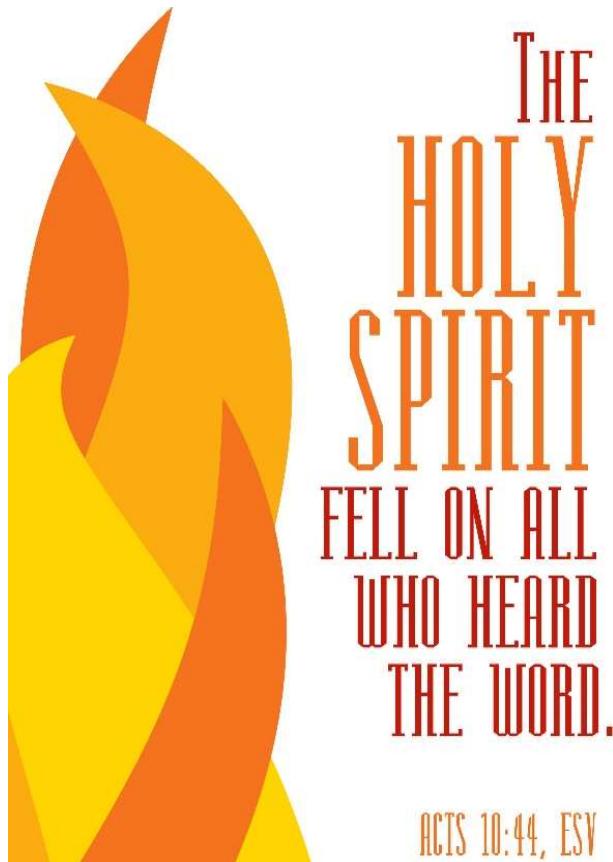


Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life."

For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

*God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.*



## PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*In June*

### **June 7: Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Hos. 5:15-6:6; Rom 4:13-25; Matt. 9:9-13  
HotD: "Let Me Be Thine Forever," 689

### **June 14: Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Ex. 19:2-8; Rom. 5:6-15; Matt. 9:35-10:8 (9-20)  
HotD: "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth," 834

### **June 21: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Jer. 20:7-13; Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:5a, 21-33  
HotD: "Lord of Our Life," 659

### **June 28: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Texts: Jer. 28:5-9; Rom. 7:1-13; Matt. 10:34-42  
HotD: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," 685