

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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May 2024



*Julie Baumann is pictured with SD District President, Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer*

### Deaconess Intern Julie Baumann

On Tuesday, April 23, at a worship service on the campus of Concordia Seminary, Deaconess-intern, Julie Baumann, was assigned to Lord of Life. This is something we have been talking about, and hoping and praying for, and now it is official! I had the privilege to meet Julie in St. Louis the following week and she is excited to come to Texas at the end of July.

A deaconess usually works in the following areas of ministry: Christian Education, (ex. teaching Sunday school or Bible classes) Mercy to the afflicted, (Visiting the sick, helping those in need), and Spiritual Care in general (ex. visitation and prayer). As Deaconess Clarion Fritsche explained it to me: a deaconess helps the pastor to connect with church members, and helps

all people connect with the Church. Julie, our deaconess intern, has also expressed an interest in using music to serve the church, and so we will incorporate her musical gifts as well. Our goal is to help prepare her for service in the church and provide lots of opportunities for her to use her gifts and grow. We have several ideas about the kinds of work she will do to hone her skills and prepare her for ministry in the future. If you have any ideas about how she can grow in service at Lord of Life, please share them with me.

We will have much more to tell in you in the weeks ahead, and you will all get to meet Julie soon when she is installed in on Sunday, July 28.

### Personal Update:

I was recently out of town for a few weeks cleaning out my dad's house in Iowa, meeting our deaconess intern in St. Louis, and traveling to Milwaukee in anticipation of my son Ambrose's graduation from college. It was a very eventful trip and I have a few thoughts.

First, it is amazing to me that my son will soon be a college graduate and then off to Concordia Seminary in the fall. His mother and I are so proud of him and were truly impressed with him in Milwaukee when he gave an outstanding organ recital and presented his senior thesis on a philosophical and theological treatment of the incarnation. We enjoyed our time together with our entire family and celebrated a milestone in Ambrose's life.

Next, let me say a word about cleaning out my dad's house. It is amazing to me how much stuff people can accumulate over a lifetime! It's easy to see all the

things my dad could have thrown away and think, "Why didn't you get rid of this?!" But, of course, one could ask that same question about a lot of stuff in my house. In the past I have joked that everyone should be forced to move every 10 years in order to avoid this particular problem. The whole thing also made me think a bit about how much stuff I hang onto for no good reason. Maybe you can relate?

Finally, I think harder than sorting through all the stuff, was the creeping suspicion in the back of my mind that this will be the last time I ever go 'home.' I have always thought of Ankeny, Iowa as my home. I have moved several times, (Wisconsin to Missouri, to California and Texas) but my family was always there in Ankeny, Iowa. Going there meant going home. But now I have no family there and so no reason to go back home. It's a strange feeling I can't quite describe. It is its own type of grief I don't fully understand. Looking backward, I am so thankful to God for my family in Iowa and today, so thankful for my family in Texas.

### Pastor Ric McMillan

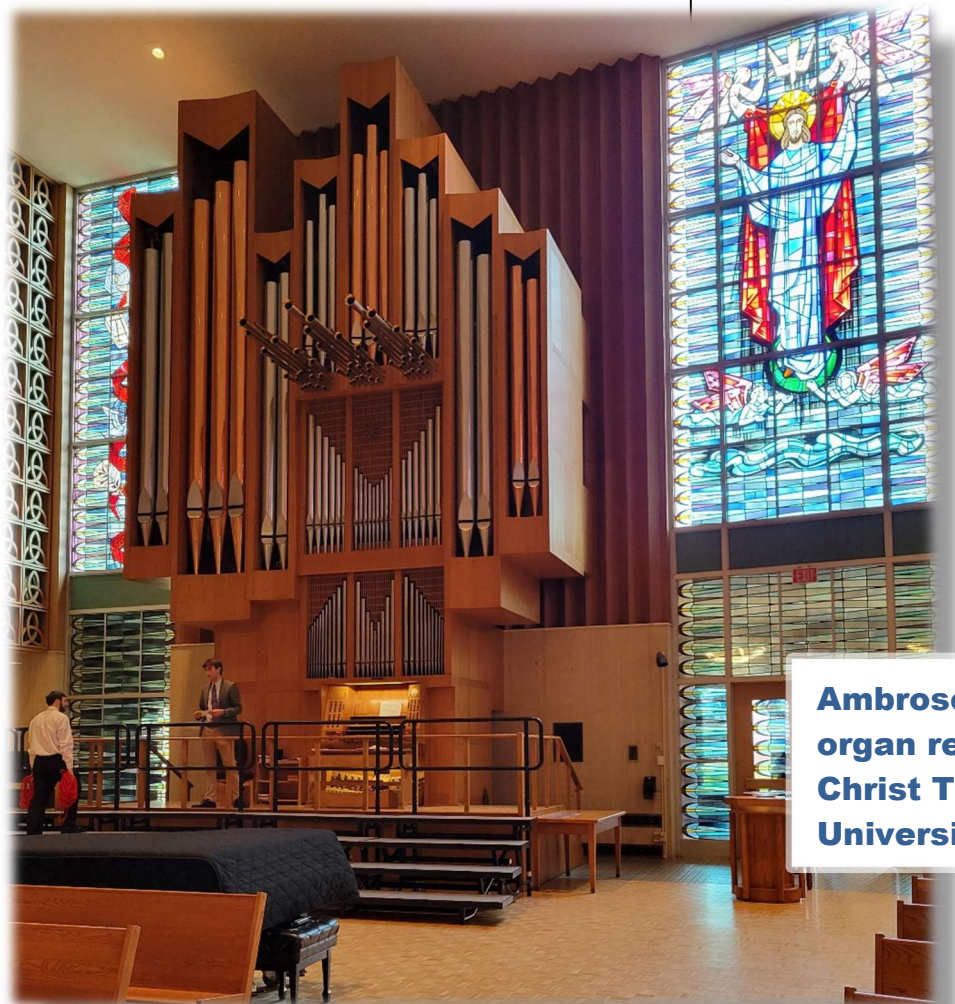
On May 26, we will welcome back Pastor Ric McMillan. Those of you who remember him, remember him well as the founding pastor of Lord of Life and a very faithful and wonderful man. Those of you who don't know him will have the privilege to interact with him on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service that day at 10:00 AM with our annual Memorial Day picnic following. If you know any former members or friends of Pastor McMillan who would like to be included, please invite them to join us.

### Thank you and God bless

Shelia Farmer has been our cheerful and fun administrative assistant for nearly 6 years. She is moving on this month and we are sad to say goodbye. If you would like to send her a card here at the office and thank her for her faithful service, her last day will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in April?

No, actually my birthday was in March, but many of you decided to surprise me with a party in April. Thanks so much for your generous gifts. I really was surprised and truly had a great time.



**Ambrose Shaltanis before his organ recital at the Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Concordia University, Wisconsin**



prepare for worship  
in may

**May 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17  
Hymn of the Day: "Dear Christians, One and All,  
Rejoice," 556

**May 12: Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Texts: Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11-19  
Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is the World's  
Redeemer," 539

**May 19: The Day of Pentecost**

Texts: Ezek. 37:1-14 Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27;  
16:4b-15  
Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and  
Lord," 497

**May 26: The Holy Trinity**

Texts: Is. 6:1-8 Acts 2:14a, 22-36 John 3:1-17  
Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator  
Blest," 498



EVERY BRANCH  
IN ME THAT DOES NOT  
**BEAR FRUIT**  
HE TAKES AWAY,  
AND EVERY BRANCH  
THAT DOES BEAR FRUIT  
**HE PRUNES,**  
THAT IT MAY BEAR MORE  
**FRUIT**

JOHN 15:2, ESV

# Teen Times



During the last week of April, I spent some time with family and friends on a semi-annual fishing trip to Port O’Conner, TX; a small fishing town on the Texas Gulf Coast about halfway between Houston and Corpus Christi. We had good results and returned home with several bags of filets of Black Drum, Redfish, and Flounder. While on this trip, I began to think of what Jesus said as he was calling the first disciples in the gospel of Matthew, “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:16). Jesus referred to fishing

as a way to describe what making disciples will be like because there are many similarities between the two. Consider what it takes to be a good fisherman, there is quite a bit more involved than you think.

First of all you should realize that it’s going to take work. Fish live in places that are not part of the comforts of home, you have to go out and find them; as the first words of the great commission state, “therefore, GO” (Matt. 28:19). Maybe you need to travel long distances to a lake or the ocean, or perhaps you live near the water, either way you have to get up and GO! You also need to be prepared with good equipment that needs to be maintained; a reliable boat, rods and reels, fishing tackle, and perhaps a GPS or other fish finding devices. These are tools that the Bible, your pastor’s care and advice, or close Christian friends who support you will offer. God provides the maintenance through the Word and Sacraments in regular worship and Bible Study. You must also use the right kind of bait. Fish aren’t always hungry for the same thing. Sometimes you can use an artificial lure, but other times you may need live bait. God’s Word provides these in the ways to meet people for what they are “hungry” for or what they need. These come in the forms of guidance, patience, comfort, forgiveness, and most important, hope in eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Even though we may have all of the right “tools” to be a good fisherman, we must also realize that there will be elements working against us while trying to land those disciples in the boat. Wind, waves, water conditions, and tides (if you’re on the ocean) can be environmental factors when fishing. Making disciples is no different. Wind; things can change very quickly or make things hard for a long period of time. Waves; even though the place you are working is a great spot, the water can be pretty rough sometimes. Water conditions; it can be crystal clear, warm, and calm, the ideal place, but cloudy water, extreme water temps, or stagnant water affects where the fish/future followers of Christ will be and how they respond. Tides; they come and go, can be very high or very low. Such are the opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus and his redeeming work on the cross. They may be plentiful, or very rare, but in the latter case, we don’t give up completely and never put a line in the water again. Instead, we wait for the next occasion and try again. There are many, many fish in the sea, future disciples and fellow Christians. We just need to be sure to take the time, have the right tools, and be ready for the right circumstances.

God bless your next “fishing trip” and be ready to land a big one!

Until next time,  
Scott Peters



2024

Stephen Belcher – Texas Tech University  
 Samson Carter – Collin College  
 Caroline Loewecke – Colorado State University  
 Ambrose Shaltanis – Concordia University, WI

## More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

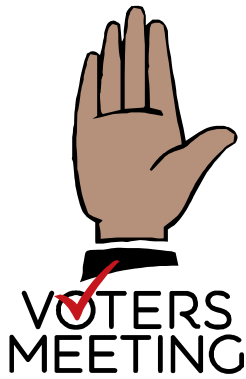
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.





## Voters' Meeting Notification

On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> after the late service, there will be a voters' meeting to elect the positions listed below. For copies of the documents and more information, visit our website:

<http://planolutheran.com/voters-meeting>

The Nominating Committee presented and the Admin Council approved this slate of candidates for the May 2024 election.

We recommend that the congregation vote to approve the following slate of candidates for the Admin Council.

### Officers Election

President	Charles Hacker	2 year term
Vice President	Ben Scarth	2 year term – 1 remaining
Secretary	Elizabeth Beisert	2 year term
Treasurer	Pat Greer	2 year term

### Board Chairs Election

Outreach	Open Spot	2 year term
Stewardship	Travis Bennett	2 year term – 1 remaining
Family	Gail Senter	2 year term – 1 remaining
Children's	Sara Tweedie	2 year term – 1 remaining

### At Large Member Election

1st	Brian Wolf	2 year term – 1 remaining
2nd	Paula Prestemon	2 year term
3rd	Ben Slater	2 year term

Our bylaws also require the list of members of each board be presented to the congregation for ratification.

We recommend that the congregation ratify the members of each board as follows.

### Board Membership

Elders	Mike Kunschke, Doug Hite, Tom Read, Greg Moudy, Tim Ozlowski
Youth	Scott Peters, Greg Moudy
Outreach	Elizabeth Beisert, David Messenger, Lauren Moudy, Joel Shaltanis
Stewardship	Travis Bennett, Pat Greer, Dave Peters, Karen Lund
Family	Gail Senter, Carol Ozlowski, Mary Ravitz, Joanna Smith, Laurie George, Susan Gromatzky, Ernie Gromatzky, Sara Tweedie, Charis Bennett, Melanie Scarth, Kathy Hite
Children's	Sara Tweedie, Alyson Wood
Property	Scott Peters, Karl Olsen, Ernie Gromatzky, Jerry Parish, Carl Carper

# 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

## GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., May 11 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](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meets after the late service for lunch and Bible study



2	Remy Nuschler
2	Ambrose Shaltanis
5	Ben Slater
6	Fred Bernhardt
8	Mike & Cheryl Scaglione (31)
10	Laurie George
11	Larry Dibbern
12	Pat Greer
12	Dave Senter
14	Elisabeth Bennett
15	Alyson Wood
16	Suzanne Gabriel
16	Abby George
16	David Messinger
17	Paula Bunger
17	Max Tyler
19	Grace Slater
20	Charis Bennett
22	Nicholas Moudy
23	Greg & Audrey Kostrzewa (37)
25	Mark Plagens
25	Tom & Georgianna Womack (60)
26	Greg & Beverly Moudy (28)
27	Audrey Kostrzewa
28	Dave & Gail Senter (47)
29	Cindy Carter
29	Paul & Susan Grabow (42)
31	Duffy Carter
31	Vicki Frinsko



**CHURCH**  
picnic



**MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ONE SERVICE**  
**10 AM**

**Immediately followed by our annual Memorial Day Picnic**



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
**Summarized Statement of Activity**  
**3 Months Ending March 31, 2024**

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2024 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>				
Regular Offerings	151,348	139,241	\$12,107	\$589,196
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$151,348</b>	<b>\$139,241</b>	<b>\$12,107</b>	<b>\$589,196</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolences	12,277	17,405	(\$5,129)	\$73,650
Elders	54,025	80,160	(\$26,135)	\$320,639
Education	0	250	(\$250)	\$1,000
Outreach	666	700	(\$34)	\$3,900
Office Expenses	1,906	2,935	(\$1,029)	\$12,090
Utilities	7,562	10,035	(\$2,473)	\$38,245
Property Maintenance	7,150	16,120	(\$8,970)	\$85,940
Stewardship	0	0	\$0	\$350
Family Ministries	95	710	(\$615)	\$5,290
Youth Board	585	2,700	(\$2,115)	\$6,600
Children's Ministry	635	1,450	(\$815)	\$6,500
Admin Council	355	1,250	(\$895)	\$5,200
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$85,256</b>	<b>\$133,715</b>	<b>(\$48,459)</b>	<b>\$559,404</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$66,091</b>	<b>\$5,526</b>	<b>\$60,566</b>	<b>\$29,792</b>

**Other Information:**

Operating Fund Balance	\$198,947
Certificate of Deposit	\$130,373
Restricted Fund Balance	\$146,465
Endowment Restricted CDs	\$64,389