

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **Habemus Internum!**

Habemus Papam! are the words joyfully exclaimed by the leader of the College of Cardinals whenever a new pope is elected, they mean: *We have a pope!* We can expect to hear these words proclaimed in the coming weeks after the conclave meets and announces their selection. In the meanwhile, we at Lord of Life can exclaim: Habemus Internum! *We have an intern!*

On Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>, it was announced at the call service at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne that Ms. Paige Rebber has been assigned to Lord of Life for her deaconess internship. For some of you this may come as a surprise, so let me fill you in on how this came about.

At the end of last year, our strategic planning committee recommended that we call or hire a ministerial assistant to especially focus on evangelism and outreach. In December our voters passed a budget to reflect this and a Call Committee was formed. In February our call committee met and came up with a position description that was shared with deaconesses throughout the synod. While we were open to hiring others who were not yet deaconesses, our preference was to have the position fulfilled by a deaconess. We received a few inquiries right away and we also reached out to the Texas District for help in compiling a list of candidates for a call. We had about 15 names to consider and our goal was to sort through them and contact those we thought were the strongest candidates after Easter, and then conduct interviews in May/June and call in June/July with an installation in August. It was a good and reasonable plan ... then we heard from Ft. Wayne.

I had reached out to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and there were no eligible deaconess candidates either for a call or an internship. Likewise, when I contacted Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, I was told we should hear back from them shortly, but after a few weeks, I began to think they also would not have anyone for us. Then I heard from them on April 8. They sent us Paige's information and the call committee sprang into action. We got permission from the Administrative Council and the Board of Elders and we set up an online interview via Zoom. Afterwards, we agreed that Paige seemed like a very strong candidate so we recommended submitting an application to the seminary—all of this just before and at the start of Holy Week! And then, on Monday, April 28th just 8 days after Easter, we heard the news: Habemus Internum!

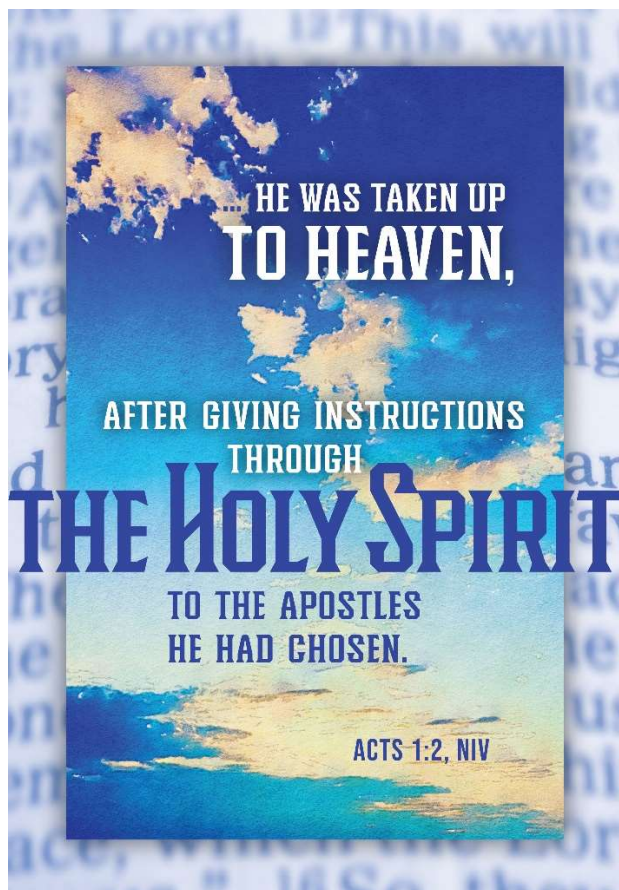
Paige will start her internship in August after Julie Baumann completes her internship at the end of July. Until then, I encourage you to give thanks to the Lord for providing us with another intern and another opportunity to work with a young servant of the Church.



## Ascension Day, Thursday May 29

***"[Jesus] was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." Acts 1:2-3***

Let's try something new, but ancient. This month we will celebrate one of the oldest and primary festivals in the Christian calendar, the Ascension of our Lord. As St. Luke records in the book of Acts, Jesus was with His disciples 40 days before "He was taken up." So, the Church celebrates this event 40 days after Easter Sunday, which always occurs on a Thursday. This year it is May 29<sup>th</sup>. Christians have observed this Holy Day since at least the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but for some reason, we can't remember ever celebrating it at Lord of Life in Plano. So, we are going to try something new. We will observe this day with a service of Evening Prayer at 7:00. I hope you can be there to remember and give thanks for Christ's ascension into heaven.



A year ago, Lord of Life hosted Rev. Dr. Korey Maas to give a scholarly lecture and preach and teach on Sunday. This year we are hosting another Lutheran scholar but the details are a little different.

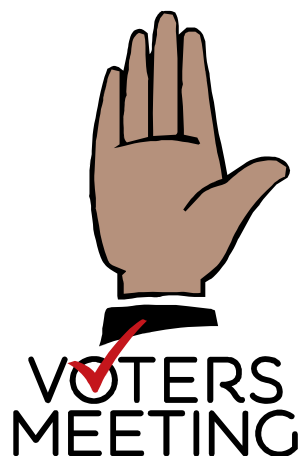
Every summer at churches throughout the country, professors from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis teach continuing education workshops for pastors and laypeople. This series of lectures is called *Prof Insights* and this year, Lord of Life will be hosting Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs on June 30-July 2. His topic is: "The Provocative Sixth Commandment or Care of Souls in a Sexualized Society." (See his description below.) The cost of the workshop is \$150. Click the following link for more information. <https://www.csl.edu/event/prof-insights-marrs-in-plano-tx/>

### The Provocative Sixth Commandment or Care of Souls in a Sexualized Society

God has gifted humankind in many ways, including creating us as sexual beings. This workshop will consider the positive aspects of our bodies and sexuality and how pastors and churches can teach parishes about the gifts God has given. The workshop will also explore the challenges that our corrupted sexual nature brings to pastors who teach and lead congregations, e.g., homosexuality, cohabitation, promiscuity, internet pornography, trans-sexuality, polygamy and divorce.

Dr. Rick Marrs *Senior Professor of Practical Theology*

Dr. Rick Marrs has been at the forefront of his field when it comes to confronting the assumptions of and approaches of secular counselors. He has worked to bring a Christocentric, law-gospel approach to counseling among evangelicals.



## Voters' Meeting Notification

On Sunday, May 4<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 2025 election.

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

### Officers Election

None of the officers' positions are open.

### Board Chairs Election

Children's	Sara Tweedie	(2-year term with 2 years remaining in second term.)
Family	Susan Knowles	(2-year term with 2 years remaining in first term.)
Stewardship	Mark Conrad	(2-year term with 2 years remaining in first term.)

### At Large Member Election

At Large	Andrew Short	(2-year term with 2 years remaining in first term.)
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According to the Lord of Life Lutheran Church bylaws, the congregation must ratify the list of board members upon presentation.

We recommend that the congregation give its approval to the proposed slate of board members as outlined below.

### Board Membership

Elders	Mike Kunschke, Doug Hite, Tom Read, Greg Moudy, Tim Ozlowski
Youth	Scott Peters, Parents of the youth members
Outreach	Currently not meeting until we create a new board
Stewardship	Mark Conrad, Pat Greer, Dave Peters, Karen Lund
Family	Susan Knowles, Charis Bennett, Mary Farmer, Laurie George, Ernie Gromatzky, Kathy Hite, Carol Ozlowski, Melanie Scarth, Gail Senter, Sara Tweedie
Children's	Sara Tweedie, Alyson Wood
Property	Scott Peters, Carl Carper, Ernie Gromatzky, Mark Knowles, Jerry Parish





Congratulations  
GRADUATES

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGRATULATES THESE

## 2025 Graduates

High School:

*Kaitlyn Hacker*

*Kenny Hoff*

*Sebastian Shaltanis*

*Logan Montgomery*

College:

*Ethan Hacker*

*Garrett Hacker*

*Danny Ozlowski*

*David Messinger*

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans for welfare and not for evil, to give  
you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11, ESV

# Teen Times

Greetings in the name of our risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. As I write this May edition of teen times for you, it is a windy, stormy day on the last day of April. It's the time of year when severe weather can adversely affect our daily routines or even change the course of some people's lives. The month of May in general is a busy time for many families who will celebrate the accomplishments of high school or college graduates. The class of 2025 at Lord of Life has a number of young people who have earned their diplomas or degrees which will lead to a change of course in their lives. When they take the next steps after graduation, whether it is high school or college, there will be important decisions to make, new opportunities to explore, perhaps become accustomed to new living arrangements, and bigger challenges to face. There will be good times and not-so-good times where they will have to as they say, "weather the storm." For now we should celebrate with them and acknowledge their achievements. The following are the 2025 graduates and a few details of their educational journey.

## High School:

Kaitlyn Hacker – a homeschool graduate and will begin classes at Collin College this summer.

Kenny Hoff – graduated Faith Lutheran High School and will attend Concordia University Irvine in California.

Sebastian Shaltanis – Classical Conversations graduate (homeschool) and plans on attending Concordia University Wisconsin this fall.

Logan Montgomery – Classical Conversations graduate also attending Concordia University Wisconsin this fall.

## College:

Ethan Hacker - Graduates from Stephen F Austin on May 9th with a BS in Mathematics concentrating in Data Science. He is starting a 10 week paid internship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico on May 27. In August he will start on his Master's Degree in Statistics at SFA. January 2, 2026 he will be married to his fiancée Olivia Payne.

Garrett Hacker - Graduates from Stephen F Austin on May 8th with a BS in Environmental Science concentrating in Land, Air, and Water Resources and a minor in Geospatial Science. He starts his fulltime job on June 2 working for Keystone Consulting. He will continue to live in Nacogdoches and travel to jobs sites throughout the U.S.

Danny Ozlowski – Graduates May 16 from Texas Tech University and will attend the University of Washington in Seattle this fall for a 2 year Master's program in Museology (Museum studies).

David Messinger – Graduates from the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in ATEC (Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication) concentrating on animation and game design.

Lord of Life is very fortunate to have such talented and gifted young people who are a blessing to their friends and peers, and will have a great Christian influence on those around them; in the classroom or the work place. We offer all of the new graduates our sincere congratulations and wish them Godspeed on their future.

Until next time,  
Scott Peters



## Mission Giving at Lord of Life

As a part of our congressional stewardship, we put aside a percentage of our offerings directly to support various mission needs. These mission needs may be here locally, or they may be on the other side of the world. They take on various ways and means, but the most important thing is that they are Christ centered.

Every quarter, the board of Elders allocates the mission offerings to various mission opportunities. Here are some of the mission organizations the congregation has supported in the past few quarters.

### **Concordia the Reformer Seminary - Dominican Republic**

- Lord of Life supports this LCMS seminary which was created to form Spanish speaking pastors and deaconesses to serve in Latin America, South America and the Caribbean. The seminary was opened in 2017 in Palmar Arriba, Santiago, in the Dominican Republic.

### **God's Pantry - Plano**

- God's Pantry is a faith based organization that exists to extend a helping hand to the needy, by providing food to anyone who is facing circumstances beyond their control.

### **LCMS - Cuba Mission**

- Lord of Life supports the LCMS mission to Cuba spearheaded by a Concordia the Reformer Seminarian graduate pastor now serving in Cuba.

### **Real Options for Women - Allen**

- Real Options for Women has been serving Collin County and North Dallas for over 30 years. Their goal is to empower women to make informed choices when facing an unplanned pregnancy.

### **Hope's Door - Plano**

- The mission of Hope's Door is to offer intervention and prevention services to individuals and families affected by intimate partner and family violence and to provide education programs that enhance the community's capacity to respond.

### **Issues Etc. - Worldwide**

- A Christ-Centered Cross-Focused message with a two-fold mission. First, to defend and teach the truths rediscovered at the Lutheran Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture and Christ alone. Second, to challenge today's relativistic culture with its unbiblical and illogical ideologies.

### **Forerunner Mentoring - Dallas**

- Forerunner Mentoring exists to fulfill the potential of every young man in Lake Highlands growing up without a father-figure at home by providing mentoring, programs, and family support in the name of Jesus.

### **Lovepacs of Plano - Plano**

- The Lovepacs vision is that communities experience God's love by serving together to provide food for children in need. Their mission is to engage communities to feed children in need as an expression of Love.

**Family Gateway - Dallas**

- The mission of Family Gateway is to provide stability and life-changing supportive services to children and families affected by homelessness.

**Veterans Center of North Texas - North Texas**

The mission of the Veterans Center of North Texas is to assist Veterans, of all ages and service eras, and their families to navigate through the network of public and private agencies to obtain assistance, services, and support to establish and maintain productive lifestyles within our North Texas communities.

**MEMNT (Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas) - North Texas**

Thousands of new Americans have immigrated to North Texas. Many fled war, genocide, refugee camps, and poverty. Upon arrival they are faced with learning to navigate life in a very unfamiliar place, often without knowing English and with very few resources. As Christ commanded us, we proclaim His saving grace and minister to the spiritual, physical, social, emotional, academic, and professional needs of His people, our brothers and sisters in Him. This LCMS Pastoral led mission is based in Dallas, Texas.

These were the specific mission distributions for the 4th Quarter of 2024.

God's Pantry	\$500.00
LCMS (Cuba)	\$2,000.00
Concordia the Reformer Seminary - DR	\$1,000.00
Issues Etc.	\$500.00
Forerunner Mentoring	\$500.00
Lovepacs of Plano	\$500.00
Hopes Door	\$500.00
Real Options	\$500.00
Family Gateway	\$500.00
Veterans Center of North Texas	\$500.00
MEMNT	\$400.00

Doug Hite  
Board of Elders

## *Stewardship in the Body of Christ*

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!





- 2 Remy Nuschler
- 2 Ambrose Shaltanis
- 5 Ben Slater
- 6 Fred Bernhardt
- 8 Mike & Cheryl Scaglione (32)
- 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 (38)
- 25 Mark Plagens
- 25 Tom & Georgianna Womack (61)
- 26 Greg & Beverly Moudy (29)
- 27 Audrey Kostrzewa
- 28 Dave & Gail Senter (48)
- 29 Cindy Carter
- 29 Paul & Susan Grabow (43)
- 31 Charlie Abbott
- 31 Duffy Carter
- 31 Vicki Frinsko



# CHURCH picnic

## MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

ONE  
SERVICE  
10AM

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

**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 on Saturday a month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., May 10 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, May 18 at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In 1 Timothy 3:1-15, St. Paul is writing to Timothy in order to give a description of the qualifications for “overseers” and “deacons” of the Christian church. From our understanding today, overseers are what we now call “pastors,” but deacons are a different type of official within the church. The word St. Paul uses here is diakonos, which means “servant,” and this is also where we get the word “deaconess” from. The people who served as diakonoi within the early Christian church were not merely servants to wait on the apostles’ tables, although they did do such things (Acts 6:2-4). They were “helpers” within the early Christian church, elected - or as St. Paul describes, “tested” - before they were to serve in an official capacity as a diakonos.

Just as overseers or pastors are undershepherds for the flock of the Church, these diakonoi were the “helpers” or “servants” to assist the pastors in areas where they could not always reach. Yes, these servants waited on tables and provided food for the apostles, but they offered up more than just hospitality. Like Phoebe, the first deaconess, these servants often provided their own funds and homes to help expand the early Christian church (Rom. 16:1). Like the Seven who were elected by the early Christians in Jerusalem, these servants often provided for the needs of the widows and orphans in their communities (Acts 6:1-7). These servants of the Church provided care for the physical well-being of the Body of Christ, so that the overseers could focus their efforts on providing spiritual care for the Body.

Today, these servants of the Church do not only come in the form of called and commissioned deaconesses. They also come in the form of our own elders and lay members who are elected to serve. These various helpers and servants within the Church do so not for praise, or glory, or so they can have an extra say in what goes on behind the scenes, but because they have gifts that they want to use in service for our Chief Overseer, Christ Jesus. This month we will be having yet another Voter’s Meeting, in order to elect lay members who have gifts, skills, and perspectives that they would like to use more intentionally for the Church. Along that same vein, this past April, Lord of Life has called yet another deaconess intern, Paige Rebber, to serve as their new intern this coming year. I pray that not only will Paige be a blessing to all y’all at LoL, but that our newly elected officials will also continue to bless the saints here, so that His love and grace may continue to abound!

In Christ’s love,  
Julie Baumann  
Deaconess Intern



## prepare for worship in may

### May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 5:12-20 (21-32); Rev. 1:4-18; John 20:19-31

HotD: “With High Delight Let Us Unite,” 483

### May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 9:1-22; Rev. 5:(1-7) 8-14; John 21:1-14 (15-19)

HotD: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” 709

### May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 20:17-35; Rev. 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

HotD: “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing,” 633

### May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 21:1-7; John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-35

HotD: “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace,” 844

*We’ve moved the church’s financial statements offline. They are available to members at your request through the office. Thank you for your understanding.*