LIFELINES
of
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: (972) 867-5588 Fax: (972) 985-5588
Internet Home Page: http://planolutheran.com

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Taking things too far…

Visiting Israel last month with so many friends from church was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. It was an incredible trip! Every day was fun and interesting with so many things to see and do. We began each day with prayer and devotion and then we saw significant places talked about in the Bible –places where our Lord Jesus was born, lived, died and rose. If you are interested in seeing pictures and learning more about the trip, I plan to talk more about it in the coming weeks during the Bible class hour on a Sunday morning. Listen for announcements for the exact date. For now, let me offer you a thought on seeing the places of the Holy Land.

I am generally very happy that there is a Christian presence in Israel and that Christians have preserved holy sites and built churches to commemorate the places where our Lord carried out His ministry. It is a good thing to have a church building where Christians can gather and pray and remember where our Lord was born in Bethlehem, where He preached the Sermon on the Mount in Galilee, where He prayed with His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, etc. We visited many such places during our trip. One of the highlights of it all was our tour guide, Joseph, who not only showed us so many of these places, but also spoke faithfully concerning what Jesus did there for us and what it means for us today. Our trip was not just seeing old places and visiting pretty churches; it was a time to reflect on what happened there for us and for our salvation. Unfortunately, alongside this gathering and remembering at these holy sites, there was something else at play that was not so faithful.



Take, for example, the Church of the Multiplication in Tagbha, Israel located on the Northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. The church commemorates the place where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 men with only two fishes and five loaves of bread. It is a pretty church, simple and unadorned with yellow and white alabaster windows that give the chapel a golden hue. The current church was built in the 1980's, but it was built on the ruins of previous Byzantine-era churches. During excavations, they found 5th Century mosaics depicting the fish and the bread. They have been restored and incorporated into the current floor of the building. The beautiful church calls us to remember one of our Lord's most profound miracles and seeing the artwork in the mosaic floor, connects us to Christians who lived centuries ago. So, what's the problem?



Also found in this building, just below the altar, is a rock known as the Mensa Christi, or Table of Christ. This rock, it is claimed, is the exact spot where Jesus performed the miracle. And as you can see in the picture on the left, the rock is venerated with a lit candle and is also dark in color due to the many hands of pilgrims who come to the church and touch it and kiss it. This sort of veneration is seen all over the churches of the Holy Land. Amazing claims are made about common objects like rocks, altars, and tombs, and then they are treated as objects of worship in themselves.

It has been said that one reason Jesus never wrote a book of the Bible is because if He had, it would have been turned into an idol and treated like a magic book with special power! In the same way, the exact rocks where Jesus performed His miracles are not identified in the Bible so as not to distract us from the greater meaning of His miracles. Sadly, though the Scriptures are silent, Christian traditions have been loudly proclaimed over the centuries with the result that many people are distracted by these stories about rocks and tombs claiming to be the exact spot where Jesus wept or prayed or fed 5,000. It's a shame, because our trust is in the God who lives and reigns in heaven and not in magic rocks that He once touched during His incarnation.

Along these same lines, we recently read in our Sunday morning Bible class about good King Hezekiah ridding Judea of all it idols. "[Hezekiah] did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan)." (2nd Kings 18:2-3) You will recall that the bronze serpent was made by Moses at the Lord's command (Numbers 21:8). It was kept in Judea for five centuries before it was turned into an idolatrous object of false worship, that is, the thing in itself was not an idol, but was turned into one by idolatrous people and seeing this, Hezekiah knew what to do about it.

Now I don't believe the shrines and churches in the Holy Land need to be destroyed as idols. I mean only to point out that there is a temptation for all of us to make too much of things and to be distracted by something and turn it into an idol –even good things. You will recall that Jesus cautioned against turning our own families into idols, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37) He was not suggesting that families should be abolished, but rather that disciples of Jesus should always been on their guard against idolatry. To that end, I wish more disciples of Jesus were more discerning about such things when it comes to the Christian sites in the Holy Land. What a shame that something so good (the life and miracles of Jesus) are turned into something so harmful when objects associated with them are treated as objects of worship. Nevertheless, as I mentioned at the top of this article, visiting these sites benefitted me and so many of us on the tour so very much, as our guide connected the places to Christ and His saving work for us. I am certain they have done the same for millions of other Christians who have visited these places for centuries and came away strengthened in their faith.

PrS

A Letter from Our Deaconess

To Whom Do You Pray?

The Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study is currently studying the Apostles' Creed using a very interesting and well-written book study by Emily Belvery. We have been enjoying going through each article and discovering how it helps us articulate our belief in the Triune God. Although the entire study is phenomenal, one lesson has stood out to me above the others.

The second lesson of the study is all about the phrase "And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord…" Instead of connecting it to the explanation of the Second Article of the Creed as you would expect, Belvery connects it to the Second Commandment and its meaning. Wait, what? This is a study on the Apostles' Creed; why are we reciting a Commandment? Turns out, there's a lot to be learned in simply looking at the name and titles of Jesus. Of course, Jesus is His name, but He has many other titles. The Apostles' Creed itself uses two titles back-to-back: "Son" and "Lord." From there, many other titles emerge to describe the Second Person of the Trinity. Each of these names and titles tells us more about who Jesus is and what He does for us. In the study, Belvery breaks down 13 names or titles of Jesus and asks these questions: What does this name/title mean? What does this name/title say about who Jesus is? What does this name/title say about what Jesus did/does? And when might you want to pray using this name/title? That last question is the one that caught my attention. Usually, when we pray, we more than likely start off with "Dear God," "Dear Lord," or "Dear Jesus." And none of these are incorrect. They directly address our God, who has promised to hear us when we call on His name. But what happens if we pray to Jesus as Good Shepherd? Or as the Great Physician? Or as Prophet? What do we confess when we use different titles to address our God?

Let's unpack this a bit using the example of "Lamb of God," a title we use often in our liturgy (think Agnus Dei). First of all, where do we hear Jesus referred to as Lamb of God in the Bible? The one that immediately comes to mind is John's proclamation on the banks of the Jordan River: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world…" (John 1:29). In John's proclamation, we can answer the first question that Belvery poses: the title Lamb of God means that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin that God has provided for the world. Ok, so we know what the title means, so what does it say about who Jesus is? Take a look at Hebrews 10, particularly verses 1-10. This chapter wraps up the author's explanation of Jesus as the true High Priest, concluding with a contrast of the Old Covenant laws with the New Covenant of Jesus by pointing out that the Old Covenant is imperfect with its repeated offerings; Jesus' offering replaces the Old Covenant sacrifices; Jesus is the fulfillment of the priestly role; and the New Covenant completely provides for the sin of the world. So when we say Jesus is the Lamb of God, we are confessing that He is perfect and holy, without blemish or spot, and that He is the substitute and sacrifice for our sins. This leads us to our third question: what this particular title tells us about what Jesus did/does for us. Jesus gave Himself up for us to forgive our sins and those of the whole world. We have been declared holy because He has done God's will and sacrificed Himself for us. He fulfilled the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant once and for all by offering a lasting solution for sin: Himself.

So, this Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, did what no other sacrifice could do. Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, our sins are atoned for once and for all, and we are justified by His blood. This leads us to the final, and (in my opinion) most thought-provoking question: When might you want to pray using this name/title? When might your prayer sound like "Lamb of God…"? Well, when we are thinking about the weight of our sin and feel the despair that only comes with knowing we can't free ourselves from this condition, we can look to the Lamb of God who was slain on the cross so that we don't have to worry about trying to save ourselves. We can pray to the Lamb of God for mercy and forgiveness, knowing that it will indeed come because of his sacrificial love toward us.

To whom do you pray? Well, you pray to God, but He has names and titles for a reason. Use them. Explore what a Gift it is to be able to pray to the King or the Great Physician or the Resurrection and the Life. Go through and consider the questions that Belvery posed in her study to deepen your understanding of Jesus Christ, [God the Father's] only Son, our Lord, and the names and titles attributed to Him so that you may find further comfort and peace when you pray.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Deaconess Paige Rebber

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND FACILITIES,

Greetings to all Lord of Life friends and family! As 2026 will soon come to a close, I thought I should give a short update on the working conditions and the maintenance environment surrounding our facilities at Lord of Life.

I think we all can say that we are grateful for the cooler weather after trudging through one of the hottest summers on record. Fortunately, so did most all of our AC systems as they were definitely working overtime to keep the building comfortable and with no major breakdowns. While we had two of our 18 rooftop units replaced at the beginning of the year, the rest continue to operate with the help of a very trustworthy HVAC technician who has provided service for Lord of Life for many years. As long as the parts are available and I can perform routine maintenance like filter changes and cleaning drain lines, we will get the most mileage out of them as we can.

The first week of November will be a busy week inside the sanctuary. The ceiling is going to be repaired and repainted as a precursor to the upgrades in the narthex and sanctuary which will hopefully start in early 2027. This project will require some large, heavy equipment like scaffolding and hydraulic lifts to complete and it would be best to accomplish this before new floors are installed. It is anticipated that the repainting will take the full week of November 2-6.

Normal routine maintenance, fix-it type projects, and rearranging of room furniture (i.e. for the various events that take place in the fellowship hall during the week) are constant and ongoing. This includes floor care, minor plumbing repairs, lighting and electrical needs, and outdoor lawn care. Rest assured I never run out of things to do, but all I do is to the Glory of God and the blessings he has bestowed on our congregation and its property and facilities.

If you ever notice something that needs attention in and around our dwellings, or if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I am here to serve.

In His Service,
Scott Peters

PROPERTY & FACILITIES

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

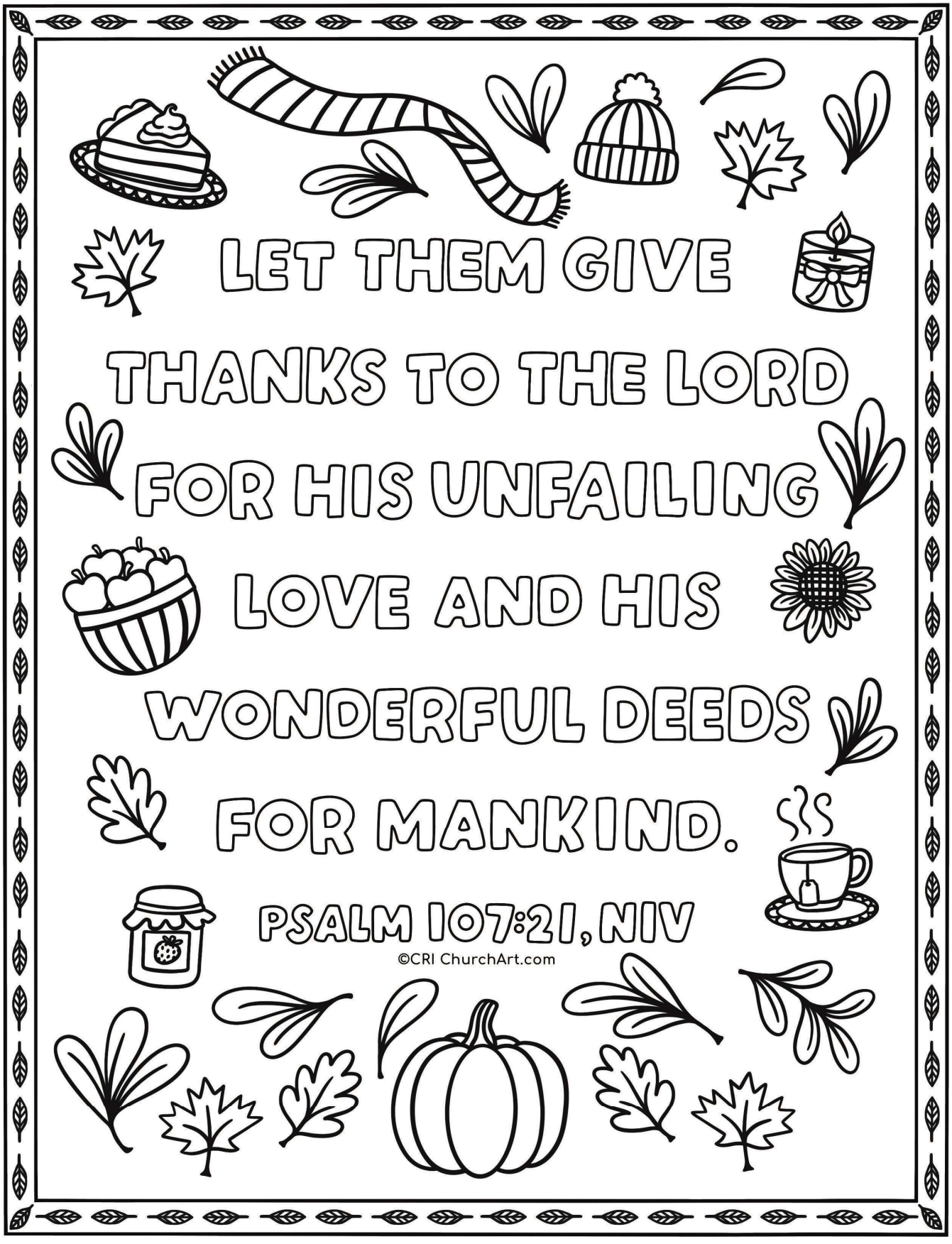
We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

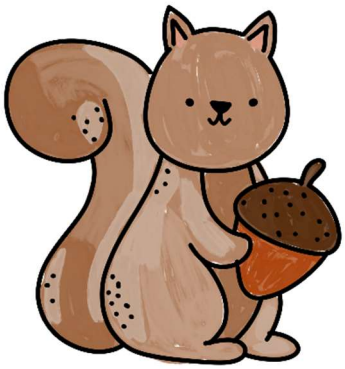
Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – https://www.lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – November 2026 *(Originally published in November 2023)*




LET THEM GIVE
THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HIS UNFAILING
LOVE AND HIS
WONDERFUL DEEDS
FOR MANKIND.
PSALM 107:21, NIV
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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 Nov. 20th at 6:00 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

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

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In November

November 1: All Saints' Day
Texts: Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12
HotD: "For All the Saints," 677

November 8: 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Texts: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13
HotD: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying," 516

November 15: 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Texts: Zeph. 1:7-16; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30
HotD: "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near," 508

November 22: Last Sunday of the Church Year
Texts: Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Matt. 25:31-46
HotD: "The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns," 532

November 25: Thanksgiving Eve
Texts: Deut. 8:1-10; Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Luke 17:11-19
HotD: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," 892

November 29: First Sunday of Advent
Texts: Is. 64:1-9; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37
HotD: "Savior of the Nations, Come," 332





Erica, beloved member of the congregation and director of our bell choir, has had a few recent episodes of fainting at church. Erica has a chronic heart condition which affects her blood pressure and sometimes results in passing out. Fortunately, she normally recovers in just a few moments. There are many precautions being taken to limit this. Erica will be sitting by friends who are aware of her needs and will address any fainting episodes should they happen in church. Please do not call 911 if you see her on the floor. You can assume the situation is being handled appropriately. Thank you for your understanding and for your continued prayers.



1	Duncan Bennett
3	Jeff Loewecke
3	Sara Tweedie
6	Hannah Kade
7	Reese Kiango
9	Brooke Wilkerson
11	Marc Dumais
13	Micah Koslan
13	Ken Tabor
19	Thayne Rector
21	Stephani Cramer
21	Al Martin
21	Logan Montgomery
22	Linda Delzer
23	Jade Jackson
23	Laramie & Amanda Schmidt (2)
24	Tom Ashburn
25	Melissa Kunschke
26	Evelyn Buckmeier
28	Russ Wilkerson
28	Al & Norma Martin (68)
30	Arlene McDuffee
30	Haley Moore
30	Arlene Munden

