

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October at last!

It's been a particularly long and hot summer, so this month and its cooler weather are certainly a welcome change. This month we will celebrate the Reformation again with one service at 10:00AM on the 25th and an Oktoberfest meal after the service. That morning we will once more honor the great doctrines that Martin Luther taught from the Holy Scriptures.

As Reformation Day approaches, I usually try and read something written by or about Luther. This year I commend to you his preface from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. You can find it in its entirety online in multiple places. It is a short read, about 14 pages. A small selection is cited below.

The preface is not only known and cherished by Lutherans. In fact, John Wesley, the primary founder of the Methodist movement, wrote about an experience in May of 1738 in which hearing Luther's preface changed his life, *"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's 'Preface to the Epistle to the Romans.' About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*

If you are interested in reading more of Luther's work, then I also recommend checking out his Large Catechism, if you haven't already. Many regard it as one of his finest works and Luther himself was proud of it.

Blessings in Christ,
PrS

"Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. 'Faith is not enough,' they say, 'You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved.' They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, 'I believe.' That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either.

Instead, faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words.

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do."

Martin Luther's Definition of Faith: An excerpt from "An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans," Luther's German Bible of 1522 by Martin Luther, 1483-1546. Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith



A Letter from Our Deaconess

Evangelistic Assimilation

Part of my job as your Director of Outreach is to keep up to date on what models of evangelism are being taught. The tricky part with evangelism is that there is no one set way that has proven to be the best method. Every church is different, and every community is different. Something that would work really well in a small town may not work at all in a metroplex like DFW. A common curriculum for evangelism that the LCMS has generally adopted is called, *Every One His Witness*. I've gone through the evangelism courses with that program while serving as Deaconess Fieldworker at St. Paul's in Fort Wayne, so I'm at least familiar with its methods. But just because that's the one that the Synod promotes doesn't mean that it is the only evangelistic tool available to use

Since I'm here in Texas, I have decided to take the Texas District's Evangelism course, and it's been an interesting experience. Some of what the course covers is really helpful. For example: evangelism and assimilation. We want to abide by the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Of course, when a new person comes into the church, you want to make sure they are welcome, connect them to relevant groups, and build a relationship with them. Those are all good things to do. The suggestion made in the training module for assimilation is that you don't want to collect people like objects; you can't just keep them in your church community and never send them out. On the surface, this sounds great: you want your members to evangelize. You don't just want to pluck them out of their community, use them to fill an empty seat, and then not send them back out or keep them away from their previous community. The next step in the process, according to the module, is where it becomes tricky and may fall into less-than-ideal territory. The training advocated sending the newly faithful back to their communities so they could evangelize there and build faith communities in their own contexts. This begs the question: What might be the problem of sending a new believer out into their community to evangelize?

The potential problem with this evangelistic mindset is that it encourages new believers to break off into their own subgroups and start fledgling communities based on the faith to which they have just been exposed. It's not that church plants in and of themselves are bad, especially when experienced Christians plant churches; it's just that if the goal is to integrate the believer into a community of the faithful, they should be coming to an established church to learn and grow in the faith. If a need arises to plant a new church, that's great, especially when it comes to cultural integration. We want to plant the seed in different communities and watch it grow, but there needs to be oversight. Consider 1 Timothy 3. The first half of this chapter is the qualifications for overseers, or what we now consider to be pastoral qualifications. In this section, Paul warns Timothy that the leader of a church "...must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil." (3:6)

Instead of jumping straight into church plants or new faith communities, it would be wise to assimilate the new believer into an established Bible study group that they can then invite members of their community to join. That way, they can still invite people to church to learn about Jesus, and they can still be a light in their community. You could also pair that person up with a member of the congregation to start a new group within the existing church if the concern is cultural. That way, there can be community among people with the same cultural background while still building on the firm foundation of the existing church body. Again, from there, if the need arises, a new church may be necessary, but it shouldn't be a jumping-off point. Teaching is a core component of discipleship. New believers must be well catechized before they attempt to lead a group on their own, let alone start a church.

What do you think? Would it be fine to let a new believer start up a faith community in some instances? Do you think it's safer to collect people into an existing church and potentially pull that person out of their community? Is there a happy medium? These are all things to consider as we renew our evangelistic efforts.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Deaconess Paige Rebber

Teen Times

“What a Ride”

It was the summer of 2009 and my occupation as a professional paint contractor had been in full swing for well over a decade. After spending ten years as an automotive mechanic, I made a career move and joined my father Dave, who had grown up working as a painter for his dad, my grandfather George, and together we built a very productive business in the painting industry. We provided service to many friends and family members over the years and we have had the good fortune to do the same to a number of people in our wonderful church family. But that summer, God put another opportunity in my path here at Lord of Life. There was a need for someone to lead the youth ministry, and as my two sons Marcus and Curtis were in the midst of their high school years and a part of the Lord of Life youth group, I agreed to be the youth ministry leader with one consideration. The youth ministry is a part of the church that requires a certain amount of time and effort to keep it active and healthy for 11-18 year olds. This is one reason that many congregations have a called worker or a paid staff member to head up such an important ministry. I realized that to do an adequate and effective job of leading the youth group, it would require me to dedicate time aside from my self-employed profession. So, I asked the Board of Elders to consider a part-time salary for me to commit certain hours of the day or specific days of the week to fulfill the duties of the position. They agreed and I was brought on to the staff as the Director of Youth Ministry in August 2009.

Since then God has blessed me with so many wonderful experiences, places, and people that they are hard to count. My duties included teaching the Sunday morning youth Bible class and the 6th grade confirmation class, training new acolytes and generating acolyte schedules, organizing youth nights, youth events, and a variety of summer trips, and coordinating fundraising efforts to help offset the costs of said activities. I reminisce about the many places our youth group has traveled to or visited over the years for Higher Things, the National Youth Gathering, or mission trips. It includes San Antonio, New Orleans, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, and New Mexico to name a few. In all, I think I have been a part of 19 summer youth trips. Our youth group raised funds for these trips with Valentine dinners and Sunday morning breakfasts, car washes, garage sales, and pizza kit and cookie sales. It has been mentioned many times before and I will do so again, none of these would have been successful without our congregation's extremely generous financial support. It has been a great ride, but a few years ago God created a new position for me at Lord of Life; the Director of Property and Facilities. This title brought with it a whole new list of responsibilities for which God has blessed me with the abilities to fulfill. A few duties of this position include managing the sub-contractors and services which help maintain our facilities, performing general day-to-day maintenance both inside and out, rearranging or setting up rooms for the various events that take place in the fellowship hall, sanctuary, or classrooms, supervising the use of our facilities by groups not directly associated with Lord of Life, (i.e. music recitals, homeschools, girl scouts, etc.), and seeing to the basic good operation of our buildings systems like HVAC, plumbing, irrigation, and lighting. These duties increased in scope in January 2023 when our full-time custodian and all around handyman retired after admirably serving Lord of Life for over 15 years. These last three years have required more of my time and energy to address needs of the property and facilities. So, a gradual change is taking place with regards to the youth ministry.

My role as the Director of Youth Ministry will be scaled back to being a member and part of the Board of Youth Ministry. There are 6-7 families with kids currently involved in our youth ministry who are very active and the parents are willing to take on roles that will help keep the youth ministry wheels spinning. Nearly all of the parents of our youth have agreed to be the point person for the various individual youth events or activities which will create more of a team effort in the leadership. I will remain involved but in a condensed role by continuing to teach the Sunday morning Bible class and the 6th grade confirmation class, be the office liaison for the youth ministry to make sure bulletin announcements and email communications are carried out, and help the parents who are leading the various activities in any way that I can. But my days of organizing fundraisers and summer youth trips are winding down. In a nutshell, my staff duties moving forward will be more focused on the Director of Property and Facilities role.

I will always cherish the many fond memories of the kids and families in our youth ministry, the “fun” raising events, the summer trips, the youth nights, and the relationships formed which will last a lifetime. God is truly good, all the time, and I can sincerely say, “What a ride!”

God's blessings to you all,
Scott Peters

Beautification Update

Lord willing, we will begin the first step in our beautification project in early October. The council approved the installation of solar tubes in the narthex, which will allow natural light to brighten the area. Look for them very soon! But before we can continue on to the rest of the stages (paint, flooring, lights, etc.), we need your help. Many stated on your feedback forms that you would support the project with a special over-and-above offering. If possible, we ask that you would do so this month. If you would like to make a contribution to the project, please place a check in the offering plate with the words "Narthex Upgrade" in the memo line. If you prefer to donate online, there will be a special tab on our website here: <http://planolutheran.com/giving/>

The committee has also reviewed all of the feedback forms and taken all of the suggestions into consideration. Unfortunately, with a project like this, it is not possible to give everyone everything they want. If your suggestions were not adopted, please know that they were not ignored. We read every word on all of the feedback forms and followed what the majority of people told us they wanted. I have mentioned before how some churches look and feel stuck in the 1960's and I thought that was a sign of decline; however, it occurs to me now, that it could also be that no one proposed an upgrade because they wanted to avoid conflict! Please be gracious and content with the upgrade and don't let some part of it that didn't go your way frustrate you. Overall, the new look will be a nice improvement. And besides, we don't go to church because of the floors or the doors or the paint and the lights. We go to hear the Word of the Lord, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and to participate in a Christian community with like-minded believers –and none of that is not going to change.

PrS



Thank you to every single person who has supported our growing family by providing meals. It has made the transition to being a family of four much smoother. It is truly such a blessing in this season of life and we have been overwhelmed with gratitude by the generosity of our church family.

Thank you,
Mark, Madison,
Eleanor & Graham Conrad

LWML FALL ZONE MEETING



October 17, 2026



Class is in session! Bring your LWML spirit, grab an apple for the teacher, and join the Prince of Peace LWML Lunch Ladies for a morning of fellowship, faith, food, and fun

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4000 Midway Road, Carrollton, Texas

The lesson plan "Nurturing Teachers & Students"

- **9:00 Registration** — \$15 co-share cost, payable at the door
- **Program** — Academy 4; Teachers Covered in Prayer, LWR Keeping Girls in School
- **Business Meeting, Lunch to Follow**
- **1:00 School is Out!**

An Ingathering offering will be collected during the Business Meeting for Teachers Covered in Prayer (\$\$ will be used to purchase gift cards or small gifts for POP Christian School teachers, to be presented at an October appreciation event)

🍏 Chalkboard Verse: Proverbs 4:13 🍏

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."

RSVP (include names of attendees and special dietary needs) by October 8, 2026:

Sherri Haag, President of the Prince of Peace LWML: haagsherri@gmail.com

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

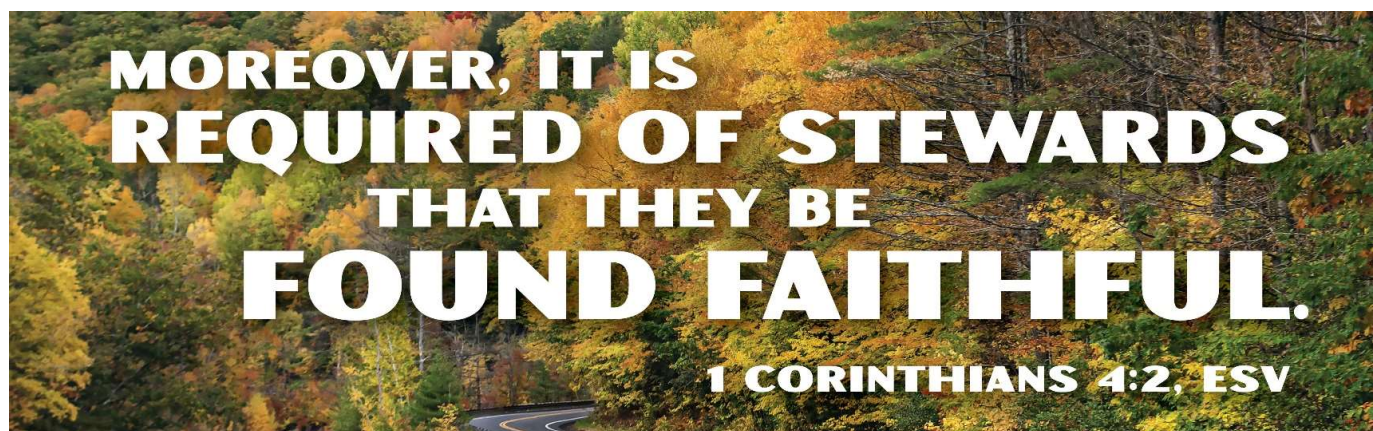
A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – <https://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

Newsletter Article – October 2026 (*Originally published in October 2023*)



PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In October

October 4: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 5:1-79; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

HotD: "O Love, How Deep," 544

October 11: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 25:6-9; Phil. 4:4-13; Matt. 22:1-14

HotD: "A Multitude Comes from the East and the West," 510

October 18: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 45:1-7; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22

HotD: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," 940

October 25: Reformation Sunday

Texts: Rev. 14:6-7; Rom. 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19

HotD: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," 656

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 Oct. 30th at 6:00 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

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

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life will be assembling kits to ship out on November 9th. These kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Please sign up to contribute the items needed for the kits and leave them in the LWR collection box in the narthex by October 27th.

Cash donations are also needed to cover shipping costs. (Make checks payable to LOL, note for LWR shipping)

THE KITS INCLUDE: one light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52") dark color recommended, two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., in original wrapping, one adult size toothbrush in original packaging, one sturdy comb remove packaging, one pair of metal nail clippers remove packaging.



It's time to celebrate the 509th anniversary of the Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Lord of Life will celebrate this special day in Church History with a Reformation and Oktoberfest potluck after the ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday October 25th! Family Ministry will provide brats, hot dogs, hot dog buns, condiments, and beverages.

There are sign-up sheets in the narthex where you can let us know that you will be in attendance, as well as letting us know what delicious food you will bring to share. Also, if your schedule permits, there are several opportunities to help set up and clean up the fellowship hall on Saturday, October 24th and/or Sunday. Bitte machen Sie mit! (Please, join us!)



- 1 Vincent Kiango
- 1 Mark & Kathy Plagens (49)
- 3 Frank Edelmann
- 5 Charles & Ursula Grantham (2)
- 6 Norma Martin
- 6 Gary Nuschler
- 6 Bennie & Paula Lowery (19)
- 7 Georgianna Womack
- 7 Tim & Jennifer Azzleio (31)
- 9 Sandi-Jean Morscheck
- 9 Jason & Karla Rempert (33)
- 10 Rose Moore
- 10 Emory Smith
- 10 Gary & Sarah Nuschler, Jr. (17)
- 11 Tim Ozlowski
- 14 Travis & Elisabeth Bennett (9)
- 16 Adam Buckmeier
- 19 Mike Sparks
- 21 Scott & Wendy Cleavenger (26)
- 22 Brian Koslan
- 22 Janet Sanders
- 22 Sal & Julz Cruz (15)
- 23 Don & Paula Bunger (12)
- 24 Mike & Sherri Kunschke (39)
- 25 Daniel Kim
- 26 Richard Barr
- 26 Travis & Jessica Dula (2)
- 27 Jack Cleavenger
- 31 Ruth Bernhardt
- 31 Jonah Carter
- 31 Judie Dibbern
- 31 Danny Ozlowski
- 31 Larry & Carolyn Phillips (62)