

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Season of Growth

This month, Lord of Life will be receiving about 40 new members. Half of them are transfers from St. John Lutheran Church in Frisco which closed earlier this year, but others are newly confirmed adults and transfers from other churches. We are also starting another adult instruction class on Thursday evenings at 7:15 (all are invited to join) with several potential new members. In addition, we have baptized three babies this year. What a blessing and gift from God! God is the one who grows His church (1st Corinthians 3:6) and He does so in His own time and way. All we can do is put forth our best efforts to be faithful, but sometimes that doesn't result in growth. Many factors affect whether or not congregations thrive or decline. Some things we do can go a long way toward bringing new people in and others things will certainly keep people away, but many of the factors are simply out of our hands. All we can say about our current situation is that it has been a tremendous season of growth for Lord of Life and we are thankful to the Lord for His gifts! Look for updated Member Directories to be published later this month.

Narthex Update

The beautification/narthex project is still ongoing. Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback after my presentation at the end of July. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. Many folks offered to give an over-and-above offering to help fund the project. Many also recommended that if we update the floors in the narthex, we should do the sanctuary floor at the same time. After discussing the matter with the Administrative Council last month, that is what we are looking into doing, but we still have a lot of work to do first. The first thing the beautification committee will do is review all the comments and address every suggestion on the feedback forms. Obviously, we cannot give everyone what they want, but we will see to it that everyone will be heard. By the way, that also includes the members of the committee who went back and forth and each made compromises along the way to come up with the project we put forward. So, in summary, we still have more work to do, but things are moving forward.

Minor Prophets

Our Wednesday morning Bible class has been studying the Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel and Amos. We will start the book of Jonah on 9/9. If you've heard me grumbling about them, then I apologize. There's nothing wrong with them, of course, they are just difficult to interpret and thus, to teach. Some of the references are obscure and debated, so it takes a lot of work to really delve into and understand every last word, and even then you can still have uncertainty about what every line of the text means. Fortunately, you can't miss the overall point, which in the case of Hosea, Joel, and Amos, is a lot of strong condemning words of Law. God sent the prophets at that time (8th to 6th Centuries BC) to pronounce judgment against Israel and Judah in the hopes that some would repent and return to the Lord. Each of the prophets also gives hope that the Lord will rescue His people and Christians recognize in them their pointing forward to Christ. Reading the Minor Prophets reminds me to be thankful to God that we are not living in such an age. Sure, we still have much to repent of in our day and age and we always need to hear the Law, but the hope we have on account of Jesus Christ and His work for us in dying and rising is so much better to hear and to share.



A Letter from Our Deaconess

August was a super exciting and busy month! First, I was installed and commissioned as Deaconess at the beginning of the month and got to celebrate with all of you. I'm so blessed to be called by this congregation. I feel so privileged to be able to serve you and grow alongside you through whatever comes our way. Second, we had our first official Board of Outreach meeting! Having this meeting was particularly exciting for me as my main job title here is Director of Outreach.

There are a lot of really good things coming down the pipeline regarding expanding our outreach efforts. Right now, we're still very much in the organization and planning phase. Pastor Shaltanis and I will be leading three separate teams under the umbrella of outreach, namely: social media and online presence, promotional materials, and evangelism. The board of outreach members have been divided into these three teams in order to help keep meetings focused so that we can be more effective in our efforts.

Social media and online presence will focus on what type of content we will be producing for our Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram pages, what metrics we can track in order to expand our reach and boost our engagement across these platforms, and organizing volunteers who wouldn't mind being in pictures and content to help with these efforts. This team will also be looking into search engine optimization and Google Ad Grants to increase our website's visibility and traffic. All very exciting things we can't wait to get started on!

Promotional materials will focus on finding promotional items for our members to use to promote the wonderful church family we have here at Lord of Life. These would be things for your own personal use, as well as things meant to be given away as an evangelism tool. We have tossed around the idea of getting Lord of Life polos, T-shirts, magnets, pens, and other such items. If you have seen a good promotional item that you thought was effective and think it may be a good idea for us to try, please let Pastor Shaltanis know!

Last but not least is evangelism. This team would focus on taking evangelism training through programs like Every One His Witness and other LCMS evangelism programs. Then, the idea, as I understand it, is to offer these courses to members of the congregation who would like to be trained in evangelism so we can better equip you to go out and speak about your faith to those around you.

Of course, all of these things are works in progress, and the progress is slow but sure. I'm excited to see what comes out of our outreach efforts and look forward to sharing more with you as things develop. Keep the Board of Outreach in your prayers as we work to find effective ways to share the gospel with those in our community!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Deaconess Paige Rebber



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

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In September

September 6: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezek. 33:7-9; Rom. 13:1-10; Matt. 18:1-20

HotD: "My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker," 820

September 13: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 50:15-21; Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

HotD: "Come Down, O Love Divine," 501

September 20: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 55:6-9; Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30; Matt. 20:1-16

HotD: "Salvation unto Us Has Come," 555

September 27: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32; Phil. 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18; Matt. 21:23-27 (28-32)

HotD: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," 655

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 Sept. 18th at 6:00 PM for Bible study

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., Sept. 12th 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, Sept. 20th at 6 PM for Bible study and dinner

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life will be assembling kits in November 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)

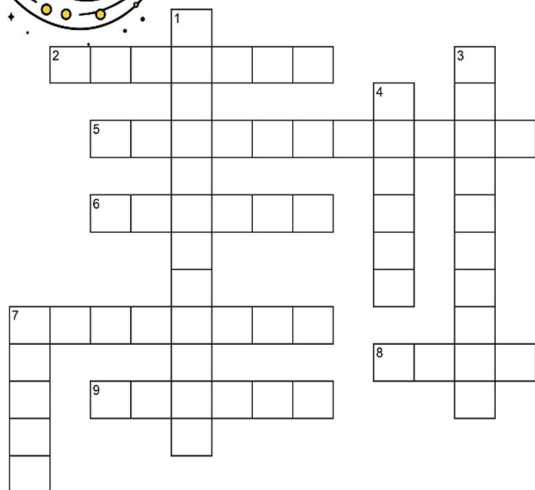
THE KITS INCLUDE: one light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52") dark color recommended, two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., in original wrapping, one adult size toothbrush in original packaging, one sturdy comb remove packaging, one pair of metal nail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

Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: rejoice, 5 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: mourn, 3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: hunger



- 2 Bill Bennett
- 2 Max Cleavenger
- 2 Candace Klein
- 2 Fred & Ruth Bernhardt (59)
- 3 Gail Senter
- 6 Dave & Dee Peters (62)
- 7 Robert & Heather Padgett (23)
- 9 Mary Farmer
- 9 Mike & Monique Phelan (16)
- 12 Evi Meyer
- 12 Carrie Ziegelbein
- 13 Charlotte Reeves
- 16 Sarah Kim
- 16 Andrew Short
- 20 Emory Thomason
- 21 Angie Buckmeier
- 21 Mike Scaglione
- 22 Mike Kunschke
- 22 Gary Nuschler, Jr.
- 23 Nora Parrent
- 26 Mirien Senter
- 27 Jerry Parish
- 28 AJ Kade
- 28 Elena Koslan
- 29 Carl Carper
- 30 Jennifer Azzelio
- 30 Beverly Moudy



AND GOD SAID,
"Let there be lights"
 in the expanse of the
 heavens to separate the day
 from the night. And let them be for signs
 and for seasons, and for days and years."

Genesis 1:14