

AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

Matthew 13:45



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
Plano, Texas**



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## **Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

3601 W. 15th Street, Plano, Texas 75075

Rev. Joel A. Shaltanis, Pastor ([pastorshaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorshaltanis@yahoo.com))

Scott Peters, Director of Youth Ministry ([speters@planolutheran.com](mailto:speters@planolutheran.com))

Victoria Frinsko, Director of Music ([vicki@planolutheran.com](mailto:vicki@planolutheran.com))

(972) 867-5588

[www.planolutheran.com](http://www.planolutheran.com) † [office@planolutheran.com](mailto:office@planolutheran.com)

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### **Our Mission Statement**

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

### **A Prayer before Worship**

*We are weak and sick, O Father, and the temptations of the flesh and the world are great and many. O Father, keep us, and let us not fall again into temptation and sin. Give us grace that we may remain steadfast and fight bravely to the end. Without your grace and help we can do nothing, Amen. (M. Luther, 1483-1546)*

### **Large Print Bulletin and Children's Bulletin**

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Children's Activity Bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher if you would like to use either of these options.

### **Nursery/Cry Room**

The nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. It will not be staffed until further notice. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

### **Access Services Online**

If you would like to see a service that you missed or would just like to see it again, please visit our website at [planolutheran.com/resources/bulletins-and-services](http://planolutheran.com/resources/bulletins-and-services) for past videos and bulletins.

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## The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

8 AM, 9:30 AM and 11 AM

Service of Prayer and Preaching – *LSB 260*

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### Prelude

### Entrance Hymn

“Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”

*LSB 573*



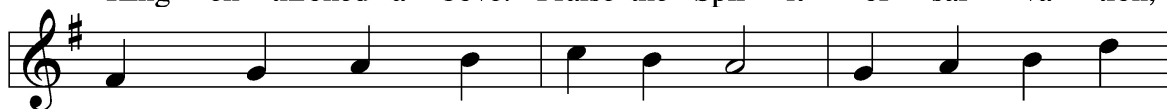
1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could  
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my dark - ened  
△ 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be; For this heart would still re - fuse Thee Had Thy  
heart and mind; Else the world had yet en - thrall'd me, To Thy  
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and



grace not cho - sen me. Thou hast from the sin that stained me  
heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship none a - bove Thee;  
King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion,



Washed and cleansed and set me free And un - to this  
For Thy grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,  
Him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed



end or - dained me, That I ev - er live to Thee.  
if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.  
ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

### Opening Versicles

*LSB 260*

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Psalm 118:24*

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

*Psalm 113:3*

**P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
**C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
**C** **Teach me Your paths.**

**P** Sanctify us in Your truth.  
**C** **Your Word is truth.**

*Psalm 84:10, 25:4, John 17:17*

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

*Psalm 113:3*

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Old Testament Canticle

*Isaiah 12:2b-6; LSB 261*

*Refrain*



**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



*Refrain*



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will  
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*  
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Sit*

## +++Readings from Holy Scripture+++

### Old Testament

*Deuteronomy 7:6–9*

**P** A reading from Deuteronomy, the seventh chapter.

<sup>6</sup>“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## Psalm

*Psalm 125; antiphon: v. 2*



Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount | Zion,\*  
which cannot be moved, but abides for- | ever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his | people,\*  
from this time forth and for- | evermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the | righteous,\*  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to | do wrong.

**Do good, O LORD, to those | who are good,\*  
and to those who are upright | in their hearts!**

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evil- | doers! \*  
Peace be upon | Israel!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his | people,\*  
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:28–39*

**P** A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

<sup>28</sup>We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

<sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:44–52*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Responsory

*Psalm 119:89, 26:8, Luke 11:28; LSB 263*

**P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

## +++Catechism+++

## Ten Commandments

*Exodus 20:2-17; LSB 264*

**C** **You shall have no other gods.**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.**

**You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day

“From God Can Nothing Move Me”

*LSB 713 sts. 1–2, 4*



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side  
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure  
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.  
Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.  
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,  
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.  
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.  
I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.  
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!



## Sermon

*(Ordinarily, this is the time to collect our offerings. As we are forgoing passing a plate, baskets have been placed at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also mail your offerings or contribute online from our website's "Giving" link.)*

*Stand*

## Prayer

LSB 265

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** For the sick and dying, and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**  
**P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## Collect of the Day

- P** Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ,

Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Morning Prayer

LSB 266

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### New Testament Canticle

*1 Corinthians 15:20a, 5-7b, Romans 6:9-11*



**C** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He



lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to  
 sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.  
*Refrain*  
 Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -  
 lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Blessing**

*Psalm 103:1; LSB 267*

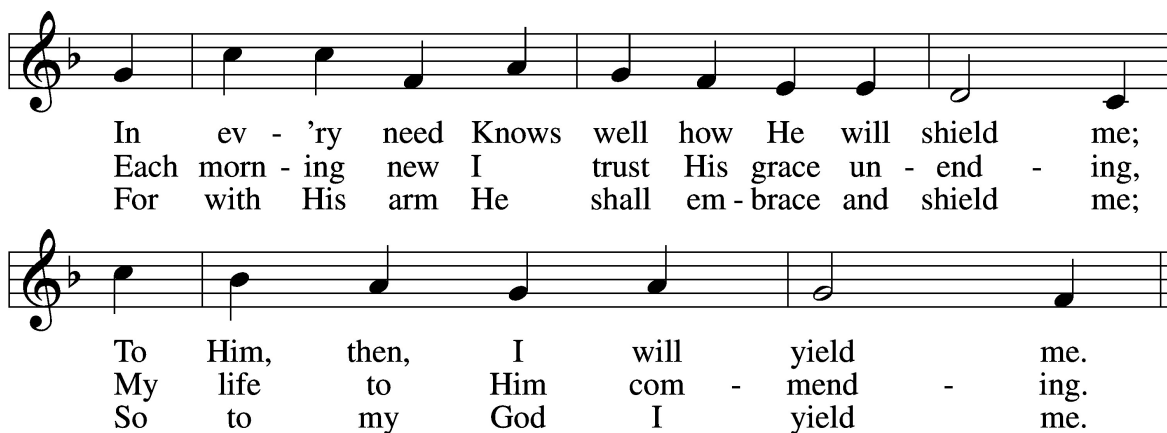
- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
  
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

“What God Ordains Is Always Good”

*LSB 760 sts. 1, 3, 6*

1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is  
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing  
 6 What God or - dains is al - ways good: This truth re -  
 just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,  
 thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup  
 mains un - shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or death be mine,  
 I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed  
 That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;  
 I shall not be for - sak - en. I fear no harm,



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;  
 Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,  
 For with His arm He shall em - brace and shield me;

To Him, then, I will yield me.  
 My life to Him com - mend - ing.  
 So to my God I yield me.

*Sit*

## Announcements

### Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

*An offering may be placed in the basket as you exit.*

## Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

Regular classes have been canceled until further notice. There will be an online Adult Bible study on Colossians Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Please watch your email for how to participate using Zoom.

## Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Lord of Life wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for our members and can be setup for automatic giving intervals as well as one-time contributions. To set up electronic offering visit the church website at [www.planolutheran.com](http://www.planolutheran.com), locate the "Giving" link and follow the instructions. Or search for our mobile giving app, "Give+ Mobile" at the App Store or Google Play. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Tabor at [rhondatabor@verizon.net](mailto:rhondatabor@verizon.net). Thank you!

## Portals of Prayer/Lutheran Witness

If you would like to make a donation to cover your cost of the Portals of Prayer and the Lutheran Witness, please place a check for \$20 in the offering plate with the notation *Lutheran Witness*.

## amazon smile Benefits Lord of Life

When you shop at Amazon, use the link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2109773> when you log on and your purchases will benefit Lord of Life Lutheran Church. We received \$128.76 as a result of AmazonSmile activity between January 1 and March 31, 2020! Thank you!

## A "Good Neighbor" to Lord of Life

If you shop Tom Thumb regularly, complete a Reward Card application (available from the cashier) and link your card to **Good Neighbor Code #2775**. From then on, your purchases will benefit Lord

of Life Lutheran Church. We received \$71.22 from Tom Thumb purchases between January 1 and March 31, 2020! Thank you!



### Community Rewards

If you shop Kroger regularly, link your Kroger Plus Card to Lord of Life (**BW594**) in their Community Rewards program, then your purchases will benefit Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This selection must be renewed every August or it is dropped from your Kroger Plus Card – check your receipts if you're not sure where your rewards are going. We received \$44.94 from Kroger purchases between February 27, 2020 and May 26, 2020 from 20 households! Thank you!

### Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Measuring a field's dimensions cannot diminish the value of a treasure buried there (Matthew 13:44). So however pretty, popular, or productive, however controversial the politics and however personal the choices, do the rest of us amount to any more than embryos or incapacitated hospital patients when compared to the Almighty Maker of heavens and earth? The Lord God actually has a preference for small (Deuteronomy 7:7). The less we have, the more He gets to give. And since He will have us, He wants every member of our race.

### This week on KFUO.org

Hear the comfort of the Gospel daily on Moments of Assurance (weekdays at 12:00 p.m. CT, weekends at 7:00 a.m. CT), worship with us in Daily Chapel services at 10:00 a.m. CT, and continue studying the book of Judges on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs, including the new Lutheran Witness podcast, on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org)!

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### Salvation Outline

The following seven points summarize the basic information about the human condition and God's saving grace. You may want to memorize these points so that you may share them with someone who does not yet believe in Jesus as his or her Savior.

1. *God loves you!* "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (**John 3:16**).
  2. *You are a sinner.* "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (**Rom. 3:23**).
  3. *God punishes sin.* "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Rom. 6:23**).
  4. *Jesus took our punishment.* "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (**Rom. 5:8**).
  5. *Jesus rose from the dead.* "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (**1 Cor. 15:3–4**).
  6. *Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who believe in Him.* "Then he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household'" (**Acts 16:30–31**).
  7. *Salvation is free—a gift from God.* "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (**Eph. 2:8–9**).
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## Remember in Our Prayers...

### **Prayers for Home-Bound Members**

Joanne Benner, June Edelman, Dick & Vera Hemingway, Wayne Massie, Myrna Schulze, and Shirley Sparks

### **Prayers for Special Needs, Healing, Comfort & Peace: Members**

Jan Carper is being treated for cancer.

Gary Holtzman is being treated for cancer.

Al Martin has been hospitalized and is recovering and will have a heart catheterization.

Leo Parrent is in a rehab center.

Shirley Sparks has reinjured her elbow and needs surgery to repair it.

Jean Spraez has been hospitalized with balance issues.

### **Prayers for Special Needs, Healing, Comfort and Peace: Family Members and Friends**

*(Names will be removed periodically; your request will add them again.)*

Harlyn Blanscom (Mary Ravitz's great-granddaughter) was born 8 weeks early and is in the NICU.

Christopher Borck (Catherine's brother) is recovering from brain surgery to reduce epileptic seizures.

Diane Fiedler (Nancy Cawood's mother) needs a complete shoulder replacement.

Judy Foster (Pat Greer's sister) had her metastatic breast cancer identified in her liver.

Mary Green (Rebecca Short's mother) is recovering from ankle replacement surgery.

Tony Hernandez (Lord of Life's employee) is recovering from surgery.

† Verna Mae Herzog (Alyson Wood's grandmother) is receiving hospice care.

Eddie Hewitt (Suzie Williams' grandson) has been diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis which results in seizures requiring hospitalization.

Karen Hunt (Georgianna Womack's friend) has had her cancer return.

Richard LaFond (Rhonda Tabor's uncle) has been placed on hospice care with pancreatic cancer.

Mike Lindeman (Norma Martin's nephew) is being treated for mantle cell lymphoma.

Lamar Livingston (Dave Senter's friend) fell and broke his hip and is having blood pressure issues.

† Howard Miessler (Carol Ozlowski's father) is back at his assisted living apartment, recovering from his hospitalization. He did not have a stroke or seizure.

Mildred Ott (Cathleen's mother-in-law) is 88 years old and has COVID-19.

Kim Russ (Lund family friend) was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Janet Smith (Dave and Dee Peters' niece) is recovering from surgery and receiving radiation therapy.

Keith Stevenson (Rhonda Tabor's brother-in-law) has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.

Allen Struckmeyer (Cathleen Ott's brother) is recovering from surgery for a cancerous brain tumor.

Jim Wilkins (Suzanne Gabriel's father) fell, re-injuring a knee, and is a lot of pain.

### **Thanksgiving and Blessing Prayers**

† Emma Grabow (Paul and Suzan Grabow's granddaughter) was born July 21 and is healthy.

*Birthdays:* David Armstrong, John Frinsko, Winona Parish, Kenneth Tabor

*Anniversaries:* Phillip & Candace Klein, Charles & Dixie Hacker, Brian & Devrie Hahn

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† Indicates a new prayer request. Request may be given to pastor or sent to the office through email or our website.

**Serving Our Worship Today:**

Pastor:	Rev. Joel Shaltanis
Organist:	Victoria Frinsko
Altar Guild:	Laurie George and Nancy Cawood
Elder:	Mark Ziegelbein

**This Week at Lord of Life-Today, July 26**

8:00 am      Worship Service  
9:30 am      Worship Service  
11:00 am     Worship Service

**Wenesday, July 29**

9:00 am      VBS  
7:00 pm      Adult Bible Study Online

**Next Sunday's Readings  
August 2, 2020**

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:1-5  
Epistle:      Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)  
Gospel:      Matthew 14:13-21



The flower arrangements on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Jerry Parish in celebration of Winona's birthday; and by Jerry & Winona Parish in loving memory of Jerry's mother, Doris Parish.



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** Like a merchant selling everything to have a pearl of immeasurable value, Jesus was willing to give everything to have us. Even though we are tarnished by our sin, Jesus sees each of us as precious and invaluable in His sight. He was willing to give His very life so that we may "be His own and live under Him in His kingdom" (Small Catechism, Explanation of the Second Article). Catechism: © 1986 CPH.