

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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My apologies. This newsletter is late because of me. I did not get my article written before leaving town. I had a lot to get done before taking our youth to Higher Things as this year I presented a topic at the conference and also gave one of the sermons. This meant I had a lot of things to get ready before leaving and then, unexpectedly, we had two funerals in the weeks prior. All of this being the case, my article was put on the back burner and I am just getting to it now. Again, I apologize for the inconvenience of receiving this letter late.

Higher Things. We had another great trip and conference with our youth. 21 people from Lord of Life (Three adult chaperones and 18 youth) traveled to Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. We left after church on June 23rd and arrived that evening in Lincoln, NE. The next day the conference started and what an experience it was! The theme this year was "Concordia" and appropriately, all five conferences are being held at different Concordia Universities across the country. At our conference there were about 450 people present, most of them were high school youth, but a number of pastors, youth workers and some younger and older kids were also in attendance. We had worship services in the morning, afternoon, and evening every day led by a variety of pastors from different places. I was invited to preach at one of the Matins services and considered it a real honor to be asked. Truth be told, I preached at a Higher Things conference about 10 years ago in Irvine, CA and took some flak for exceeding (or maybe doubling) the 5 minute time limit I was given. I haven't been asked to preach again until this year when at last the organization was willing to take another chance! So, I worked hard to turn in a 5 minute sermon this time (which I was told, ended up being closer to 7 minutes.) Higher Things has loosened the schedule up quite a bit from those early years to allow more flex time in between worship services and all the sessions. Now all of the preachers tend to exceed the 5 minute limit and mine was one of the shorter sermons, so hopefully it won't be another decade until the next time I get to preach!

In addition to worship, the Higher Things conferences offer plenary speakers and several smaller breakout sessions where students can choose among various topics and speakers. This year one of the plenary speakers was Rev. Joel Fritsche, missionary to the Dominican Republic. This year I also decided to lead one of the breakout sessions and the topic I chose was: suicide. By no means was it a feel-good topic, but it is an important one to talk about with youth. Suicide is now the 2nd highest leading cause of death among young people. The suicide rate has increased steadily for 20 years, which means even if the students at Higher Things do not have to deal with suicidal thoughts themselves, nevertheless, they will likely have to deal with the fallout of a suicide from a classmate, coworker, or even a family member or friend. As a pastor, I have been asked about this topic on numerous occasions, so basically my presentation sought to help young Christians think through the issue and learn what the Bible has to say about it. When I was young, I was simply told that if someone committed suicide, they did not live to repent of their sin and were damned as a result of it. This all-too-common answer is all-too-simple and doesn't help people who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to suicide. That answer also does not reflect more modern understandings of mental illness. I plan to give my presentation during the adult Bible Study

hour some Sunday at Lord of Life, so if this topic is interesting to you, watch the bulletins for information and plan to attend.

Iowa. Because the HT conference was in Nebraska this year, I took the opportunity to visit my father in Iowa afterwards. I really appreciated the time off and the opportunity to be with my family. We had a great time and even got to take the kids to Adventureland –the amusement park where I spent many fun-filled summer days as a youth. It was a great trip, but it is also good to be back.

In Memorial...

Phyllis Summer. At age 97, Phyllis' death on June 6th was not a surprise. She had declined over the last few months; however, it is remarkable that up until this time, she had been so healthy for so much of her very long life. She was the oldest living member of Lord of Life. Phyllis loved her family and her church and was deeply committed to both. As a church member, she was a Stephen's Minister and Sunday school teacher, she volunteered in LWML and participated in small groups. (Most of her volunteering and was over by the time I met her, so if she did even more than I've mentioned, it would not surprise me.) Before she stopped driving, Phyllis would drop in to the church office just to say hello and see what was going on. She spoke openly and excitedly about her faith in God and shared the joy she had with others. Phyllis touched many lives and was loved by many. Her memorial service was held at Lord of Life on the 22nd. She will be missed.

Joyce Bamsch. A few days after Phyllis passed away, Joyce Bamsch ended her time on earth on June 9th at the age of 84. Joyce was a joyful soul and a charter member of our congregation. I got to know Joyce over the years and quickly learned that Joyce was a devout Christian whose love of Christ permeated all aspects of her life. Joyce had been in declining health for some time, but in the days leading up to her death it became increasingly obvious that death was inevitable. Accordingly, Joyce and I shared some very frank discussions about death and her desire to depart and be with Christ. On the day of her death, Joyce gave a moving demonstration of her faith, calling all of her children and grandchildren to her side and urging them to be faithful to God and go to church. When I prayed with her the last time, it was

after she also encouraged me with Scripture and blessings. What a beautiful way to die; what a tremendous witness to give! We had a great funeral for Joyce on the 15th with many in attendance.



prepare for worship in July

Sunday, July 7: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18;
Luke 10:1-20

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Has Come and Brings
Pleasure," 533

Sunday, July 14: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Leviticus 19:9-18; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke
10:25-37

Hymn of the Day: "Where Charity and Love
Prevail," 845

Sunday, July 21: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Genesis 18:1-10a; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke
10:38-42

Hymn of the Day: "One Thing's Needful," 536

Sunday, July 28: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Genesis 18:20-33; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke
11:1-13

Hymn of the Day: "Our Father, Who from
Heaven Above," 766

Mission Giving at Lord of Life

As a part of our congressional stewardship, we put aside a percentage of our offerings for the District and also give directly to support various mission needs. These mission needs are in our community and beyond.

Each quarter, the board of Elders allocates the mission offerings to various mission opportunities. Here are the organizations our congregation is currently supporting.

Lutheran Bible Translators - Miller Family

- LoL supports the Miller Family in their mission with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT). LBT is an independent Lutheran mission organization that's mission is to make God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. For more information, visit lbt.org.

Fritsche Family - Dominican Republic Missionary

- LoL supports the Fritsche Family in their mission in the Dominican Republic. The main priority of a missionary is to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard the Good News. LCMS missionaries usually share that Good News in the language of the people they serve. When the Holy Spirit begins to gather people into Christian fellowship, missionaries assist these new Christians in forming their own indigenous church leaders. For more information, visit www.lcms.org/service.

Ryan McDermott - Africa Missionary

- LoL supports Ryan McDermott in his Ghana Mission. LCMS missionary teams are made up of people who focus on planting churches, leadership formation or some type of locally initiated holistic services in areas of health, agriculture, community development, English-as-a-Foreign-Language classes or partner support activities. For more information, visit www.lcms.org/service.

Lutheran Public Radio / Issues Etc.

- Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken. For more information and show archives, visit issuesetc.org.

Assistance Center of Collin County

- The Assistance Center of Collin County provides direct and referral assistance to Collin County residents in crisis and set them on a path to long-term economic independence and self-sufficiency through financial literacy and life management programs. To learn more, visit assistancecenter.org.

Hope's Door

- 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. Their website is, hdnbc.org.

Real Options for Women

- 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 or possible STI infection. They offer free and confidential pregnancy testing, sonograms, options assessment, community resources and STI screenings. For more information, go to realoptionstx.com.

Lord of Life Scholarship Quarterly Expense

Lord of Life Lutheran Church recognizes that the cost of Christian elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education can be a financial burden on students and families. Our Lutheran Educational Scholarship Program is designed to assist with this worthy investment as part of our mission to expand Christ's kingdom on earth. For information on eligibility and the application process, visit planolutheran.com/youth, scroll down the page and click on Lutheran Education Scholarship.

Following are the specific mission distributions for the 1st Quarter of 2019:

Lutheran Bible Translators - Miller Family	\$1,000.00
Fritsche Family - Dominican Republic Missionary	\$2,000.00
Ryan McDermott - Africa Missionary	\$2,000.00
Lutheran Public Radio / Issues Etc.	\$500.00
Assistance Center of Collin County	\$500.00
Hope's Door	\$500.00
Real Options for Women	\$500.00
Lord of Life Scholarship Quarterly Expense	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$7,500.00

Greg Moudy
Board of Elders

LWML 38th Biennial Convention Summary



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) welcomed 3105 people with 691 as first timers to the LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, June 20–23, 2019, under the theme "In Praise to the LORD!" The convention theme was based on 1 Chronicles 16:23–24a.

LWML Sets 2019–2021 Mission Goal at \$2.1 Million

Delegates to the 38th Biennial Convention of the LWML adopted a \$2,100,000 mission goal for the 2019–2021 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 21 mission grants as men and women respond in prayer and offerings during the next two years. LWML chose to support the following mission grants, pledging their support with prayers and mites (offerings) given over the next biennium:

1. Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya, **\$80,000**
2. Teach Me Too – Preschoolers with Learning Needs in Austin, TX (LSEM), **\$100,000**
3. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa (LHM), **\$100,000**
4. God's Grace for This Generation (LAMP), **\$100,000**
5. God's Word Changes Everything (LBT), **\$95,000**
6. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus in Guatemala, **\$100,000**
7. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families—Camp Restore Detroit, **\$100,000**
8. Lights for Christ Scholarships in Guatemala, **\$95,000**
9. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation in Wyoming (WRLM), **\$40,000**
10. Ministry in Motion at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, AL, **\$58,000**
11. Touching the Living Word (LBW), **\$100,000**

12. Women's Witness and Mercy in Asia (Mission Central), **\$100,000**
13. Digital Media Development (LFL), **\$30,000**
14. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln, NE, **\$50,000**
15. Pre- and Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers in Africa, **\$62,650**
16. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow (LCMS School Ministries), **\$80,000**
17. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere (KFUO Radio), **\$60,000**
18. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction (LCMS Office of International Mission), **\$50,000**
19. Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, **\$100,000**
20. Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border in El Paso, TX, **\$98,400**
21. LCMS Deaconess Ministry (LCMS Office of International Mission), **\$39,523**

The voting body elected the following to serve as officers, Counselor, and nominating committee:

- Debbie Larson, Rocky Mountain District
President
- Marie Chow, Washington-Alaska District
Vice President of Organizational Resources
- Deaconess Betty Knapp, North Wisconsin District
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- Karla Koehler, Nebraska North District
Treasurer
- Rev. Brian B. Noack, Atlantic District
Junior Pastoral Counselor
- Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain District
Nominating Committee
- Carrie Brumbaugh, Wyoming District
Nominating Committee
- Mary Harrington, North Wisconsin District
Nominating Committee
- Crystal Miller, Nebraska North District
Nominating Committee
- Brianne Stahlecker, Nebraska South District
Nominating Committee Chairman

Lastly, LWML President Patti Ross presented the newly designed LWML Mite Box, now available in the LWML Store. The LWML Convention was broadcasted via Livestream which may be viewed along with convention highlights at www.lwml.org/2019-convention.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global missions.

Teen Times

During the last week of June, the Sr. IMPACT Youth Group attended the Higher Things youth conference on the campus of Concordia University Nebraska in Seward, NE. We, along with 500 or so Lutheran youth and adults from across the country, spent four days in worship, Bible studies called breakout sessions, fellowship, and fun times. The theme was “Concordia” to show how God wants us to be “in harmony” with Him. It took many months to plan, raise funds, and organize this trip. It is designed to IMPACT the lives of our youth through the work of the Holy Spirit. During the return trip home, I asked all of the participants from Lord of Life to reflect on their experiences; here is what they had to say:

The whole experience was very eye-opening! The breakout sessions were my favorite. My favorite session was the one about “Therapeutic Christianity.” I learned a lot and I feel a lot more prepared to defend my faith. I like how independent everything was and you have to be an adult. The worship services were good, and it was cool to see so many people together worshipping in unity, sharing their passion for Christ, and glorifying God. I’m also now more thankful that my pastor only asks rhetorical questions during sermons.

Nate Reinert

The theme was great, the food was great, the weather was great, the campus was beautiful. I think I got a lot out of it.

Anonymous

Higher Things was very good this year. The sessions were great and informative. The organ was amazing as always, and we had a lot of fun playing ultimate Frisbee with one of the pastors.

Anonymous

I loved the conference this year. It is always great to worship with other people of my faith. When 500 people are singing a song or saying The Lord’s Prayer, it sticks with you. I learned lots of new things that I plan to use with my friends. I am looking forward to next year!

Garrett Hacker

I thought the closing song of the closing worship service was the most powerful and awesome moment on the trip.

Anonymous

I liked the breakout sessions and playing ultimate Frisbee.

Anonymous

As usual, I really liked the hymns we sang, especially when the organ cut out. I enjoyed the breakout sessions. There were several interesting ones such as “What about Disability?” and “Christianity after Christendom; The Rise of Therapeutic Christianity.” I wish there were more breakout sessions because I didn’t get to go to all of the ones I was interested in. I learned a lot.

Amanda Kunschke

My favorite part of this Higher Things was not only when my faith was strengthened in God, but also when I went to the “disability” session and it made me think differently.

Noah Reinert

My favorite church services were the opening and closing Divine Services because of the hymns that were played. They were very iconic and the ones played were some of my favorites. My favorite breakout session was the one on exorcisms and demons. The speaker was really good and I learned a lot of new things; especially on the supernatural aspect of stuff. Overall, I enjoyed hanging out with friends. The food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner were all great, and the meals were some of the best I have had on a school campus.

Anonymous

It was really fun to choose breakout sessions that interested us, to worship with an interactive group in a big sanctuary, to hear other pastors speak, and to associate with other Lutherans. The campus was nice, the dorms were comfortable, and I liked that we were able to balance the worships and lectures with free time and fun. **Anonymous**

This year at Higher Things, I found the breakaways very intriguing. The points of view on different topics were well supported by biblical verses. My favorite was the one called, "Why Are You Lutheran?" It showed how to approach telling others about Lutherans and how it differs from Baptists and Catholics. Also, the small campus made it less painful to get from point A to point B. **Anonymous**

Higher Things was quite the experience. All of the breakout sessions were very unique and interesting. The competition between Tetramorphs was really fun! I loved how everyone tried their best to represent their Tetramorph. Trying to complete the challenges each day was quite the endeavor. The people were really kind and I made lots of new friends. I really liked the idea of multiple services/things each day. There was quite a lot of singing. The comfort dog, Nicodemus, was really cute and had the softest fur!!! The cafeteria had delicious food and the French toast was top tier! I'm glad we had the opportunity to go to this camp and make friends while learning!! (Also, playing Super Smash Bros. Brawl on the Wii was really fun!) I made lots of new friends. The breakout sessions were awesome! Enough said. **Emma Padgett**

Every time I go to Higher Things, I always feel as if I appreciate it more every time. This year was the same, but I felt this year really strengthened my faith. Whether it is the sermons or the breakout sessions, the liturgy or the hymns, I loved every bit of this conference and I am eagerly awaiting next year's Higher Things. Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible! **Anonymous**

My favorite part of Higher Things is the fellowship. It's a week where you get to praise Jesus and study His word with your friends all day, every day, and have so much fun while doing it! **Caitlyn Moudy**

I loved the singing during worship - especially when the organ drops out, and communing with 500 voices singing "For All the Saints." **Phaedra S.**

Need I say more? Well, yes I need to say this; Higher Things 2019 ranks in the top three of all youth trips that I have been a part of over the last ten years at Lord of Life. We have the best group of teenagers at our church. If I asked them to do something, they did it. If I asked them to be somewhere at a particular time, they were there. They look after each other and interact with each other. I received many compliments from HT staff and other group leaders about them. "Oh, they are the group from Texas!" was something I heard quite often. I am so thankful that God has placed them in my life and allowed me to lead our youth ministry. I am also thankful to all of you for your support and prayers. May God continue to do great things in the lives of these young people!

Until next time,

Scott Peters



Lord of Life Small Groups

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

† For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or

itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net

† Usually meet one Saturday a month at 2pm

EPIC PARENTING

† For couples with kids

† For info contact Ben Scarth

BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com

† Usually meet 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

† Usually meets one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

† For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974

† Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

† For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771

† Will meet the Sat. July 20th at 6:30 PM

TWENTY SOMETHINGS

† For couples and singles in their twenties

† For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com

† The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service





July
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Don Bunger
- 2 Ana Scarth
- 2 Emily Scarth
- 2 Vincent & Peggy Scagliano (59)
- 3 Nelda Schrank
- 5 Mike Phelan
- 7 Joe Bob Isbell
- 7 Sylvia Rippey
- 8 Emma Padgett
- 10 Brooks Smith
- 12 Donovan Cawood
- 12 Susan Grabow
- 13 Carter Bunger
- 13 Sandy Ehrett
- 13 Ethan Hacker
- 13 Garrett Hacker
- 13 Jason & Sarah Sowers (6)
- 14 Carol Nance
- 17 Annie Joseph
- 17 Becky Padgett
- 17 Ben & Melanie Scarth (9)
- 19 Carolyn Moudy
- 19 Emma Ziegelbein
- 19 Noah Ziegelbein
- 20 Don Padgett
- 20 Magdalena Shaltanis
- 23 Charlie & Lynda Abbott (53)
- 24 Jonelle Peters
- 24 Matt Sims
- 26 John Frinsko
- 26 Winona Parish
- 29 Phil & Candace Klein (30)
- 30 Kenneth Tabor
- 30 Charles & Dixie Hacker (25)

Mark your calendars...

Lord of Life end of summer bash on **Sunday, August 25, 2019**

We'll have a quick lunch of hot dogs and chips, followed by a selection of homemade ice cream. If you have your own ice cream maker, or can get one, please make plans to present your very best recipe, as we'll be having a contest to find the best gourmet.

Serving in Worship in July

	July 7	July 14		July 21		July 28	
	10:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Elder	Read	Ziegelbein		Peters		Kunschke	
Common Cup	Moudy			Read	Hite		
Altar	Laurie George and Barbara Sinclair						
Acolyte							
Greeter	Rippey	Schrank	Manning	Hampton	Bennett/Tyler	Vess	Abbott/Moore
Sound	Shaltanis	Wikerson	Reinert	Wolf	Hite	G Hacker	Wolf
Usher	Ziegelbein Shaltanis Ozlowski Loewecke	Paradise Read Frinsko	Carter Moudy Cruz	Prescott Ozlowski Messinger	Parish Olmann Berger	C Hacker E Hacker Schrank	Short Strecker Buckmeier



FINANCIAL REPORT January - May, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$241,682	\$234,624	\$7,058
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$241,682	\$234,624	\$7,058
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$233,543	\$223,453	\$10,090
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$8,139	\$11,171	(\$3,032)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$112,654
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$145,864
3. Building Note Balance	\$248,371