

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A friend of mine recently sent me a gift, it was an outstanding devotion on the hymn, "For All the Saints." He said he had written it for his church's newsletter and added, "You are free to use as you desire, even using names from your parish as appropriate." Like I said, this was a real gift. I have a number of eulogies and other news items below in this newsletter, but I thought this excellent devotion by my friend, Henry Gerike, would be a good way to start off the newsletter. (Incidentally, Henry is the editor and composer of several hymns in the Lutheran Service Book.) I hope you enjoy this devotion as much as I did! -PrS

For All the Saints

Halloween candy and costumes are now on sale, perhaps the only remnants of the "trick-or-treat" holiday. Among the costumed beggars of that night, few were dressed up as saints. Yet, if we look closely, we see everyday people in costumes as sinners and saints at church, school, workplaces, homes, and stores.

Daily we are reminded that we are sinners—not simply costumed for a time—but deep down, underneath the costume of our lives, sinners who daily sin and revolt against God and alienate our neighbor.

Strange that Apostle Paul and the Scriptures address us as *saints*, "holy ones," the people of God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus. To our surprise and eternal relief, we are made God's holy ones "through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). In making us holy, Jesus has set us apart for His purposes, giving us not a costume, but the white robe of His righteousness to wear now and forever.

In making us holy, Christ links us together with fellow saints, brothers and sisters in the family of God, blood relatives redeemed by the blood of Jesus—"from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9), those who have gone before us and those who will come after us in the faith. In Christ Jesus, we are all connected with the saints "who from their labors rest," with those who shine in glory as well as with those of us who feebly struggle through life on this earth—a "blest communion, [a] fellowship divine."

We are grateful that Bishop William How (1823-97) gave us words to thank God for all the saints, words to thank our Captain Lord for being the rock, the fortress, and the might of those who have come through the well-fought fight of life. Even when we forget, Bishop How reminds us that God sustained our blood relatives through difficult times, strengthening them to battle evil, being their light in the darkest days of disease, despair, and death. As God strengthened those who have come before us, so He strengthens us with His Word and Sacraments.

Daily we feebly struggle, yet the "distant triumph song" steals on our ear, braves our heart, and strengthens our arms for service. Yet this year, as with every year, seemingly all too soon comes rest for faithful, fellow warriors, for loved ones. As we recall the names and lives of these loved ones, we give thanks for all who, before the world, confessed their Lord Jesus and His name in word and deed.

Yet we know that the final dawn-breaking Day will be the day we are raised triumphant in bright array to join those who have gone before us and follow us—a countless host—in singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost our thanks for all the blessings, for *all* the saints.

Amid our tears of remembrance and joy, there is Bishop How's prayer for us and for all saints who live in this day:

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!!

And the Alleluias of thanks echo through the ages.

Halloween costumes become more bizarre as every year passes. Yet, it is not too much to hope that we will see some costumes that remind us of a Vernon, Donna, Dean, Duane, Lauvenia, Mavis, Barbara, and countless others who wore and still wear the robe of Christ's righteousness. Perhaps we won't see such costumes, yet we still have this hymn, *LSB* 677, and we can see their names and lives there as we sing and read between the lines:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!

For all the saints, indeed! Or as Bishop How first had it: For all *Thy* saints. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rev. Henry V. Gerike
Kantor

Reformation Lutheran Church, Afton, MO



prepare for worship in november

Sunday, Nov 4: All Saints' Day

Texts: GenRev. 7:(2-8)9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12

Hymn of the Day: "O God of mercy, God of might," 852

Sunday, Nov. 11: Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: 1Kings 17:8-16; Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Hymn of the Day: "Lord of all hopefulness," 738

Sunday, Nov. 18: Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Dan. 12:1-3; Heb. 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-13

Hymn of the Day: "The day is surely drawing near," 508

Wednesday, Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Eve

Texts: Deut. 8:1-10; Phi 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Luke 17:11-19

Hymn of the Day: "The day is surely drawing near," 508

Sunday, Nov. 25: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Texts: Is. 51:4-6 or Dan. 7:9-10,13-14; Jude 20-25 or Rev. 1:4b-8; Mark 12:24-37 or John 18:33-37

Hymn of the Day: "Lo! He comes with clouds descending," 336

Blessings and Sorrows: Funerals, Weddings, and Little Ones.

Last month we transferred three members of our congregation to the Church Triumphant:

Lauvenia Barry, died September 28. – Her passing was a total shock. Lauvenia died at CVS Pharmacy while shopping with her daughter. She was almost 83 years old but there was nothing to indicate she was about to die, she hadn't even been sick! Many of us concluded that short of dying in your sleep, this is the way to go: no long hospitalizations, no wasting away from disease, she was in control of her mental faculties until the day she died. Of course, departing so quickly is more difficult for the survivors. I would like to have spent more time with Lauvenia and told her just how much I appreciated her. She was such a pleasant person with the kindest demeanor, and all of it stemmed from her profound and sincere faith in Jesus. The world would be better off if more people were like Lauvenia. She will be dearly missed.

Mavis Anderson, died October 3. – For Mavis, death was a welcome friend. Mavis had suffered the effects of dementia for years. She was widowed when her husband John died a year and a half ago and she lived in a memory care facility. While she was generally happy and received good care, her family and loved ones were happy God called her home where she will be not only whole once again, but glorified and immortal. Mavis was a member of our congregation for 25 years. Many still have fond memories of her working in the kitchen, volunteering, and participating in small group Bible study. Words like, “feisty” and “fiery” are used to describe Mavis back in the day. I never had the chance to know her like that, but I imagine she was a lot of fun. I am happy for her that she is now at perfect peace.

Barbara Botello, died October 22. –Barbara lost her long battle with cancer last month. She had been on our prayer list for a long time. These last months, it was known that

death was imminent. We spoke openly about it and Barbara was well-prepared to meet her Savior. At some point, when she ceased receiving chemotherapy, her overall health seemed to improve. She felt good, or at least had a lot of good days in between the bad ones. One of those days was a Sunday just a few weeks before she died. She wanted to go to church, so she worshipped with us one last time and got to see friends and loved ones in the congregation. Many were surprised when it was announced a week later that she was on hospice care. Barbara and her husband Luis were very close and the best of friends. They enjoyed each other's company and never tired of being with each other. Luis cared for her and provided for her right up until the end. She was a devout and faithful Christian, and a lifelong Lutheran. She used to play violin at church and at her funeral, a friend played violin music she would have loved.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

October was not only a month of losses, we also got to celebrate the wedding of **Michael Coon and Amanda Matthys**, who were married on October 12th at Lord of Life.



This was the first wedding I have performed at the church and it was a beautiful affair. Michael is a lifelong Lutheran from Lusk, Wyoming. He was working as a golf pro at Preston Trails golf course for the last few years. He met his wife Amanda in college at Sam Huston State University in Huntsville. Amanda moved to the area recently and I was privileged to confirm her as she had attended Baptist churches growing up. Some of you may have noticed that Michael and Amanda have not been in attendance lately, this is because they moved to Wyoming four months ago for Michael to take on a new job. Amanda also found work and lived with Michael's parents until the wedding. They came back in October and had a lovely wedding at Lord of Life on the 12th. Lynda Abbot helped with the planning (thank the Lord!) and everything came together beautifully.



John and Mackenzie Ehrett were married October 18th in Leesburg Virginia.

New Additions:



This one is overdue, but with all the funerals and other activity last month, I neglected to mention the birth and baptism of Josephine Diane Barnes. She was born to Jackie and Trent on August 18th and was baptized on September 9th. She is adorable and Jackie and Trent are taking to parenthood like a couple of pros!

Late breaking!

Duncan Francis Bennett was born to Elisabeth and Travis Bennett on All Saints' Day (November 1st) and will be baptized on November 11th. Travis and Elisabeth were married just over one year ago and they are happy to welcome this new addition to their family. With grandmother Charis Bennett and great-grandmother Evelyn Buckmeier, Duncan is now the fourth generation of this family in our congregation!



Christian Freedom

I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger... I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:12-13

Christians are truly free. I found it refreshing to review this idea in my devotional reading yesterday (excerpts below from *To Live with Christ, Daily Devotions by Bo Giertz*).

“Most often we think of freedom as being free *from* something – free from tedious duties and burdening obligations, free to do as we wish. Of course, there is an element of not being restrained in the word *freedom*. The important thing, however, is that a person is still free *to do* something, that he can and is allowed to do something that gives life a purpose and substance. And because God has a good reason for giving us life, real freedom always consists of the possibility to do what God created us for – that we fulfill our direction and be what God intended us to be when He created us”.

“Christians are free to live as God’s children. Christians have the wonderful right to be able to talk to God and live in His presence like a happy child in the company of a kind father. However, because God created all of His children so differently and gave them different gifts, different talents, and different possibilities, freedom must also mean the possibility of using their gifts, developing their talents, and making use of the abilities they received from God.... People should always have the possibility to receive the education and perform the work they’re best suited for”.

Giertz goes on to give the example of Paul who truly understood Christian freedom. Paul experienced hunger and plenty, need and abundance, and yet found total freedom beyond all these earthly things in fulfilling his mission by preaching about Christ. This was freedom for Paul.

Are there times when the encumbrances of obligations and responsibilities make you feel bound and discouraged? The devotion reminded me that when I feel this way I am looking at it wrong. God gives me freedom to do things that give life a purpose and fulfill His will as I use my God-given gifts and talents to serve others.

How about you?

Blessings,

Ben Lutek, Board of Elders

Lord of Life IMPACT Youth Ministry

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Nov. 17th
8 AM - 2 PM

Bring your donated items to church during the week of October 29 to November 2 and place them in the game room. (Room 121).

Proceeds will benefit the 2019 summer youth trip.



LWML mission project for November 2018

The Stewpot offers a safe haven for homeless and at-risk individuals in Dallas. Would you please help **provide** some of the **simple needs that might make living on the streets a little easier**? Our Lutheran Women in Mission will collect and deliver all items to them in December. A box will be designated for any of the following items:

- disposable stick razors, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste,
- small wash cloths, Hotel-size toiletries
- travel size Kleenex, small hand sanitizer, Wet wipes
- Lip balm, sturdy nail clippers
- Small Bible or inspirational book
- Empty Ziploc bags
- Pens or pencils, stationary or cards with stamps
- Hard candy or gum, fast food gift cards(\$5 or less)
- Poncho, small umbrella, Small flashlight with batteries
- knit hats and gloves
- tube socks, padded insoles, small foot powder
- Also, new or gently-used coats and blankets are in need.

If you're unable to provide any of these, notes of encouragement with inspiration or uplifting scriptural passages will be included. If you do this, do not sign your full name or include any personal information, but you may sign our church name.

Please donate by: December 2, 2018



NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jeff Loewecke
4 Caitlyn Moudy
4 Peggy Stagliano
7 Leo & Nora Parrent (49)
9 Jacob Hacker
9 Brooke Wilkerson
11 Dolores Stormont
13 Ken Tabor
15 Becky Greer
16 Lauren Gibson
16 Laura Lutek
21 Stephani Cramer
21 Al Martin
22 Linda Delzer
22 Joe Isbell
23 Cameron Klein
23 Nate Reinert
24 Tom Ashburn
24 Dick Hemingway
24 Dave & Kathy Wilde (34)
25 Melissa Kunschke
26 Evelyn Buckmeier
28 Russ Wilkerson
28 Al & Norma Martin (61)
30 Haley Moore



November
Baptism
Birthdays

Ana Scarth – 11-7-04
Emily Scarth – 11-21-04

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
- † Will meet on Sat. Nov. 17th, at 6:30 PM

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish 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
- † Will meet on Sun. Nov. 18th 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 on Sat. Nov. 9th 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



Serving in Worship in November

	November 4		November 11		November 18		November 21	November 25	
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	7:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Elder	Kunschke		Ziegelbein		Kunschke		Peters	Moudy	
Assist	Read	Hite			Peters	Hite	Moudy		
Altar	Kay Oltmann, Nelda Schrank and Lynda Abbott								
Acolyte	Ashley	Luke	Athan	Emma	Kaitlyn	Nate	Volunteer	Josh	Mallia
Greeter	Martin	George	Schrank	Dorak	Hampton	Bennett/Tyler		Vess	Abbott/Moore
Sound	Wolf	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Hacker		Pittson	Moudy	
Usher	Scarth Shaltanis Bunger	Ozowski Ozowski Loewecke Ziegelbein	Paradise Read Frinsko	Moudy Carter Cruz	Prescott Messinger Bunger	Oltmann Berger Parish	Paradise Oltmann Cruz	Hacker Hacker Hacker Schrank	Buckmeier Short Crabtree

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - September, 2018

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$435,741	\$451,886	(\$16,145)
	Other	\$133	\$0	\$133
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$435,874	\$451,886	(\$16,012)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$396,389	\$409,918	(\$13,529)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$39,485	\$41,968	(\$2,483)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$135,053
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$107,895
3. Building Note Balance	\$273,767

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 20TH — lol.newsletter.editor@gmail.com