

# LIFELINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### To be seen, or not to be seen?

**“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.” Matt 6:1**

In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus warns against those who pray and fast and give alms in a way that only draws attention to themselves. It seems their prayers and fasting are not really directed to God, as much as they are toward others, and by extension, themselves. Likewise, the charitable giver has in mind how he looks and how impressive he must be to God, but he doesn't think as much of the one he helps. The point is clear: God sees through all of our hypocrisy and nothing is hidden from Him, and motives matter.

It is interesting then, that a resource from our synod's stewardship board has little pieces of paper available for those who give online to place in the collection plate during the offering. [See image] What are we to make of this? Is this violating the command of Christ who warned against outward displays? Is this worrying too much about what others see and think of you? I suppose it could be, but then again if prayer and fasting could be done in a sinful way, then just about anything can be turned into a sin. And besides, in Matthew 6, Jesus didn't tell His disciples the solution to the problem of "praying in order to be seen by men" was to cease praying in front of people altogether, instead He taught them how to do it faithfully and gave them the Lord's Prayer. Likewise, we don't stop praying in church on Sunday so no one will get the idea we are showing off! No, we pray and try to model good prayers that direct our thoughts toward the glory of God and the need of others.

But what about offerings?

I think we can all agree it is inappropriate for someone to brag about how much they give or to give in a way to be seen; but is it okay for people to know that we give at all? Along this line, let me share with you an anecdote.

A very faithful contributor to her church once told me that her child asked why she and daddy didn't give any offerings. She was shocked by the question since she and her husband took seriously the practice of tithing and encouraged their children to do the same. Why would her child think they didn't give to the church? ... Because they gave online and the child never saw them put anything in the offering plate.

*I give  
online.*



I support the work of the Lord in His Church with my tithes and offerings through online giving.

I place this card in the offering plate each week to participate in this act of worship along with the entire congregation.

*If you would like information on how to donate electronically, please contact the church office.*

I suppose then, that with offerings, just as with prayer, not only do we need to avoid the wrong ways of doing it, but it is important for us to see good examples so we can learn how to do it faithfully. I suppose we could just cease collecting offerings during the worship service altogether. We could ask every member to send their offerings in the mail or give online. But since the time of the Apostles, God's people have collected gifts in worship, so it seems unlikely the practice is going to end, even as people increasingly go cashless and rarely write a check. The notion of doing away with the offering seems like the wrong solution to the problem; an overreaction to a potential misdeed. Collecting offerings in the church service doesn't need to be abolished and, in fact, it still serves a useful purpose beyond collecting funds; it sets a good example of what faithful people do. As long as we collect offerings in our worship services, one might just be giving the impression that he or she does not support the church every time the plate passes us by without a contribution. If so, this could be a stumbling block to others. —An unintentional stumbling block, no less, given by those who in reality set the example by tithing online!

So, it seems the paper notes for the offering plates are provided to dispel the notion that those who give online do not give at all. And maybe that's an important thing to clear up. Using these slips of paper that say, "I give online" may be something you want to consider. Ultimately what you give and how you give is something between you and God. Our neighbors should not critique what they see and do not understand. Nevertheless, is it too much to think our neighbors may be encouraged by your example of regularly and faithfully contributing offerings to the church? Haven't all of us seen the good example of others and learned from them? If you give online and would like to participate in the offering during the service, the slips will be available for your use. You may choose to use them if you like, or not. As in so many things, you are free in Christ. —PrS



## **prepare for worship in november**

### Sun., Nov. 3: All Saints' Day after Pentecost

Texts: Rev. 7:9-17; 1John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12  
Hymn of the Day: "For All the Saints," 677

### Sun., Nov. 10: Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ex. 3:1-15; 2Thess. 2:1-8,13-17; Lu. 20:27-40  
Hymn of the Day: "From God Can Nothing Move Me," 713

### Sun., Nov. 17: Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Mal. 4; 2Thess. 3:6-13; Lu. 21:5-28  
Hymn of the Day: "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near," 508

### Sunday, Nov. 24: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Texts: Mal 3:13-18; Col 1:13-20; Lu. 23:27-43  
Hymn of the Day: "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor," 534

### Wednesday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Eve, 7 PM

#### **IMPACT YOUTH SERVANT TEAM**

Do you have an odd job at your house that needs to be done? Does your yard need to be cleaned up after all of the leaves have fallen? Maybe you need something moved? There are more than a few capable youth at Lord of Life who would like to assist you. We only have a few criteria: the tasks must be low-skill, can be completed in less than 4 hours on a weekend, and have a lead time of 7-10 days to get organized. Contact the church office or Scott Peters if you have a need or for more information.

## LIFE CHAIN A SUCCESS

On Sunday Oct. 6, from 2-3 p.m. members of Lord of Life formed a Life Chain along 15th Street on church property. We joined a national effort on that day with thousands of Christians everywhere, from all walks of life, to provide a pro-life public witness, to pray to end abortion, and to tell others that Jesus loves them and forgives them. The Life Team at Lord of Life was joined for this event by the Scarth and Shaltanis families and Pat Greer. Thank you to all who participated.

A Life Chain is actually a prayer service where we stood in prayerful spirit, being humble yet bold in our obedience to God, recognizing our stand is for the children, their mothers and other relatives, and for our Nation's preservation. In the spirit of Christian love we committed to be peaceful, prayerful and polite in both word and deed and to acknowledge motorists who responded to our signs in a kindly and sincere manner.

On the back of our Life Chain signs were songs and prayer topics for our meditation. Songs included: How Great Thou Art, Create in Me a Clean Heart, Jesus Loves the Little Children, He is Lord, and a patriotic song, AMERICA. Several topics for continual prayer were offered on the back of the signs as well. They included: prayers for personal repentance, prayers that motorists will be receptive to our witness, prayers for God's grace on healing for mothers who have had abortions, for the crisis pregnancy centers, prayers for Godly wisdom in our government and courts, prayers for the love and unity of God's people such that His Will prevails in our families and lives. We also recited selected Psalms and the Lord's Prayer.

The traffic was busy from both directions on 15th St. on the afternoon of Oct. 6 from 2-3 p.m. An estimated 1200 cars passed by our Life Chain during that hour, with many positive responses. If two people were in each car, that's a witness to 2500 individuals!

Lutherans for Life designate January each year as LIFE month. The Life Team at LOL will highlight LIFE affirming activities during January 2020 at our church and elsewhere. Stay tuned.





## LWML Mission Project for November 2019

**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 needed.**

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

Please donate by: December 2, 2019



**DALLAS SYMPHONY  
CHRISTMAS POPS**

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:30pm

Come hear some of your holiday favorites at The DSO's annual Christmas Pops concert featuring the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas in the beautiful Meyerson Symphony Center. Lord of Life will be placing a group ticket order for the 2:30 Performance on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the narthex by Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Payment of \$25 per ticket (cash or check payable to Lord of Life) will be due by the same deadline. Tickets will be distributed at church at the beginning of December. For more details, contact Carol Ozlowski, Family Ministry. 214-394-6482 or [carolsop2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolsop2@sbcglobal.net).



**New Piano for Lord of Life**

As many of you may remember, Pastor Virgil and Dorothy Meyer had been members here at Lord of Life since 2003. Preceded in death by her husband in 2015, Dorothy recently passed away this last July. In October, the church received the gift of her Kawai baby grand piano. As an instrument, it is quite beautiful. However, as I practice on it, I also imagine the music that Dorothy would have made while playing it, and I appreciate the opportunity for us here at Lord of Life to put it to good use. If you have not seen it, feel free to stop by the choir room.

**Would you like to see the holy city of Jerusalem?**

Would you enjoy taking a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on the water? How about visiting the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem where Jesus was born? A group from Lord of Life will be traveling to Israel next year with Pastor Shaltanis. We will be visiting many outstanding sites across the Holy Land. The dates are October 13-22, 2020. The cost is \$4200 (includes airfare). If you or anyone you know would like to join us, please email Pastor Shaltanis.





# Teen Times

## Giving Thanks by Giving Back

November means cooler weather (hopefully), pumpkin patches, hot drinks, decorating homes with fall colors, and Thanksgiving Day. It's the holiday we make time to spend with family and friends and perhaps participate in a turkey trot, eat a big meal, watch football on TV, eat some more, take a nap, play some games, and of course, eat one more time. Hopefully the one thing that we all do on Thanksgiving Day is...give thanks. Our IMPACT Youth Ministry will have several opportunities over the next few months to serve our community as a way of "giving thanks by giving back."

A Fall Fest is being held at the Haggard Farm in Plano sponsored by Real Options for Women on Saturday, November 2, 3 – 6pm. Lord of Life will have a booth to provide games, prizes, and information about our church. This is an opportunity to meet families who have used Real Options for health care and as an alternative to abortion.

During the Christmas season, we are planning an event at a local food bank. For example, Feed My Starving Children, or Minnie's Food Pantry. Simply volunteering some time to help out a community organization will be a great way to "give back" and show others what love looks like in the life of a Christian.

Looking ahead to January, the City of Plano organizes clean-up dates for city waterways and green belts one Saturday a month. January 11 from 1 – 3pm is a date that we are targeting to step up and serve. It is a chance to do a simple task that protects the environment and helps keep our communities clean of trash and debris. It only takes a couple of hours, but the results of our efforts will last much longer; just another way of "giving back."

Serving, or being a servant, is great way to show others what it is to be Christ-like. After all, Jesus himself said,

*"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 28:20)*

We have so much to be thankful for, especially for a Savior who gave his entire life back to the community.

Until next time, God bless  
Scott Peters



**November  
BIRTHDAYS &  
anniversaries**

- 3 Jeff Loewecke
- 4 Caitlyn Moudy
- 4 Peggy Stagliano
- 5 Peyton LaPlante
- 6 Isabel Frazier
- 7 Leo & Nora Parrent (50)
- 9 Jacob Hacker
- 9 Brooke Wilkerson
- 13 Ken Tabor
- 14 Stephan LaPlante
- 21 Stephani Cramer
- 21 Al Martin
- 22 Linda Delzer
- 22 Joe Isbell
- 22 Katherine Sowers
- 23 Cameron Klein
- 23 Nate Reinert
- 24 Tom Ashburn
- 24 Dick Hemingway
- 24 Dave & Kathy Wilde (35)
- 25 Melissa Kunschke
- 26 Evelyn Buckmeier
- 28 Russ Wilkerson
- 28 Al & Norma Martin (62)
- 30 Haley Moore
- 30 Arlene Munden

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your recent in-kind donation! Because of your kindness and generosity, women in crisis pregnancies will be empowered to choose life for their babies. We have been able to provide material resources to so many women and families and we are very thankful for your donations and your support!

Grateful for you,  
Prestonwood Pregnancy Center Staff

## 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](mailto:itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net)
- † Will meet Saturday, 11/16 at 2:30 PM

### EPIC PARENTING

- † For couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth [BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Friday, 11/8 at 6:30pm

### TWENTY SOMETHINGS

- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service



# Serving in Worship in November

	November 3		November 10		November 17		November 24		November 24
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	7:00 PM
<b>Elder</b>	Peters		Read		Kunschke		Ziegelbein		Kunschke
<b>Assist</b>	Read	Hite			Moudy	Hite			Moudy
<b>Altar</b>	Sandra Paradise and Kay Oltmann								
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kaitlyn	Luke			Josh	Sebastian			
<b>Greeter</b>	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Rippey	Hampton	George	Vess	Bennet/Tyler	Manning
<b>Sound</b>	Moudy	Shaltanis	Wolf	Reinert	Wilkerson	Wolf	Hacker	Hite	Wilkerson
<b>Usher</b>	Bunger Shaltanis Scarth	Oltmann Ziegelbein Ozlowski	Paradise Read Frinsko	Moudy Cruz Carter	Prescott Ozlowski Messinger	Berger Parish Oltmann	Schrank E Hacker C Hacker	Short Strecker Buckmeier	Paradise Oltmann



## FINANCIAL REPORT January - September, 2019

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$423,640	\$430,578	(\$6,938)
	<b>Other</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$423,640	\$430,578	(\$6,938)
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$413,903	\$412,295	\$1,608
	<b>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$9,737	\$18,283	(\$8,546)

### OTHER INFORMATION

- |                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. General Operating Fund Balance | \$94,572  |
| 2. Dedicated Funds Balance        | \$144,447 |
| 3. Building Note Balance          | \$240,587 |

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