

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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What does the Bible say about marriage?

Recently I have had the rare pleasure of offering pre-marital counseling for three couples; two will be married this month, and the other, in January. In general I don't do a lot of weddings or pre-marital counseling; perhaps one every other year or so. But the opportunity to work with a couple and help prepare them for a successful and God-pleasing marriage is always a blessing.

When preparing for marriage, I typically meet with the couple three times. The first two meetings are practical; the couple takes a relationship assessment and then we discuss the results and focus in on the strengths of their relationship and some areas that need growth. The final meeting is much more spiritual, focused on the vows and what Scripture teaches about love, marriage, roles of the spouses, children, and more. Since I have been thinking a lot about what Scripture says concerning marriage, I thought it might be a good reminder for everyone to consider, whether you have been married a long time or are looking to get married in the future.

There are several passages in the Bible that speak to marriage. Chief among them are:

Creation: Genesis 1:26-28 - Page one of the Bible tells us that man is made in the image of God. One man and one woman were given the command to be fruitful and multiply.

The Creation of Man and Woman: Genesis 2:7, 18-24 - This passage tells us God's intention that man is made for woman as the perfect compliment. She is a helpmate and lifelong companion, more than that, she completes man. This means men will leave their fathers and mothers and both man and wife are no longer to consider themselves as individuals, but they are a new household. For this reason, "a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his wife and the two will become one flesh."

Teaching About Divorce: Mark 10:1-9 - When people tried to trap Jesus on the issue of divorce, asking if it

was allowable, our Lord hearkened back to Genesis 2. He explained God's intention from the beginning was for one man and one woman and then added, "What God has joined together, let man not separate."

Wives and Husbands: Ephesians 5:22-33 - Wives should submit to their husbands, that is, they are to recognize the proper role of a wife to a husband, while husbands are to love their wives "as Christ loved the Church" —meaning they are to sacrifice and give and provide and care for. In this way, the marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and His Church.

1st Peter 3:1-7 - Also speaks of wives submitting to husbands and husbands honoring their wives. Directs wives not to focus on outward physical beauty, but "let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

1st Corinthians 7:1-6 - Offers helpful advice for married couples, urging them not to divorce. Also has wisdom for widows considering remarrying, and instructions for how believers should behave toward an unbelieving spouse.

1st Corinthians 13 - While this passage is not specifically about marriage, it is often read at weddings. This great text teaches clearly what is evident throughout the Bible, that love is more than just a feeling or emotion. Love is a self-sacrificing commitment. Applied to a successful marriage, love is not merely romantic love, it is a pledge of faithfulness for life.

If you are married, thank God for your spouse and take to heart these instructions from God's Word and seek to apply them to your marriage. If you are thinking you might want to be married one day, then also consider carefully what you learn from God's Word and be sure to discuss these things with your future spouse.

PrS

Scholarship Fund and Giving

I am writing this month to remind our members of the Church's scholarship fund and to give a refresher on what the Bible says on giving. I do not intend any connection between the two—I had already written most of the part on giving when we decided to publicize the scholarship fund.

Some of you may not know that we have a dedicated scholarship fund that can be used to assist member's children with the cost of Lutheran education. In the past few years we have helped a number of those children, including Lauren Chumbley and Nick Belcher. In providing such assistance, however, we have reduced the fund and would like to build it back up to be able to provide similar assistance in the future if the need arises. If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, in your box of envelopes there should be one that is designated "Scholarship Fund." Alternatively, you could put "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of a check.

With respect to giving, I have been a member for 14 years and do not remember many sermons on money and giving. In some sense we are fortunate as have not had a great need for such sermons. But perhaps it would be helpful to have a reminder of what God says about money.

In the Old Testament, God referred to a failure to tithe as robbing God. "Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." Malachi 3:8-10.

As Christians, we know that we are not under the law. Indeed, Paul writes that "each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7. But in the preceding verse, Paul states, "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6.

And what did Jesus say about our treasure? "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:29-31.

In His commentary on the widow's offering, Jesus teaches generosity is not necessarily measured by the size of the offering: "Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" Luke 21:1-4.

I recently came across a sermon on giving from Pastor Wayne Schroeder, who confirmed me years (or decades) ago. The entire church service is available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6AJe6CloeI>

The sermon starts at the 14:18 mark and ends at 33:16. I won't repeat the sermon here—Pastor Schroeder provides a much better delivery in person than I could do in writing. Thus, I encourage you to watch the sermon on your own. But I will leave you with questions that he ended the sermon with: What's our response to what Jesus has done? How do you want to say thank you to Jesus out of what he has given to you?

Mark Ziegelbein,
Board of Elders

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 Sat. a month at 2:30 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
- † Usually meet 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
- † Usually meet one Sat. a month 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

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Mike Paradise, III
- 1 Mark & Kathy Plagens (43)
- 3 Frank Edelmann
- 3 Curtis Peters
- 5 Laura Isbell
- 5 Bill Pieper
- 6 Norma Martin
- 6 Gary Nuschler
- 6 Bennie & Paula Lowery (13)
- 7 Georgianna Womak
- 9 Susan Gromatzky
- 10 Rose Moore
- 11 Tim Ozlowski
- 13 Alex Ozlowski
- 14 Travis & Elisabeth Bennett (3)
- 15 Margaret Duff
- 16 Adam Buckmeier
- 18 Al & Mollie Manning (45)
- 18 Rueben & Bette Martin (34)
- 22 Jean Spraez
- 22 Sal & Julz Cruz (9)
- 23 Don & Paula Bungler (6)
- 24 Elijah Isbell
- 24 Mike & Sherri Kunschke (33)
- 29 Rebecca LaPlante
- 30 Ashley Sims
- 31 Ruth Bernhardt
- 31 Jonah Carter
- 31 Judy Dibbern
- 31 Daniel Ozlowski



“Come and See”



ALL WOMEN OF THE LCMS and FRIENDS

are invited to the

LWML Dal-North Zone Fall Event

Saturday, October 10, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church – Plano

1701 E. Park Blvd, Plano, 75074

View Live: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FaithLutheranChurch>

Devotion & Bible Study: Rev. James Woelmer
Mites in Action Speaker: Rev. Solomon Yadessa
LWML Zone Young Women’s Rep: Jessica Loc

No RSVP – just come!
Masks required & provided if needed
Mite Collection & Free-will Offering
Light Refreshments
Questions: Mary Afsharirad
mja8591@gmail.com or 214-226-0225



Personal Care Kits

Lord of Life women will be assembling kits to ship out on

November 14 th

The April shipment was postponed to this new date. These kits give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life’s most challenging situations. Please sign up to contribute the items still needed for the kits and leave them in the LWR collection box in the narthex by **November 1st**.

The kits include:

- one light or medium weight bath-size towel
(between 20” x 40” and 27” x 52”) dark color recommended
- two bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz) in original wrapping
- one adult size toothbrush
- one sturdy comb
- one pair of metal nail clippers

Cash donations are also needed to cover shipping costs. (Make checks payable to LOL, note for LWR shipping)



prepare for worship in october

Oct. 4: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isa.. 5:1-7; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46
 Hymn of the Day: "O Love, How Deep," 54

Oct. 11 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isa.25:6-9; Phil. 4:4-13; Matt. 22:1-14
 Hymn of the Day: "A Multitude Comes from the East and the West," 510

Oct. 18: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Isa. 45:1-7; 1Thess. 1; Matt. 22:15-22
 Hymn of the Day: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," 940

Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday

Texts: Rev. 14:6-7; Rom. 3:19-28; John 8:31-36
 Hymn of the Day: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," 656 or "Salvation unto Us Has Come," 555



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
8 Months Ending August 2020

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 20 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$384,740	\$381,354	\$3,386	586,549
Other	\$1,289	\$0	\$1,289	0
Total Income	\$386,028	\$381,354	\$4,674	586,549
Expenses				
Operating Expenses	\$339,334	\$368,934	(\$29,601)	\$552,379
Mortgage (P&I)	\$28,334	\$22,728	\$5,606	\$34,092
Total Expenses	\$367,668	\$391,662	(\$23,995)	\$586,471
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$18,360	(\$10,309)	\$28,669	\$78
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$127,860			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$131,482			
Building Loan Balance	\$204,921			

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