

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 33, No. 10

Plano, Texas

October 2019

The Devoted Life

At the LCMS convention in July, one of the preachers began his sermon with something to the effect: "If you want to make Christians feel guilty, just ask them about their devotional life." Experience teaches that many of us wish we were more devout in prayer and meditation on God's Word. Few seem to be content that they have done enough and most of us instead, acknowledge that we are all "works in progress" and in need of improvement. With this in mind, the 30th Annual Theological Symposium at Concordia Seminary, in St. Louis, took up the topic of "The Devoted Life." I was privileged to attend this conference last month and hear many lecturers from various perspectives present on the topic of devotion.

The symposium took place September 17th and 18th. I stayed with my brother-in-law who is a professor at the seminary and we enjoyed fun family times throughout the week in addition to attending the various lectures and worship at the seminary.

The first day of the conference, we attended plenary sessions and they were excellent. The first and perhaps the most provocative lecture was entitled: Discerning Devotion: Devotion and Discipleship in a Discontented Age. The speaker was Rev. Dr. David R. Schmitt. I took several classes with Dr. Schmitt more than 20 years ago, and he is as energetic and captivating as ever. He teaches homiletics (preaching) and his presentation showcased his profound gift for public speaking. He spoke without one single "um" or "ah" for 57 minutes. He moved all over the dais and raised and lowered his voice and gave his entire lecture without any notes. It was a good way to start the symposium with a powerful reminder of how a good presenter can cause you to hang on their every word.

In his lecture, Schmitt put forth a different definition from the traditional understanding of devotion. Most of us, when we hear that word used by Christians, take it to mean some kind of Bible reading, prayer and meditation, like the Psalmist describes in Psalm 1 "Blessed is the man whose ... delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." Schmitt did not deny that this is devotion, but suggested we expand our understanding of devotion to include even more. The definition he put forth is: "Devotion is the deep reverence of an individual for a particular article of the Christian faith, often expressed in a variety of contemplative and active practices that manifest the working of the Spirit in that time and place." He goes on to explain that with such an understanding of devotion, Christians who may struggle with daily Bible study and prayer, nevertheless, may be profoundly devoted to some issue or cause which stems from their sincere Christian faith. For example, he said, some Christians are really moved to be involved with the pro-life cause and by their commitment to this issue,

they keep others in their Christian community (local congregation and other Christian friends) mindful of the tragedy of abortion. They say prayers, attend vigils, pass on literature and other things like this because they are truly devoted to this particular cause. All of this work is the fruit of a deeply held conviction to the divine mandate not to murder. This is a very different way of thinking about what it means to be devoted and a great way to start off the symposium with lots to consider.

Other lectures were more traditional. One spoke on the Psalms and learning to read them in a way that teaches us not to focus on ourselves and missing out on the sacred. Dr. Erik Herrmann, my brother-in-law, lectured on “Luther’s Reform of the Devotional Life” which was a great historical overview of how Luther changed the way we think about and carry out the devotional life. Similarly, Professor John Pless from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN lectured on “Praying the Small Catechism”. Luther’s Small Catechism is small enough that it can be memorized and, yes, prayed as an act of devotion. Pless has published a little book on this topic and more recently, he authored another titled: “Luther’s Small Catechism: A Manual for Discipleship.” Luther Himself spoke of praying the Catechism and urged Christians to do the same. When he used the term, “Catechism,” he did not mean his own catechism with its six chief parts, but simply, the Lord’s Prayer, the 10 Commandments, and the Apostle’s Creed. This longstanding practice is worthy of your continued consideration.

Finally, I think the most practical takeaway I received, came from Rev. William Weedon, formerly Chaplain to the LCMS International Center (the synod’s headquarters.) In his lecture, “On Habits of Daily Prayer,” he said that Luther taught that in the home there are two altars: the bed and the table. By putting it this way, it makes the daily practice of prayer plain and simple: Every morning when you get up and before you get distracted and thinking about all the things you have to do, you should kneel at your bedside, make the sign of the cross and pray. Likewise, the last thing you should do before sleeping at night is to pray. The other times for prayer are when you sit down to eat at the table. This daily ritual at the “two altars

of the home” is a simple and effective way to live out the Christian faith without lofty and (inevitably) unattainable goals that leave a Christian with guilt over their devotional life.

If you want help in improving your devotional life, why don’t you make use of the many devotional materials in our church library or available from Concordia Publishing House? www.cph.org

PrS



prepare for worship in october

Sun., Oct. 6: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4; 2Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10

Hymn of the Day: “I Know My Faith Is Founded,” 587

Sun., Oct. 13: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ruth 1:1-19a; 2Tim. 2:1-13; Luke 17:11-19

Hymn of the Day: “Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old,” 846

Sun., Oct. 20: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 32:22-30; 2Tim. 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Hymn of the Day: “I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name,” 734

Sunday, Oct. 27: Reformation Sunday

Texts: Gen. 4:1-15; 2Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-1

Hymn of the Day: “In God, My Faithful God,” 745

NEW PLAYGROUND AT LORD OF LIFE!

A few months ago the idea of a new playground at our church was revived and the response has been overwhelming! Donations toward this project have been much greater than anticipated and this endeavor will soon become a reality. There have been contributions made from both members and non-members, and various other groups who use our facilities. In all, over \$50,000 has been received which will be used to install a playground with many features for children ranging in ages of toddlers up to 12 years old. It will be located adjacent to the south of the outdoor pavilion. The great news is that installation will begin on Monday, October 7 and should be completed in time for our congregational Oktoberfest celebration on Reformation Sunday, October 27. This new playground will hopefully provide a source of activity and outreach to our boards of Children's and Family Ministries. God has provided the means and enthusiasm for this new feature to our church and many thanks to everyone who has physically and financially supported this project.



This is a rendering of the structure that will be installed by American Parks Company, McKinney, TX.



Teen Times

LET THE PLANNING BEGIN!

Fall has arrived, but in Texas that doesn't mean much. It's still hot and humid and hard to think about fall activities like decorating your home or wearing warm clothing. However, it is the time of the year to start thinking and planning for 2020 in our IMPACT Youth Ministry. It is the fundraising season for many school and social organizations, and it's no different for our youth ministry. There will probably be some sort of fundraiser organized during the holiday season so watch for more information soon. We will surely have the fundraising events starting in January 2020 that we normally have; Valentine dinner, possible yard sale, car wash, pizza kits, etc.

Fundraising is usually geared toward the annual summer youth activities. Next summer our youth will have the opportunity to participate in two trips. First will be **Higher Things at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO from June 28 – July 3, 2020**. Registration opens November 1 and this location will likely be the most popular destination next year. This means I will need a commitment from the youth in order to register before it fills to capacity. We will also be organizing a **mission trip** that will take place somewhere locally (**within the state of Texas**). Recent storms along the Texas coast over the past couple of years have created many opportunities to serve our southern neighbors. Locations and dates for a mission trip are being researched and there should be more information about that sometime this month. **The idea of two youth trips next summer is not meant to be an "either/or" situation, but rather a "both/and" opportunity.** These trips are being organized with the intent that the youth attend both Higher Things and a mission trip if at all possible.

There are Jr and Sr IMPACT events on the schedule for the remainder of this year. Mark your calendar with these dates:

Sunday, Oct. 6 – All IMPACT youth night; the theme is great party games!

Sunday, Nov. 10 – Sr IMPACT youth night

Sunday, Nov. 17 – Jr IMPACT youth night

Sunday, Dec. 8 – Sr IMPACT Progressive Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 15 – Jr IMPACT Progressive Dinner

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday mornings and at our upcoming youth events! Until next time, God bless!

Scott Peters

LWML Dal-North Zone Event

Sunday, Oct. 20 -2:30-6:00

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
1401 Crosstimbers Road, Flower Mound 75028

\$8.00 registration fee
RSVP by Oct. 12 including number of young
girls attending

to Charisbennett@gmail.com

Meal served by HOLY COW SMOKERS

**Guest Speaker: Nesa Grider from
Journey to Dream**

Opening doors for homeless and at risk teens across North Texas

Ingathering to benefit Journey to Dream

Gift cards (\$10-\$25) to places like Target, Walmart, Old Navy, etc. to purchase clothing
• Paper products (toilet paper and paper towels) • Large container trash bags
• Body wash • Non-perishable snacks

Special activity for girls age 8 and up

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these - Matthew 19:14"**



Come enjoy a delicious potluck lunch, play some games, and celebrate this 502nd anniversary of the Reformation. An Oktoberfest potluck will be hosted by the Family Ministry in celebration of Reformation Day following late service.

Brats, hotdogs, and sodas will be provided by the church. Attendees are invited to bring a favorite side dish or dessert; German potato salad, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage, Green Bean Casserole, Mac & Cheese, Spätzle, Cucumber Salad, Rye Bread, Pumpkin Pie, Apple Pie, German Chocolate and/or Black Forest Cake, etc. You may sign up in the narthex.

Please contact Carol Ozlowski
214-394-6482

carolsop2@sbcglobal.net

if you are available to assist with planning of this event
or have ideas for activities.

A lead person is needed for this event.



- 1 Mike Paradise, III
- 3 Frank Edelmann
- 3 Curtis Peters
- 4 Carolyn Schaub
- 5 Laura Isbell
- 5 Bill Pieper
- 6 Norma Martin
- 6 Gary Nuschler
- 6 Bennie & Paula Lowery (12)
- 7 Georgianna Womak
- 9 Susan Gromatzky
- 9 Kathy Wilde
- 10 Rose Moore
- 11 Tim Ozlowski
- 13 Alex Ozlowski
- 14 Travis & Elisabeth Bennett (2)
- 15 Margaret Duff
- 16 Adam Buckmeier
- 18 Gay Stueckler
- 18 Al & Mollie Manning (44)
- 18 Rueben & Bette Martin (33)
- 22 Jean Spraez
- 22 Sal & Julz Cruz (8)
- 23 Don & Paula Bunger (5)
- 24 Elijah Isbell
- 24 Mike & Sherri Kunschke (32)
- 26 Alvin Bryant
- 29 Rebecca LaPlante
- 30 Ashley Sims
- 31 Ruth Bernhardt
- 31 Jonah Carter
- 31 Daniel Ozlowski

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 Saturday, 10/26 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 Saturday, 10/19 at 6:30pm

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 October

	October 6		October 13		October 20		October 27
	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	10:00 AM
Elder	Peters		Read		Ziegelbein		Kunschke
Assist	Kunschke	Moudy			Read	Hite	Hite
Altar	Charis Bennett, Nancy Cawood, and Lynda Abbott						
Acolyte	Josh	Luke			Kaitlyn	Sebastian	
Greeter	Martin	Dorak	Schrank	Rippey	Hampton	Manning	Vess/George
Sound	Wolf	Reinert	Moudy	Shaltanis	Wilkerson	Hite	Hacker/Wolf
Usher	Scarth Shaltanis Bunger	Ziegelbein T. Ozlowski Loewecke	Frinsko Read Paradise	Cruz Carter Moudy	Prescott D. Ozlowski Messinger	Parish Berger Oltmann	Buckmeier Strecker C. Hacker E. Hacker



FINANCIAL REPORT *January - August, 2019*

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS:	Regular Offerings	\$376,587	\$379,655	(\$3,068)
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$376,587	\$379,655	(\$3,068)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$373,248	\$362,178	\$11,070
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	\$3,339	\$17,477	(\$14,138)

OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$100,604
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$155,067
3. Building Note Balance	\$242,543

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