

# LIFE LINES

of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vol. 25, No. 4

Plano, Texas

April 2011

### Signs of the Close of the Age

*"...and you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains." Matthew 24:6-8*



These words of our Lord from Matthew and the recent world disasters in Christchurch, New Zealand, Japan and the uprisings in

North Africa and the Middle East prompted an email from my cousin Bill Lutes who lives in peaceful, quiet Madison, Wisconsin. "Hey cuz," he wrote, "Why are all these things happening around the world? It sure seems like the end of the world is getting closer and closer." He signed off his note to me, "Hugs from your DEMOCRAT, very liberal cousin, B. L." It was almost as if he was saying in his note, "I suppose I need to get my spiritual life in order."

It seems that natural disasters, terrorist attacks, rumors of war and other "signs of the close of the age" bring people closer to their own understanding of faith and religion. I suppose that's one reason why people come back to church for a while. It is almost as if they realize they need another dose of religion just to keep on going through life. But that's not the reason we love and worship God.

After the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, our Missouri Synod responded with a video message from President Matthew Harrison in St. Louis. He posed a question which many people wonder about during disasters: "Why does the Lord allow these things to happen?" President

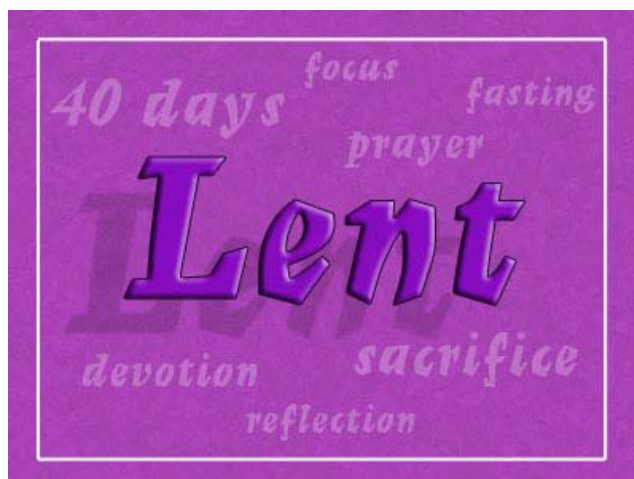
Harrison responded, "I don't know... these events are wrapped in the mystery of the Lord's will." We do know and believe, however, as Paul writes in Romans, "that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called to His purpose." (8:28). "...for those who love God" is a key phrase. Because God has loved us first in Jesus Christ, we now have opportunities to love and serve others, especially those of the household of faith living in distant lands.

Martin Luther made this observation which serves as a powerful witness in our day and for our times:

"When Christians are baptized, they will give ear to the Gospel, they read Holy Scripture, they go to Holy Communion, and they love their neighbor."

Later this month we will come together to once again observe the "signs of the close of the age." We will recall an earthquake, splitting rocks, darkness in the middle of the day, and the bodies of the saints who had died raised from their graves. It will be Good Friday when we recall these "signs of the close of the age." And then we will wait. For three days we will wait until Easter morning when we will rejoice, worship, partake of the Lord's Supper in Holy Communion, and serve one another with gladness. For us, as Christians, these acts of faith in action are also "signs of the close of the age." Peace be with you in these end times, and be thankful they are in God's hands.

In His Service,  
Pastor Lindner



**prepare for worship  
in april**

**3 April: Lent IV**

Texts: Isaiah 42: 14-21; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-14

Sermon Hymn: "Amazing Grace," 744

Sermon: "Not Blind, But Seeing"

*The adult choir sings John Leavitt's anthem, "God Has a Plan," and violin plays the prelude and offertory.*

**6 April, 7pm: Lenten Midweek Worship/Vespers**

"The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death"  
-- Matt. 27:52-53

**10 April: Lent V**

Texts: Ezekiel 37: 1-4; Romans 8: 1-11; John 11: 47-53

Sermon Hymn: "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow," 428

Sermon: "Crowding My Space," Rev Fred Gersch  
*The youth choir and bell ensemble play this morning as our liturgy is the "Service of Prayer and Preaching."*

**13 April, 7pm: Lenten Midweek Worship/Vespers**

"The Miraculous Faith of the Roman Soldier" --  
Matt. 27:54

**17 April: Palm Sunday**

Texts: Isaiah 50: 4-9; Philippians 2: 5-11; John 12: 20-43

Sermon Hymn: "O Worship the King," 804

Sermon: "Out of Your Mind!"

*The Sunday School children lead a palm processional during the opening hymn, and the choir and brass lend liturgical excitement to the first half of the service. At the end of the liturgy we enter meditatively into Holy Week.*

**21 April: Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion, 7pm**

**22 April: Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7.30pm**

**24 April: Festival of the Resurrection**

Texts: Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; Matthew 28: 1-10

Sermon Hymn: "I Know that my Redeemer Lives," 461

Sermon: "The Miracle of Easter"

*The choir and orchestral ensemble lead all the hymns and liturgy in celebration of Easter.*



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.**

**1 Peter 1:22**



Julianna Hollmer-4-30-06  
Benjamin Kuebler-4-03

### MUSIC AT MIDDAY ORGAN CONCERT

This month's concert will be on Wednesday, April 6, at 1:05 pm. The choir's professional bass section leader, Louis Seymour, will perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' famous *Five Mystical Songs* with Benjamin Kolodziej playing the orchestral accompaniment on the organ. Music at Midday Concerts will be held every Wednesday during Eastertide beginning the Wednesday after Easter, April 27, at 1:05 pm. Benjamin Kolodziej will play festive organ music dedicated to Christ's resurrection and the Easter season.



### YOU ARE NEEDED FOR OUR ANNUAL MUSICAL TALENT EVENING!

After a year's hiatus, Lord of Life's annual musical talent night returns on Sunday, May 8 at 5:30 pm. Whether you are a child, youth, or adult, here is a chance to perform (either solo or in a group) for your friends and family. This is also your chance to hear and perform non-church music which doesn't make an appearance on Sunday mornings. Be sure to volunteer to Benjamin Kolodziej ([bkolodzi@smu.edu](mailto:bkolodzi@smu.edu)) before he comes after you!



An old spiritual song asks this question: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" In all honesty, we have to say no, but soon our church could have a different answer to that question.

Lord of Life will be hosting *Journey to the Cross*, an Easter learning experience for adults and children alike, on Sunday, April 10, with departure times starting at 9:15 a.m.

As a traveler, you have the opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps during Holy Week. Taste Passover food, pet a donkey, feel a crown of thorns, and fill your passport with stickers of places you visit! You will hear about Jesus from Bible witnesses and be a part of the Passion experience.

We need some great volunteers to make our *Journey to the Cross* as meaningful as possible, and we're hoping that you will help. Please prayerfully consider serving as Actors, Station Helpers, and Tour Guides. For more information about ways in which you might contribute to the *Journey*, contact Kris Crabtree at 214-705-0710.

Please save Sunday, April 10 on your calendar. Sign up in the narthex. Come join us as a volunteer or a traveler. And please pray for all those involved—volunteers and journeyers—so that the Holy Spirit may truly bless our experience together.



# TEEN TIMES

As I read through the March/April issue of Group magazine, my attention was drawn to an article with a question printed in big, bold, red letters; "WHAT IMPACT DO YOUTH GROUPS HAVE?" Not only did the question include our youth ministry tagline, but the answers that followed gave me more conviction about how we as a Christian congregation can make a positive influence on our teenagers today.

Before answering the question, the article began with a statement that said, "What we already know about religious faith." (The following is a condensed version of the results but remain true to nature in a nutshell)

1. **Religion creates positive life outcomes.** Religious teenagers often enjoy things like increased physical health, better problem-solving skills, greater friendship support, and an increased ability to cope with life's problems among other virtues.
2. **Church is a common experience.** Youth groups are a primary way kids remain in contact with the church during adolescence.
3. **Religion creates valuable social support system.** Attending church can help young people establish more and better social connections, and we already know that more social support can lead to a better life.
4. **Religion helps people learn right from wrong.** Because churches have agreed-upon standards for what good behavior looks like, their faith guides kids' behavior toward more socially acceptable choices.

Based on these four basic truths about religion's influence, now we can ask, "What difference does youth group really make?" These were the results from the data that was analyzed from The National Study of Youth and Religion. (Again, condensed and summarized)

1. **Teenagers in youth groups experience greater levels of adult support.** They are more comfortable talking to adults and have more supportive adults available in their church than those who don't attend youth groups.
2. **Teenagers in youth groups have more connections to church.** They will be more likely to say church makes them think about important things and isn't boring. They are also more likely to say they think they will be attending church when they are 25, and if it was totally up to them they'd still choose to come to church. This shows that youth groups do encourage kids to stay committed to church over the course of their life.
3. **Teenagers in youth groups show a stronger moral backbone.** Youth groups do help teenagers *believe* in moral values, but those beliefs do not always translate to their behavior. Kids will be kids and still have tendencies to lie and keep secrets no matter what their background is.

So, youth groups do make a positive long-term difference in teenager's lives. But, in the end, it's a both/and story. Youth groups excel in teaching kids moral beliefs and long-term churchgoing habits, but the congregation as a whole has a crucial role to play in helping them navigate their adolescence into adulthood. (Patricia Snell, Group Magazine, March/April 2011, P 34-37)

For this I am thankful of the support that Lord of Life provides our youth ministry and pray that God would help us reach out to all of those who need His love through Jesus Christ.

In God We Trust,  
Scott Peters

#### **IMPACT events this month:**

Sunday, April 3 – Board of Youth Ministry meeting (12:00 noon)

Sunday, April 10 – 2011 mission trip meeting followed by IMPACT night (5:00)

Saturday, April 30 – IMPACT garage sale (8am – 2pm)

#### **Coming in May:**

Sunday, May 8 – IMPACT night (6:00)

Sunday, May 15 – Confirmation Sunday during 8:00 worship service followed by brunch

Sunday, May 22 – IMPACT night (6:00)



March 9, 2011

Lord Of Life Lutheran Church  
3601 W 15th St  
Plano, TX 75075-7741

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Lord of Life Lutheran Church:

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus – our Hope!

On behalf of Lutheran Bible Translators, it is our pleasure to congratulate you on having been named a 2011 Director's Award recipient.

Not only does the awarding of this recognition affirm your commitment of faithful giving to God's mission for 2010, it is our way of saying thank you for your generous gifts, your prayers, and your support of Bible translation, literacy, and Scripture engagement.

Once again we are happy to acknowledge God's richest blessings as they are experienced around the world. Despite the adverse effects of a struggling economy, not only for us at LBT, but the many donors that support the translation work of LBT, still thousands of people received God's Word for the very first time in a language they could wholly understand. We praise God for the completion of the Cañar-Quicha Bible in Ecuador – LBT's first whole Bible project. We are humbled that God has allowed His Holy Word to be brought to these people – through the work of LBT and the support of churches and ministry organizations like yours, and our international partners in Ecuador.

Thank you for your partnership in bringing the Gospel to people in need of Scripture – helping us complete over 30 New Testaments, working in 15 countries and on 5 continents. And progress continues as 3 new missionary teams prepare to serve in the mission field in 2011.

In the years past, it has been our honored tradition and privilege to acknowledge outstanding giving with an engraved walnut plaque in appreciation of your goodness and generosity to LBT. However, in light of the present economic situation and in the spirit of faithful stewardship, we will merely say thank you this year. God bless you for your servant's heart as manifested in your support of our missionaries. God bless you for your generous act of kindness, your prayers, and your continued support of Bible translation and Scripture engagement around the world. May we continue to be instruments of God's love together bringing His Word in Every Language to Every Nation.

With Easter Joy,

Dr. Marshall R. Gillam  
Executive Director

## BROOKHAVEN CHORAL SOCIETY IN CONCERT AT LORD OF LIFE



The Fine Arts/Concert Series of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Plano, presents the Brookhaven Choral Society in concert on Saturday, April 9 at 7 pm. Under the direction of Melody Gamblin-Bullock, the BCS will be performing a program entitled "Harp Songs and Such," featuring music of Haydn, Parker, Walker, Hogan, Chilcott, and others, all unified around the musical imagery and symbolism of the harp.

Formed in 1984, the Brookhaven Choral Society consists of more than 40 auditioned singers who range from seniors in high school to mature citizens. Joining forces with other community ensembles, the choir has performed Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, and Fauré's *Requiem*, having in recent years performed at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and at Carnegie Hall with the Plano Civic Chorus. In recent years, they have toured in Austria, Italy, Taiwan and China. The concert is free. Information about the concert series is available on the church website ([www.lol-plano.org](http://www.lol-plano.org)) or may be obtained by request from the church office at 972-867-5588.

*Please note: The Tesoro Trio concert for May has been cancelled due to a performer's scheduling conflict. The Tesoro Trio will perform next season. The Brookhaven concert will be the final concert for the 2010-11 season.*



**The Holy Nativity Players  
Present**

# **Two Sons Have I Not**

*Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants*

**By Kenneth E. Baily**

**A One-Act Play performed as Readers' Theater**

**Sunday, April 3, 6 pm  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**

**No Cost for Admission**

The Holy Nativity Players, a theatrical troupe consisting of our friends from Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, Plano (Lord of Life's partners in Stephens' Ministry as well as in music), will be presenting the one act play **Two Sons Have I Not** – *Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants* by Kenneth E. Bailey on Sunday, April 3, at 6 pm at Lord of Life.

Where is the Cross in the Parable of the Prodigal Son? For centuries, Muslims have used the father's forgiveness to question the need for a mediator between humanity and God. Kenneth Bailey presents this parable from a Middle Eastern perspective and, in doing so, powerfully demonstrates its essentially Christian message. In it he highlights the underlying tensions between law and love, servanthood and sonship, honor and forgiveness that grant this story such timeless spiritual and theological power.

# April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Brandon Lund	16	John Lindner
3	Cale Boriack	16	Karen Lund
3	Kathy Hite	17	Jeff Berger
5	Steve Burlingame	17	Pete Kun
5	Rick Pittson	18	Richard Schmidt
6	Jacob Van Der Kroon	19	Behrmann/Georgulas (17)
8	Brian Wolf	22	Scott & Christine Messinger (16)
8	Jonathan & Abbie Stevens (11)	22	Rhonda Tabor
9	Jean Thierfelder	23	Tibor Kun
11	George Hawkins	23	Karyn Shenkenberg
11	Grant Kostrzewa	23	Joe & Pam Rogers (18)
12	Jim Roberts	27	Mike & Sandra Paradise (48)
13	Christian Andersen	28	Ryan Sanderford
14	Kristen Lutek	29	Gideon Selvaraj
14	Cadence Tischler	29	John & Arlyne Bailey (11)
15	Dudley Hall	30	Kristin Bell
15	Carl & Jan Carper (35)	30	Earl & Karen Lund (23)

## LOL CARE GROUPS

### CAREERS IN CHRIST

† For info contact Heidi Pittson at (214) 227-2532 or Carrie Sanford (972) 447-9358

### EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

† For info contact Tony and Nevelle Vess at (972) 931-5748

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

† For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330

† 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

### MOMS' GROUP

† For info contact Kris Crabtree at (214) 705-0710 or [crabtreefive@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crabtreefive@sbcglobal.net)

## Serving in Worship in April

	April 3		April 10		April 17		April 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
<b>Elder</b>	Womack		Carper		Roberts		Lutek	
<b>Common Cup</b>					Lutek	Womack	Roberts	Roberts
<b>Altar</b>	June Edelmann and Nelda Schrank (Bette Martin assisting during Holy Week)							
<b>Acolyte</b>	Hacker	Raj	Belcher	Pittson	Lund	Greg Abel	Hacker	Crabtree
<b>Crucifer</b>								Moudy
<b>Greeter</b>	Vess	Manning	Martin	Womack	Sparks	McVicker	Schrank	Scaglione
<b>Reader</b>	A. Thiel	J. Dolginoff	C. Paradise	Zielgelbein	Senter	Greer	B. Nance	J. Dolginoff
<b>Sound</b>	Brian Wolf	Rick Pittson	R. Wilderson	Doug Hite	Luis Botello	Brian Wolf	Brian Wolf	Rick Pittson
<b>Children's Message</b>				Nathan Schutz			Pastor Lindner	Pastor Lindner
<b>Usher</b>	Martin Parrent	Cruz Loewecke Gottberg	Frinsko Paradise	Dolginoff Kuebler	Klausing Nance	Berger Oltmann McVicker	Hacker Schrank	Buckmeier Crabtree

### Midweek Services

	April 6	April 13	April 21	April 22
	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM
<b>Elder</b>	Carper	Peters	Peters/Womack	Lutek
<b>Sound</b>			Brian Wolf	Doug Hite
<b>Usher</b>			Schrank Paradise	Loewecke Womack

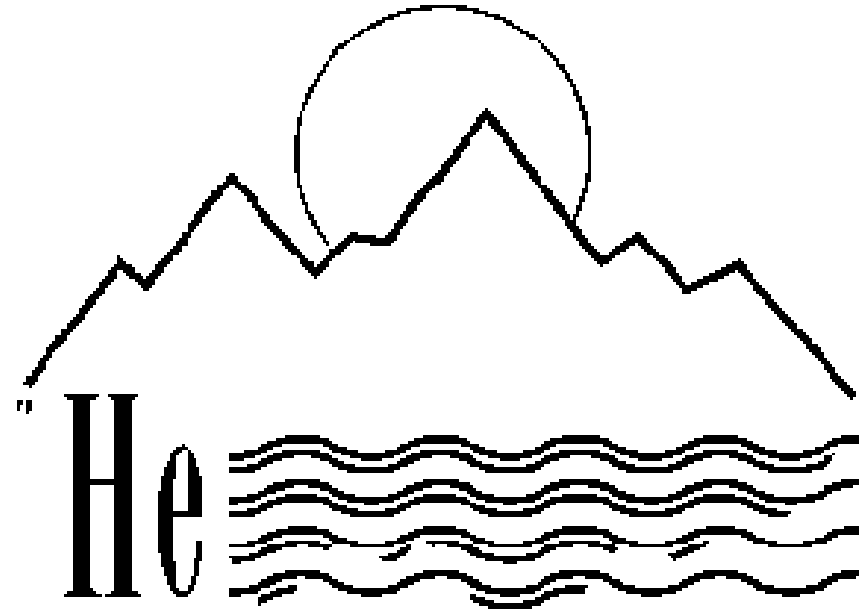
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## January- February, 2011

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>Regular Offerings</b>	\$104,265	\$104,366	(\$101)
	<b>Other</b>	\$1,098	\$705	\$393
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$105,362	\$105,071	\$291
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$97,097	\$108,025	(\$10,928)
	<b>RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,265</b>	<b>(\$2,954)</b>	<b>\$11,219</b>

### OTHER INFORMATION

1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$51,575
2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$136,273
3. Building Note Balance	\$1,175,388



"He  
who dwells in the  
shelter of the  
Most High will  
rest in the shadow  
of the Almighty."  
Psalm 91:1

**LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PLANO, TEXAS

3601 W. 15th Street, Plano, Texas 75075

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Change Service Requested

