

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 2010

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10: 25

The Christian Church has begun another church year which takes us through Christ's birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and concluding on Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. These first few weeks of Advent maintain a dual focus of expectancy. On one hand, we anticipate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. Yet, from a historical perspective, that has already happened, so these weeks in Advent also help us to focus on Christ's return, a date unknown to us. As we enter what the culture calls the “Christmas season,” we can be pulled many directions—there are parties, school programmes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, even athletic events which, although present all year, seem to come into greater conflict with our faith during this season. The majority of the year we only attend Divine Service once a week on Sunday morning, but now our Church asks us to attend Wednesdays, and Christmas Eve, in addition to the Sunday School programme and music events to fit in the already-busy schedule, seemingly only adding to the family stresses which seem to present themselves in unencumbered lucidity this time of year. Indeed, adults and children both should certainly never feel guilty about learning and growing from the many offerings even the secular world has to offer. But perhaps as we consider “the Day approaching” this Advent season, we would do well to reconsider our priorities and activities which can pull us away from Christ.

It is especially easy this time of year to think of church simply as another “commitment” which must be fulfilled and completed. This, however, is the law speaking, and we know our righteousness is not based on our works, for “Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.” (Rom. 10: 4) As we consider our priorities this Adventide, we should be encouraged by the Gospel as we reconstitute our priorities and deliberate

how to spend our time. Why should we not “give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing?” Through regular and enthusiastic participation in Word and Sacrament worship, we are edified and strengthened, “so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3: 17) The Lord's Supper, central to Lutheran worship, works forgiveness of sins as Luther writes in his catechism, “These words, ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where these is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.” Our attendance at the Divine Service is not simply a requirement equivalent to the weekly sports game; rather, in it we receive the promise of salvation and the peace to know that our sins have been forgiven. This is the gospel.

As a matter of practical application, I went to www.lcms.org which offers historical and current statistics for every congregation in the LCMS. Using attendance and membership information (as well as some painful mathematics), I was able to determine the attendance percentage (the percentage of the congregation that attends worship any given Sunday) for the ten LCMS churches in Plano, Carrollton, and Garland. Most worship only about 35% of their membership, whilst one only worships 25%, and a couple of the larger churches worship 55% and 48%. Of all the churches, and even considering a downturn in attendance in 2009, Lord of Life has the highest percentage of all the local churches at 62%. Of course, larger churches by nature have lower attendance ratios, and our particular congregation does not keep inactive members on the rolls as long as many churches will, so the comparison may not be scientifically viable since each church uses a different methodology. And, as a Lutheran Church, we never want to become enamored with numbers as the

ultimate end which is a pernicious, legalistic trap in which many churches find themselves. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit gives and takes away, and we must not take responsibility or credit for that which only the Holy Spirit can accomplish in the lives of people. Yet, I am thankful that so many people at Lord of Life do not take for granted the "gathering together" every week for Word and Sacrament. Our justification has been secured once with Christ's death and resurrection, but our sanctification is a process fraught with travails, failures, discouragements, and successes, and we need always to be reminded of our forgiveness and salvation which is proclaimed weekly at church. This is not something from which we should want to stray! This should encourage us not to be proud or conceited, but to renew our commitment to Christ and His Church, and to prepare actively for His return this Advent season when so much of the world is beckoning us away with its incessant ephemera.

INJ+

Benjamin A Kolodziej

Prepare for Worship in December



1 December: Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm

5 December: Advent I (HC)

Texts: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

Sermon Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People," 347

Sermon: "A Shoot with Humble Beginnings Brings Peace on Earth"

8 December: Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm

12 December: Advent II

Texts: Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-11; Matthew 11: 2-15

Sermon Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding," 345

Sermon: "When a Person's Faith is Tried"

7pm: A Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

15 December: Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm

19 December: Advent III (HC)

Texts: Isaiah 7: 10-17; Romans 1: 1-17; Matthew 1: 18-25

Sermon Hymn: "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come," 350

Sermon: "A Man Named Joseph"

24 December: Christmas Eve Divine Worship with Holy Communion, 6 and 8pm

26 December: Christmas I

Texts: Isaiah 63: 7-14; Galatians 4: 4-7; Matthew 2: 13-23

Sermon Hymn: "Let All Together Praise our God," 389

Sermon: "According to Plan"

31 December: New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion, 7pm

Music at Midday Organ Concerts



Come join us for a 35 minute, thematic and seasonal concert of music for Advent and Christmas.

1 December: Shelbie Simmons, organist

8 December: Benjamin Kolodziej, organist

15 December: Benjamin Kolodziej, organist

Eleventh Annual Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

You are invited to Lord of Life's annual Festival Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 12 December at 7pm. Lord of Life's musicians will again be joined by their friends from Holy Nativity Episcopal Church as we sing carols and songs and rejoice in the Advent and Christmas seasons. The instrumental ensemble and choir will perform Dietrich Buxtehude's brief cantata "Rejoice, Earth and Heaven," and they will also lead singing of favourite carols such as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Please bring your family and friends as we celebrate together Christ's birth.



"Fine Arts/Concert Series Invites You to Silent Movie Month in February!"

In February Lord of Life will celebrate Silent Movie Month (this designation is purely local and carries no governmental authority!) The Dallas Chapter—American Theatre Organ Society will be loaning us their digital theatre organ, which will be in residence all month. We will have four Music at Midday organ concerts featuring this organ which will recall the days of the grand picture palaces:

Wednesday, 2 February: Bob Whiteman, former organist at Prestonwood Baptist Church and noted cinema organist will regale us with music from movies, TV shows of the past, and musical theatre numbers.

Wednesday, 9 February: Programme TBD

Wednesday, 16 February: Programme TBD

Wednesday, 23 February: Robert MacDonald, former organist at Radio City Music Hall, will honor Flag Day and President's Day with a special programme of patriotic favourites including a showing of Laurel and Hardy's silent film, *Liberty*.

The month will conclude on **Saturday, 26 February** at 7pm with a screening of Cecil B. DeMille's famous epic picture, "King of Kings," filmed in 1927. Chronicling the final events in Christ's life, this film has been beloved for generations. Jelani Eddington, America's premier theatre organist and recording artist, has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the 2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year. Tickets for this concert are \$10 and are available from Benjamin Kolodziej or will be available at the door.



Jelani Eddington, America's premiere silent film accompanist, accompanies "King of Kings" on 26 February at Lord of Life.

Properties Changes at Lord of Life

As many of you may have noticed, several changes have been made recently to the property at Lord of Life. New thermostats were installed this summer that allow for easier changing of non-scheduled temperatures and reduce energy consumption. You may notice that an instruction sheet has recently been posted to provide instructions for adjusting the room temperature. Please do your part in conserving electricity at Lord of Life by only scheduling the adjusted temperature for as long as you are in the room.

New automatic light switches were installed in the restrooms to conserve energy when not occupied. The switches are set up in a manner that will turn the lights out after no one has entered the restroom for 30 minutes. The Lord of Life Board of Properties will be making several changes to the security system in the next couple of months. For this reason, the locks in the new education wing will be changed to prevent entry into the wing while the alarm is set. The doors will be able to be unlocked only from the inside.

The Board of Properties is planning a workday to install drainage and perform some landscaping in March. We will keep you posted regarding upcoming activities of this workday.

Cale Boriack
Chair of LOL BOP



"O Tannenbaum" German Christmas Service

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1919 Independence Parkway, (SW corner of Independence and Park), Plano, TX, presents a German Christmas Service on Sunday evening, Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will be spoken and sung entirely in German, with bulletin translations in English. Special music will be provided by RLC's Chancel Choir, Sounds of Joy Handbells, and Kurtis Cantley on trumpet. The congregation will be invited to sing favorite German carols, including O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree) and Stille Nacht (Silent Night). German students of Beth Smith from PSHS will be reading the scripture lessons as well as some favorite Christmas poems. A freewill offering will be received. There is a reception following the service, to include favorite German desserts and cookies. For more information contact Shelby Simmons at the church.



- Advent I Mid-Week Service
Wednesday, December 1st – 7:00 pm
Soup Supper at 5:30 pm
- Children's Christmas Program
Saturday, December 4
Children arrive at 10:00 am
Program Presentation at 1:00 pm
- Advent II Mid-Week Service
Wednesday, December 8th – 7:00 pm
Soup Supper at 5:30 pm
- Festival Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 12th – 7:00 pm
- Advent III Mid-Week Service
Wednesday, December 15th – 7:00 pm
Soup Supper at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Eve Services
Friday, December 24th – 6:00 & 8:00 pm
- New Year's Eve Service
Friday, December 31st – 7:00 pm



Samantha Howe
December 30

Cadence Tischler
December 18

LOL CARE GROUPS

CAREERS IN CHRIST CARE GROUP

† For info contact Heidi Pittson at (214) 315-0302 or Carrie Sanford (972) 447-9358

EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

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

† Meet December 10th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

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

† Meet December 11 at 4:00 pm at the Oltmann's



MIXED BLESSINGS CARE GROUP

† For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771

† Meet December 11 at 6:30 pm at the Bernhardt's for Bible study and fellowship

MOMS' GROUP

† For info contact Kris Crabtree (214) 705-0710 or crabtreefive@sbcglobal.net.

LWML CHRISTMAS

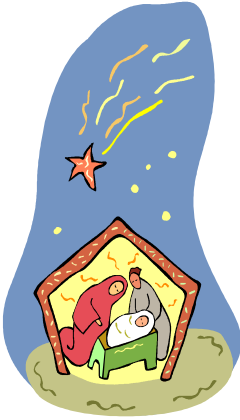


BRUNCH

ALL LADIES of Lord of Life!
You are cordially invited to attend the annual LWML-sponsored Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 11, 2010
10:00 am

Please join us for this year's Children's Christmas Program:
 "Hay! A Stable Experience"



Date: Saturday, December 4
Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Performance: 1:00 p.m.

This event is for children ages 3 through 5th grade. From 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., the children will enjoy program practice, crafts, games, music, and more! Friends are welcome!

A pizza lunch also will be provided.

Parents should plan to return at 1:00 p.m. for the program presentation. Cake and cookies will be provided immediately following the program.

Registration forms may be found in the Narthex or you may register on-line at <http://lol-plano.org/>.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kris Crabtree at 214-705-0710!

LOL's Angel Tree



It once again is time for our annual Angel Tree mission. This year Christian Community Action has been selected. CCA provides qualified families with assistance they need as well as tools to teach them to help themselves in the future. Services are provided through portions of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Tarrant and Wise counties.

One of Christian Community Action's services is the Christmas Toy Store. This program allows parents who have been screened to determine their eligibility to provide Christmas for their children despite the hardships they are currently facing. They are able to select their children's

gifts from donations provided to CCA's Toy Store. Everything they need, from stocking stuffers to boxes and bows are provided to ensure a memorable holiday.

The angels on the Angel Tree in the narthex specify gift suggestions and/or gift cards for children age 0-18. If you would like to participate, please take an angel (or angels), shop and return the unwrapped gift(s) with the angel attached by December 12. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please place your check marked with "Angel Tree" in the offering plate by the 12th. All donations will be delivered to Christian Community Action in Lewisville. Thank you for providing Christmas joy to those less fortunate.

TEEN TIMES

Are you ready? Christmas is only a few weeks away and you may or may not have done any shopping for the family. Maybe you wait until the last minute; like the people on the local news cast frantically running around the malls on Christmas Eve with arms full of shopping bags trying to fill the wish list that they have known about for weeks. It is possible that many of us have been in that situation at one time or another. Being prepared for Christmas is not making sure all of the right presents are purchased. You should be getting yourself prepared for the coming of our Savior. "But he was born about two-thousand years ago" you say? True, however, I am talking about being prepared for the day when Jesus comes back to Earth for the second time.

God promised he would provide the means for our salvation from sin which He told to Adam and Eve. Back then, He was speaking of Jesus' birth, death on the cross, and resurrection for our redemption. Now we celebrate Christmas Day not just for the birth of Christ, but because Jesus said he would come back to Earth again someday. Now let me ask you again: ***are you ready?***

What if the second coming of Jesus happened tomorrow, or today, or while you are reading this? If you were standing in front of Jesus and he was to ask, "Why should I let you into the Kingdom of Heaven," would you be able to answer him? It is absolutely essential that we are ready because we don't know the time or place that it will happen; and it will happen. This Advent season, make an effort to know what you believe and what you will say if your time has come. DON'T WAIT!

Part of being prepared is showing our love and kindness to others. Our IMPACT youth ministry has chosen the location and is making plans for the 2011 summer mission trip. Our group will be traveling to Loving, New Mexico from July 17-23 along with the youth group from Concordia Lutheran Church in Garland. The experience we had at last summer's National Youth Gathering with them was tremendous and we want to keep that momentum of fellowship going. While in New Mexico, our youth will have the opportunity to serve the community and individuals in need of housing repair. If you would like to see what it might be like, you can visit the website of the organization we will be using at www.groupworkcamps.com/photos-and-videos/video. There will be up to four-hundred other youth from across the country descending on the town of Loving to show the love of Jesus through us. Most of the fundraising over the next several months will be geared toward this event.

Your continuing support and encouragement for IMPACT is a true blessing from above.

In God We Trust,
Scott Peters

Coming in next month – Youth nights on Sunday, January 9, and 24

- 1 *Tim & Alyson Wood [3]
- 3 Joyce Bamsch
- 3 Benjamin Williams
- 3 Randy Spear
- 3 *Will & Yeisha Culp [4]
- 4 Mollie Manning
- 5 Will Culp
- 5 Helen Dolan
- 5 Michael Klausung
- 6 Steve Klausung
- 6 *Frank & June Edelmann [29]
- 9 Amanda Belcher
- 10 Harley Boyd
- 11 Jennifer Chappelle
- 11 Paula Lowery



- 12 Tom Tauer
- 13 Tom Kuebler
- 13 Gail Wolf
- 14 Stu Ehrett
- 14 Samantha Howe
- 14 Jack Schrank
- 15 Hannah Stevens
- 15 Barbara Quiram
- 15 Phyllis Summer
- 17 *Marty & Angie Buckmeier [22]

- 18 Stephanie Tabor
- 19 *Luis & Barbara Botello [18]
- 20 Susie Hawkins
- 20 Carolyn Pratt
- 20 Dave Peters
- 22 *John and Mavis Anderson [54]
- 23 Katie Howe
- 23 Shirley Sparks
- 25 Seth Forrester
- 26 Andrew Buckmeier
- 26 Lauvenia Barry
- 28 Jennifer Beaudreau
- 28 *Steve & Hillary Klausung [35]
- 30 *Ken & Rhonda Tabor [27]

Serving in Worship in December

	Dec. 5		Dec. 12		Dec. 19		Dec. 26		Dec. 24 Christmas Eve		New Year's Eve
	8:00 am	10:45 am	8:00 am	10:45 am	8:00 am	10:45 am	8:00 am	10:45 am	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	7:00 pm
Elder	Womack		Peters		Roberts		Lutek		Lutek		Womack
					Carper	Carper			Hite		
Altar Service	Cheri Lindner, Bette Martin, Georgianna Womack										
Acolyte	Lund	Crabtree	Raj	Pittson	Belcher	Moudy	Hacker		Crabtree	Pittson	
Crucifer									Lund		
Greeters	Schrank	Womack	Sparks	McVicker/ Pittson	Vess	Scaglione	Martin	Manning			
Ushers	Al Martin Parrent	Cruz Gottberg Loeweck e	Frinkso Paradise	Carper Kuebler	Klausung Nance	Berger Oltmann McVicker	Hacker Schrank	Buckmeier Crabtree Dolginoff			Dolginoff Martin Oltmann
Readers	B Nance	Beckemeier	C Nance	Hall	S Paradise	Ziegelbein	Thiel	Womack			
Children's Message			Peters	Peters			Pastor	Pastor			
Sound Tech	Brian W	Pittson	Wilkerson	Hite	Brian W	Brandon W	Botello	Pittson	Brian W	Brain W	

FINANCIAL REPORT - January - October, 2010

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
RECEIPTS	Regular Offerings	\$504,199	511,389	(7,190)
	Other	3,465	500	2,965
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$507,665	\$511,889	(\$4,224)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$506,313	\$519,528	(\$13,215)
	RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	1,352	(\$7,639)	\$8,991
	OTHER INFORMATION			
	1. General Operating Fund Balance	\$38,413		
	2. Dedicated Funds Balance	\$115,406		
	3. Building Note Balance	\$1,214,575		



R E M E M B E R
THE CHILD