

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Matthew 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week...

Mark 16:2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen...

Luke 24:1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb...

John 21:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early...



All four Gospels begin to tell the story of Jesus' resurrection in the same way. All of them note the time and the day: it was early on the first day of the week. Ever since that day when Jesus rose, His followers have been gathering early on the first day of the week to remember what He has done. We gather early on the first day of each week to celebrate His victory over death for us. We remember and celebrate His resurrection victory each week because His resurrection gives us hope and assures us that just as Jesus rose, so also He will raise us up on the last day.

This is certainly worth celebrating each week! But let's consider a little more what it means that Christ rose early and on the first day of the week.

Very Early

Many churches have a sunrise service on Easter morning to recognize that Jesus rose first thing in the morning. I remember when I was a vicar, the sunrise service was on the same day that we reset our clocks for Daylight Savings by springing forward an hour. That service was at 6:00 AM but it was essentially 5:00 AM, (as I recall, it was not very well attended!) The main reason I remember this is because, as most of you know, I am not a morning person. If you are a morning person, you are probably thinking, "O, come on, how hard is it to get up for a sunrise service!" But if you feel that way, ask yourself how appealing is it for you to attend midnight mass on Christmas Eve? Some of the difference between early risers and late nighters comes down to habit, yet I am convinced that some of it is ingrained. I believe God creates larks and owls, and I am decidedly the later and not the former. (Interestingly, my wife is just the opposite.) For night owls, getting up early is a discipline and not something that happens naturally much less joyfully. In light of this, getting up early on Sunday mornings is a sacrifice –granted, it is a relatively small one, but it is a sacrifice nonetheless. Sacrifices offered to God in the Old Testament were done from the first fruits, that is, they gave the first of their harvest to the Lord. In the same way, Christians who get up early on Sunday morning to worship our Lord, are offering the first fruits of their time to Him.

First day

Just as we give our first hours of the day to the Lord, so also Sunday is the first day of the week. Sunday is the day when most Christians worship, and as was noted, Christians have worshipped on Sundays since the earliest days of the Church (see for example, Acts 20:7). Christians worship on this day not only because it is the first day of the week and the day when Christ rose, but there is another significant reason why Christians worship on this day, namely, it is not the Sabbath day. Under the Old Mosaic Covenant, Israel

was commanded to worship on the seventh day of the week. **“Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, ... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”** (Exodus 20:9-11) Worshipping on the seventh day was not optional nor could the day be replaced with any other day. For this reason, when Christians began to worship on Sundays rather than Saturdays it showed that all who are in Christ are no longer under the Old Covenant. Christ has set us free from sin and death and also the Law and all its strict demands. This point may be obvious to Gentile Christians who have never worshipped on any day but Sunday, but for the first Christians, most of whom were Jewish, this move to worship the Lord on the first day of the week was a profound and important move. It made clear what St. Paul and the other apostles taught, that Christ has abolished the Law. **“For Christ is the end of the law, with the result that there is righteousness for everyone who believes.”** Romans 10:4 NET

This Easter Sunday there will once again be a lot of people in Churches worshipping and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. But it has been said that *every* Sunday is a little Easter because it is the day the Lord rose from the dead. So remember, Jesus' victory is worth getting up and celebrating every week. He deserves our first and our best, and we are free to worship Him this Easter Sunday and every Sunday because He has set us free from sin and death.

Blessed Easter!
PrS



Reducing Our Debt UPDATE

Note Balance 2/20/2022	\$148,208
Principal Paid since 2/20/2022	\$137,615
Note Balance 3/31/2023	\$10,593

prepare for worship in april

Apr. 2: Palm Sunday

Texts: Is. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 6:1-27:66

Hymn of the Day: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth," 438

April 6: Maundy Thursday

April 7: Good Friday

Apr. 9: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Texts: Jer. 31:1-6; Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 28:1-10

Hymn of the Day: "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness," 467

Apr. 16: Second Sunday of Easter

Texts Acts 5:29-42; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Hymn of the Day: "He's Risen, He's Risen," 480

Apr. 23: Third Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pet. 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

Hymn of the Day: "With High Delight Let Us Unite," 483

Apr. 30: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Hymn of the Day: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," 709

God is Sovereign and He has given to Christ All Authority

This month I am sharing a short take away from our Sunday morning small group Bible study in which we've been reading and learning about how God ordered events for the benefit of His church and the spread of the Gospel in the Book of Acts. This included manipulation of Roman authority both to protect Paul and to ensure the furtherance of his ministry and evangelism all the way to Rome itself.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23

What does this say?

- Christ is seated at God's right hand in the heavenly realms
- He is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion
- All things are placed under his feet
- He is appointed to be head over everything for (the benefit of) the church

Therefore, even though we may see evidence that society, civil order and common sense are breaking down around us, or we may perceive that our governments are now less interested in protecting us and seeing to our welfare than they are in controlling us, we need have no fear and we may rest in the assurance that all of these matters are in God's capable hands.

A quote from the leader guide of our study:

Jesus is far above all rule and authority. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He governs all that happens for the good of his children, the church. We find comfort in knowing that nothing is ever out of his control. God works in all things, even in the actions of those opposing the truth, for the good of his people. Sometimes his help is obvious, as here. On other occasions, it may seem like an evil government is gaining the victory. However it appears, God assures us that he is frustrating Satan's plans and keeping us safe for eternity.

I pray that we may all take comfort in God's providence and protection.

In Christ,
Mike Kunschke, Elder

Teen Times

The most important generation is the next generation.

Greg Koukl, founder and president of *Stand to Reason* closed the recent Reality Student Apologetics Conference with these words. Over 2700 participants, including Lord of Life's high school students, attended the conference held in Allen on February 24- 25th.

Stand to Reason describes their student apologetics conference as an opportunity to “show students that Christianity matches up with the way the world really is—with reality. It makes sense of the origin and design of the universe and life; the existence of objective truth and morality; the purpose, meaning, and value of human experience; the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.” And they're able to communicate all this in a teen-friendly format - high energy, loud music, humorous antics, and engaging speakers. In fact, the Friday night sessions were presented in the format of a “Late Night Reality Show.” With that in mind, I thought I'd share some takeaways in the format of a top ten list. So without further ado...

Top Ten List of Things a Gen X'er Learned at a Gen Z's Apologetics Conference:

10. Everyone young (and young at heart) loves doing the Church Clap! It's a thing! Google it. Then crank up the speakers and be prepared to do more than clap.
9. Just when you think the entire world is on the verge of moral bankruptcy, over 2,500 teenagers show up on a weekend to get schooled in objective, Biblical truth. Wow! Be encouraged.
8. Deconstructing your faith is a thing. Not a good thing, mind you, but a viral thing permeating the internet. Conference speakers explained that deconstruction in this sense is the process of pulling apart undesirable aspects of your Christian faith to make them *align with the culture or your own personal beliefs*. No Scripture needed to deconstruct your faith.
7. You can find “deconstruction coaches” and a host of trendy yahoos on the internet trying to make convincing arguments against all things Christian, BUT you can also learn how to unequivocally challenge these fallacies in a loving, truthful manner. Subscribe to “Red Pen Logic” on YouTube for spot-on tutorials.
6. STR.org has a wealth of resources to help share why Christianity is the true story of reality; you'll find articles, videos, podcasts, and training. There's also an STR app.
5. Teens don't know who Lt. Columbo is, but after a breakout session with Greg Koukl, they not only know about the crumpled beige raincoat and cigar, but how to apply “Columbo tactics” when talking with someone about Jesus.
4. Teens can handle tough topics like suffering. A large group session addressed the nature, paradox, and redemptive purpose of suffering.
3. So if everyone doubts, as a speaker explained, what do you do about it? John the Baptist was presented as a great example for how to doubt well and challenged students to consider, “If you can't give a ‘why’ to your faith, you won't be able to give a ‘why not’ to your doubts.”
2. A dozen different speakers reiterated the conference theme of “Seek and You Will Find” through a host of culturally relevant topics including homosexuality and transgenderism, premarital sex, suicide, defending the faith, abortion, deconversion, and more.

And the #1 thing a Gen X'er Learned at a Gen Z's Apologetics Conference

1. We gotta keep up. Whether in the school cafeteria or at the company watercooler, each of us should always be equipping ourselves to give a confident, truth-filled “why” to our faith and learn how to best share that with others.

LWML Dal North Zone Event

Saturday, April 15, 2023

9:30 am Registration Opens

\$10 includes lunch

RSVP by Monday, April 3

lwml@log.org or (972) 219-6874

Gathering items for

Our Daily Bread in Denton:

Bottled water	Cotton swabs
Deodorant	Large garbage bags
Cough drops	Paper towels
Toilet paper	Napkins
Ziploc bags	
Gift cards for Wal-Mart and Target	

Scripture Markers

Using new, rescued, and recycled paper, attendees will create a bookmark inspired by our conference Bible verse.

Presenter: Elasha Edwards

Very Vary Vintage, owner

Lamb of God, member

Serve the Lord with Gladness

1 PETER 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Invites you to the

40th Biennial Convention

June 22-25, 2023

Wisconsin Center — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13).



Convention Goal

As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

Convention Objectives

Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

Convention Logo Explanation

The 2023 LWML Convention logo features a wooden cross, reminding us of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus who takes away the sin of the world. Wrapped around and draped over the cross is a long banner with the flags of many countries. The cross supports the banner as Christ delivers life and salvation to all the children of man. The banner waves symbolizing our life by the Holy Spirit and the movement and proclamation of the Word of God into all nations.



Celebrate the
Lord of the Nations
Psalm 33:12-13

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Summarized Statement of Activity
2 Months Ending February 28, 2023

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2023 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$91,104	\$97,405	(\$6,301)	\$580,202
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$91,104	\$97,405	(\$6,301)	\$580,202
Expenses				
Benevolences	\$6,360	\$6,818	(\$458)	\$40,614
Elders	\$56,227	\$64,384	(\$8,157)	\$411,841
Education	\$0	\$100	(\$100)	\$1,000
Outreach	\$23	\$100	(\$77)	\$600
Office Expenses	\$1,294	\$1,440	(\$146)	\$12,090
Utilities	\$6,991	\$6,065	\$926	\$37,185
Property Maintenance	\$4,534	\$3,090	\$1,444	\$37,740
Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
Family Ministries	\$0	\$500	(\$500)	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$2,251	\$2,300	(\$49)	\$6,600
Children's Ministry	\$590	\$900	(\$310)	\$6,000
Admin Council	\$343	\$400	(\$57)	\$2,600
Total Operating Expense	\$78,613	\$91,257	(\$12,644)	\$561,910
Mortgage Payment	\$3,146	\$5,160	(\$2,014)	\$18,876
Total Expenses	\$81,759	\$96,417	(\$14,658)	\$580,786
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$9,345	\$988	\$8,357	(\$584)
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$162,221			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$121,695			
Building Loan Balance	\$45,603			