

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Plano, Texas

May 2023

Thank the Lord our building debt is paid!

On Sunday, April 23, it was announced to the congregation that at long last, our mortgage is paid! ... Well, it *almost* is. We currently owe less than one monthly payment which will be paid soon, but we wanted everyone to know that the debt is covered and it is no longer necessary to contribute anything over and above to "Debt Reduction" or the "Building Fund." (If you are interested in contributing over and above, please consider giving to our "Scholarship Fund" –more on that below.) Many thanks are due to so many people who sacrificed and contributed to this effort, and most of all, we give thanks to God for His providence and granting us the means to retire this debt. We will formally celebrate this milestone on Pentecost Sunday, May 28 with one worship service at 10:00 AM followed by a fellowship meal.

What's next for Lord of Life?

A previous generation of leaders at Lord of Life planned for the building and expansion of our facilities. They had plans to build an even bigger sanctuary and more classrooms in phases 3 and 4 of the master plan. (You can see the architect's drawing depicting what this might look like still hanging in our Conference Room.) Since that plan and drawing was made, the landscape in Plano has changed. Other LCMS churches were built close by, and while our city has grown tremendously over the years, many of the newer residents do not come from a Christian background as can be seen by the presence of Mosques and Hindu temples. Also, as we all know too well, our world is increasingly secular and many people are sadly uninterested in religion. For these reasons, the current leadership is uninterested in taking on an even bigger debt and building out phases 3 and 4. The facilities we have now are more than suitable for our needs and we think our resources should be directed elsewhere. But where exactly? Should we add more staff? Increase the number of programs we offer? Remodel and update our current facilities? Increase our support of missions? Focus more on evangelism in the community? Etc. etc.

CADDS

The Administrative Council is considering these questions about our future and we are using some tools provided by the LCMS to help us. We also need your help. This month, we are encouraging all our members to participate in an online survey called the **Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDS)**. The synod describes this as a self-assessment tool designed to help our congregation to answer the question "Where are we ... really?" The tool measures three things: sustainability (do we have the means to continue and if so for how long), adaptability (how open are we to change?), and the third measurement determines our balance between outward and inward focus. The survey consists of 95 questions and takes about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses are completely anonymous. No one will know your name, and I will not see individual responses. When the results are analyzed, we will receive a simple report aimed to help identify our stage of development or decline and what factors are contributing to our status. It will

give us some ideas about what things we are doing well and what we could do better. It will also recommend further steps to take such as strategic planning for the future and evangelism resources. Unlike expensive consultants and programs, this service is provided by the LCMS completely free of charge. To find out more about CADDs and the LCMS Vitality program in general, go to: lcms.org/revitalization

You will be hearing more from me in the days ahead encouraging you to participate in this survey, which officially opens on May 14 and closes on June 4. When you are ready to get started, you can use this QR code or click here: <http://lcms.cadds.alchemer.com/s3/&cong=C0010>



Scholarship Fund

Finally, I mentioned our Scholarship Fund earlier, and encourage you to support this fund if you are interested in doing something over and above your regular Sunday offerings. Well, I am pleased to announce that someone who has been a recipient of our scholarships for years has just received a call to be a pastor. (The soon to be) Reverend Nicholas Belcher has received a call to serve as the associate pastor at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas. This month he will graduate from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana and this summer he will begin his vocation as pastor. For several years our scholarships helped Nick and his family as he prepared for this. What a blessing to see a son of our congregation enter the Office of the Holy Ministry!

God has indeed blessed us tremendously and we will celebrate these blessing and rejoice in them!

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

PrS



The Rev. Seminarian Nick Belcher with his wife Lauren and their two sons, Elijah and Amos

Donate to the Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is a great way for Lord of Life to help students from our congregation who are pursuing a Lutheran education. This includes all levels of education - from elementary school, high school, college and Seminary. Your donation helps these students in pursuing their "Christ Centered" Lutheran education.

Recently, the Board of Elders awarded 3 students from Lord of Life with scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year, and we hope to continue this support in the future.

Here are some of the benefits of donating to the scholarship fund:

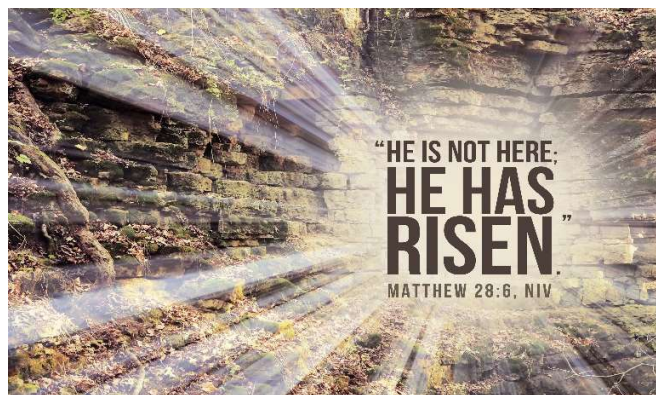
- You are helping students in need.
- You are investing in the future of our church body.
- You are supporting Lutheran education.
- You are making a difference in the lives of young people.

If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can do so by utilizing a "Scholarship Fund" offering envelope, or by placing a check in the offering plate with "Scholarship Fund" written on the memo line.

Please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund sometime this year. It is a great way to help students in our congregation continue their education in our Lutheran schools.

Thank you for your generosity!

Doug Hite
Board of Elders



prepare for worship in may

May 7: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Pet. 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Hymn of the Day: "You are the Way," 526

May 14: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Texts: Acts 17:16-31; 1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Hymn of the Day: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice," 556

May 21: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Texts Acts 1:12-26; 1 Pet. 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Hymn of the Day: "Christ Is the World's Redeemer," 539

May 28: The Day of Pentecost

Texts: Num. 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord," 497



Note Balance 2/20/2022	\$148,208
Principal Paid since 2/20/2022	\$146,513
Note Balance 4/30/2023	\$1,695

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Your great Trinitarian love has given every one of us a mother.

As she remains alongside me and carries my crosses with me, I come to know Your own presence and power.

Thank you that she prepares, preserves, and protects Your gift of life.

Thank you that she shows me devoted attention and affection from You.

Thank you that she reflects how gently You instruct and how relentlessly You defend me.

Thank you that she conveys your patience in her listening, assisting, and encouraging.

Thank you that she sacrifices her body to serve my well-being after the example of Your Son.

Thank you that she stretches her heart to heal and strengthen mine because You have created, redeemed, and called every human being as Your precious treasure forever.

For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, grant unto her a double portion of the loving-kindness You have showered upon me through her.

Increase her comfort and confidence in her mothering as a holy and blessed vocation from Your hand.

Bless especially the ones upon whom the burden and work press heaviest, including single mothers, stay-at-home mothers, mothers who work outside of the home, mothers of large families, and mothers whose sons or daughters have extraordinary needs.

In the mercy of Your forgiveness, in the promise of new creation, and in the communion of Your kingdom, relieve our sisters for whom motherhood has brought loss or sorrows, as well as Your daughters who have not known the joy of motherhood.

With Your Son, Your saints and angels, and the righteous women who have gone before us to deliver the faith, gather them, and by their witness gather us, into the never-ending wedding feast of the Lamb, where they will shine with Your own glory and honor. Amen.

***Taken from Life Notes, May 2-8, 2022*



Happy
Mother's Day

Teen Times

For many of you who have children in some level of education, whether it's kindergarten or college, May could be considered the "home stretch" month. The school year is winding down with final exams or end-of-the-year parties just around the corner. Kids, teens, and young adults look forward to the next level every 3-5 years with excitement, anticipation, and sometimes anxiety as they transition from elementary to Jr. High to High School to college. Along the way they discover new opportunities, make new friends, and learn new things (and make a few mistakes), that shape who they are and what the future holds for them. Such is the case for two young men who are graduating high school and making plans for their college career this fall. Jonah Carter and Athan Shaltanis will be participating in commencement exercises in a few weeks, and we wish them well on the next chapter of their lives.



This month also allows me to thank all of our Lord of Life members who supported our youth ministry through fundraising events and general donations this spring. The Valentine Cookie Craze in February and the St. Patrick's Day Dinner in March were both very successful and will help offset the costs for our group to attend the Higher Things youth conference this summer in July. We will be traveling to San Antonio and meeting on the campus of Trinity University for 4 days of worship, study, and fun with about 1000 other LCMS youth and adults from around the country. Part of our trip includes some leisure time after Higher Things on the beach of Padre Island near Corpus Christi. Lord of Life and the youth group from Immanuel Lutheran in Fairview will once again join forces to travel and hang out together for the week. It is a real blessing to have such good camaraderie with a youth group from another congregation, which helps encourage some of the things mentioned before; discovering new opportunities and making new friends along the way.

I thank God for the opportunity I have to be a part of the lives of our young members during their walk of faith while they are teenagers, and I always thank Him for all of you and the generous and prayerful support of the youth ministry.

Until next time,
God's blessings.
Scott Peters



Lord of Life Small Groups

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 Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Will meet Sat., April 20 at 6:30 PM for Bible study

COLLEGE GROUP

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † Usually meet after the late service for lunch and Bible study



Thank you to everyone who contributed stamps to LWML's Stamporee in support of Lutheran World Relief's Project Comfort over the last 30 years or so!

The LWML Texas District Executive Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, who subsequently approved, that the Stamporee program be brought to a close at the end of this year – December 31, 2023. Plans are being made for a final stamp collection near this time.

Individuals and groups may still support LWR's Project Comfort directly by sending them funds to cover shipping costs of quilts and kits.

Thank you again for all you have done using, trimming, and collecting stamps all these years!



MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ambrose Shaltanis
- 5 Ben Slater
- 6 Fred Bernhardt
- 8 Hunter Starr
- 8 Mike & Cheryl Scaglione (30)
- 9 Stephen Oestreich
- 10 Laurie George
- 11 Larry Dibbern
- 12 Pat Greer
- 12 Dave Senter
- 14 Elisabeth Bennett
- 15 Alyson Wood
- 16 Suzanne Gabriel
- 16 Abby George
- 16 David Messinger
- 17 Paula Bunger
- 17 Max Tyler
- 19 Grace Slater
- 20 Charis Bennett
- 22 Nicholas Moudy
- 22 Jon & Tammi Chumbley (30)
- 23 Greg & Audrey Kostrzewa (36)
- 25 Mark Plagens
- 25 Tom & Georgianna Womack (59)
- 26 Greg & Beverly Moudy (27)
- 27 Audrey Kostrzewa
- 28 Dave & Gail Senter (46)
- 29 Cindy Carter
- 29 Paul & Susan Grabow (41)
- 31 Charlie Abbott
- 31 Duffy Carter
- 31 Vicki Frinsko

Join Us for a Mother's Day Brunch

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, 9AM

All Lord of Life women are welcome as we get together as sisters in Christ, for food, fellowship, and fun. (You don't have to be a mother.) As a service project, we are hosting a baby shower in support of *Real Options* crisis pregnancy center. *Please bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share and a baby gift.* There will be games and prizes!

Christy Sheedy of *Real Options* has set up an Amazon registry in her name if you would like to order something, or you may bring a gift to the brunch. Even if you are unable to attend, please consider a gift or donation.

planolutheran.com/baby



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Summarized Statement of Activity

3 Months Ending March 31, 2023

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2023 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$132,255	\$143,702	(\$11,447)	\$580,202
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$132,255	\$143,702	(\$11,447)	\$580,202
Expenses				
Benevolences	\$9,122	\$10,003	(\$881)	\$40,614
Elders	\$92,522	\$96,576	(\$4,054)	\$411,841
Education	\$0	\$250	(\$250)	\$1,000
Outreach	\$72	\$150	(\$78)	\$600
Office Expenses	\$1,802	\$2,935	(\$1,133)	\$12,090
Utilities	\$9,502	\$8,354	\$1,148	\$37,185
Property Maintenance	\$11,152	\$4,810	\$4,531	\$37,740
Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
Family Ministries	\$288	\$675	\$2,790	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$2,387	\$2,400	(\$13)	\$6,600
Children's Ministry	\$790	\$1,550	(\$760)	\$6,000
Admin Council	\$529	\$650	(\$121)	\$2,600
Total Operating Expense	\$128,166	\$128,353	\$1,179	\$561,910
Mortgage Payment	\$7,740	\$7,740	\$0	\$18,876
Total Expenses	\$135,906	\$136,093	\$1,179	\$580,786
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$3,651)	\$7,609	(\$11,260)	(\$584)
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$133,483			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$127,892			
Building Loan Balance	\$10,593			