

# Lifeline

Growing together in faith,  
centered in Christ,  
serving God's world with love.

**July 26, 2017**

*"All around us we observe a pregnant creation.  
The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs.  
But it's not only around us; it's within us.  
The Spirit of God is arousing us within.  
We're also feeling the birth pangs.*

*These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting doesn't diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy."*

**Romans 8, The Message**



That's what it feels like around here lately, and indeed in our entire world. We are facing such a high degree of change, that we need some places to slow down. Hopefully worship can be a time like that for us all, along with our own individual and family prayer and meditation time. Because it appears that change is going to be with us. For church leaders, a little tidbit – it's not change that distresses congregations – it's the rate of change.

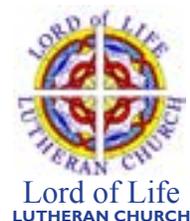
So I am hoping that with all the staff changes, the building changes, the societal changes, we can settle down for about a year at least free of major changes. We'll see how that goes! At any rate, know that it is the Spirit of God that is enlarging us in these birth pangs we are experiencing.

In the meantime, I invite you to appreciate our "pregnancy" these days, with hopeful anticipation of what God is birthing in and through us as God's people! And as you await delivery, practice breathing....



Lord of Life Youth volunteering at Warm Beach Camp in Washington July 2017

**Grace and Peace,**  
*Pastor Gary*





**Construction Update:** After our ground breaking on June 4th, work on the new Welcome Center started on June 5th with the installation of a temporary wall to keep us safe from the work outside and give us building security. Demolition then started on the porch in preparation for the new addition.

After that, the land was cleared and the foundation dirt work started in earnest. The foundation piers were drilled, rebar installed and cemented was poured. The remaining foundation form and rebar was prepared and our new floor has been poured and leveled.



Now wait 10 days for the cement to fully cure so we can start installation of the steel frame for our new Welcome Center. Demolition work has begun for the remodel of the restrooms which will be out of service for about 6 weeks. All work has been performed safely and we remain on schedule for completion by mid October.

As the walls will soon start to go up, we will all have a better feel for how this addition will further our congregations goals and vision - Welcoming One Another!

Thanks to all for their patience and understanding with the disruption to parking and changing entries to the church. It will all be worth it.



**Kids of the Kingdom Preschool Now Enrolling for Fall 2017**

Call Today! Limited Spaces Available 281-298-9901

Our preschool can profoundly impact your child's early education. Centrally located in The Woodlands, KOK has been serving children 18 months- 5 years old for over 20 years. This preschool will plant the seeds of God's love as well as build a strong foundation and love of learning in each child it serves. Dynamic 2, 3, or 4 day class options offered and includes weekly chapel, music, science, and motor movement enrichment. For more information visit [kokpreschool.net](http://kokpreschool.net)

**Traveling this summer?**

Find an ELCA congregation along your summer vacation route and experience worship in a different church. Lutherans are ready to welcome you all over the U.S. and Caribbean. Search by location at [ELCA.org/FindACongregation](http://ELCA.org/FindACongregation). Homeless Ministry could use your help. Please bring us your sample-size toiletries from your hotel stay for our homeless ministry at the Salvation Army. Drop off your items in the church office.



**August Sermon Series**

*"Operation True Hope"*

After talking about "What Would Jesus Do?" and "How to Have Peace" we want to end this summer by encouraging all of us to look for true hope. Too often we place our hope in false idols or we have given up hope all together. But scripture promises that "hope will not disappoint us because God's love has been poured out upon us." So what should we hope in and for? How do we find true hope?

**Join us Sundays at 8:30, 9:50 and 11am**



**A note from Pastor David**

*Building Community: Invitation*

Last month I shared some important statistics about how often people move in our world. These numbers helped us realize that at Lord of Life we need to be helping equip people to build community wherever they find themselves. With this destination in mind I bring you the first in this multi-part series: **"Building Community."**

Today we are focusing on the first step: *the invitation*.

At its surface invitation seems simple enough but many of us know that it is not always as clear as we would like. It's relatively easy to invite our friends and family to a Labor Day BBQ. This is a low risk opportunity where little will be lost if they say no. We have established a trust and a relationship that makes this a safe invitation to offer. But what about the neighbor that moved into the house two doors down? What about the new face in worship on a Sunday morning? What about the new child in our son or daughter's classroom? Extending an invitation to people in this category can be much more challenging because we don't have a relationship, our fear of rejection or embarrassment is heightened, or we may be breaking a real or imagined social barrier. These factors mean that we are less likely to extend an invitation to this person who is likely looking for an opportunity to build community. So here are a few tips to help us get over the invitation hump:



- 1) Introductions Before Invitations - Sometimes we get excited when we see a new person and we jump over the most important first step. Introduce yourself and, even more importantly, learn about them! Listen when they tell you where they are from and what their family is like and do your best to remember. It makes a huge difference if you can remember their name and their spouse's name the next time you meet.
- 2) Find Common Interests – Just because you really want to go to the special exhibit featuring artwork from the tribes of 3rd Century Scandinavia doesn't mean that this is a shared interest. Through your introductory conversations learn about some things that they are interested in and try to find something that both of you share. The shared interest may be VBS for your children or a local rummage sale for used furniture. This won't always be possible but we are all more likely to say yes to an invitation if we are interested in it.
- 3) Start Small – Starting off with an invitation to a small, onetime, non-threatening event (i.e. cook out, pool party, trip to a park) can be a great way to make a first invitation. It can be intimidating for someone to be invited to an eight-week bible study on the book of Leviticus after you only met them 5 minutes earlier.
- 4) Don't Fear "No" – They may choose to say "no" to your invitation. That's ok! It's not a reflection of you or your invitation. Be gracious and ask if you can keep them in mind for a future event.
- 5) Keep on Praying – We will come back to this step again and again as we build community. When you are preparing to invite them to something, after they have said yes or no, at all times keep this new person in prayer. If you don't know what to pray start with this: "Dear God, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ during their time of transition. Please help them to find the community they need to be supported in this time and help me see opportunities to share my own community with them. Amen."

**Are you interested in serving on Lord of Life's Witness Committee?**

*Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Hospitality, Encouragement, Evangelism. Don't know what your Spiritual Gifts are?*

Click here to take the test: [LOLonline.org/ministries/](http://LOLonline.org/ministries/)

The Witness Committee meets monthly and is committed to making Lord of Life welcoming. Contact Dane or Ann Sever [danesever@att.net](mailto:danesever@att.net). We also need Greeters / Visitor Center volunteers. You can welcome worshippers to God's house and provide direction to newcomers. Contact Dale Dube [daledube@gmail.com](mailto:daledube@gmail.com) if interested.



# Congregational Life



## Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a

business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

## Update Membership Information

Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year.

Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published?

If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. You can email Cindy Maxwell at [CMaxwell@LordofLifeOnline.org](mailto:CMaxwell@LordofLifeOnline.org) or call the Church Office at 281-367-7016. Thank you for your help!



Aerial shot of Lord of Life taken by Austin Hunt July 2017



Austin and Jacob Erickson enjoy their time on the Park & Ride cart

## Adult Education Opportunities on Sundays at Lord of Life

Bible, Christianity & You Sunday School Class - FEARLESS CONVERSATION. 13 lessons exploring "How Can We Be Fully Faithful When We're Fully Flawed? We will study 1-2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles and Psalms and our topics will consider among them, "Is it okay to complain to God in prayer?" and "What's my story in God's eyes?" All are invited to join us upstairs in Room 21 (Library) on Sundays at 9:45.

Old Testament Study with Amy Jill Levine - Rm 23 upstairs. Lead by Mark Ruch.



# Worship & The Arts

Director of Worship and the Arts - Rev. Tamara Fincher [tfincher@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:tfincher@lordoflifeonline.org)

"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." Psalm 71:5

In the dog days of summer, we often feel hot and tired and done with it all. There is too much to get done in the short time left before school starts. We wish we had more time with our families. We wish we had time for a vacation (or sometimes we wish for a vacation after our vacation). We wish time was not going so fast, our children were not growing up so fast, there were more hours in the day! We wish and then we hope. They are different. A wish expresses the desire that is likely impossible or improbable. Hope though – hope is entirely realistic and doable, although we may have to get involved in helping to make a hope a reality.

Where do you find hope? Look around Lord of Life! So many signs of hope flowering and coming to fruition all over the place. August 1, choir rehearsals begin at 7:30 – we will have choir in worship soon. August 6, we will have a Mission Celebration Worship, highlighting our youth and their sponsors. We will also bless our senior high graduates and commission the junior high mission trip team. August 13, we bless Sunday school teachers and student backpacks and teacher briefcases. August 20, we bless the KOK teachers at 9:50 worship. August 27 is Rally Sunday and September 10 is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. We are doing amazing, God-led, Spirit-filled ministry bringing the love to Christ to our community and our world.

Even in the middle of construction and summer heat, we continue to reach out in welcome and love, encouraging each other and building the Kingdom. Doing what Jesus would do to bring peace and hope wherever we are.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

## Upcoming Worship:

- August 6 Mission Celebration Worship
- August 13 Sunday School teacher blessing, backpack/briefcase blessing
- August 20, 9:50 KOK teacher blessing
- August 27 Rally Sunday
- September 3 Affirmation of Occupations
- September 10 God's Work, Our Hands
- October Reformation Celebrations all month long!

**8:30/11am Choir is off for the summer.** Choir practice will resume August 1.

**Altar Guild Looking For Help** - Need help with setup before 8:30 worship. If you would like to become part of this team, please call Arlyne Nickell at 832-331-2550.

## Audio/Visual Techs Needed

Lord of Life is seeking volunteers to assist with Audio/Video during Sunday worship. Interested folks may contact either Rob Michel ([rob.michel@gmail.com](mailto:rob.michel@gmail.com)) or Tammy Fincher ([TFincher@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:TFincher@lordoflifeonline.org)). Training can be on either sound, video or both. Volunteers may choose in which worship time they prefer to serve.



**Men's Retreat July 2017**



There are only a few more weeks of lazy summer days, then it's back to school. We go back to our regular schedules and structure. This is an exciting time of the year--a fresh slate, a new start with new teachers, new backpacks and new pencils. As a former teacher, I remember the smell of new crayons and freshly sharpened pencils and it brings back a feeling of excitement. The Children's Faith Formation Team is also excited to start our new year of Sunday School and children's activities! Here are some important dates and events that are right around the corner:



- August 20:** Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers at all 3 services. Sunday School Teacher Orientation after the 11:00 service
- August 27:** Rally Sunday and three year old Sunday School Orientation Footstep
- September 10:** God's Work Our Hands
- September 16:** 4th- 6th grade Flippin' for Jesus
- September 17:** First Day of Sunday School and Third Grade Bible Footstep Class
- September 24:** Third Grade Bible Footstep Class, Faith-Full Families Night
- October 1:** Third Grade Bibles presented at all 3 services

We would love to have you help us shape the faith lives of our children at Lord of Life! We are actively looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Contact Katie Phillips at

281-367-7016 if you would like to serve in this role.

*Sending all of our Lord of Life families warm wishes at the start of the new academic year!*

## Teen Life Ministries

**"Our Mission Trip"** by Kylie Guttormson:

"A few weeks ago, 54 adventurous teens and adults decided to travel to Washington state for to work with special needs teens and adults at a day camp. Although each person went with different expectations, we were all shocked by the small, slanted cabins that lacked any sort of heating, and the cryptic hints the warm beach staff gave us about what to expect from our week. Of course, the crash course of our jobs and responsibilities was overwhelming, and we were unsure and uncertain of our week would look like. We worried a bit during the training, but the night before our campers arrived, everyone learned the name and needs of their camper and our excitement overtook our fears.. The week was full of messy meals, special activities, toothy smiles, loud laughs, and some big tears. This mission trip was the first one where we weren't working with our peers all day long, but this, although intimidating at first, ended up being a reward as we were able to see ourselves, and each other, grow and develop in ways that we didn't think possible. At the beginning of the week, we were encouraged to keep an eye out for our "why," the reason we were on the trip. I went into the week thinking my 'why' was only to leave a positive impact on the campers lives, but I left realizing that the patience and understanding I developed throughout the week would stay with me throughout the rest of my life and how greatly this experience has shaped me as a person."

### Calling all Stockholders!

On Sunday, August 6th, our LOL youth invite you to come to our thank you luncheon at 12:30. We will talk about our mission trip experience and share loads of funny and powerful stories of our time at Warm Beach Camp. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you there!

See more Youth updates at [LOLonline.org/teen-life-ministry/](http://LOLonline.org/teen-life-ministry/)



### Red Cross Disaster Response

How can we help when disaster strikes? Register to help at the Red Cross-Certified disaster center Sts. Simon and Jude (just down the road from Lord of Life on Glenloch). Training sessions will be held July 29 from 9-12pm. Shelter Management and Shift Supervisor training will be August 12, from 10-12pm. Please RSVP @[jfburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jfburk@sbcglobal.net).

### Are you a "72-Hour Lutheran"?

Hurricane season is upon us, running from June 1 through November 30. We may not be as prepared as we should be. We encourage each and every one of you to become a 72 Hour Lutheran. Being prepared to take care of our own households allows us to then reach out and help others within the community.

Should we avoid an unwelcome situation this season, consider a trip, special offering, or some support to those who do not. In times of crisis, we have the opportunity and responsibility to respond. Read more at [gulfoastsynod.org/gulf-coast-resources/72-hour-lutheran/](http://gulfoastsynod.org/gulf-coast-resources/72-hour-lutheran/)



### School supplies are on sale now! Take advantage of the great prices.

Join us in our ministry to refugees children world-wide and foster kids in Texas

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits:** Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.

**Krause Children's Center:** The girls at Krause in Katy are far more than a number, a label or a statistic. They have survived extraordinarily difficult circumstances that most people could never even imagine. These girls are amazing and brave—they are warriors. Beyond the basic needs of shelter, clothing and food, Krause also provides personalized therapy and on-campus education through Trinity Charter Schools. They could use our help with supplies. *This is a great family project. See the table in the hallway for a list of supplies.*

Collecting items through August 27th.

### TRAVELER to Benefit Fill the Gap

Traveler, a Houston trio will perform folk, blues, and bluegrass music Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 7:30 p. m. at Millbend Coffee House. [www.traveler-music.com](http://www.traveler-music.com)

All proceeds from the concert will benefit Fill the Gap to pay rent and/or utility deposits for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Millbend Coffee House is in Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church at 1370 North Millbend Drive, The Woodlands, Texas. Advance tickets are available for a \$20 donation at [www.millbend.org](http://www.millbend.org).

### Community of Hope Training

Community of Hope International equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care, listening compassionately to an individual or group and responding to their spiritual needs. Kinsmen will begin a Community of Hope training on August 22 through November 28. Over the course of 14 weeks, the training guides participants through the tenants of Benedictine spirituality, which centers around balance, humility, and hospitality. Training is open to the community, and the course fee is just \$50. If interested, please contact Lynnae Schatz, 281.444.3127.

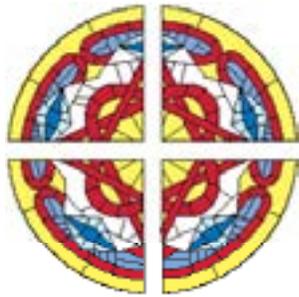


## Lord of Life Lutheran Church

3801 South Panther Creek Dr.

The Woodlands TX 77381

[www.LordofLifeOnline.org](http://www.LordofLifeOnline.org)



*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### Lord of Life Lutheran Church 281-367-7016

Fax 281-363-4716

[www.LordofLifeOnline.org](http://www.LordofLifeOnline.org)

email us at [lol@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:lol@lordoflifeonline.org)

Kids of the Kingdom  
Preschool 281-298-9901

We invite you to join us for  
worship on Sundays

8:30 am	Contemporary Liturgical Worship
9:45 am	Sunday School for all Ages
9:50 am	New Life Worship
11:00 am	Traditional Worship

*Your Church Staff*

#### **Rev. Gary Heath**

*Senior Pastor*

#### **Rev. David Bauser**

*Associate Pastor*

#### **Tammy Fincher**

*Director of Worship & The Arts*

#### **Rob Hunt**

*Organist/Choirmaster*

#### **Lanette Jackson**

*Director of Finance*

#### **Marna Arlien**

*Director of Communications*

#### **Patrick Nazaroff**

*Director of Teen Life Ministry*

#### **Anne Swetich**

*Director of Outreach Ministries*

#### **Austin Hunt**

*Music Associate*

#### **Katie Phillips**

*Children & Youth Music*

#### **Sarah Schlacks**

*Bells of Life Director*

#### **Steve Shirley**

*Building Superintendent*

#### **Cindy Maxwell**

*Director of Connecting Ministries*

#### **Nancy Hauglie**

*Wedding Coordinator*

#### **Sandy DeSelms**

*Funeral Coordinator*

#### **Rick Janacek**

*Office & Communication Manager*

#### **Michelle McGuire**

*KOK Preschool Direct*



**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

A network of growing, Christ-centered, authentically-trusted congregations  
passing the faith to the next generation.