

**October 18, 2017**

## **Reformation 500**

This month we have been commemorating events that happened 500 years ago, and how they impacted the world since then. In particular, we are commemorating the 50 most recent years that we Lutherans and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters have been working toward, putting aside old grudges toward each other, working toward reconciliation in the Body of Christ in order to be better witnesses to the world of Jesus and his love. In the past 50 years, conversations and activities between leaders of the Lutheran and Roman Catholic communities have revealed that we have been, for 500 years, keeping a grudge alive by exaggerating our differences. The very same thing we tend to do in our families, in our politics, and in our congregations.

The highlighting and exaggerating of faults and differences and disagreements - and of hanging on to real and perceived hurts between us- where does it lead? Straight to destruction and death. It leads to massacres like that in Las Vegas. It leads to divorces in marriages. It leads to hostile standoffs and stalemates in government decision-making. And it leads to people in need being hurt and neglected while we waste time in our sinful self-righteousness, hanging on to our need to be "right". If our Reformation history has anything to say to about separation from God, from our neighbor, and from our own selves, it's this from Romans 3:

**For there is no distinction -  
Since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,  
We are put right by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood ---  
and it's made effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness  
because in his divine forbearance, he has passed over sins previously committed;  
it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous,  
and that he puts right the one who has faith in Jesus.  
So then what becomes of the old boasting? (and grudge holding, we might add?)**

Just this - the more we come to receive the redemption from sin and forgiveness that is in Christ Jesus for all of us sorry sinners, the more we realize how little the things that we have let divide us matter, and the more we desire to be reconciled to one another in the reconciling power of Christ's cross.

In this newsletter, you will find an invitation to participate in an incredible witness to the reconciling power of God in Jesus Christ. Together with Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, we celebrate the ongoing journey of God's re-forming the church,

especially through the reconciliation God is bringing about between Lutherans and Catholics after all these years of "grudge holding". And maybe this commemoration can help us consider letting go of other grudges in our lives as well, so that we can be reconciled and set free to live and love unhindered by divisions and united by the love of Jesus Christ.

See you on our ongoing life and church re-forming journey!



Lord of Life  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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





*From Conflict to Communion: Together in Hope*

### **A Service of Common Prayer**

To Commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, **Friday, October 27**  
at Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 26777 Glen Loch Drive  
6 PM Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Sts Simon and Jude \* 7 PM Worship \*  
8:15 PM Wine and Dessert hosted by Lord of Life Lutheran Church

**Please join us for a joint Catholic - Lutheran Service of Common Prayer, hosted by Saints Simon and Jude and Lord of Life, commemorating the Reformation and celebrating 50 years of Lutheran - Catholic reconciliation dialogue.**

We'll "lift the roof" with combined choirs, children's choir, brass and praise bands, and pastors reflecting on the journey we have been on as congregations this past year. We will sign a covenant to strengthen our commitment to continue this incredible journey of mutual prayer, study, and service in Jesus' name. Following confession and reconciliation we will share the peace, be fed by the Word, jointly confess our common faith, and make three commitments for our life together as we move forward. People of all faiths are invited to this historic event, which marks the first Reformation centennial anniversary that Lutherans and Roman Catholics have celebrated together.

### **Reformation Sunday at Lord of Life**

Each worship time will feature a different worship presentation by our children and youth. Join us at 8:30, 9:50 or 11am.

#### **Reformation Fest begins at 11:00 am**

11:00-12:30 Family Friendly Activities

*Dunk the Devil* (starring Patrick, Pastor David and Pastor Gary) Dunk the Devil tank is cash only – 1 ball for \$1, 3 balls for \$5, and \$20 to “hit the button” (an automatic dunk)

12:00- 1:30 *Lunch* – Brats and Sauerkraut, Beer and Rootbeer, Sno-cones and Reformation Sundaes provided by LOL. *Potluck* – bring your favorite German side dish to share

*Pumpkin Carving Contest* – carve your pumpkin at home and bring to LOL for judging. Reformation themes encouraged!



**Oct. 29. at Lord of Life • Starts at 11am**

Potluck • Fun Activities for the Whole Family

**Prayers For Peace** – Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. We pray for our own peace, peace for those we love, peace for our enemies and peace for all creation. If you cannot come to church, please take a moment to offer prayers for peace and well-being to all wherever you may be at 6:30 on Wednesdays. “Like” our Facebook page for reminders @ LordOfLifeLutheranChurchELCA.



## **Everyone is welcome to celebrate the grand opening of the Lord of Life Welcome Center**

Friday, November 17, 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
Music by the LOL Jazz Band \* Appetizers and Wine  
Shopping at the Hands of Faith Holiday Market

Do you have a gift for hospitality? Are you helpful? Are you a smiler? Do you wish to make Lord of Life a welcoming place? If so, join us Sunday, November 5th, 12:30 – 2:00 PM for training/lunch. All who are interested in volunteering as ushers, greeters, park & ride, coffee and welcome desk helpers are invited to attend. Are you looking for a simple way to get involved? This is your opportunity! If you are currently serving in any of these ministries, please come to share your valuable insight and experience. Questions and info: Cindy Maxwell 281.367.7016 or [cmaxwell@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:cmaxwell@lordoflifeonline.org)



## **A note from Pastor David**

### **Reformation Witness**

As we approach the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg sending shockwaves through the Roman Empire and the Church, it is helpful for us to reflect on the important process and task of re-formation. The Reformation may have taken place in the 16th century but the process of re-formation is ongoing because the Holy Spirit continues to be at work in the Church.

In fact, the process of re-formation began long before Martin Luther ever came into existence. We can see evidence of the effects of the Spirit re-forming the Church from the earliest days of scripture. Just take a closer look at the story of Noah:

Genesis 6:19 tells us that Noah will bring two of every kind of animal on to the ark. This is the story we know and love. This is the story we sing songs about and tell our children. But just a few verses later in Genesis 7:2 God says to Noah, “Take seven pairs of all clean animals...and a pair of animals that are not clean.” All of a sudden Noah is taking fourteen of some animals and only two of others. What happened? Did God change plans? Did Noah misunderstand? The people who dedicate their life to understanding this sort of story suggest that this is a sign of changes in the Jewish community. When the stories were being recorded the different numbers reflect different traditions out of which the story came. In other words, as Genesis was being recorded the people doing the recording were already in the process of reforming themselves.

We see evidence of this from Paul’s early letters to his later ones and from one Gospel story to another. In Church history we see how the Church shifted from an underground movement to a political power. We watch as the Orthodox and Roman churches split. Eventually, of course, we get to our favorite Reformer: Martin and his band of merry men (cue the Robin Hood theme song here).

But re-formation didn’t stop there. The church had to be reformed as it came to the United States and as we lost touch with the languages of our homelands. I served a church in Columbus, OH that was called First English Lutheran Church because it was the first Lutheran church in central Ohio to worship in English in 1848. We have reformed to allow women to be ordained and to allow pastors who have gotten divorced to continue to serve. We have reformed the way our pastors dress day to day and even for worship. We have reformed our understanding of the role that non-clergy play in the Church. We have reformed the way we understand our individual congregational roles as we connect to a larger church organization. We have reformed the way we preach and the ways we teach. Even now we are in the midst of great opportunities for re-formation as we deal with a culture that is increasingly ambivalent and even hostile toward faith.

Martin Luther, incredible theologian and pastor that he was, was not the first nor the last reformer of the Church. Each of us has a responsibility to listen to the call of the Holy Spirit and discover the ways that we are being called to be re-formed. And when we see it happening, we must share the story! We may not be called to nail some complaints to a door but through the love of Christ poured out in his death and resurrection we are all re-formers of the Church.



**The Common Table** - A social ministry for adults age 55+ in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal next door. Join us the 3rd Tuesday of the month for happy/social hours. 5-7 pm.

*Our November no-host Social will be on Friday, November 10, from 5:30-10:00 pm at Olive Oil Greek Restaurant, 373 Sawdust Rd. The Woodlands* There will be live Greek music, a dance floor and entertainment. This is different from our usual socials but will be a lot of fun. No reservations needed, the restaurant is expecting us. For more information, contact Helen

Geiger at 281.419.5178 or email: [hgeiger100@gmail.com](mailto:hgeiger100@gmail.com)





# Congregational Life

## Veteran's Day 2017 at Lord of Life

Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Trinity Episcopal in The Woodlands have joined for an ecumenical worship service to honor all who have served and those who are presently serving in our armed forces. The service will be at Trinity Episcopal (3901 S. Panther Creek) on Veteran's Day, **November 10th, at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome. After the service please join us for refreshments.



On **Sunday November 5th**, right after our 8:30 a.m. service, we will be offering pints of delicious Culver's frozen custard. Proceeds from the sales of the frozen custard go to the Social Emergency Welfare Fund at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital for needy veterans and their families. We hope to see your smiling faces this Sunday! Our special thanks to Joe Welge, owner of Culver's, for his continued support of veterans and their families.



## Faiths Together Service of Thanks

After 9/11, "Faiths Together" was organized

in the Woodlands. Lord of Life is proud to take part. This group sponsors an annual Inter-religious Observance and engaging in projects that promote education and social justice for people of all faiths.

This year's Giving Thanks Observance will held at Trinity Episcopal Church on November 14. Its goal is to spread good will between all faiths and help all of us to get to know each other and work together. We always learn something new about other faiths as we share our experience. Following the service there is a wonderful sharing of foods that come from around the world.

Come! Get to know your neighbors who worship differently than we do. They get to know us as well. Be part of a loving community that cares about God and shares God's love with others. Questions? Contact Sandy DeSelms [sandyd2134@att.net](mailto:sandyd2134@att.net) 832-797-8817



Lord of Life **Family Camp** will be February 23-25, 2018 at Camp Lutherhill in LaGrange, TX.

## Faith Formation Opportunities at Lord of Life:

### Kid's Sunday School

Age 3 on up to Jr. High & Sr. High Sunday School *Every Sunday at 9:50. Age 3 to 4th grade downstairs. 5th-12th grade upstairs*

**Interested in Adult Sunday School?** 9:45 – 10:45, upstairs. Childcare is available in our nursery. BIBLE, CHRISTIANITY & YOU Life-changing encounter with God's Word from the book of Mark. Upstairs, Library (Rm 21)  
SECOND CLASS: "The Bible tells me so: why defending scripture has made us unable to read it" Upstairs, Rm 23.

**Bible Study specifically for parents!** Two 4-week sessions on Sunday mornings this fall. Whether you're a first-time parent with an infant or an experienced pro with kids in high school, you will have a chance to build relationships, study scripture, and gain new insights into raising faith-full kids. 9:50 am upstairs. **Oct. 22 You want me to do what? Bible Stories for Parents** *Session Two begins Sunday, November 26.*

**Moms With Littles Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 in the conference room. Childcare available. Priscilla Shirer's Armor of God

**Ladies Bible Study** begins for the year on Wednesdays at 9:45 in the library upstairs. Babysitting is provided.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Study the sermon text with the pastor every Tuesday at 11:30 in the conference room. Bring your lunch. Your insight might show up in Sunday's sermon!

**Mens' Breakfast** meets at 7:30AM, the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Fellowship and faith stories are shared along with breakfast in the fellowship hall. Contact Danny Craft for more information, or just show up, to be part of this active and entertaining group of men.

# Worship & The Arts

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

"Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love (hesed) endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34

God's steadfast love, God's loving kindness, God's mercy, God's **hesed** – something God is and something God does. God loves with a strong, faithful, enduring love. We receive God's steadfast love every heartbeat of our lives and it is promised to us forever. We have certainly seen God's steadfast love poured out in our midst in the past couple of months. And we remember that God's love has been poured out to countless generations before us and will continue to be pour out to those who follow us. Such remembrance and experience of God's love causes me to fall to my knees in worship and praise, as does the way in which we have shown that love on to others who need to experience God's love in human form in the midst of difficult times and of joy-filled times.

Where have you experienced God's love? Where have you seen God's love passed on? Let us join in worship and give God thanks and praise for God's love to us and for our ability and willingness to share that love with others.

"Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless the name of the Lord. For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations." *Psalm 100:4-5*

## Upcoming Worship:

- October 25 Reformation Worship at the Co-Cathedral
- October 27 Common Prayer worship with St. Simon & Jude, 7 pm
- October 29 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Worship & Festival
- November 5 All Saints Sunday
- November 10 Veterans' Worship – joint service at Trinity Episcopal, 7 pm
- November 12 First Communion for 5th Graders
- November 19 Dedication of the Welcome Space and Hands of Faith
- November 26 Christ the King



## Advent/Christmas is coming!

- November 29 First Midweek Advent Worship: Isaiah
- December 2 Deck the Halls, 4 pm
- December 3 First Sunday of Advent

### Advent Devotional

Seeking writers and artists for our Advent devotional. The theme is "Unexpected and Mysterious (is the touch of God's grace)". There are scriptures for each day for the writings. Word count 250 words. The deadline is Nov. 1. There is a sign-up in the Narthex, on the credenza for writers. Artists contact Tammy Fincher, [tfincher@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:tfincher@lordoflifeonline.org).



## In Memory of Donna June Husmann: June 24, 1933 - October 4, 2017

*Memorial Service on Sunday, October 22, at 3 pm at Lord of Life.*

Donna was the devoted wife to Edward Husmann and the mother of two sons, David, 64 of Weimar Texas and Greg, 61 of Weatherford. Donna and Ed became members of The Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge North in 1971. They helped in the growth of the church and moved with it to its present location in the Woodlands and have maintained their long-standing membership.





# Children's Ministries

Visit our website for more information about our Children's Ministry [LordofLifeOnline.org](http://LordofLifeOnline.org)



As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, our children have been taking a closer look at Martin Luther. Luther was a theology professor in the 1500s, composer, priest and monk who took a stand against injustices in the church at the time. Not only did he nail the 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Castle Church door, but he put the Scriptures in the hands of the people to read. 2 Timothy 3: 16 says "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Lord of Life put the Scriptures into the hands of five third-graders this month. Now, as parents and congregation members, it is our job to teach, train and help our children learn what the Bible says and how to live it out in their daily lives.

It is the second part of that statement that is the hardest. How do we help our children live out the Gospel? We model and stand up for the injustices, just like Martin Luther, and allow our children to see us doing it. Stand up for what is important to you and your family. Let us raise world-shakers who have an identity in Christ.

*Stacie Phillips, Director of Children's Faith Formation*

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- 10/27: Kids Night Out 6-9pm (5 year olds-4th Grade) [Sign up online at LordofLifeOnline.org](http://LordofLifeOnline.org)
- 10/28: Rehearsal for Reformation Day Worship 9am
- 10/29: Reformation Fest
- 11/12: 5th Grade First Communion Sunday
- 11/18: 4th-6th Grade Flippin' For Jesus Pancake Bible Study. [Sign up online at LordofLifeOnline.org](http://LordofLifeOnline.org)
- 11/19: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11/26: Faith-Full Families Night - Dinner and Fellowship 5:30-7:30

# Teen Life Ministries

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

## Confirmation Retreat at Lutherhill

La Grange, November 10-12. This is a great time to get to know one another and our Lord while we play and relax in God's creation. \$120. Sign up [pnazaroff@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:pnazaroff@lordoflifeonline.org)

## Sr. High Murder Mystery Dinner – October 29th, 6 to 8pm. \$10

A totally rad 80's prom gone bad. Crimp your hair, get some fingerless gloves, and bust out some neon. It's time to go back in time (for murder). You'll get some food, play a character, show off your bodacious costume, and try to figure out who-dun it. It will be rad to the max. Meet at the Guttormson's. Contact Patrick for address.

## BLAZAR TAG at Main Event – November 16th, 6 to 8pm. \$20

Get Ready for Blazer Tag, Bow(tie)ling, and Skee Ball Gowns. It's just like regular Lazer tag, bowling, or Skee-ball – but we're wearing blazers or other fancy things. Cost includes all activities, a video games gift card, and dinner.



Thank you to all who came to California Pizza Kitchen for our youth group fundraiser. We had over 100 people show up to eat pizza or get take out and support our youth!

**Confirmation** is for 7th and 8th graders, Wednesday nights during the school year, 7pm at Lord of Life.

**Rewind - Jr. High Sunday School:** A chance to look back on a week and reexamine what we learned in Confirmation. 7th & 8th grade youth meet Sunday mornings, 9:50—10:45 am upstairs in room 22.

**Senior High Sunday School** meets from 9:45-10:45 in the youth room upstairs.

**Senior High Youth Group** Sunday nights 6:30-8:00 pm, upstairs Rm 25. Grades 9th – 12th are welcome for games, fellowship, and Bible Study

# Outreach Ministries



**Christmas Party for Upbring Foster Families** Saturday Dec. 9 at Lord of Life. Help us uplift and support foster parents with a special party and gifts. Please e-mail Anne [aswetich@lordoflifeonline.org](mailto:aswetich@lordoflifeonline.org) if you would like to help! Gifts will be collected between Nov. 5-Nov.26.

## Seafarer Ministry

Our Ministry to the Port of Houston runs Oct. 22 through Nov. 26. Read more at [houstonseafarers.com](http://houstonseafarers.com). Seafarer Boxes are delivered to seamen visiting the Port of Houston through the Houston Seafarer's Center.

*Suggestions for Seafarer's Boxes:* band-aids, Kleenex, sewing kit, postcards, paper, envelopes, pens, dental floss, nail clippers, comb, lotion, bottle opener, shoe laces, deodorant, 2018 calendar, address book, key chain, razors, soap/shampoo, shaving cream, disposable camera, USB flash drive, Texas souvenirs, hard candy, popcorn, flashlight, photo album, hot chocolate, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, q-tips, puzzles, games, playing cards, dice, yoyo, Suduko, word searches, bandanas, undershirts, socks, gloves, baseball hats or knitted caps.



Many school children in our community struggle to have sufficient underwear and personal care items. It's hard to study if you are worried about (or being bullied for) how you smell. We can help school nurses provide simple items for those who don't have basic health care supplies at home. Our goal is to keep kids in school by helping them have a healthy positive self-image.

*The following **NEW (not used)** items are needed:*

Deodorant, body wash (no bar soap), Travel-size toothpaste and shampoo, solid-color T-shirts, unisex, all sizes (including plus), elastic-waist shorts and pants (unisex, all sizes, including plus) or underwear (boys and girls, all sizes, from 6x to adult plus sizes). **We will collect these items on Nov. 12th & 19th.**

**A note from Michelle McGuire, director of Kids of the Kingdom Preschool:** Our 2017 Book Fair sales goal was \$2500. We came very close thanks to a very successful Sunday from Lord Of Life who started us off on our goal by purchasing \$800 in books. Thank you to all of you for your generous support of this preschool ministry! Our final sales totaled \$2299.20. We received \$919.67 in scholastic dollars to purchase materials for our school. We were able to get an entire listening center complete with headphones for 4 children at a time to enjoy audio books independently. We were also able to add numerous books from our favorite authors to our school library for all children to enjoy. Thanks again for your support of Kids Of Kingdom!



**Global Market Fair Trade Holiday Sale**

Friday NOV 17  
5:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Saturday NOV 18  
10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday NOV 19  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Credit Cards, Cash, and Checks are accepted  
Free Admission

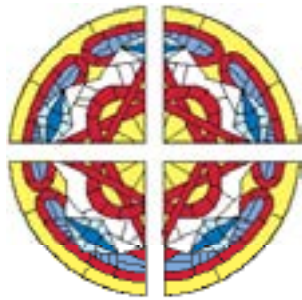
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Kids of the Kingdom  
Preschool 281-298-9901

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**

*Communications Coordinator*

#### **Patrick Nazaroff**

*Director of Teen Life Ministry*

#### **Anne Swetich**

*Director of Outreach Ministries*

#### **Austin Hunt**

*Music Associate*

#### **Katie Phillips**

*Director of Children's Faith  
Formation*

#### **Sarah Schlacks**

*Bells of Life Director*

#### **Cindy Maxwell**

*Connecting Ministries Coordinator*

#### **Nancy Hauglie**

*Wedding Coordinator*

#### **Sandy DeSelms**

*Funeral Coordinator*

#### **Rick Janacek**

*Office Manager*

#### **Michelle McGuire**

*KOK Preschool Director*



**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.