

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

LIFELINES

November 2017

Worship – 8:00 am, 10:00 am

9420 Portage Rd
Portage MI 49002

Office Information

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:30 am – Noon

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or Arlynnmusic@att.net

Website: lolchurchonline.org

Pastor Joan's Information

Home: 269-254-3554

Email: joan4451@att.net

Congregation Council

President: Aaron Sorrels

Vice President: Deno Sorrels

Secretary: Sharon Kuruoglu

Treasurer: Peggy Thompson

Past President: Meg Finerty

Christian Education

Committee Chair:

Pastor Joan Herbon

Fellowship Committee Chair:

JoDeane Vekich

Finance Committee Chair:

Vicki Martin

Property Committee Chair:

Greg Chiu

Social Outreach Committee

Chair: Marge Brinkert

Worship/Music Committee

Chair: Jean Kropf

Bazaar Committee Chair:

Marti Wile

Staff Support Committee

Chair: Deno Sorrels

Thankful November greetings, Church!

Since I've been getting suggestions from You-all on what to write about, writing newsletter articles has been interesting but not at all easier. I've written (at your requests) about prayer, Sin (sins), salvation theories, and the request for this month is NOT gratitude (which would have been easy), but violence. Yes, violence! Virginia wants to know what I think about all of this violence today (hate it) and why is there so much violence in the Bible?

Well, there is clearly a lot of violence in the Old Testament: God kills all of the first born of the Egyptians even though Pharaoh had decided to let the Hebrew people go, God sends a plague of poisonous snakes to bite and kill the people when they grumble about the food in the wilderness, God tells the Israelites to kill every person (even the women and children) in the Canaanite towns they conquer when taking the promised land, God sends the Assyrians and the Babylonians to defeat the people and to take them into exile. God appears to be constantly angry, wrathful, vengeful, jealous, and the people of God seem to be the same

In the stories of the Old Testament, the people do not seem to be very different from the people of today, always at war, always jealous and greedy. I suppose we can understand this in humans - we're just humans, in bondage to Sin, but how do we understand it when God appears to act just like the humans? Is the God of the Old Testament even the same God as the loving God of the New Testament? Well, here are some of the things I think. These are, once again, my own opinions. There are good, faithful Christians who do not agree with me and there are good, faithful Christians who do agree with me.

1. There is only ONE God! Old Testament and New Testament - same God.
2. For some unknown and unexplainable reason people seem to pay more attention to violence and war than they do to love and peace. We want to hear about the battle of Jericho and we don't really care that God pardoned the people of Nineveh, but, as Jonah knew, the core attribute of God even in the Old Testament is God's steadfast love and mercy (hesed). God is always more ready to forgive than to punish. We just don't pay as much attention to those stories.

3. The stories where whole villages were destroyed and all of the people killed at God's command were written down many hundreds of years after they actually happened. It's possible that the people who were writing these stories down to be preserved for history wrote them to appear as though God commanded the destruction when actually it was just the natural consequences of conquering a territory. History is not really very factual but is the subjective opinions of the people who are recording it. Perhaps all of this extreme violence and bloodshed is just like biblical Texas chainsaw murders. People just want to be scared.
4. Lutherans are people of the Word. We believe and trust in the Bible, but we also acknowledge that some parts are more relevant for us today than other parts. We always let the gospel be the lens through which we look at everything else.
5. Sometimes I just have to admit that I don't understand everything in the Bible. The Bible is a Living Word, subject to the interpretation of the Holy Spirit. To say that I have complete understanding of everything in the Bible would be a lie and extremely arrogant.

Finally, my sisters and brothers, when we're upset by the violence we see all around us and we struggle to keep from being pulled into it, or when we're confused by the violence we see in the Bible, we can always run to Jesus. In his sermon on the mount (Matthew 5:1 - 7:29), Jesus tells us to be peacemakers, and he tells us how to go about it. Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy', But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your father in heaven..." (Matt. 5:43-45) If we follow Jesus and obey his teachings, even if we suffer because of the violence in the world, our hearts will remain full of love and joy.

Next month I've been requested to talk about "grace". How appropriate as we prepare to welcome Jesus!

Shalom!

Pastor Joan

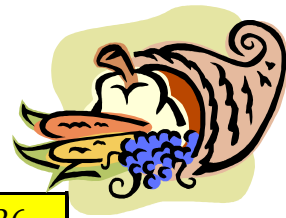
In our thoughts and prayers....



Becky Suarez, Sherry Valeko, Donna Speirs, Georgia Piper, Shirley Soltman, Barb Hogg, Chris Burt's brother Mark Newton, Mike Hadley, Kim Love, Helen Arend, Katie Kuruoglu, Joyce Fink, Regina Auzins, Henrietta Griffioen, Jim Chapman, Connie Chapman, Jeri Kuiper, Marie Lait, Bette Lawrence, Bob Maas, Alison Martin, Jasmine Otoofi Pick, Ferd Macholz, and those who serve in the military, especially Nicole (Neumann) Dewitt's husband, Houston, who is deployed to Korea.



*Our Christian sympathy and prayers
reach out to Margit and Greg Chiu and their family
in the death of Margit's mother on September 25.
May God grant you peace and comfort.*



Those Who Serve in November

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
8:00 Assistant/Reader	Susan Maas	Jean Kropf	Lorraine Klies	Susan Maas
8:00 Greeter	Barry & Lorraine Klies	Rob & Jean Kropf	JoDeane Vekich	Larry & Missy Griffioen
10:00 Assistant	Peggy Thompson	Greg Chiu	Meg Finerty	Rose Phares
10:00 Reader	Doris Scheffel Symonds	Deno Sorrels	Gail Reisterer	Jean Kropf
10:00 Usher	Greg & Margit Chiu	Marge Brinkert, Eric Bishop	Gail Reisterer, Margaret Baber	Mark & Deb Zulauf
10:00 Greeters	Helen Waterhouse	Marilyn Noel	Anne Ritchie	Barbara Copeland
10:00 Coffee Clean-Up	Need Someone	Need Someone	Need Someone	Need Someone
Altar Guild	Chris Burt	Rosemary Cotter	Barry & Lorraine Klies	Jean Kropf
Counters	Greg Chiu, Peggy Thompson	Greg Chiu, Cheryl Meyer	Susan Maas, Bud Meyer	Rose Phares, Deb Zulauf

9:30 a.m.	December 3
Assistant	Lorraine Klies
Reader	Doris Scheffel Symonds
Ushers	Lance & Marti Wile
Greeter	Marge Brinkert
Altar Guild	Barry & Lorraine Klies
Counters	Peggy Thompson, Lance Wile
Coffee Cleanup	Need Someone

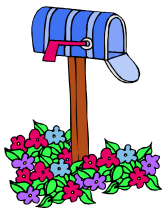




On **All Saints' Sunday, November 5,**
we will remember and give thanks for those of
Lord of Life who have died since the last All Saints' Day:

**Richard Copeland
Betty Mattheis
Katie Roy
Fern Chapman
Katherine Schindler**

*Before worship begins,
you are invited to light a candle for your loved ones who have joined the church triumphant.*



Address Changes:

Sharon Kuruoglu
5320 Azalea St
Portage MI 49002



Again I want to thank LOL friends. It is very, very good to be remembered. I had a hand crafted (by a friend) wall hanging in my kitchen: "NO ONE IS RICH ENOUGH TO LIVE WITHOUT FRIENDS". I am so grateful to LOL. ~Helen Arend

**39th Annual Bazaar
Saturday, November 4, 2017**

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's pasty making days a wonderful success. We had fewer helpers than we hoped on Thursday and Friday, but we all worked hard and once again set a new record! Twenty-seven dedicated individuals made **1248** pasties this year! Great work everyone!

A huge thank you to St. Catherine's for letting us use their kitchen and mixer for the third year in a row to make the dough. They are such a huge blessing!

Be sure to sign up if you are able to help on Bazaar day setup (Friday, November 3) and the day of the Bazaar (Saturday, November 4). Don't forget to drop off your baked goods on Friday, November 3.

Thank you again! ~Marti Wile

We need lots of help with...

- **Bazaar set up** – Friday, November 3 – Help is especially needed from 9 – 11 AM.
- **Bazaar Day** – Saturday, November 4
- **Craft items and baked goods** – Bring priced items to the church any time during the week, *before* Saturday morning, please. The church will be open every morning and from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Advertising** – Hang a bazaar flyer (copies are on tables in lobbies) at your place of work, local store, etc., and tell people about the bazaar.
- **Shopping & lunch** – Come shop at the bazaar and have a delicious pasty lunch.

Thank you for your support!

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, November 11, at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for food, fellowship and a brief devotion.

Any questions? Call Rob Kropf at 323-1961 or email him at kropf.robert@att.net.

Congregation Council – Aaron Sorrels

Faithful, Steadfast and Thankful

October is gone and winter's comin' on.

During October, we and the world celebrated Pastor's Appreciation Month. Here at Lord of Life, we also celebrate Pastor Joan Herbon's 10th anniversary of ministering here in this place.

We support our church through our giving and all our participation and our prayers.

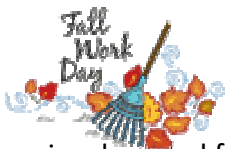
At Council, we hear from dedicated committee chairs about the work of the church. That includes all of us. Those items are shared in Council and shared in this newsletter as well.

We, the Church, are here. Being faithful, being steadfast, being thankful.

See you in church.

Property Committee – Greg Chiu

At the time of this writing, we are experiencing relatively warm weather; however, we must now turn our attention to activities to prepare ourselves for the colder weather that will be here soon.



The **Fall Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m.**, so mark your calendars.

We have proposals to fix our lighting issues in the fellowship hall and sanctuary. Also, we have plans to upgrade and fix issues with our security and fire alarms. We have coverage for these items, but these systems are old and not working like we would want them to.

Worship and Music Committee –

Jean Kropf

The Worship and Music Committee is grateful to all who responded to the Worship Schedule Preference Survey. We prayerfully considered each survey and concluded that, at this time in the history of our congregation, it is best to hold services at **8a.m. and 10a.m. from Easter until Advent** and to have **one service at 9:30a.m. from Advent until Easter and on fifth Sundays**. This way, most of the people will have their worship time preference offered for some of the year. Our Advent to Easter worship schedule will begin on Sunday, December 3, at 9:30a.m.

On October 29, a fifth Sunday, we worship at one service at 9:30a.m., with a Service of Healing. We also celebrate the 500th Year of the Reformation, commemorating Martin Luther and the 95 Theses nailed to the church in Wittenburg, Germany. It is a tradition to wear a red item of clothing for this celebration. Then, on Sunday, November 5, we celebrate All Saint's Sunday with services at 8a.m. and 10a.m.



On Wednesday evening, November 22, we celebrate Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7p.m. at Prince of Peace. And, then on to the season of Advent in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Photo by Pastor Joan



Finance Committee – Vicki Martin

The Finance Committee met on October 2 to review our progress year to date and identify actions that need to be accomplished in the final quarter of the calendar year. The committee had much discussion about our budget and needs for 2018. With our congregation maintaining the size and amount of giving similar to last year, it is a challenge to meet increasing expenses, without full consideration of all options. A few corrections in the recording of the giving activity are being addressed to get a more complete picture of our current budget position. This will be accomplished prior to our next Finance meeting scheduled for November 6. At that time, full consideration will be given to the budgetary requests and needs presented by the Staff Support Committee and other Committees of the church.

Information was shared about several repairs and upgrades needed in our physical plant and these

needs will be further investigated by the Property Committee for financial consideration and timing.

Pastor shared an excellent strategy for temple talks leading up to Commitment Sunday scheduled for December 3. Members will be sharing their experiences with the many important causes we support through our church - from SWELL to visits to Medilodge to our awesome contributions to Loaves and Fishes, - each week a new story will be told!

Thank you to everyone for the many contributions you have made to our church. The congregation shares powerful gifts and the benefits are far reaching. I have no doubt that we will remain committed and vigilant to insure that we continue to meet the needs of our church and our neighbors.

Thank you for your many gifts and wishing you God's blessings as we move through the fall season!

- ♦To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer. ~Martin Luther
- ♦Peace is more important than all justice; and peace was not made for the sake of justice, but justice for the sake of peace. ~Martin Luther

Fellowship Committee – JoDeane Vekich

On October 8, after services, a potluck lunch was hosted by the committee gals. Good food – but most of all great fellowship with each other. Thanks be to God.

The 5th Sunday breakfast on October 29 will be served by the gals. It should be another time for Lord of Life members to have a good time sharing food and love.

To our committee gals one of the best times we can have true fellowship together is the pasty making time. A time when we peel, grind, mix, roll, fill, bake, cool, wrap, freeze all 1200 plus little pies –working hard, laughing, talking, hugging a lot – what a great time. What a great fellowship time.

Thanks to Marti Wile who for years now gets it all together and keeps everyone busy. Thank you, God, for letting us have her for this great time of work; but mostly love and fellowship for each other. To the fellowship gals, that's what fellowship is -- being together, loving and sharing.

The gals are also still busy with their fellowship causes outside of the actual church building – gathering food, sharing their time with the ill and lonely.

The members Lea, Marie, Joanne, Marilee, Margaret, Marilyn, Pastor Joan, Helen M. thank God that He is theirs.

The committee is planning a Chili Cook-off and card making time for the 1st Sunday in December.

Social Outreach Committee –

Marge Brinkert

Well, now it is fall, and it has been a lovely one.
And a busy time here at Lord of life.

We collected enough items to make 49 Health Kits, and 49 School Kits that were delivered to St. Michael, along with 60 quilts, to be sent all over the world. In October, we collected diapers and wipes for Portage Community Center. I will deliver them at the end of the month.

Loaves and Fishes sent us a letter stating that we were on the top of their list for donating produce from our Love's Garden. I posted a letter on the board above the trash bins in the social area that lists all we have donated to them. Please read it as you go thru the doorway. For such a small church, we surely serve our community.

In November we will be collecting men's underwear (adult sizes: S, M, L), women's underwear (adult sizes: S, M, L, XL), socks (regular & thick) winter accessories (gloves, hats, scarves), thermal undergarments (men's and women's pants & long sleeve shirts) for Ministry with Community. These will be distributed to the homeless at the Ministry with Community Annual Underwear Party on Monday, December 4. This has been a project for us for many years.

We have received many thank you letters from the organizations that we sent Benevolence checks to. We sent out a total of \$5200 to support eight different organizations.

We always are collecting food for South County and Box Tops for Generous Hands.

Bless you all.



Remember when Passing the Peace in worship was controversial? It seems trivial now that fear of catching a cold or the flu during worship has been replaced with fear of getting caught in a mass shooting or nuclear war with North Korea. Peace goes well beyond shaking hands with someone in worship but maybe that is a start. Perhaps you can be a beacon of peace and welcome. Perhaps after shaking hands in worship you can go into your community and greet a stranger or bring a message of peace and hope to a homeless shelter or to a nursing home.

During this time of one tragedy after another everyone you see from your barista to your boss could use a message of peace. Peace be with you!

~Article from Old Lutheran.com

**Daylight Saving Time
ends November 5.**



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**



Church, labyrinth, and garden - photo by Pastor Joan

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Jeri Kuiper</i>  REFORMATION Sunday 9:30 AM WORSHIP 11:00 AM <u>Brunch</u>	30	31 <i>Larry Griffioen</i> 3:30 PM <u>Worship at Medilodge</u>	1  <i>All Saints Day</i>	2 10:00 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 6:15 PM <u>Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal</u>	3 <i>Janet Lampi</i> 9:00 AM <u>Holiday Bazaar Setup</u>	4  9:00 AM <u>Holiday Bazaar</u>
5 <i>Kyle Kuiper</i> All Saints Sunday 8:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM WORSHIP	6 7:00 PM <u>Fellowship Committee Meeting</u>	7  <i>Election Day</i> 9:00 AM <u>Worship/Music Committee Meeting</u> 3:30 PM <u>Worship at Medilodge</u>	8 <i>Alison Martin</i>	9 <i>Jim & Joanne Neumann</i> 10:00 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 6:15 PM <u>Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal</u>	10 <i>Kyle Zulauf</i> 12:30 PM Fellowship Hall in use by NARFE	11 <i>Jamie & Cengiz Gilas</i> 9:00 AM <u>Men's Fellowship Breakfast</u>  11:00 AM <u>Fall Clean Up</u>
12 8:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM WORSHIP	13 7:00 PM <u>Congregation Council Meeting</u>	14 3:30 PM <u>Worship at Medilodge</u>	15	16 10:00 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 6:15 PM <u>Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal</u>	17 4:00 PM Chapel in use by Adamcz	18 Chapel in use by Adamz
19 8:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM WORSHIP	20 8:00 AM <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	21 <i>Chad Tufts</i> 3:30 PM <u>Worship at Medilodge</u>	22 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Prince of Peace	23 <i>Greg Chiu</i>  Thanksgiving DAY	24	25
26 <i>Julius Troth</i>  CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM WORSHIP	27	28 3:30 PM <u>Worship at Medilodge</u>	29	30 10:00 AM <u>Bible Study</u> 6:15 PM <u>Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal</u>	1	2