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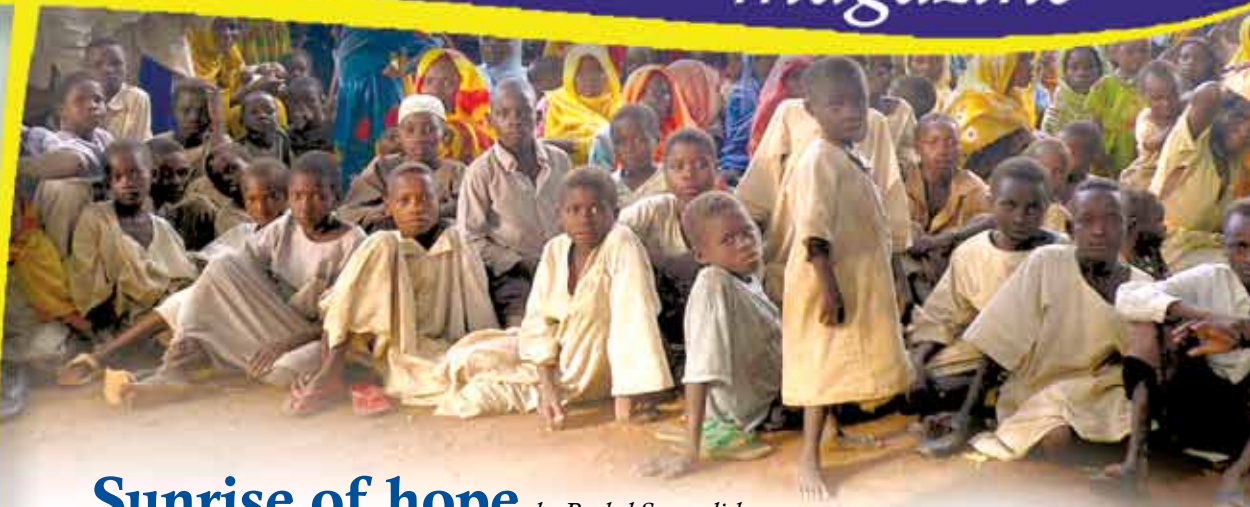
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Sunrise of hope *by Rachel Samardich*

Lord of Life youth, Rachel Samardich, inspired two hundred eighteen walkers/runners to raise over \$7,010 for people they will likely never meet face-to-face.

Every day the sun rises. There are days when some of us see thunderstorms on the horizon, while others only see the clearest skies for as long as the eye can see. For most of us though, the skies occasionally have storms, but for the most part are clear with scattered clouds.



For the Darfur refugees, the sunrise has almost entirely disappeared from sight. Their hearts are filled with daunting concerns which you and I hope to never encounter. They're burdened with fears and anxiety; how will I feed my family today? Should my son or daughter risk their life to gather firewood just outside camp borders? Where will we sleep tonight?

Continued on page 10



Packages for soldiers
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Did you know?

If you have access to the Internet, you can take Lord of Life with you. Visit: www.lordoflife.org/sermons. Podcasts are available on iTunes.



A new era in religion



Pastor Peter

The religious world, as we know it, is coming to an end. It used to be that when a family moved into a community they would join the church of the denomination they grew up in. If they were Catholic they joined the Catholic church. If they were Lutheran they joined the Lutheran church and so on.

Twenty years ago denominations became less important. People moved into a community and went church shopping. They'd look for a good youth program, a particular music style, (or for a pastor who wears black socks). Then they joined a church that best met their needs regardless of the denomination.

Today we are seeing yet another shift in the religious landscape. In recent articles and national studies, it was announced that the unaffiliated (those claiming to have no religion) are on the rise. In March the *American Religious Identification Survey* reported a large increase in this group they called "the nones." The



Bible Readings for July

July 5: Fifth week of Pentecost

II Cor. 12:2-10; Ps. 123; Mark 6:1-13

July 12: Sixth week of Pentecost

Eph. 1:3-14; Ps. 85:8-13; Mark 6:14-29

July 19: Seventh week of Pentecost

Eph. 2:11-22; Ps. 23; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26: Eighth week of Pentecost

Eph. 3:14-21; Ps. 145:10-18; John 6:1-21

percentage of people with no religious preference went up in every state.

In April, the *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life* reported that the fourth largest religious demographic in America are those who identify with being "nothing in particular." They account for over 16% of the population and are the fastest growing of any group.

These results indicate that a growing number of people are opting out of church membership. Which is not the same as opting out of belief in God. In the U.S. a high percentage of people still believe in God, but many of them evoke that contemporary cultural mantra of being "spiritual but not religious." They take parts of religious practice and leave the rest behind.

So what does this new era in religion mean for Lord of Life? I think we need to recognize that many people who visit our church will come with a different mindset. They may question why we do certain things and have suggestions for doing church better. While we need to be open to suggestions, we don't need to give in to every new idea or fad. The Christian church has done well for over 2,000 years. Tradition and doctrine are not the enemy. In changing times it is important to remain steadfast to our core beliefs of a gracious God known most intimately in Jesus Christ.

While we experience this new era in religion, let's not close our eyes to a changing culture, but let's remember our core beliefs and the grace of our God known through Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever. ~

Peace,
Pastor Peter



Baptisms

5/3 Holly Joleen Barnes
 5/3 Lucy Katherine Pennings
 5/9 Michael John Morgan, Jr.
 5/9 Samantha Anne Morgan
 5/10 Peyton Grace Downs-Sibben
 5/10 Treyton Randy Roger Emerson
 5/10 Mason Dillon Krueger
 5/16 Jackson Vaughn Fellows
 5/16 Nolan Mark Hansen
 5/16 Jonathan Clark Hjelmstad
 5/17 Jacob Michael Bohn
 5/17 Sydney Marie Kerkman
 5/17 Melaina Kim Sophaphanh
 5/23 Avery Ann Duenwald
 5/24 Lillian Marie Cheney
 5/24 Tyler William Johnson
 5/24 Henry Cooley Olson

5/30 Brittany Lee Barnum
 5/30 Hailey Anne Barnum
 5/30 Sabrina Marie Barnum
 5/31 Abigail Rose Hood
 5/31 Adam Langdon Margenau

Next Baptism Class

Saturday, July 11, 10-11 AM

Weddings

5/9 Kristine Thompson and
 Christopher Fairchild
 5/9 Sara Bondhus and Luke Naegle
 5/16 Tristan Schumer and
 Mitchell Helleen
 5/22 Ashley Kurr and Vincent Brooks

Sympathy

Prayers of sympathy for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one:

Chris Ahlman, father
 Kathy Begin, grandmother
 Scott Bernu, daughter
 Milt and Irene Bernu, granddaughter
 John Cowan, father
 Lorry Day, father
 Gene Koopman, mother
 Derek Nash, grandmother
 Karen Osterhaus, daughter

Lord of Life mission statement: *Gather Joyfully, Grow Spiritually, Go Faithfully so that all may have LIFE and have it abundantly in Jesus Christ.*

Colors of the season

At the end of May, we celebrated the feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, the time when the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We learned that the Holy Spirit is always with us, filling us with God's love and guiding us in all that we do. The color used in the church at this time is red, the color of the Holy Spirit.

Now we are in the "season after Pentecost." The time after Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity. We acknowledge and celebrate the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. White is the color for this day, indicating the light of Christ. Then starts the long season following Holy Trinity and lasting until Advent. Some churches call this "ordinary time," not meaning mundane, but ordinal or counted time, as in "the seventh week after Pentecost."

In the church, green reminds us that just as there is natural growth, there is spiritual growth in our lives, as well. While our lawns and gardens grow and "green up," we are growing spiritually as we send our roots down deep into the soil of God's love. We all know that our gardens and lawns won't do well on their own. We have to plant and tend, weed and water, mow and trim.

Our spiritual life requires attention in order to flourish, as well. How do we do that, especially in summer, when we're so busy "relaxing?" The best way is to attend worship!

Top ten reasons why you should attend weekly worship this summer:

1. Plenty of free parking.
2. Plenty of seating.
3. It's relaxed.
4. It's cool in the sanctuary.
5. Your children can go to Church School on Sunday without registering.
6. If you are away on the weekend, you can attend Monday evening worship.
7. On Monday evenings there is ice cream after the service.
8. Hear regional guest musicians.
9. You can look out the windows at God's glorious creation while worshipping.
10. God is here for you – pay Him a visit! ~

*Alice Cummings,
 Associate in Ministry
 Director of Worship*

Worship Times

Saturdays at 5:30 PM
 with Holy Communion

Sundays at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 AM
 with Holy Communion the first and third Sundays of each month, Church School during all three services

Mondays at 7 PM
 with Holy Communion

July 5-6
 Preaching: Pastor David
Special Music
 Saturday: No Worship July 4
 Sunday: Jennifer Parker
 Monday: Jennifer Parker

July 11-13
 Preaching: Pastor Todd
Special Music
 Saturday: Praise Team
 Sunday: Abby Gormley
 Monday: Lee Fuchs

July 18-20
 Preaching: Pastor Phil
Special Music
 Saturday: Praise Team
 Sunday: Marcia Hill
 Monday: Phil Dell

July 27-29
 Preaching: Pastor David
Special Music
 Saturday: Praise Team
 Sunday: Warren Weise

Adult Life

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Michelle Welinski

Mission Administrator
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Karen Nelson

Administrative Support
ext. 138 karenn@lordoflife.org



Thank you to Brett Lane!

For his Eagle Scout project, he built a new box for C.R.O.S.S. donations at Lord of Life and remodeled the old box. Both carts may be strolled to vehicles for unloading. Brett also completed a dolly in the upstairs workroom for all of the easels.

New Members

Sally Hagen
Chris Kasprzyk and Cherie Poissant
with Brenden and Drew
Jim and Virginia Larson
Joe and Megan Matak with Emma
Jeremy and Jenni Shepard
Erik Willis and Connie Wilder
with Kiera and Connor

Find out more about becoming a member at Lord of Life on Saturday, July 11, 11 AM or Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 PM. Contact Nancy Bourbonais at 763-420-5015, ext. 126 or nancyb@lordoflife.org.



Some of the many Lord of Life participants from last year's Relay for Life event.

One day. One night. One community.

Relay for Life is about celebration, remembrance, and hope. This fun-filled, all-night event is where families pitch a tent and camp out. The festive atmosphere is filled with music, food, and activities, and since cancer does not sleep, participants walk the night away as a symbol to the people they love.

Last year over 230 people from Lord of Life joined others in the community to take a step closer to reaching a cure for cancer with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Lord of Life will once again participate in the Relay for Life held Friday, Aug. 7 at Osseo Sr. High football field. This event begins at 7 PM and ends at 7 AM Saturday, Aug. 8.

Come show your support. If your life has been touched by cancer (and not many

of us can say it hasn't) there's a place for you. Money raised through Relay for Life supports the American Cancer Society and its mission of eliminating cancer.

There is still time for you to join or form a team and participate in the Relay for Life. Come and watch the lighting of the luminaria bags and cheer on the walkers. If you are a cancer survivor, you're invited to walk the victory lap! Plus, prayer ministers will be available to offer prayer and give prayer shawls.

You don't have to be an athlete to join the fun. Families and people of all ages are encouraged to participate, even children in strollers. Walk as much or as little as you choose. ~

Contact Michelle Welinski at michellew@lordoflife.org or 763-420-5015, ext. 118.

DivorceCare comes to Lord of Life

If you're going through a separation or divorce, there may not be many people around you who understand the pain of what you're going through. That's why Lord of Life has decided to sponsor DivorceCare. It's a special weekly support group and seminar conducted by people who understand the depths of what you are experiencing. Most importantly, you'll learn how to deal with the pain and move forward in rebuilding your life.

DivorceCare is a 13-week video series that features Christian experts who address divorce and recovery topics as seen from a non-denominational, biblical perspective. The video presentations lead into a time of support group discussion and sharing.

What others have said about DivorceCare:

"If this wasn't available, I'd still be home crying."

"The most informative and healing class I've ever attended."

"I cried. I laughed. I made new friends. I came closer to God."

DivorceCare begins Thursday, July 2, from 6:45-8:30 PM. Cost: \$12/workbook. Participants may come at 6 PM for a light supper and worship experience in conjunction with Abundant Life and GriefShare. ~

To register, contact Pastor David at 763-420-5015 or davidl@lordoflife.org.

Synergy and generosity reap gratefulness

by Leesa Avila, Stephanie Perron, and Linda Zwick, 2009 Lord of Life Garage Sale co-chairs

The Third Annual Lord of Life Garage Sale held Saturday, May 2, was a great success—nearly doubling proceeds from last year! The success was due in large part to Lord of Life volunteers, donations and the synergy of ministries working together.

This year the ministries pooled the donations and worked as one joint effort instead of hosting separate tables. Items were organized into departments like housewares, clothing, books, toys, furniture and sporting goods to make for easier shopping.

Representatives from seven ministries volunteered: 363 Hunger Ministry, Abundant Life, FreedomWorks, Hope 4 Kids, Mission Jamaica,

Sole Care for Souls, and Word for Women. Collectively the sale generated \$3,205.65 and provided each participating ministry with \$457.95.

The proceeds earned by Abundant Life will go towards hosting the 2nd Annual *A Gathering of Hope* on Saturday, Oct. 3. Word for Women donated their proceeds to help children within the congregation attend Bible Camp.

Yes, there will be a 4th Annual Lord of Life Garage Sale next year! All ministries are welcome to participate. It's not too early to set old treasures aside for the sale, and home businesses are invited to join us, too.

A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers who showed us how to be the hands and feet of Jesus! ~

Bone Marrow Drive by Ann Marie Leonard

It was hard to predict what kind of turnout a bone marrow drive would bring. A director from the National Marrow Donor Program said that the average drive yields 37 people. *Lord of Life drew 87 donors in its first bone marrow drive!* Thank you to everyone who participated. Many prayers have been answered as a result! ~

Thank you to Junior Girl Scout Troop 11426 who planted flowers at Lord of Life the day before Mother's Day.



Abundant Life

This Christ-based community offers acceptance, hope and tools to anyone who hurts. Specialized groups meet on a variety of matters such as grief support, codependency, substance abuse, and more. Experience healing from hurts, habits and hangups and wholeness through the grace and peace that comes through having a relationship with Jesus Christ. All are welcome and no registration is required. The evening begins with a meal followed by small group ministry on Thursdays, 6-9 PM.

Alpha

Why should I read the Bible? Who is the Holy Spirit? Does God heal today? Explore the Christian faith over a light dinner, short teaching and small group discussion. Childcare available. Begins Sunday, Sept. 20 at 5:30-8 PM. Register online: www.lordoflife.org/alpha.

C.R.O.S.S.

Lord of Life provides a donation box in Fellowship Hall for food, clothing, and household items that are given to people in need within our community.

Donation Central

Find out what items are currently being collected for each ministry, as well as learn about specific donation needs. Visit: lordoflife.org/donationcentral.

Emergency Food Network

Join the fun by serving at EFN, Monday, July 13 from 4-7 PM. EFN is located at 8501 54th Ave N in New Hope. Sign up for a time that is convenient for you. This is a great way for C³ students to earn service hours. Contact Michelle Welinski at michellew@lordoflife.org or 763-420-5015, ext. 118.

Military Families

Supports military members and their families, especially those with Lord of Life ties. Monday, July 27, 6:30-8 PM. Bring a snack to share. Contact John or Lucy Rodvik at 763-494-0798.

Men's Bible Study

Meets for breakfast and Bible study on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6:30-8 AM. For location, contact Dan Book at 763-557-6756 or Pastor Todd at 763-420-5015, ext. 109.

Giving Life

Thank you for your special gifts to these ministries:

In honor of Nolan's Baptism
Michael and Amy Sip

In honor of Riley's Baptism
Sabrina Garritsen

In memory of our Grandparents
Michael and Kristi Mattiuz

In memory of Ruth Anderson
Jody and Lori Fjelstad

In memory of Joyce Nilsen
Richard and Florence Nelson

Cancer Support Group
Richard and Florence Nelson

CYF Ministry
Kevin and Kari Stenerson

C.R.O.S.S.
Dan and Lenora Little
Brad and Barb Quello

Feed My Starving Children
In honor of Taylor Bekken's
First Communion
Great-grandma Velda Bekken

Hunger Ministries
Heather Anderson
Chuck and Gwen Denninger
Rick and Linda Gaetke
Deanna Larson
Dan and Lenora Little
Clair and Sharon Madsen
John and Lucy Rodvik
Larry and Sandie Saar
Gehry and Jan Sower
Tom and Kim Spoden
Paula Thomas
Paul and Michelle Welinski
Diana Welsh
Mike and Linda Zwick

Mission Jamaica
John and Monica Markson
Katherine Vogel

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Dan and Lenora Little
Todd and Donna Rizner

In honor of Karonne Becklin and
Barb Hoeker
Mike and Rhonda Hofer

Scholarship Fund
In memory of Rita Leisen
Larry and Colleen Anderson
Tom and Lynn Leisen
Larry and Sandie Saar

Scholarship/Acts 29 Mission Trip
Tom and Jean Campbell



Maple Grove Run/Walk for Darfur organizers (pictured left to right): High school students Rachel Samardich, Brenna Horn, Ryan Kamphuis, Hannah Turpin, Hahn Chang, and Aun Hussain.

Sunrise of hope *continued from cover*

For the past few years, the news of the Darfur refugees has been in my personal spotlight. Three years ago, a group of junior high students, including myself, tried to start a spare-change drive at school, but we ran into some unforeseen difficulties.

This year, I'm ecstatic that our dream to make a difference in the lives of the Darfur refugees became a reality.

On May 30, the First Annual Maple Grove Run/Walk for Darfur took place at Freedom Field in Maple Grove; 218 runners/walkers raised \$7,010. All of the funds have been sent to the American Refugee Committee in Minneapolis.

At the high school I attend, activism is seen on a regular basis. Programs like Pennies for Patients, toy drives for local charities, and blood drives have been present throughout the year. Despite all of the activism, something like the Walk/Run for Darfur had never been attempted.

When I first heard about Darfur, I was crushed. I have frequently packed food at Feed My Starving Children and have donated money to local charities, but I felt like I should do more. I have been asked why I decided to serve a cause so far away from home when there are people in need right here in the metro area.

My response is simple. I believe God called me to look to Darfur. I believe that God meant for human-kind to learn from our mistakes, not to repeat them. We've already seen genocide in Rwanda, not too long ago, as well as its predecessor, the Holocaust. It's my belief that something must be done to stop these tragedies from repeating themselves. Africa is a continent of turmoil and poverty; it's a place I feel very strongly drawn to. If we can change Africa, what can't we change?



Care packages to soldiers

by Jennifer McNeil

What started out as a classroom project turned into something much bigger when kindergarten teacher Megan Cummings had an idea to send care packages to soldiers in Iraq.

Several parents of Carver Elementary School students are currently deployed in Iraq. As a way of showing appreciation for their service, Cummings decided to organize a community service project at the school to send care packages to the soldiers.

Cummings began by getting the soldier's names so the students could send thank you cards and other supplies, such as personal hygiene items, non-perishable snacks, books, movies and games.

She also asked other staff at the school and 11 other teachers decided to also participate in the service project.

Each class "adopted" three or four soldiers and a letter was sent home



Megan Cummings and her kindergarten class collected donations for troops overseas.

to all of the students in the participating classes. Also included with the letter was a list of suggested items to donate.

Cummings was surprised when the donations began coming in and said, "I was expecting a few things, but we got an overwhelming response."

The class collected eight large boxes of donations and the school's Parent Teacher Organization offered to help pay the shipping costs. ~

For other ways to bless troops overseas, see the Military Families Ministries on page 6.

"God has planted seeds of compassion and empathy in our hearts. All we must do is act."



Darfur refugees

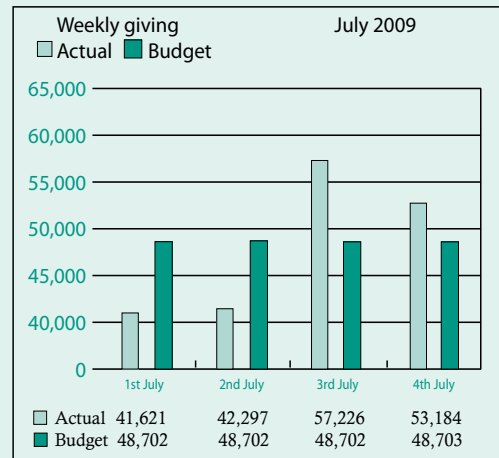
God has provided every one of us with the means to help others. He's planted seeds of compassion and empathy in our hearts. All we must do is act. It's time to change the situation in Darfur and usher in a sunrise of hope. ~

Budget YTD June 2009

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Giving	\$1,167,068	\$1,168,590	(1,522)
All other	114,031	127,137	(13,106)
Total Income	\$1,281,099	\$1,295,727	(14,628)

Contribution statement mailing change in 2009

In order to cut costs and reduce mailings, contribution statements will be mailed three times a year instead of five. You will receive two statements during the year and one at year end. If you would like additional statements, contact Sandie Saar at 763-420-5015, ext. 101 or e-mail sandie@lordoflife.org.



Children, Youth & Family

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Birth-K

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Grades 5-6

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For daily updates, visit www.lordoflife.org/youthgathering.

The Lutherans are coming!

Every three years, the call goes out. Last fall, over 36,000 young people and adult volunteers signed up to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering. This Lutheran youth gathering is the largest regularly scheduled gathering of young people in the world.



Pastor Todd

In July of 2009, this massive group of young people, including over 50 sr. high youth and leaders from Lord of Life, will gather in New Orleans, Louisiana. The general sessions of the Gathering will be held in the Louisiana Superdome. The learning activities will occupy

the entire mile-long New Orleans Convention Center, and the participants will be housed in over 40 hotels scattered throughout the city. But the interesting thing about this year's Gathering is the focus.

New Orleans is still a city that is wounded from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Almost four years after the deadly storm, there are still thousands of families living in FEMA trailers; there are still schools that have not re-opened; there are still whole neighborhoods that sit abandoned; the saltwater incursion has caused massive erosion problems and the death of hundreds of thousands of trees and other native plant life. New Orleans is still a city that is rebuilding.

The 2009 Gathering has been described as a "Servant School." Gathering under the theme "Jesus+Justice+Jazz," the focus of our event will be to serve as Jesus served: with our whole mind, soul and body. Together we will learn what it is to focus on the other when they are in need. We will do our best to follow the example of Jesus. Each of the three main program days, 12,000 of the Gathering's participants will load buses and will head out into the city to take part in recovery activities. Over the three days, the 36,000 servants will have an incredible opportunity to make a servant's impact on the lives of the residents of New Orleans. A local pastor in New Orleans put it best: "When this event is over, there will be no doubt: the Lutherans were here."

Please pray for the people of New Orleans and a city in need of hope. And pray for the 36,000 young people who are following God's call to gather in New Orleans this month. Pray for the 50-plus participants from Lord of Life, for safe travel, powerful service and an amazing faith transformation for their own hearts. ~

*Peace,
Pastor Todd*



Summer Stretchers collecting roadside trash.

Summer Stretch

A record number of youth are participating in Summer Stretch this year!

By the end of July about 180 youth and 30 high school leaders will have put in about 3,000 hours serving the community with the Summer Stretch program.

We've loved pitching in wherever we've been needed whether at the Emergency Foodshelf Network, The Wellstead of Rogers, Feed My Starving Children, and C.R.O.S.S. In the afternoons we've been enjoying time at the Waterpark of America, Cheap Skate, and horseback riding. We look forward to gathering with a couple thousand other metro-area Summer Stretchers on Thursday, Aug. 6 at Valleyfair. ~

Vacation Bible School

*This summer, children ages Preschool through 6th grade learn, laugh, play and sing! The theme for grades 1-6 is *Love to Serve*, and the Preschool-K theme is *Animals of the Bible*.*

Preschoolers meet from 9-11 AM and grades 1-6 meet from 9 AM-3 PM.

Three identical sessions (Mon-Thurs): July 27-30; Aug. 3-6; Aug. 10-13

Each VBS session ends with a Root Beer Float Night on Thursday at 7 PM.

Register online or pick up a registration form at church. Contact Diane Marx at 763-420-5015, ext. 106 or diane@lordoflife.org.

Don't have children in Vacation Bible School?

That's okay, you can get to know the wonderful Luther Park Camp Staff that help with grades 1-6:

- **Provide lunch here or dinner at your home** for Luther Park Camp Staff who help lead grades 1-6.
- **Provide housing and breakfast** for Luther Park Camp Staff (Sun-Fri). They'll have transportation.

Contact Diane Marx at 763-420-5015, ext. 106 or diane@lordoflife.org.



VBS is a blast!



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www.lordoflife.org



A monthly publication of
Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Deadline for the August issue
is July 1. All content is subject
to editing.

E-mail your photos and stories to
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LifeTIMES is published by Greenhaven Printing

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*Dallas Brehm was caught
reading (eating) LifeTIMES
at home one sunny
afternoon.*



*Brian and Christine
Priebe, Cindy, Al
and Rebecca Olson
were caught reading
LifeTIMES at the
Hoover Dam near
Las Vegas.*

Caught reading LifeTIMES

*The Baldwin family was
caught reading LifeTIMES
with U.S. Senator Amy
Klobuchar while on Spring
Break in Washington D.C.*



*A hairy monster was caught
reading LifeTIMES before
getting snatched up at the 3rd
Annual Lord of Life Garage Sale.*