



# Light Connection

LIGHT OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS - CAMERON PARK, CA

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Voters' Meeting
- Council Update
- Youth Feature
- Fit For Life
- Youth Feature
- Lutheran Women's News

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## ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 30 for our annual voters' meeting. We will meet in the multi purpose room,. Please wear a mask and continue with social distancing.

There will also be a barbecue lunch provided and we will be celebrating paying off the mortgage by burning the mortgage note.



by burning the mortgage note.

Watch for more in-

formation in the coming weeks.



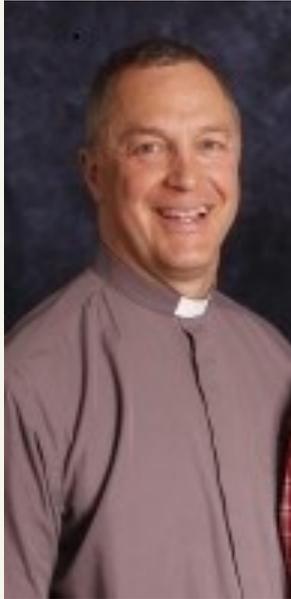
## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES



- May 2 Lord's Supper
- May 9 Lord's Supper
- May 16 Ten Commandments Intro 1 & 2)
- May 23 Ten Commandments 3 & 4
- May 30 Ten Commandments 5 & 6

**PODCASTS ~ Check out our Pastors' "Behind the Scenes" Light Conversations on their Podcast. You can view this at [Light of the Hills Lutheran Church - YouTube](#)**

## PASTOR ALAN SOMMER'S MESSAGE



### A NEW MORNING

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.*

John 20:1 NIV

I was looking today at some photographs from the end of World War II. You have probably seen some of these photos. One of the most famous is a picture of a sailor kissing a young lady

on the street, but I also viewed pictures of celebrations in the street, people climbing onto signs, and strangers embracing each other. People were so excited because the war had brought such suffering and death to so many people all around the world, and it had finally ended. The war was over! The Allies had won! Hitler was dead and gone, and the Japanese had finally surrendered!

The joy of that day is all the stronger because of the darkness that had preceded it, and again, there are many photographs that tell that story. When you look at photos of fallen soldiers, bombed out cities, and the horrible suffering of prisoners, they paint a very dark picture. Celebration came naturally because the war was finally over, the forces of evil had been defeated, and a new day was on the horizon!

The joy that springs from the resurrection of Jesus is like this but even greater. Mary Magdalene approached the tomb of Jesus, and it was still dark. What a great metaphor that was! She was walking in the darkness of the shadow of death. It appeared that the forces of darkness had won, that evil and sorrow and death were all that were left. Jesus had been crucified, He had died, and He had been buried. Yes, it must have seemed very dark to Mary.

But a new morning was coming! In just a few minutes, Mary would be reconnected to

the resurrected and living Savior. The darkness would be dispelled and replaced by light! Her sorrow and sadness would be replaced by joy and celebration! Jesus had defeated death! He was alive! Mary would never be the same!

There is great hope for us in the resurrection of Jesus, and sometimes it seems we forget this. We see all too easily the darkness of our world in the news. We are all too aware of our failures and shortcomings when we make mistakes. As we age we begin to realize more clearly that our bodies are winding down and death is a certainty for us at some point.

But the resurrection of Jesus means that we can live in confident hope, no matter what the circumstances might be. The world may be dark, but the risen Jesus is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. We may fail and do hurtful things to others from time to time, but the risen Savior has already paid for those sins and we live each day in His favor. While we do age and we do physically die, Jesus will raise us from the dead and give us new bodies that will never wear out.

The resurrection of Jesus was a new beginning for Mary, and it is for us also. Be confident in the Lord Jesus! Trust in His goodness and life! Live in the hope of the resurrection every day!

**Pastor Alan**



## PASTOR KYLE WEEKS' MESSAGE

**IT'S COMING...ARE YOU READY?!?**

Recently I was reading an article by a businessman, and he asked the question, "Are you ready?!? It's coming, this summer! There's no stopping it, are you ready...for the biggest marketing push we've ever seen from businesses to get you to buy their stuff?!?"

According to this businessman, as things return to normal in the U.S., his company and many others are getting ready for a *massive* marketing push. They want people to return to their old shopping habits. So he said they'll tell us they're "back and better than ever!" Companies will tell us "we deserve to indulge ourselves and to make up for lost time," that "it's time to return to normal," that "the celebrations and sales and sporting events will be the best ever" – you get the idea. Some of this is harmless and is good news. I for one, am really looking forward to going to the movie theater again – time for popcorn!

Even though this man's job was marketing though, he wisely found himself questioning some of this return to normalcy. He said that while there were lots of things he *was* looking forward to returning to, he's also learned that he doesn't want to return to some *bad habits* that used to be "normal." For example, he didn't want to return to his old normal of being over-scheduled, of not spending time with family, of not giving himself quiet time, and of putting so much stock in his bank account and possessions. He encouraged people to be deliberate about which habits we drop or take up again.

I found myself thinking a lot about this challenge, both in general and specifically in my walk as a Christian. As St. Paul says in Colossians 2:6, "*just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*" What good habits have helped you to live your life in Jesus this last year (or prevented it)? What practices have built you up in Jesus' forgiveness and love? Which rhythms have cultivated thankfulness as they have caused you to reflect on God's presence in your life and our Easter hope?

As Christians, let's make a point of prioritizing the routines and habits that draw us back to God's love and forgiveness in Jesus, in good times and in bad. Habits of discipleship like regularly attending worship and Bible study, having faith conversations with family, loving our neighbors, spending time in Scripture and prayer daily, and sharing God's Word are important for that. God has wonderful gifts for us to enjoy, both in His creation and in His church. Let's make sure that both are part of our new normal!

**Pastor Kyle**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021 MARCH 28, PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>), a special confirmation ceremony was held for four of LOTH's youth. Confirmation Sunday is the culmination of two years of intensive study of Scripture, and provides the students with a chance to reaffirm their baptismal faith, to be welcomed as full members of the congregation, and to commit to lifelong learning as disciples of Jesus, our Servant King. If you were unable to attend the service, you can watch a recording on the church's website under recent services (<https://www.loth.org/confirmation-2021-the-glory-of-the-servant-king/>).

Even with all the challenges of this last year, these students still showed a tremendous willingness to learn from and be shaped by God's Word. May their excitement and dedication to following Jesus be an example and an encouragement to us all!



The students from left to right:  
Whit Adams, Wes Palmer, and Emma and Mia Voll.

# EASTER AT LIGHT OF THE HILLS APRIL 4, 2021



## COUNCIL UPDATE

Church Council meets monthly on the third Monday of the month.

The current council members are:

President:	Brian Morris
Vice President:	Jason Voll
Recording Secretary:	Claudette Russell
Treasurer:	Brian Theaker
Financial Secretary:	Helmut Krauss
Head Elder:	Mark Jerpbak
Board of Cong Ministries:	Stephanie Luther
Board of Community Ministries:	Sue Mackin
Board of Stewardship:	Vacant
Board of Trustees:	Vacant



Also present at the meetings are Pastor Alan, Pastor Kyle, and Business Manager Maureen Popielarz

The meetings are opened with a prayer and devotion by Pastor Alan and then we proceed with the business on the agenda. The meetings are closed in prayer by Pastor Kyle.

At the April Meeting we discussed the following:

We are looking into possibly purchasing more cameras to add to our security system, so that we have visual access for all areas of our property.



The LWML Craft Fair scheduled for November 13, 2021 was approved with the selling of baked goods and other crafts.

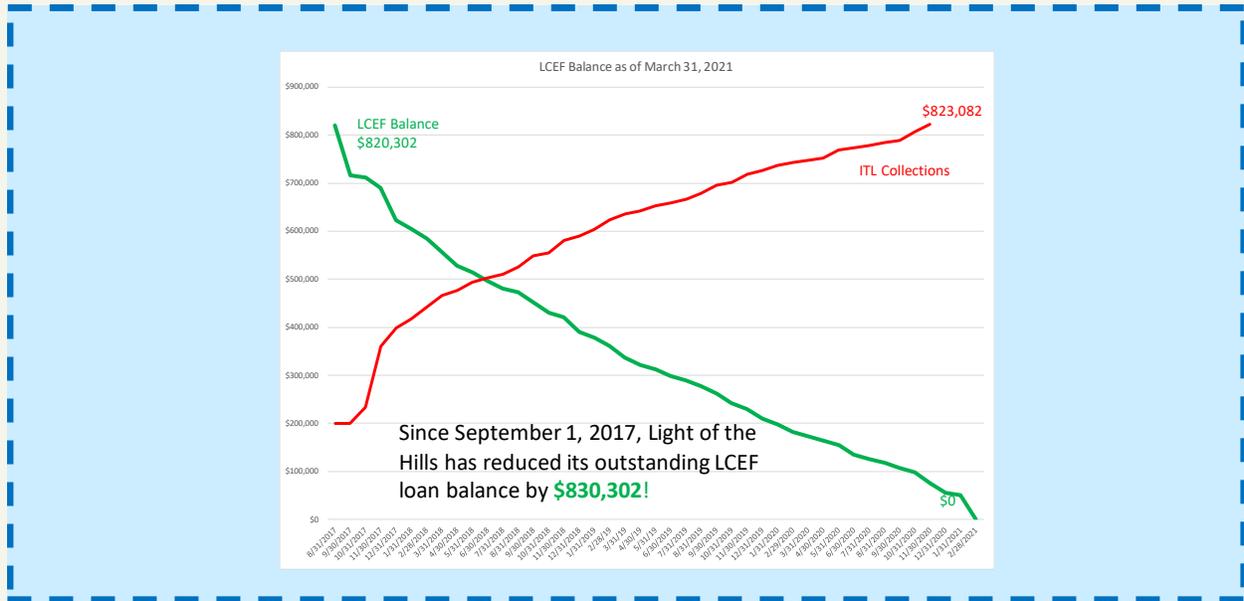
Sunday School hopes to resume, with a start-up date to be determined yet as more volunteers are needed.

The annual May Voters' Meeting is scheduled for May 30th ((Memorial Day Weekend). There will be a mortgage burning celebration and a lunch provided. There are a couple of council positions currently vacant and two positions that will be terming out.

# MAY

<b>May 6</b>	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Ascension of Our Lord</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Sunday</b>

# TREASURER'S REPORT



## LOTH FINANCIAL UPDATE

After an amazing 2020 – in which giving remained strong even through the COVID-19 challenges – 2021 is off to a good start financially.

First, thanks to a lot of people contributing faithfully to the Ignite the Light capital campaign, and, in particular, to several large individual gifts, we have fully paid off the LCEF loan – which means we will not have to make over \$45,000 in loan payments for the remainder of the year. To remind folks – when we started the capital campaign in late 2017, we still owed \$820,302 on that loan. What a blessing it is to have it paid off!

Second, 2021 giving has been steady and expenses have been moderate, so, through March, we have a net income of \$9,419. We will likely eat into some of that 2021 operating surplus over the summer as giving will drop off and expenses will continue, but – it’s a great start to 2021.

Third, we have disbursed to Pastor Kyle and Krista the \$25,000 we have been holding as an Associate Pastor housing allowance – and that’s very good news! Congratulations to them!



Finally, as of the end of March, we have \$49,316 left in the Sanctuary remodel fund. Kudos to Brian and his team and volunteers for stretching those funds as far as possible. The remodeled sanctuary is stunning.

If anyone has any questions on finances, please reach out to me.

Brian Theaker, Treasurer

## Fit For Life In Christ

**Classes Starting  
Wednesdays from 7:00pm-8:30pm**

Dates:

April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19,  
June 2, June 9, June 16.

Meet in the Multi Purpose room in the Education Building.

Members, if you have not attended one of these classes in a few years, this will be a great class for you.

**Fit for Life in Christ** is a class that will bring the life of Jesus into our lives, to give us a living hope and strength for each day.

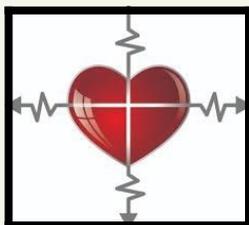
**Fit for Life in Christ** is a course that presents the Word of God in exciting and meaningful ways. It is a course for those who are interested in membership in our church, and for members to deepen their relationship with Christ and help to assimilate new members. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life - and have it to the full!" Who would want to settle for anything less?

*Fit for life* is professionally illustrated and really helps us to grasp solid Biblical teaching. If you are a member and have not taken the course recently, you owe it to yourself and your life with God to register for this faith-building opportunity.

*Fit for life* covers the reliability of the Bible, who God is, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, and more.

To register, call the church office at 530-677-9536 or go online to <http://www.loth.org/fit-for-life-5/> and sign up for *Fit For Life* there.

**Please remember to bring your mask.**



## HOUSEWARMING SHOWER

We are having a Housewarming Shower for Pastor Kyle and Krista!

Pastor Kyle & Krista will be moving into their first home in a few weeks and we would like to "shower" them with "Gift Cards" so that they can purchase some items that they will need to stock their new home.

Gift cards to the following would be a great help to them:

*Target, Winco, Home Depot or Amazon.*

*If you prefer you can also give cash.*

A container will be available in the narthex for you to drop off the gift cards or you can bring them by the church office during the week.

**\*\* Please NO checks!**

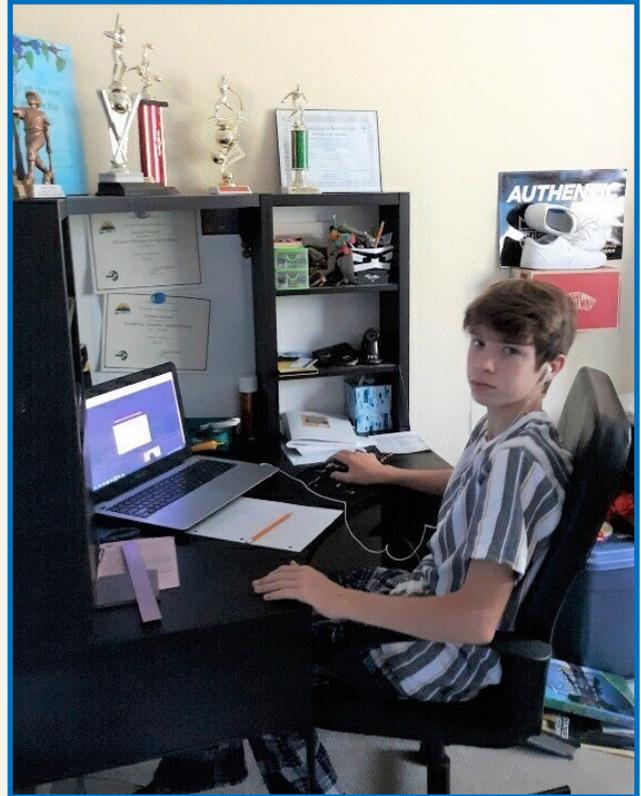


## FEATURING OUR YOUTH

## CONNOR RUSSELL

Like many other local students doing distance learning at home due to Covid, Connor Russell began his junior at Ponderosa High School studying at home as well. His favorite subject in school is Science. Connor enjoys rock music, his favorite movie is "1917" and his favorite food is burritos. He is the son of Tom and Claudette Russell and his sister Sara graduated from Pondo last spring.

Outside of the house, you can usually find Connor on the golf course working on his golf game. His goal is to someday make it onto the PGA Tour! In addition to golf, Connor also enjoys motocross. He and his family have been members at LOTH for many years (his grandparents Helmut and Dina Krauss and his cousin Patrick also attend LOTH). Connor was baptized in 2005. His favorite verse in the Bible is John 3:16. May God bless Connor this school year and in all his future endeavors



### UPCOMING GRIEF SHARE CLASS

**THURSDAY, MAY 6  
3:30PM—5:00PM  
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

**Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.**

**GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. Contact the church office for more information. 530-677-9536**

### AMAZON SMILE

In the last quarter of 2021 Light of the Hills Lutheran Church recently received a donation of \$89.08 from AmazonSmile—at no cost to you or other customers.

Thank you for shopping at Amazon Smile and selecting Light of the Hills as a donor. Donations from AmazonSmile go to our Christian Concerns Fund.



## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS

### 2020 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipient

#### Kayla Hoech

Thank you so much for the Steinbeck Scholarship!

My name is Kayla Hoech, and I grew up in Central Asia where my parents have been missionaries for the past 17 years. Central Asia has been my home. I grew up immersed in this different culture, loving the bizarre foods and feeling comfortable in the environment that foreigners would call queer.

I can easily navigate through our outdoor bazaar built like a maze. I can converse freely in Russian with locals. I know how to bargain and how to tell when something is overpriced. I am comfortable sitting cross-legged on the floor for long periods of time. I understand what community means to the people. I perceive the distinctness of terms used in American culture and in this Central Asian one.

For six years, I taught ESL to elementary-aged children as an afterschool Christian outreach. At the end of every class, I shared a bible story with the students telling them about the love of God. It brought me so much joy to share God's Word with those who have never heard it before. I learned much through this process and am excitedly majoring in Liberal Studies in college.

Leaving home and all familiarity was not easy, but I'm slowly adapting to life in California. I am delighted to be a freshman at Concordia University Irvine, studying to be a Lutheran elementary teacher. I love the classes I'm taking and all of my professors. I am blessed to be here at this time and to have friends who support me. I deeply desire to serve the Lord for the rest of my life, starting here and now!

Thank you for supporting me financially. I greatly appreciate all of you, and I look forward to serving God and being a light to those around me as I further my education. May God bless you, richly and abundantly!

#### Kayla Hoech



### *God's Gifts at Work... The LWML CNH Steinbeck Scholarship Memorial Fund*

The Steinbeck Memorial Fund was established in 1970 following the death of Verna (Mrs. Karl) Steinbeck. Verna was Mission Hospice Chairman of the LWML CNH for 23 years, serving as host to missionaries and their families as they passed through the San Francisco area on their way to and from foreign mission fields...The Steinbeck Memorial Fund is specifically designed to assist in furthering the education of the children of overseas missionaries. Recipients must be high school seniors or older. Each applicant must provide grade transcript, a brief autobiographical sketch and statement of goals. The LWML CNH Human Care Committee selects the recipients and EB Treasurer administers the funds. Money for this fund comes from love gifts, LWML CNH convention offerings and interest from Church Extension Funds notes.



## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

### Why Is LWML Always Trying to Raise Money?

LWML supports Missionary Melissa in Addis Ababa, Africa with a monthly amount and sometimes with other items she may need. We also have sent money to other missionaries in Hungary and Central Asia. We help local missions (such as foster children) and plan to offer support to the local pregnancy center in Placerville. We also pay for the supplies to make the lovely Chrismons that we are making and putting on our Christmas tree. If you have any other suggestions, please see Jean Beason with your ideas.

### Chrismons

If you love to craft, you will love to make Chrismons! Chrismons are beautiful ornaments that represent Christ, and we are making them for our huge Christmas tree. We hope this will be a way we can communicate the beautiful message of Christ to visitors to our church. We made some last year, and we want to make more this year. Please watch for announcements about workshops to get together to make them. You will be shown how by our expert team led by Beth Sommer.

### MITES

The money that LWML collects on the last Sunday of each month in the big purple and white box in the Narthex gets sent to the local and national LWML organizations to fulfill grant requests that were approved at conventions. These coins and bills make a big difference in lives as wells are built in Africa, funds are provided for care at a retirement home in the Dominican Republic, a deaconess is hired to help teenagers with homework and questions about God, and Bibles are provided in another language and so much more. Please take a box and start saving your coins and bills for this work that helps so many in need. Drop your spare change in the box and empty it into our big box on the last Sunday of each month.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have an active Prayer Shawl Ministry that makes prayer shawls and lap blankets for anyone who is need of God's comfort. If you have a loved one, friend, neighbor, coworker who is suffering or in need of encouragement, please feel free to select a shawl or blanket from our large basket behind the counter in the Narthex. There is a book to record in so we can pray for the recipient and cards to identify where this shawl comes from.

If God is calling you to be part of this ministry, join us on the first Thursday of most months at 1-3 in the Conference Room in the Education Building. We can help you with learning to knit or crochet, supplies, materials, patterns, and prayers. You can also knit or crochet at home. Any completed shawls or blankets can be added to our basket, and we thank you! Let Becky Zsoka know if you would like a meeting reminder email.

### COOKIES AND SOUP JARS

LWML is going to be selling jars of cookie and soup mixes early this fall. We will have choices for preorder and prepayment available in September. We will have a tasting on a Sunday so that you can see which you like best. Jars will be selling for \$12 each and make a wonderful gift for a teacher, a friend, or just for yourself. This is a great way to support LWML and have a have the perfect last minute gift on hand.

### SEWING GROUP

Do you like to sew? We have a sewing group that meets on the first and third Mondays of each month from 10-12 or 1 in the Conference Room of the Education Building. We are looking for some ladies to join us! We make things for the annual Craft Fair, and we have fun along the way! Join us! All skill levels are welcome!

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.LOTH.ORG



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**Connect—Cultivate—Care—Carry**

## INFORMATIONAL

### LIGHT CONNECTION EDITOR

Maureen Popielarz

Please send newsletter articles  
to: [businessmanager@loth.org](mailto:businessmanager@loth.org)

OR

Leave a printed copy in the  
Business Manager's mailbox  
slot in the library.

All articles are due by the 24th  
of the month prior to  
publication

### WORSHIP & SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday: 8:00am; 9:30am  
and 11:00am

Bible Studies:  
2:00pm Wednesdays  
(and on LOTH YouTube)

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:30pm  
(Closed 12:30-1:30pm for lunch)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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