

# Lord of Life

APRIL 2024 | THE LIFE LINE



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# From Pastor Karla

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Look at all those beautiful photos on the front page! Our walk, with Jesus, through Holy Week was heart-wrenching moving to glorious. As I have said before, it is a great time to be the Church...to be God's disciples and to have the privilege to share the Good News with others, especially during this Easter season!

And a HUGE part of this is being a community...a Community in Christ. This was our final "theme" for our mid-week Lenten services, last month. And I don't know if you have noticed it or not, I have been writing about this and sometimes preaching about this quite a bit ...about the Lord of Life Community....about the need for community. I keep repeating this for you AND for me!

This really hit home to me...really convicted me when I read the article "Showing Up for Church When I Don't Want To". (There are copies of this in the narthex.) Dr. Yolanda Pierce, author of the article, reminded me that "God ALWAYS shows up for us" and that my showing up to worship and church functions is not always about me. Yes, we come to worship and church events to be spiritually fed ourselves, but we forget that it is much more than that. I am not writing this to make anyone feel guilty or anything like that...I am writing this to remind MYSELF...and, perhaps, you too.

And beautiful things happen when we "show up" as a community in Christ. The worship services for Holy Week were amazing...not because of me, the interim pastor, but because of ALL the other people (young and older) who "showed up" and were willing to be a part of it, and for YOU for attending worship. And, for this I am so very, very grateful!!!

When we "show up," we continue what the Saints that have gone before us started. When we "show up," we are role-models for our younger ones...because they are the ones that will continue all of this after us. This is what Lord of Life is doing with our Intergenerational Faith Formation and this is why I am going, at the end of April, to Grandview University to be trained in "Faith Forward" (read more about this later in the newsletter). When we embrace "showing up for church when I don't want to," we strengthen the community in Christ and we strengthen our own relationship with God, and we strengthen the Lord of Life community.

Easter Sunday was the ultimate sign of "God always shows up for us." Jesus conquered death, so we might have eternal life, let us rejoice and be glad and share this Good News.

In peace and with aloha,  
Pastor Karla

# Faith Formation

## Sunday School and Confirmation for April

These classes will resume on Sunday April 7th and will continue through May 5th when we will end the Sunday School season with pancakes!

## Intergenerational Faith Formation -- 1st Communion Instruction

Dr. Kris Stache led us in a lovely conversation on Holy Communion at our last Intergenerational Faith Formation time for this academic year. And these students received 1st Communion instruction:

Dylan Stache, Serenity Stache, Sophia Gillen,  
Faith Boyle and Aida Anderson

They decorated wine glasses on the day with symbols that represent who they each are as beautiful children of God.



## Faith Forward

At the end of April, Pastor Karla will be going to Des Moines for a training meeting at Grandview University for "Faith Forward". After she returns, she will be recruiting 3 parents and 3 grandparents to assist her in implementing this exciting project. She has some folks in mind, but if you are interested, please talk to Pastor Karla.

Faith Forward has a three-fold aim:

1. EMPOWER rural and small congregations to more effectively work with parents, grandparents, and faith mentors through the normal routines of congregational life to help them hand down their Christian faith and values to the next generation.
2. EQUIP parents and grandparents with doable, repeatable, livable faith practices.
3. ENCOURAGE parents and grandparents in creating homegrown faith through easy-to-use activities and resources which weave faith formation into the normal routines of family life.

Faith Forward is funded by the Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative of the Lilly Endowment Inc. housed at Grand View University, and works in collaboration with Peer Ministry. (<https://www.grandview.edu/faith-forward>)

## "Ted Lasso" Bible Study

Our Ted Lasso Bible Study will begin on **Monday, April 8th at 6:30pm**. Each week will include viewing the episode(s) of the week, and a Bible study to follow. You do not need to know anything about tea, soccer, football, coaching, or AFC Richmond to join this group. We will have 1 week of "stoppage" while Pastor Karla is away for "Faith Forward" training. Please RSVP to Pastor Karla if you would like to attend, [pastor@lordoflifedbq.org](mailto:pastor@lordoflifedbq.org)

Class #1 – April 8	Episodes: Season 1 - "Pilot" and E8 "The Diamond Dogs"
Class #2 – April 15	Episode: Season 1 - E10 "The Hope that Kills You"
Class #3 – April 22	Episodes: Season 2 - E1 "Good-bye Earl" and E10 "No Weddings and a Funeral"
Class #4 – May 6	Episode: Season 2, E12 "Inverting the Pyramid of Success"
Class #5 – May 13	Episodes: Season 3, E6 "Sunflowers" and E11 "Mom City"
Class #6 – May 20	Episode: Series Finale, "So Long, Farewell"



## Northeastern Iowa Synod Strengthens Community Through Congregation Mission Support

Congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, including Lord of Life Lutheran Church, who participate in and contribute to God's work in the world and at home through Mission Support. Generosity to Mission Support — the offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization — supports new ELCA ministries and partnerships around the globe and provides funds for staff and resources to carry out local ministries in the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

Please take a moment to reflect on how Lord of Life Lutheran Church and this synod are making a difference together through a spirit of generosity, love of God and love for our neighbor:

- The Northeastern Iowa Synod celebrated the installation of 16 pastors in 21 congregations in 2023, enriching our synod's communities with new spiritual leadership and vitality.
- This synod directly supports rostered ministers through the annual Fall Theological Conference, Day of Renewal, and safe ministry education. In addition, our Bishop and synod staff members provide pastoral care and guidance to ministers and congregations facing challenging circumstances.
- Our synod networks build connections in our communities to care for our environment, stand up for racial justice and fight hunger to make our corner of Iowa a better place.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and support with the Northeastern Iowa Synod! We are 143 congregations, one synodically authorized worshipping community, two Lutheran colleges (Luther and Wartburg), one campus ministry (Three House, UNI), two Bible camps (EWALU and Riverside), one seminary (Wartburg) and Lutheran Social Services at Bremwood (providing care for some of the most vulnerable among us).

You are part of all of this ministry, and God is doing great things through you!

-- Pastor Liz Bell

## Thank you to Northeastern Iowa Synod for Hunger Grant of \$250

The grants are the result of funds raised through the 2023 "Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger" in RAGBRAI. Congregations and individuals supported the ride by donating close to \$100,000. Of those funds, \$50,000 went to ELCA World Hunger, and approximately \$14,000 went to each synod to invest in their own hunger ministries. The Northeastern Iowa Synod is offering the ministry grants to sustain and grow hunger ministries in Northeastern Iowa.

(from the synod's website)

# Care in Our Congregation

On Sunday, **April 21st, 4-6pm**, Lord of Life will be hosting a **Coffee House/Silent Auction** to raise funds for those going to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. It is going to be lots of fun...there will be surprise guests!!!



Also, in the Narthex, there is a table with boxes for each LOL person going to the Youth Gathering. Please write them a note with a prayer or thoughts of encouragement and put it in their box. (You can also get them a fast-food gift card for them to use to get snacks during their trip 😊)



Huge thank you to all who helped, led, planned, played for all the mid-week Lenten services, Palm Sunday and Holy Week services.

Rita Dienst, Pastor Mark Oehlert, Pastor Denise Anderson, Seminarian Matthew Walsh, Jill Klinebriel, Bri Ensign, Susan Hansen, Joan Decker, choir members, band members, special musicians, all the ushers, tech people and all who participated!

Thank you to our readers on Palm Sunday:

Teresa, Henry, Kaleb, Seth, Faith, Isabelle, Gabriella, Kai and Kim

Thank you to our readers for Good Friday:

Faith, Drew, Riann, Lucas, Brynn, Sophia, Mia, Maddox and Morgan



We want to lift up this ministry...to remind folks or to let new folks know of this ministry. To remind you what this ministry is, here is how it is described:

"Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives."

Lord of Life has some amazing Stephen Ministers. If you, or someone you know, might be in need of receiving care through this confidential ministry, please contact Pastor Karla: [pastor@lordoflifedbq.org](mailto:pastor@lordoflifedbq.org)



## Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday April 13th, in the lower level of the church. If you'd like to share in the food and fun you can contact Jon Dienst at 599-4524 or just show up!

### **Senior Lunch Group**

All Seniors (50+) are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 25th, at The Olive Garden, 3350 Dodge St. It is always a blessing to gather with old friends and new. Please contact Peggy Granovsky if you have any questions or would like to make a reservation. We would love to see you.



### **Prayer Shawl Ministry Group**



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Thursday, April 4th, at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Space at church. Newcomers are welcome. Prayer shawls can be knit or crocheted and our pattern is easy to learn. For more information please call Peggy Granovsky.

### **"Share Our Abundance" Capital Campaign**

In 2021, this capital campaign was started and it was planned to be a 3-year campaign. Our pledges for this campaign were an addition to our "general fund" pledges that we do in November of every year.

The "general fund" is for salaries, monthly bills, etc. "Share Our Abundance" is for our mortgage payments. We keep these funds separate to make it always clear of each balance. Currently, our general fund is looking strong ... because of your generous giving and not paying a full-time pastor. Our mortgage fund is good for only part of this year.

We are asking all who pledged in 2021, to continue their pledge through this year, into 2025. This will give the Church time to call our new pastor and for them to start and work with the Church Council to plan for a new capital campaign.

Soon, you will receive a separate letter explaining this in more detail. In the meantime, thank you, thank you, thank you for ALL of your support for the daily ministries of Lord of Life and for your generosity!!!

With gratitude, Interim Pastor Karla Wildberger

### **Call Committee Update**

They met with Pastor Steve Brackett on March 19th and received the necessary information to begin to put together interview questions. Please keep the committee in your prayers: Dave Cordes, Joan Cram, Sam Deaver, Jon Dienst, Brandon Johnson, Kara Steffen and Kay Zepeski. Now, they wait...we all wait...for names to be put forward for possible interviews.

A prayer for pastors thinking of taking a new call:

"Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision during this time of their discernment. Strengthen us all in our own Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (ELW page 84)

# Care in Our Community

## Roadside Cleanup

It's that time of year... roadside cleanup will take place Saturday April 6. We'll be meeting in the basement of the church at 9:00 am and we will be done by 11 am. For questions call or email Steve Heer at 563-451-8063; [ssheer@mchsi.com](mailto:ssheer@mchsi.com). Thank you!

# Care in Our World

## World Hunger Month

April marks the month for collecting quarterly donations to World Hunger. If you choose to donate to this cause it can be added to your regular giving and noted as 'Other: World Hunger' on the offering envelope.

## April 2024 – From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story



Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son.

She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).



## Spring Worship Schedule

**Sunday Worship services 8 & 10:30**

**10:30 service is livestreamed**

**Come Join Us!**



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