

Lord of Life

JANUARY 2024 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Karla

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this, I am listening to Christmas music...trying to finish my sermon for Christmas Eve and having a hard time believing that it is almost 2024!!! When you stop to think about it, the New Year will be a big one for our Lord of Life community. The call committee paperwork is submitted and soon the initial interviews will start happening with potential pastors. Very exciting! Keep praying for the call committee and your new pastor.



One of the items that came up during the congregational survey that you filled out for the call committee was this: many people were wanting a renewed sense of community / of fellowship. This is understandable...the "lock-down" was not that long ago and in not being able to gather for such a long time a "disconnect" happened. Soooooooo, let's begin to remedy this disconnect.

During the **"Intergenerational Faith Formation"** time (in between services) on **Sunday, January 7th**, we will have a "get to know your church neighbor" time AND a time for you and yours photos to be taken by the lovely church Christmas decorations!

1. This will start a few things –

- a. We will spend time getting to know new things about each other (don't worry, I will have question prompts for you 😊)
- b. We will begin to put together a DIY photo church directory (it has been years since we have done one). The confirmation class will be our photographers

2. Why we do this –

- a. To grow stronger as a community.....AND all of this will be to the betterment of welcoming our new pastor
- b. The new pastor (and all of us) will have an updated church directory !!!!

So, I encourage you all to join us on the day! It will be fun!

In peace and with aloha,
Happy New Year –
Pastor Karla

From Our Council President

Susan Hansen

*"There will come a time when you believe everything is finished.
That will be the beginning."*

Louis L'Amour



I'm not sure I've ever felt everything was finished (evidenced by the many needlework/quilting projects I have lined up) but this is the time of year when we reflect on the past year and look forward to what a new year will bring!

At Lord of Life, we have an especially exciting year ahead of us as we prepare for a new pastor. The Ministry Site Profile will be sent to the Synod office within the next few weeks. Soon we'll receive names of candidates, and the process will take another important step.

As we move into the new year, your church council has been preparing for an essential event in the life of our congregation, the annual meeting. As is our custom, we'll have a meeting between services on January 21 to review the proposed budget. Alan Stache will discuss our financial position and you'll have a chance to ask questions or provide input.

The annual meeting will be held between services on January 28. At that meeting we'll formally adopt a budget and vote on a few changes to our constitution/bylaws. (A copy of changes is available on Sunday mornings or by request through the church office.) In addition, elections for Vice President, Financial Chair, and two at-large council members will be held.

As we look forward to the new year, we will continue to seek ways to serve our congregation, the community, and the world. Your congregation council is always open to new ideas about how we can live out our mission.

This year will most certainly be exciting! Let's embrace together what "will be the beginning" means for us!



Brown Bag Christmas Pageant

Faith Formation

Intergenerational Faith Formation - Sunday, January 7

See Pastor Karla's article about "Get to Know Your Church Neighbor" time...

Youth Events

Photos below were taken at last month's youth Christmas party in the lower level...

Due to scheduling there will be no Youth Event in January.



Fun with movie, pizza
& decorating cookies



Looking ahead / Save the Date !!!

7 Jan, Sunday – Epiphany of Our Lord Service

14 Jan, Sunday – Baptism of Our Lord Service

21 Jan, Sunday – Pre-Annual Mtg. Meeting

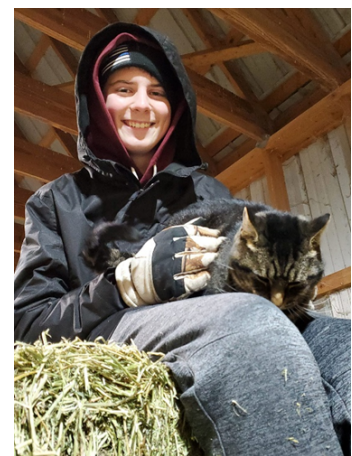
28 Jan, Sunday – Annual Meeting

4 Feb, Sunday – 1st Communion Class (after 2nd service)

13 Feb, Tuesday – Pancake Supper and Dixieland Jazz Worship

14 Feb, Wednesday – Ash Wednesday

Due to Scheduling, Pastor Karla will be postponing the "Ted Lasso" Bible Study until the Spring.



**Christmas
in the Barn
Dec. 10**



Care in Our Congregation

thank you

- To all worship servants and musicians for all the extra work during the Advent / Christmas season...ALL the worship services were absolutely beautiful !!!
- To Rita Dienst for all of her dedicated work in the office and all around the church.
- To Don Backhaus, Brandon Johnson and Jon Dienst for installing the new speakers in the sanctuary.
- To you all for the very generous staff gifts!

While I was sitting here pondering the start of a new year I couldn't help thinking of the last five or six months. They were among the worst times of my life. The most support and comfort came from my beloved church family. When Rich first started his health decline it was your calls, cards, and communion that helped lift his spirit. Even as his memory faded and he no longer knew your names he still looked forward to your contact. His death was still sudden. We went to dinner on a Monday and he passed early Sunday morning. Again it was my Lord of Life family that helped see me through those first weeks alone. I was just getting through the holidays when I fell and broke my shoulder. A broken shoulder really incapacitates you. I spend 75 per cent of my day in my recliner. I sleep there with my two cats. Again you have come to my rescue with foods, rides, visits and cards. I don't have the words to thank you all for your wonderful support and caring so just accept my humble words of thanks.

Gloria Klinefelter



Finished speaker installation
(with an assist from Jon on the ground!)



2024 Altar Flower Calendar

Please see the calendar in the narthex to sign up for providing altar flowers. There are January openings!



Senior Lunch Group

Start the New Year with food and fellowship. Please join our Senior Lunch Group at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 25th, at Jumpers Sports Bar and Grill, 2600 Dodge St., on the west side of Plaza 20. Everyone 50+ is welcome. For additional information or to make a reservation, please contact Peggy Granovsky. We look forward to seeing you.. Picture is from November at Tony Roma's.

Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday January 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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group



The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Thursday, January 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.

Care in Our Community

Little Free Food Pantry

In January, the NFL starts the playoffs for the Super Bowl --- so, in the spirit of that, Lord of Life will start our own playoffs for "Souper Bowl" 🍷 On Sunday and all the following Sundays (until the actual Super Bowl on Sunday Jan. 14th), bring a can of SOUP to support a team. Each week, as teams fall out of the playoffs, we will move the cans to another team, eventually we will see what team "wins". ALL of the soup/soup will be to support our Little Food Pantry.



Open Closet

The Open Closet is temporarily closed due to some construction work at St. John's Lutheran Church. All clothing, etc. donations will be given to the Dubuque Rescue Mission until the Open Closet reopens.

VITA / TCE Tax Preparation –

There is a program called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly. This program was started years ago to try to prevent low-income families from going to paid-preparers to have their tax returns prepared, and to ensure people received all the tax credits they were due. A group of trained volunteers assist people, saving them hundreds of dollars. If you would like to learn about volunteering, please contact Whitney Sanger at HACAP (wsanger@hacap.org). OR, better yet, contact our very own Van Waggoner (van.waggoner@gmail.com) as he has been a volunteer tax preparer for many years...he can tell you all about this wonderful way to volunteer.

Care in Our World

January: World Hunger Month

January marks the 1st quarter collections for World Hunger. If you wish to support this cause, it can be added to your regular envelope and marked 'Hunger'. Thank you!





Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship services 8 & 10:30

10:30 service is livestreamed

Come Join Us!



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
2899 Hales Mill Road
Asbury, IA 52002
(563) 582-7371



Scan code to give now

www.lordoflife.online