

# Lord of Life

**MARCH 2024 | THE LIFE LINE**



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# From Pastor Karla

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a time it is to be a part of the community of Lord of Life Lutheran Church!!! I am continually blessed by all that is happening inside our walls and outside of the building. The Holy Spirit is moving, I have no doubt!!!



The photo on the cover of this newsletter was painted for me by Sally Sena in 2002. You can see Sally with the painting on this page. When my hubby and I got to live in Alice Springs, Australia, I was blessed to be able to work at Yirara College (a boarding school for Australian Aboriginal students). Sally was one of the many students that taught me so much while I was there. This is a “dot painting” which is one of the many beautiful ways Aboriginal art is expressed. These are Sally’s words to describe her painting:

“It is Jesus and the 12 Disciples. The smaller “u” shapes represent the disciples and the larger “u” shape is Jesus. They are sitting around the cross which reminds me of Jesus’ holiness and how He died for the forgiveness of our sins.”

This painting hangs in my office. It is a continual reminder for me that Jesus was not alone in his ministry ... which reminds me that WE are not alone in the continuation of Jesus’ ministry ... all the ministry that takes place at LOL and in the community.

And we are able to do ALL of this ... first, of course, because the Holy Spirit is moving, and second, people are living out their baptismal callings, as individuals and in and for the community of Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

As I said in a recent sermon: *“I said this as the ‘Invitation to Lent’: ‘Friends in Christ, today with the whole church...’ I remind us all that what began for us, individually....our baptism...brings us together as a community for the sake of the whole world...so, with the whole church we journey together in Lent.”* We are not alone in this ministry.

I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is moving at Lord of Life:

- Singing God’s praises at the Shrove Tuesday jazz service
- People doing dishes until 9pm
- The marks of ashen crosses on foreheads
- You all welcoming visitors in our midst
- Hundreds of cans of soup
- People stepping up and doing extra when asked



(continued)

- Taking Holy Communion to folks who cannot attend worship
- Filling the Little Food Pantry daily
- Coming together for families in need
- Worshipping together
- Joining in with Intergenerational Faith Formation
- ....and the list goes on.....Praise God!!!

As I continue this interim time with you, this is my prayer for us all:

*"Draw your church together... the wider church and us here at Lord of Life....O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

(ELW pg 75)

Let us continue to build on what the Holy Spirit is already doing ... bringing our community of disciples together to serve Christ's mission!!!

In peace and with aloha,  
Pastor Karla

### Mid- Week Lenten Schedule – "Created for Community"

On Wednesdays @ 6:00pm:

March 6th – "In Community with our Neighbor" with Seminarian Matthew Walsh

March 13th – "In Community with those on the Margin" with Pastor Denise Anderson

March 20th – "In Community with Christ" with Pastor Karla Wildberger

Looking ahead:

March 24th – Palm Sunday, ONE service only @ 10:30am

March 28th – Maundy Thursday worship @ 12noon and 6:00pm

March 29th – Good Friday worship @ 12noon and 6:00pm

March 31st – Easter Sunday !!!



Special Guest  
Brion Bowman  
assisting with  
Transfiguration  
Sunday worship



Shrove Tuesday  
celebration

Ash Wednesday Special Music  
by Jill Klinebriel & Brady Potts

# Faith Formation

## Intergenerational Faith Formation

We will all gather in between services on Sunday, March 3 Focusing on Holy Communion. During this time, teaching for First Communion will also take place. We will gather around our younger ones and learn together ... join us at 9:15am on the 3rd.

## Sunday School and Confirmation Faith Formation

March 10 & 17th - no classes due to spring break

## Adult Faith Formation

March classes and topics to be determined. Look for updates on the bulletin board in the hallway.

## Faith Forward: families passing faith on

Pastor Karla applied for Lord of Life Lutheran Church to be part of the 2023-2024 Faith Forward cohort.....and we were accepted! This is going to be an exciting program to be part of...it will be added training to what we already do with our Intergenerational Faith Formation. Pastor Karla will go to Grandview University in Des Moines, at the end of April for initial training.

Read more about it:

"Faith Forward will teach congregations, parents, and grandparents to tell the Biblical and family stories of God's mercy, grace, love, boundaries, protection, promises, and faithfulness. As parenting trends and church attendance change in a post-pandemic world, this program has been designed to help pastors, parents, and grandparents pass on their Christian faith to the next generation. A paradigm shift to a home-centered faith formation requires trusted partners, a strong foundation of relationships and accountability, and an openness to God's Spirit as it moves in new directions. Faith Forward wants to see parents and grandparents share the faith and values with the church's treasure and future, our children and youth.

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>)



# Care in Our Congregation

## Call Committee Update

We are meeting with Steve Brackett on March 19th at 7:00 pm. Pr. Brackett will walk the call committee through the interview process for potential Pastor candidates.

## "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" supports the day-to-day life of the church, salaries, monthly bills, etc. One of the goals of "Share Our Abundance" was to provide for our mortgage payments. We keep SOA funds separate to assure that SOA pledges go directly to the goals of the capital campaign.

Currently, our general fund is looking strong ... because of your generous giving and not paying a full-time pastor. Our SOA pledges will end in April. Without continued support after April, SOA funds will not be sufficient to cover our mortgage.

2024 is an exciting time for Lord of Life! But it also means some decisions are on hold. The church council feels it's best to delay the next capital campaign until a full-time pastor is called. This will give the Church time to call our new pastor and to allow them time to work with the Church Council to develop the next capital campaign. We are asking all who pledged in 2021 to extend their pledge through April, 2025.

In April, you will receive a separate letter explaining options 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

## Prayers and Thank Yous

Please continue to hold Kirk Mushrush and family in your prayers. Linda's (8/16/58 - 2/17/24) celebration of life was held at Lord of Life on February 24. Thank you to all who provided hospitality: Marilyn Koehler, Joan & Dan Decker Nancy Davis, Debbie Thomas, Kayleen Backhaus, Bernie & Jim Gilbertson, Rita & Jon Dienst.

## Senior Lunch Group

Join us for Senior Lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, at Denny's Lux Club, 3050 Asbury Rd. Gather with friends, old and new. Please contact Peggy Granovsky if you have any questions or would like to make a reservation. We would love to see you there.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Thursday, March 7th, 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.



## Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday March 9th, 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!

## Save the Date(s)

1. Please make this on your calendar – Sunday, April 21st, 4-6pm -- COFFEE HOUSE !!! A time to gather and hear the talent of our congregation AND a fundraiser for our 4 (Teresa Troftgruben, Kim Barnes, Bri Ensign, Brandon Johnson) wonderful people going to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!!! More details to come!!!
2. The church office will continue the work of our new church directory after Holy Week...as you can imagine there are other items Rita needs to do first. We will be in touch with you if we do not have your photo or information form.
3. Pastor Karla will be starting a Bible Study around the TV show "Ted Lasso". It will start on Monday, April 8th at 6:00pm

# Care in Our Community

## Little Free Food Pantry

Our "Souper Bowl" was a wonderful success - we collected 233 cans of soup and 2 boxes of crackers. THANK YOU to everyone who supported this drive and of course to those volunteers who graciously take on the task of filling the pantry on a daily basis!!



Jon Dienst applied for and received a \$250 Thrivent action card which was used to purchase 18 kid's winter coats for next year for **Open Closet**



Men's Breakfast Group installed blinds in windows in two classrooms.

The **Dubuque Interfaith Green Coalition** will meet on Sunday, March 10th at 3:00PM in the Resurrection Church Social Space. We will be discussing details for the April study of Laudate Deum, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on climate, and programs related to Earth Week activities. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

## Almost Home

My name is Dwight Turner and I am the new Executive Director for Almost Home. St. John's Lutheran church shelter for men with children is in need of mature volunteers to help with staffing evening and overnight hours in a monitor role to ensure safety and welfare of our guests.

Volunteer opportunities to help with 2-4 hour evening or overnight shifts with some need for weekend day shifts as well. Volunteers would only require a brief training session and would then have supports in place to back them up for questions.

# Care in Our World

**Mission trip to Jamaica recap: Sandy Arp, Jennifer Cartee, Nancy Davis and Kay Zepeski**



Nancy, Donna & Sandy enjoying our first day in Jamaica enjoying a cup of Jamaican coffee.

Over the years, Nancy acquired a nickname of Chicken Legs. Thus, she holds a chicken leg given to her by the kitchen staff.



We started Sunday afternoon by sorting and counting meds

The dental team including Nancy and Sandy started the week at Mile Gully. Dentist Anne and her assistant from the Mile Gully clinic.



Teams consisted of 1 dental team, 2 medical teams and 2 construction teams. Each morning the buses had to be loaded with supplies to go out for the day.



Nancy with her Jamaica shirt and a dental patient with her USA shirt



Jennifer acquired a reputation for braiding hair. She did many. Jennifer and Kay were on a medical team.



Having her tooth pulled made this young woman very nervous. When she was done, she was shaking so bad that Nancy literally gave her the coat off her back.



One of the dental rooms set up for teeth extraction. We had one dentist in the group.



One of the rooms set up for a doctor to see patients. (Spaces divided by hanging sheets.)



The dental team, front row - Sandy and Nancy, helpers, back row - Dentist Anne and nurse Maggie.



Devotions on the veranda of the Great House at 6:30 in the morning. We got to watch the sun come up along with Pastor Bob's devotions.



On our way home, Kay, Sandy and Jennifer. Kay was on a medical team and Jennifer was on the same medical team.



# Worship Schedule

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

**10:30 service is livestreamed**

**\*\*Palm Sunday 3/24: 1 Service only @ 10:30\*\***

**Midweek Lent worship**

**Wed. March 6, 13, 20 6:00 pm (livestreamed)**

**Come Join Us!**



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