

Lord of Life

MAY 2024 | THE LIFE LINE



April 21 Coffeehouse Fundraiser

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From Pastor Karla



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"Please do me this favor, will you? Lift your heads up and look around this locker room. Look at everybody else in here. And I want you to be grateful you're going through this sad moment with all these other folks because, I promise you, there is something worse out there than being sad. And that is being alone and being sad. **Ain't no one in this room alone.**"*

(*"Ted Lasso"* Season 1, Episode 10, "The Hope That Kills You.")

This quote is from the television show "Ted Lasso" (the same show Pastor Karla is leading the "Bible Study" on). Coach Lasso says this to the team after a devastating loss. I thought of this quote last Sunday (I am writing this on Thursday, 25 April) during the Coffee House...not that those of us there were sad, but that "ain't no one in this room alone"!!! We were in the room TOGETHER!!! Now, I know that I have been going on, and on, and on, and on about Lord of Life as a community in Christ these last few months, because it is important!!!! When we "show up" for one another the community in Christ only grows stronger.

So, with that in mind, on Sunday, 19 May – **Pentecost Sunday** – we will have ONE worship service at 10:30am (**everyone wear red!**) with a potluck afterwards !!! There will be sign up sheet in the Narthex where you can tell us what you will bring (so we don't have too much of one item). It will be a joyous way to gather for food and fellowship before our summer schedule begins.

And, with that in mind 😊 here's some information on our summer worship schedule:

I asked the Council to move our summer, Sunday morning worship service to 10:30am (instead of 9am as in previous summers). I asked for this for one reason: to be a good neighbor to our friends at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, downtown Dubuque. Their worship service is at 9:15am.....many of you may not know this but our musician, Jill Klinebriel, plays for them every Sunday. She starts with us, heads down the hill for their service and is back up with us for 10:30am service. By changing our schedule, it helps St. Matthew folks not have to find a substitute musician. Sooooooo, that is why, for this summer, we are going to go with this schedule:

Saturday service @ 4:00pm (this service will be live-streamed)

Sunday service @ 10:30am

And, with that in mind, Rita and I need people to volunteer to be readers and ushers for the summer. There will be slips of paper in the bulletin and the sign-up sheet in the narthex for people to indicate at what worship service they can serve. This will be a HUGE help to Rita and it will prevent me from tapping you on the shoulder and asking you last minute to serve when you show up to worship. 😊 Thank you, in advance, for your help with worship.

All for now.

In peace and with aloha,
Pastor Karla

Information shared from the Northeastern Iowa Synod Star Newsletter - March/April 2024

The complete newsletter can be found at: <https://neiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Star-March-April-2024.pdf> Please check it out for much more information on this exciting opportunity!

New 'C3' Ministry Fair to offer more than 20 workshops by Marcia Hahn

All congregation members from the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend the synod's first "Creative Collaborative Congregations (C3)" Ministry Fair Saturday, June 1, at Wartburg College, Waverly.

This new event is an opportunity for lay people, pastors and deacons from across the synod to gather in fellowship, learn together, share ideas and get inspired with skills to strengthen their congregational ministries. This year's Ministry Fair replaces the Synod Assembly, which will take place every other year and will meet again June 7, 2025.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Ministry Fair will feature more than 20 workshops, along with round table discussions and displays to support congregations, staff members, council members, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, and volunteers in their ministries and administrative activities. Parents and family members will find a number of workshops on faith in the home, keeping children safe, spiritual practices, and other family-focused topics.

Everyone will be able to attend two workshops in the morning beginning at 9 a.m. and two in the afternoon, concluding at 3:45 p.m. Check-in for the fair will begin at 8:30 a.m. The day will also include a devotional worship service, lunch with round-table conversations and a service project to support area food pantries. (See page 2.) Everyone who plays an instrument is invited to join the worship band, which will perform at the worship service. (See page 6.)

"I am very grateful for the network leaders, pastors and others who are stepping up to share their best practices and ideas on a variety of topics," Jones says. "These are talented people who have a lot of passion about ministry and want to share it with others."

WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT MINISTRY

Here is a look at some of the planned workshops and presenters: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Calling a Pastor or Deacon, Make Time for Strategic Ministry, Faith Formation & Volunteer Recruitment: Thinking Outside the Box, The Dwelling: The Church That Started as Three Showers and a Trailer, Reflecting on Your Congregation's Legacy, Talking Out Loud About Addiction, Dinner Church Ministry, Ukraine Trip & Moral Trauma, LSI Immigrant & Refugee Community Services, Art as Spiritual Practice: A Hands-On, All-Ages Faith Practice, Dying Generously: Planned Giving as Part of Your Legacy, What Is a Mutual Ministry Committee and Why Do We Need One?, Rocks and Roots: The Outdoors as Spiritual Playground, Tips & Tricks for Church Communications: Making the Most of Your Emails, Website & Social Media and more...

SERVICE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT FOOD PANTRIES

The Hunger Network invites congregations to bring birthday cake kits and packages of sanitary products to be distributed to food pantry ministries in this synod.

The birthday cake kits contain items needed to celebrate a birthday or special day, including a cake mix, candles, canned frosting, a can of soda (to replace oil and eggs), and a birthday card in a foil cake pan. Additional items can also be added, such as paper plates, sprinkles and other cake decorations, streamers, and party hats.



People are also encouraged to bring a variety of sanitary products (tampons, pads, party liners, etc.) in their original packages. The kits and supplies can be brought to the Neumann Auditorium lobby during the Ministry Fair.

Download the complete list and instructions at www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair.

Faith Formation



Sunday School and Confirmation Wrapup

Sunday May 5th is our final week and we will celebrate the year with an ice cream party! Join us at 9:15 for some yumminess (it's always time for ice cream!)

"Ted Lasso" Bible Study

Our Ted Lasso Bible Study continues on **Monday, May 6th at 6:30pm**. We are having a great time viewing the episode(s) each week followed by a lively discussion about the relevant topics as related to biblical teachings. You do not need to know anything about tea, soccer, football, coaching, or AFC Richmond to join this group. Join us when you can, for some great fun and fellowship!

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"



Care in Our Congregation



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

The team will be giving us a presentation during Adult Faith Formation time on May 5 (9:15 am). Following are some testimonials from people who have benefitted from a Stephen Minister:

- I had a great experience with my Stephen ministry person. We continued for nearly a year from our initial contact. It really grew into a warm friendship. My original need for this person was met but I think I gained insight into other mutual concerns and interests. Stephen Ministry was a blessing.
- I lost my husband in 2018 and met with a wonderful person for around one year. I started by reading the four books "Journey through Grief" which I was given by my counselor. We started each week, with prayers and always going through grief and sadness. This was the answer to my grief. After all our meetings, I finally felt it was OK to be happy and enjoy my church family and friends. Thank you!!
- I believe the Stephen Ministry is an important part of Lord of Life. I have been a recipient of this ministry. When I was 'between jobs' I was matched up with Kevin Curoe for help and support. He and I met on a regular basis. I did enjoy our time together. I benefitted from his encouragement and insight. Thank you Stephen Ministry - keep up the good work!

2024 Graduates

Breanna Felderman graduates from Mount Mercy University with an Elementary Education degree. She and her golf team will be golfing at the NAIA National Championship in May. She will begin teaching 2nd Grade at Prairie Ridge Elementary in Cedar Rapids in the fall!

Coffeehouse Fundraiser to Support LOL attendees



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
including MYLE the tAble
Young Adult Gathering

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in this past Sunday's coffeehouse fundraising event! ...whether you baked goods, contributed music, competitively outbid others for pie, or just showed up. Not only was it a great and fun event on its own, it raised a significant amount of money which makes it possible for young people – like our daughter Teresa – to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, supported by their church. It's not only the financial support – it's the support of a sending community....We are deeply grateful to be part of Lord of Life. – Troy & Maria Troftgruben



THANK YOU!

Total funds raised for the Youth Gathering are \$2421.
Thank you for your generosity in support of our young people!



Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Thursday, May 2nd, 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.

Senior Lunch Group

All Seniors (50+) are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 23rd, at Birdie's Bistro, 1220 Iowa St. For those of you who enjoy brunch, Birdie's offers a range of breakfast items along with a lunch menu. Come join us for food and fellowship. As an added bonus we will be supporting a local business. For more information or to make your reservation, please call Peggy Granovsky

Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday May 11th, 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!

"Share Our Abundance" Capital Campaign - Check Your Mailbox!

Recently, Share Our Abundance letters were mailed to your home address. Included in the letter is a statement outlining your pledge and contributions to the campaign. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider extending your pledge for May, 2024 to April, 2025. **This is a separate campaign from the General pledges made at the end of 2023, raising funds for the mortgage payments.** You can mail your pledge card to the church or put it in the basket at church. Thank you for your continued support! With gratitude, Interim Pastor Karla Wildberger

Call Committee Update

As we wait for names from the Synod, we continue to pray for those discerning calls: "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

Shoe Donations

Teresa Troftgruben is joining the St. Peter youth group's trip to New Orleans. You can help support their trip by donating gently used or new shoes. They will be used to support small businesses in developing nations which are typically operated by one person or family. You may have noticed the collection bin by the conference room. 😊 Donations may be made through Wednesday, May 15. Thank you!



Vacation Bible School 2024

Do you have a 4-yr-old through completed 4th grader who would be interested in Vacation Bible School? St. Peter Lutheran is offering 'Scuba: diving into friendship with God' June 17-21 from 9:00 am – noon. (5th grade and older can be helpers). For more details (early registration with discount through May 1, etc.) you may call their office at 563-663-6558 or visit their website stpeterdbq.org for registration forms and information. Rita also has information in the office including registration forms.

Thank You from Almost Home

This was received from Almost Home after receiving our donation of \$595 from the Lent offerings: Dear Lord of Life, We truly can't thank you enough for your generous gift to Almost Home. Your support will allow us to continue providing help to homeless men with children in our community who need it most. People like you truly make a difference in the world, and we're incredibly grateful! Warm regards, Almost Home

Party for a Purpose

The Almost Home Fundraiser is Friday, June 21, 5-8 p.m. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds. Almost Home is the Homeless Men with Children Shelter located at St John's Lutheran Church in downtown Dubuque. We are seeking donations of "Theme" baskets worth over \$50 or specialty silent auction items. The specialty auction items could include a boat ride, a plane ride, a farm tour/meal, a backyard barbeque, or dinner/cards. If you have an interesting item to donate, please call Cindy Recker at 563-542-7143. And please mark your calendar to attend "Party for a Purpose" on June. 21st, 5-8 p.m. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds.



April 6 Roadside Cleanup

Left to Right: Don Backhaus, Galen Thomas, Steve Heer, Jack Steffen, Dave Cordes, Henry Steffen, Amanda, Maddox, Kaleb and Sean Mairet

Front: Joan Cram, Pastor Karla, Debbie Thomas

Care in Our World

May 2024 – Give a Gift to LSI: Support Mothers across Iowa



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Did you know LSI brings hope and healing to mothers in each of our service lines? Here are just a few examples:

- The Child Care Business Development program in our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services prepares women, often mothers, to run an in-home childcare business. This small business opportunity allows them to provide for their family and ensure their children receive culturally appropriate care.
- Many mothers benefit from our Foster Care and Adoption services, whether they be mothers who are blessed with a child through adoption or foster mothers who provide love and guidance to children from all paths of life.
- Early Childhood Services prepares mothers-to-be for birth and raising a child. Additionally, home visitation programs help ensure a strong support system for young parents across the state.

These are just three examples of how LSI serves mothers in Iowa. This Mother's Day, we encourage you to give a gift in honor of your mother or motherly figure to ensure mothers around the state receive the care and support they deserve.

Donate online at lsiowa.org/donate or send a check to Lutheran Services in Iowa, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677-0848.

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

Spring Worship Schedule

(through May 12)

Sunday Worship services 8 & 10:30

10:30 service is livestreamed

May 19 Pentecost Sunday: 1 service @ 10:30 am

followed by Potluck lunch

Summer Worship Schedule

(Memorial day weekend thru Labor Day weekend)

Saturdays 4:00 pm (livestreamed)

Sundays 10:30 am

Come Join Us!



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Scan code to give now

www.lordoflife.online