

APRIL 2020

# LIFE LINE

*Special Edition Newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church*



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PASTOR PAUL**

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## **Our Lenten Wilderness Journey**

*by Pastor Paul*

Dear friends, our Lenten journey nears its end, but we remain in the wilderness, together. This Sunday we will recall the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and we will begin to recount the story of Jesus' last moments with the disciples, those closest to Jesus, and we will follow the story of a betrayal, trial, and judgment that lead Jesus to the wilderness of the cross.

Our wilderness is not something we experience alone. Christ goes with us. Though we may feel that we are wandering these current days alone, we are not. And not only because we know that Christ goes with us, but because at Lord of Life, we choose community over isolation. We choose togetherness, even if only by phone or webcam. We choose community by continuing to serve and love our neighbor. *(continued on page 2)*



THE STACHE FAMILY GATHERED FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

I encourage you to participate, as you are able, in the life of your church through worshipping online or by phone, making phone calls to check on each other, and as you are able, given our economic reality, by continuing to support our shared ministry with your gifts and offerings. Together, we are church for each other, our community, and the life of the world. I continue to pray for you all and look forward to that day when we gather in-person once again.

## Worship Schedule & Access

Worship online is our current reality and we give thanks to God for our partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary and our area ELCA Congregations for the partnership we have forged to provide Sunday services.

### **Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

Link via our website | Phone in at 1 (312) 626-6799, then enter the meeting code: 887 508 411#

### **Maundy Thursday & Good Friday 7:00 p.m.**

Link via our website | Phone in at 1 (312) 626-6799 then enter the meeting code: 737 086 8127

### **Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

Link via our website | Phone in at 1 (312) 626-6799, then enter the meeting code: 887 508 411#

## Healing Prayer Worship Service

During this challenging time we are reminded of the gift of prayer. Pastor Paul will host a prayer liturgy each Wednesday after Easter and we will include music and prayers for healing as a part of our time together. Though we will not be able to lay hands on you directly, there can be no doubt as to the effectiveness of prayer to heal our spirits.

To participate in this time of prayer for healing, go to our website and find the link at the top of the page, or phone in: 1 (312) 626-6799 then enter the meeting code: 159 735 279

## Resources for Faith in Your Home

Pastor Paul has curated resources for nurturing the gift of faith in your home. We have arranged to post our Taking Faith Home resource on our website under the **Faith at Home** card on the front page. There are also links to other devotional resources under this card. Though these are primarily targeted resources for adults, families will appreciate the Taking Faith Home resource as well.



Under the heading of **Kids and Faith** you will find a large number of resources for children and families. There a number of creative types in the ELCA who've created daily video blogs with music and a message for kids. There are resources like coloring pages that are tied to the Bible readings for the week, and there are even resources for home schooling and education. These curated resources are edited almost daily as new things are discovered or become available. If you have ideas or links to share, contact Pastor Paul.



Pastor Paul hosts a weekly Bible study online each Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. We are currently reading through the Gospel according to Matthew. You can join at anytime and the resources for the class are on our website under the Online Bible Study card on the front page. After we complete our reading of Matthew, we will move to reading the lessons for the coming Sunday. You may phone in at 1 (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting code: 723 123 111

## Checking In and Caring for Each Other

Pastor Paul has created an online survey to check in on church members. You will find that link in the eNews from Wednesday and on our Facebook page. This is a tool for learning about how we are navigating social distancing and economic impacts on vitality. In addition, we encourage you to make phone calls, send cards, and in general, check in on your fellow church members and neighbors, especially the elderly. Care in our Congregation is one of our key ministry concepts.

## Volunteer Shoppers

Are you unable to go out to shop? We have volunteers willing to go for you. You can contact Brandon Johnson or Earl Alexander via your church directory or by contacting the church office. The church also has a limited supply of food items and toilet paper, should you need something and are not presently able to purchase online or at the store. Please do not hesitate to ask.

## Little Food Pantry

Our little food pantry has been getting quite a workout of late. We are grateful to Susan Hansen for monitoring and refilling the pantry each morning. As she said recently, "Some mornings it's just topping things off and other mornings it's completely empty." If you are able, please consider donating food and personal hygiene items for the pantry. You can shop online and have them delivered or you can drop them outside office doors Tuesday-Friday between 9am-Noon.

This is important ministry and Care in our Community is one of our key ministry concepts.



## Palms Available

Palms will be available at church on Friday and Saturday before Palm Sunday. We will include a blessing of the palms as a part of our Sunday service. Lord of Life member, Bri Ensign, has also designed a coloring page for children. You can download the coloring page via our website.

To collect your palm, visit the lower level portico at church where you will find the wooden cross adorned with palm branches. Thank you to the Deckers for putting this creative sharing of palms together for us.



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Though we primarily share resources and updates electronically, if you are unable to access the Internet, please contact the office to arrange to have items mailed.



**"Loved by God, Sent to Serve"**