



From the Pastor

The Three Days are upon us! Here's why they matter and my invitation to attend to them as a Christ follower.

Simply defined, The Three Days (Triduum in Latin) are the three days of Holy Week which focus intensely on Christ's passage from death to life: Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening.

Triduum

Life involves crossing various boundaries: from childhood to adolescence, adolescence to adulthood, and ultimately from life to death. Salvation also involves crossing boundaries. From its earliest days, the church has celebrated Christ's journey from death to life with the sacred marking of days during Holy Week. These days, known as the Triduum or Three evenings will begin with Maundy Thursday, continue on Good Friday, extend through the Vigil of Saturday evening and come to a conclusion on Easter Sunday (sundown on Thursday to sundown on Sunday measured the three days in the ancient world). In a sense, these celebrations together constitute a three-act play.



Maundy Thursday

In Act One (Maundy Thursday) Jesus' actions reveal that discipleship means crossing the boundary from selfishness to servanthood. While the plot against him begins to unfold, Jesus has a meal with his disciples and afterwards washes their feet. The humility and self-denial of the foot-washing foreshadow the cross, where Jesus washes the whole world in his blood. It is in this context that Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment to love one another "just as I have loved you" (John 13:34). We share the meal of bread and wine, remembering that having become one with Christ in baptism we are now to share ourselves with others in love and service. We strip the altar remembering that Jesus was stripped before he was beaten and crucified. We are also reminded that Christ was stripped of his dignity on the cross and that our servanthood involves humility and self-denial.

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Good Friday

In Act Two (Good Friday) our Lord's servanthood reaches its ultimate limit. On the cross Jesus became the lamb who was slain for sinners. There he was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:4). There he revealed God's love and became the living way into the "sanctuary" (Hebrews 10:19-20) that is communion with God the Father. Good Friday is not a funeral service for Jesus. It is a celebration of the triumph of the cross! In John's gospel, always the appointed reading for Good Friday, Jesus is the king on his way to enthronement. It is on the cross that God's power is revealed and God's enemies (sin and death) are defeated. Because God raised Jesus, the cross is now a symbol of how God triumphs in and through our acts of service and self-sacrifice. The tone of Good Friday is one of prayer and reflection. It is a solemn celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Easter Vigil

In Act Three, the Easter Vigil becomes an expression of our spiritual boundary crossing. Each of the four scenes of this act points to some facet of our passage from death to life with Christ. We do not currently offer a service of Easter Vigil, but that does not stop you from observing this time on the Saturday evening before Easter. See our website at:
<https://www.lordoflife.online/holy-week.html>

On Palm Sunday we will celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem by waving palms and reciting words first spoken by the crowds gathered alongside the roadway. Our emphasis will be on the events of that day and at the end of the service I will speak an invitation into Holy Week. And here's the thing, if we simply move from Palm Sunday and celebrating Jesus' entry into the city but skip over THE MOST PROFOUND AND IMPORTANT DAYS OF HOLY WEEK, we jump directly to celebrating the resurrection without even experiencing the crucifixion. If that script was made into a movie the critics would scream because the most important parts of the story were omitted.

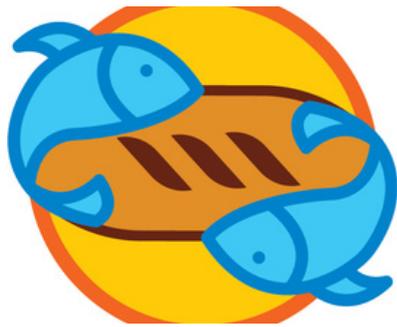
So my invitation to you is this, join me and your fellow followers of Christ in embracing the services of Holy Week. Let's make this journey together so that we can emerge from Holy Week earnestly celebrating the resurrection. These services will be available on our YouTube channel and Facebook Page afterwards so that you can watch on your schedule if need be. It's that important. I pray that you will be blessed for your efforts.

Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm LIVESTREAM ONLY
Good Friday: 7:00pm LIVESTREAM ONLY
Easter Sunday: 9:00am LIVESTREAM
10:30am PARKING LOT CHURCH

See you in worship!

Pastor Paul

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SHARE *our* ABUNDANCE

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Everyone agrees that our facility is beautiful, inspirational, welcoming and compliments the ministry that takes place here, each and every day. When we embarked on our journey to improve our facility 14 years ago, it was accompanied by a commitment that mission and ministry drive the functionality and design of a church building.

We can look back on the 5 years since our building project was complete and see that we have made wonderful progress in our ministry and in turn, quickly realize our journey is far from done. In part, our future progress will be dictated by how we pay for all of the wonderful enhancements to our church home. Debt can be a burden that holds us back from dreaming about and living into the future that we feel called. For many, our debt can be intimidating. While it is significant, **we have a plan to address it!** The church has already taken a step in this direction by approving a budget for 2021 that incorporates partial mortgage debt payment and by 2027 will support 100% of the required monthly obligation.

At the same time, ministry cannot wait. Our commitment to growing our outreach and attending to faith formation ministry is timely as the world around us changes rapidly, and we are ready to meet those needs.

On April 11, we will launch the **Share our Abundance Campaign** to significantly reduce the debt and to set us on a path to allow us to invest in outreach as well as youth and family ministry over the coming years.

In addition to learning about the campaign during worship and other ways, you are invited to attend our campaign event being planned for **Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7 PM**. Please mark your calendars now and look for more details regarding the campaign event.

In Peace and in thanks,

Mike Donohue
General Co- Chair

Pat Friedman
General Co-Chair

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From the Council President

Dear Lord of Life members and friends,

A plaque that used to hang in my Platteville office said, "See the Possibilities". It served as a reminder to always look for new ways to do things, open up to new directions, and consider new perspectives. The month of April brings a number of opportunities for Lord of Life to 'see the possibilities'.



On April 11, our stewardship campaign will kick off. Many thanks to those who have been involved in the extensive planning for this campaign. The theme, "Share Our Abundance," fits this congregation's ongoing dedication to caring and sharing. We will consider not only the financial needs of the congregation but also explore opportunities for growth and service.

What do you see as the possibilities for our congregation? How can we prepare for these possibilities? I encourage you to participate in the campaign activities and to prayerfully consider what our next steps might be.

Finally, I cannot express enough my thanks to Kris Erickson Eipperle for her contributions to our musical ministry. Congratulations on your retirement! Wartburg seminary student, Andrew Thompson will serve as interim through May. The Music & Worship Committee is in the process of interviewing several candidates.

Your partner in possibilities,

Susan Hansen



In our prayers...

- Our prayers go out for the family of Eleanor McGrath at her passing in March.
- Gloria Klinefelter who had surgery on March 29th.
- Nate Frambach's mother, Jody, who had surgery to remove a brain tumor in March.

Please pray for your fellow Lord of Life members and families. We have a email prayer chain that you are welcome to join. Please send an email to office@lordoflife.online to be added to the list.

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In-Person Services Resume!

by Pastor Paul

After many months of deliberation and evaluation, we are now prepared to offer in-person, indoor worship services. You should have received a letter from Council President Susan Hansen outlining that process. Here's how you can join us for worship in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, April 11th.

Sign Up

Visit our website and click on the link at the top of the page titled, "Worship Sign Up Here" to view a list of all the upcoming services. Parking lot services will continue for the foreseeable future, so you will find them listed there. You will also see, starting with the April 11th service, an option to sign up to attend. Enter your name and let us know how many will be in your group.

At the Church

The first thing to know is that you will be required to wear a mask while inside the building. Arrive at church by 8:45am (sorry last minute friends) so that our ushers have ample time to receive you and seat you and your group. Follow all signage and directions, check your mailbox as you pass by. You will receive a worship bag which includes communion. You will be asked to remain in your seat during worship. Following worship you will be dismissed by row and you will leave the building. There will be no informal mingling for now. If you choose to chat with friends outside it is up to you.

I can't begin to express how excited I am to have you back in the sanctuary with me for worship! If we all work together, we can ensure that we stay on track to return to our new normal, including the resumption of activities inside the building. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to lean into these temporary adjustments to how we gather.

Please don't wait to sign up for worship assuming you will save a space for someone else to attend. Also, be assured that our 9:00am service will continue to be live-streamed each week.



This just in!

We now have the April quarterly for The Word in Season provided by Augsburg Fortress, the March quarterly of Our Daily Bread, and the special edition The Greatest Love - 10 Easter Reflections from Our Daily Bread. Stop by during office hours, 9 AM - 3 PM Mon.-Fri., to pick it up.



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Sunday School News

In April, Lord of Life is making the move to return to some limited in-person worship. Sunday School, however, will continue online by zoom for now. I have pondered how some form of in-person Sunday School might work, and at this time there are still many hurdles that complicate it. There may need to be some adjustments made to the time for the Sunday School zoom to accommodate families that choose to worship in person. Any changes to time will be communicated through the Sunday School weekly email.

Although we may not meet in person for Sunday School, children, youth and families can look forward to connecting in person at the end of the school year. I am planning on an outdoor cross generational event in early June with fun activities, faith connections, and probably some treats too! It will be an informal gathering for people to safely gather outdoors, grow in faith, and celebrate the end of the school year. More detailed information will be coming as the date nears.

~ Maria Troftgruben

Parking Lot Church

Parking lot services are back and we want YOU to join us! Your vehicle is your pew and your stereo your is the PA system as we worship together in the parking lot! Sign up by calling the office or visiting our website's worship sign up page.

<https://www.lordoflife.online/worship-sign-up-here.html>

Easter Sunday - April 4

Saturday, April 10

Saturday, April 24



Become a worship servant today!

If you are interested in being a worship servant for our online, parking lot, or holiday related services, please click here to sign up for available dates.

Please note: There are different service types listed on each tab across the top so be sure to select the service type you would like to volunteer for. <https://signup.zone/lord-of-life>

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Worship Online or by Phone

Join us for worship and coffee hour every Sunday using the information below!

As before, you will be able to click on the Worship button on our website, or go to: <https://bit.ly/3iHLydh>
If prompted to enter a password, use: Luther

To join over the phone, dial 1(312)626-6799 and use:

Meeting code: 563 582 7371

Password code: 456037.



We also offer the LIVE stream of worship via our Facebook page and our YouTube channel each week! Please like and follow (click that you want to see our posts first).
<https://www.facebook.com/lordoflifedbc/>



If you haven't yet, please subscribe and tap the little bell at our YouTube channel! Visit
<https://bit.ly/3rBc1Of>

Bible Study

Pastor Paul invites you to join him for a reading of the lessons for the week ahead on Monday evenings. A handout is provided on our website each week, along with a link to join the Zoom meeting. Be sure to check out all of the resources available via our website! www.lordoflife.online.

First Communion Update

We have prepared a fun new video for first communion instruction! If you or your child would like to learn more about Holy Communion, check out the video on our YouTube channel here: <https://bit.ly/3cSHAwF>

We will offer first communion at our April 11th service (our first in-person, indoor service!) and on other Sundays as arranged with Pastor Paul. Contact Pastor Paul with questions or to arrange for your first communion in worship.



Virtual Coffee Hour Update

Each week, following worship, we host a coffee hour. Beginning on Sunday, April 11th we will have a slight change in schedule due to the resumption of in-person, indoor services. Pastor Paul will continue to host this virtual social time but it may take a few additional minutes to officially begin. We will strive to remember to allow you to unmute yourself ahead of time so that you may visit with each other as you wait.

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In the Mail...

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.



www.lordoflife.online

