

Lord of Life

APRIL 2022 | THE LIFE LINE

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From Pastor Paul

Our Lenten theme of Praying for a Change has been connecting with folks well. I am, of course, very grateful for this! I have been amazed by the turnout for our Sunday morning class offerings that have nearly filled the conference room to overflowing. And our class on prayer and music, which was our monthly cross-generational class time drew nearly forty people in the sanctuary to learn about prayer, music, reflection, and what it means to pray twice when singing. I am grateful to all of our class facilitators, and we are not done yet. I hope you will join me for all that Praying for a Change has to offer.



It's hard to believe that by the time we print this month's newsletter, we will be FIVE Sundays into Lent. It always goes by so quickly, and yet, so often with such meaning. I pray that you are experiencing the fullness of the season. All of this leads us to the cross and Holy Week. I want to encourage you to participate fully in this week we will call holy.

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.

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 Sunday

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the Resurrected Christ through magnificent hymns and songs, scripture featuring the narrative of the first Easter, and a celebration of Holy Communion. It is, in a very basic way, that which is central to who we are as Christians.

Join me in the remaining days of Lent, in Holy Week, and in the celebration of Easter.

From Our Council President

Spring into action!

Two important events will occur in April.

Due to the decline in county covid cases, I am happy to announce resumption of pre-pandemic practices in worship. Beginning the first Sunday in April we will resume communion distribution at the altar and passing offering plates. We will continue to make pre-packaged communion elements available for those who wish to commune at their pew. With this change we have an opportunity to re-build our communion bread baking and communion set-up teams. We've lost some helpers, so please consider being part of these teams. If you've never done these tasks before, you'll be paired with experienced individuals. Please let Val Kennedy, Joan Decker or me know if you are interested. Many hands make light work!



Your congregation council will hold a retreat on April 10. **Rev Liz Albertson** from the synod office will facilitate the discussion and, as an added bonus, will serve as our guest preacher in worship. The council will consider how we embrace post-pandemic opportunities and challenges. Our discussion will include:

1. changes to bylaws to align with constitution changes
2. reviewing the structure of the council; what makes sense for Lord of Life?
3. visioning for the future: How might we best meet the needs of digital and in person participants in worship and church life?



** Help Us Stay in Touch **

We have been noticing a trend in our emails sent out twice weekly. About half of the emails that are sent out are being read. When we have asked for feedback from folks who are subscribed to our email list, we find out that in several cases our emails are going directly to SPAM or TRASH folders. Here's what you can do today to help avoid missing important information from Lord of Life.

Add Email addresses to your Contacts list.
pastor@lordoflifedbq.org AND pastor@lordoflife.online
office@lordoflifedbq.org AND office@lordoflife.online
president@lordoflifedbq.org
faithformation@lordoflifedbq.org
treasurer@lordoflifedbq.org

Also, please check your spam/trash folders for emails from the church. If found in the spam folder, open and mark NOT SPAM or MOVE TO INBOX. Thank you for helping us stay in touch.

Praying for a Change Opportunities

Our Lenten Theme

This year during Lent we are focused on prayer. Praying for a change carries a double meaning for us. First, we pray because we believe that God hears our prayers and responds to them in God's time. And second, because that which we pray for changes us, often inviting us to respond to God's great gift of love in Christ by living our lives in a way that honors that gift and strives to live out love of neighbor. This Lent, we have been offering multiple courses on prayer in hopes that you will invest in nurturing the gift of faith that is in you through your participation. We have one last Sunday educational event planned for Adult Faith Formation on April 3rd. Then a cross-generational opportunity on March 10th

Praying Through Poetry & Story

Instructor The Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach

Sunday, April 3rd

Join Nate as we think about praying in a way that we might not have before!

Cross-Generational Sunday School

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Join us in the sanctuary for our final installment of praying for a change alongside Lord of Life people of all ages. We will have music and singing, along with opportunities to talk with each other about life, faith, and praying for a change.



Almost Home Fundraiser Event

Friday, June 10th

We're back and better than ever! The Party on Purpose event has been on hold during the pandemic, but we are ready to party on purpose once again. Mark your calendars for Friday, June 10th on campus at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. Visit the website to learn more about the event and watch a video about the effort to expand emergency shelters for homeless men with their children.



You'll recognize the drummer for the band as our very own Pastor Paul, and don't stop there, Bri Ensign, Val Kennedy, and Troy Troftgruben are in the band, too! We think it will be a wonderful evening under the stars with lots of food and great friends. Did we mention that our celebrity guest emcee will be none other than Gary Dolphin? See you at the party!

Faith Formation Update

Faith at Home

Easter is coming and now is a great time to learn about Holy week with your family. Try some of the activities below as you explore and grow in faith together.

The Lego challenge. For each day of Holy week, read a scripture passage from the Easter story and build a creation out of legos that portrays the story. Need some ideas of what to read or make? Check out <https://buildfaith.org/journey-through-holy-week-with-lego/>



Maria Troftgruben,
Coordinator for Faith Formation

Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough | water |
| 8 large marshmallows | cinnamon & sugar mixed in a bowl |

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray
2. Unroll crescent dough and separate each triangle.
3. Have children dip marshmallow in water. Roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture.
4. Place marshmallow in the top of the crescent roll and roll into a crescent roll shape, then secure the sides by tucking them under and pinching them closed.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside.
6. Let cool for a few minutes. The rolls should be empty like the tomb! Jesus is risen!

Upcoming Events in April

1st Communion Training Saturday, April 2nd 9-11 am at church

5th graders and their parents will join Pastor Paul for discussion, questions, and fun activities. Please watch the 1st communion video with your child and answer the question before this gathering. The resources are available on the church website.
<https://www.lordoflife.online/firstcommunion.html>

April 10th Cross Generational Sunday School: Holy Week Theme

April 17th No Sunday School—Easter Sunday

1st Communion Sunday, April 24th

5th graders are invited to receive first communion at either worship service. Please let Maria Troftgruben know which service your family plans to attend.

Youth Event: Game Night Sunday, April 24th 6:30 to 8pm

Join us and invite friends for a variety of group games at church. We will play some active games and perhaps some silly, and challenging games too!

Care in Our Congregation

Senior Luncheon Returns

Due to reduced cases and fewer restrictions for Covid-19, we think it might be time for the Senior Lunch Group to gather again for monthly lunches. Our first outing will be at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, at Tony Roma's. If you would like to make a reservation or have any questions, please contact Peggy Granovsky. Hope to see you soon!

43rd Anniversary of the Congregation

On April 17th we mark the anniversary of the formal organization as a congregation of the American Lutheran Church, first organized in 1979. The Charter members consisted of 44 confirmed, 88 baptized, and 4 associate member families. The 1st council president was Larry Croghan. We give thanks to God for the gift of this community of faith and for 43 years of vital ministry of caring in our congregation, our community, and our world.

Confirmation Update

In our second half of the confirmation year we are focused on "Living Lutheran" and what the core elements of our faith line up with daily life. Here are the class dates and information for April.

- April 6th CLASS 6:00pm (midweek Lenten services follow at 7:15pm)
- April 13th NO CLASS | Attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00pm
- April 20th CLASS 6:00pm
- April 27th CLASS 6:00pm | Mentors and Youth Night

CONFIRMATION MENTORS

Mentors, we are planning a Mentors and Youth night for Wednesday, April 27th at 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Paul. Our goal is to have every mentor and every confirmation youth at church for this event.



Holy Week Schedule



- April 14th - Maundy Thursday, evening liturgy at 7:00pm
- April 15th - Good Friday, spoken liturgy at Noon & full liturgy at 7:00pm
- April 17th - Easter Sunday services at 8:00 & 10:30am

CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY

We Have a SOUP-ER Challenge for You!

Soup seems to be one of the fastest going items in our Little Food Pantry. Because of this, our back-up supply of soup is often quickly depleted.

This is our challenge should you choose to accept it. During the month of April, it is our goal to completely fill the grocery cart with soup. The soup may be canned, boxed or packaged.

Please, no glass jars! The most popular soups seem to be chicken noodle, vegetable beef, cream of chicken and chili, but a variety of soups is always appreciated.

The grocery cart has been "Souped Up" and is ready to receive your donations of soup for our Little Food Pantry. Now be a "Soup-er Hero" and help us fill the grocery cart with soup! Your donations are appreciated!

CARE IN OUR WORLD

ELCA World Hunger & Lutheran Disaster Response – Ukraine

April marks our next quarterly appeal for ELCA World Hunger. This month, you are also invited to consider making an offering to Lutheran Disaster Response in support of the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Ukraine. God calls us to share hope and love at this time of challenge, and to move toward a just world where all are fed, and the dignity and rights of all are affirmed.

On February 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine. Since that day, we need only turn on our television to witness the devastation and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. We see civilians fleeing the country to neighboring countries with little more than what they can carry. Many of these refugees need shelter, basic necessities, mental health and pastoral care. Working in conjunction with our partners, Church World Service and Lutheran World Federation, 100% of your offering to Lutheran Disaster Response will go directly to support the people impacted by this conflict in Eastern Europe.

ELCA World Hunger continues its work with Lutheran churches and other partners in over 60 countries around the world, including the United States. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your donations to ELCA World Hunger make it possible to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that tackle the root causes of poverty and hunger.

Offering envelopes and further information are available in the narthex of the church regarding both appeals. Whether or not you choose to donate, we ask you to pray for all those who dwell in fear, poverty or hopelessness.

-The Mission and Outreach Team

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