

AUGUST 2020

The Lord of...

LIFE LINE

Special Edition Newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church



Loving Our Neighbor

by Pastor Paul

Kyr·i·e. noun. A brief responsive prayer used as the first item in the liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book, traditionally beginning with the Greek words Kyrie eleison ("Lord, have mercy"). Often set to music and sung by the assembly.

Each time watch the news or read the news online I am stunned by the headlines so often included. Updates on the numbers of new cases of COVID-19, the number of deaths, whether there will be enough hospital beds and will there be a vaccine sooner than later. For many of us, add to those headlines the experiences of our lives. What will happen with jobs, income, will we, *should* we, send out children back to school?

It is in these times of lament, times when our hearts ache and the tensions rise over what is in front of us, that we may rightly cry out, "Kyrie eleison!"

cont'd

I don't know how to respond in the midst of the loss of in-person community.

Kyrie eleison!

I miss my friends and the fun we have together.

Kyrie eleison!

I miss Holy Communion and worship, together, in our sanctuary.

Kyrie eleison!

I wish our government would get its act together.

Kyrie eleison!

My family is driving me crazy.

Kyrie eleison!

What would you add to the list? What do you want to lay before God? To cry out to God for mercy, for? *Kyrie eleison!* It's not a cop out, it's what God invites us to do! It's a reminder that God is God and we are not. It's an anchor in the midst of the chaos of our lives. *Kyrie* (Lord) *eleison* (have mercy) is our very real, very raw, very authentic cry for a need for grace. It's not a quick fix, but rather an approach to dealing with what life is handing us, and acknowledging that God has named and claimed us and loves us, no matter what. It's a gift from God that gives us hope, that no matter what else is happening, God cares, and though an answer may not be immediately evident, an answer will come.

I don't know about you, but I could learn something about myself by invoking God's mercy more often, instead of just grumbling about things and giving up on finding a solution.

May God's mercy enfold you as you read this article, and throughout the days of your life.

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.



From the Council

An Update on Worship Plans

Your congregational council met on Tuesday, July 14th to discuss the current situation with COVID-19 cases and the growing trend line in Dubuque County. When we first chose to love and honor our neighbors and each other by limiting exposure to the virus by shifting to online worship services, we hoped for a speedy return to in-person services. We worked with the Worship and Music Team and area congregational leaders, considered advice from the CDC and the ELCA Churchwide Office, and developed a four-phased plan for how to gradually restart in-person ministry. We even had dates lined up to start worship in-person. Even as we made our plans, we realized that we would have to be flexible enough to change, to pay attention to what the data was telling us. Unfortunately, the data told us that restarting in July was not going to work. Now the data is telling us that we will need to wait a bit longer. With cases growing each day in the double digits, your council leaders have determined that the best way to care for our congregation is to wait until at least September before resuming in-person services. This decision was not made lightly.

This will impact more than just worship. Even as we share this information, our teams are hard at work figuring out how to offer Sunday School, Confirmation, and other Faith Formation ministries virtually. Some of our annual activities are being pushed back or simply rescheduled for next year.

We believe the Holy Spirit is at work through all of this, guiding our steps, inviting us into new ways of being church, together. It doesn't seem ideal. It is difficult. But it is what we have and we have a lot. We welcome your prayers and your participation through online worship services, virtual coffee hours, Bible studies, small groups, and Pastor's virtual office hours.

We give thanks for your ongoing support of our mission and ministry. Your generous offerings and tithes make it possible for Lord of Life to participate in amazing work for the sake of the Gospel.

If you have questions about our four-phase plan, opportunities to connect online or by phone, please reach out to Pastor Paul. Thank you.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Virtual Coffee Hour - Join us for a virtual coffee hour following worship on Sunday morning! We'll start right after worship. You can join us by clicking here. *Note: this is a separate link from the worship link. Want to phone in? **Dial 1 312 626 6799** (US) and enter meeting code: 955 1671 9127 followed by password code: 390761.



Worship Online

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

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.

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

You can also now watch the service via our website's front page. We have embedded a live streaming window there, so just visit www.lordoflife.online and scroll down to the "live" window.

Virtual Office Hours

Pastor Paul invites you to join him for virtual office hours each Tuesday morning from 9-10am. Stop by and say hello, ask questions, make an appointment, share a good joke. Find the link on our website. Not computer savvy? Call the church office any time.

Morning Bible Study Options

Pastor Paul invites you to join him for a reading of the lessons for the week ahead. A handout is provided on our website, along with a link to join the Zoom meeting. Join him on Monday mornings at 9:00am or Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Be sure to check out all of the resources available via our website! www.lordoflife.online



Sunday School News

Once again, a reopening date has been shifted a little farther out. For Sunday School this means it is not likely we will be meeting in person at the start of September. During the time we are not meeting in person, we will connect as a Sunday School in some way such as a weekly Zoom or a video that families can watch together. Please watch the weekly emails for more information on this. As the church begins to reopen, I will be in communication with parents about registration for Sunday School and plans to begin in person Sunday School and what Sunday School will look like this fall. Despite the delay in meeting in person, I am still looking for people willing to volunteer when we are able to be together in person. All of these volunteer opportunities contribute to the success of our ministry. Nothing requires a huge commitment, so please consider how you might help out.

Volunteers:

- Teach or team teach a Sunday School class. (1-3 Sundays per month)
- Substitute teach (Occasionally)
- Help plan Cross Generational Sunday School (Meetings once a month)
- Assist with large group opening (3 times per month) Participate with Education Committee (Meetings 3 to 4 times per year)
- Switch out contents of Busy bags (About 3 to 4 times per year)
- Bibles: Three-year olds and Third Graders will be receiving Bibles in the fall--at some point. Please watch for more information on this in weekly emails.
- Registration: Forms for registration will be available at a later date when the church begins the reopening phases.

Confirmation Update

We are planning on starting confirmation classes this Fall. Details will follow as to what this will look like. If you are a parent of a youth entering 7th grade, please contact the church office to let us know that you child plans to participate. Those entering 9th grade, we will work online to prepare for your Affirmation of Baptism. We have some fun ideas of how to "do" confirmation this year, even if we are not able to meet in person! We look forward to walking with you this Fall. - Pastor Paul & Kim Barnes

Older Wiser Lutherans (Online!)

Pastor Paul is inviting YOU for an online social gathering with our Older Wiser Lutherans group! It's been too long and it'll be fun to see your friends, or to hear from your friends who join by phone. We may even have a game to play. So grab your snack and beverage of choice and join the fun of being together online.

Time: Aug 11, 2020 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09)

[pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09)

Meeting ID: 563 582 7371

Passcode: Luther

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 563 582 7371 **Passcode:** 456037

Virtual Office Hours with Pastor Paul

Stop by and say hello, share a joke, ask a question, make an appointment with Pastor Paul or just hang out for a bit. Come and go as you please, 9 AM-10 AM on Wednesday Mornings.

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09)

[pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5635827371?pwd=Y2ZaWEVZU0RucjdieFNwSThkTGdaUT09)

Meeting ID: 563 582 7371. Passcode: Luther

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) **Meeting ID:** 563 582 7371. **Passcode:** 456037

Financial Update

A full financial update will be available via email in August once all of the data have been entered. Thanks for your patience during our office transition.

Thank You!

For supporting giving to support our shared ministry!

Highway Cleanup



Nancy Oehlert, Mark O, Susan Hansen, Peggy Driscoll, Andrea Spaniol, Violet S, Chase S, David S, Sandy Heer. Not pictured: Steve Heer

Thanks to all of our volunteers who cleaned up trash along Lord of Life's mile-long stretch of the NW Arterial on Saturday morning, We started early, beat the heat, and finished FIVE MINUTES before the rain stated POURING down.

Back to School Blessing

Back to school time is approaching and that means a back to school blessing! Since we can't bring our backpacks to church for a blessing, we are asking families to send in pictures of their students ready to go back to school. So put their backpacks on, and snap a picture, or just pose with back to school 2020 sign. Be creative. And adults, if you teach or work in the schools don't forget to send in a picture too! Please email your pictures to pastor Paul at pastor@lordoflife.onlineAdd a little bit of body text

Pen Pals

Many of us have extra time at home these days. Many parents are looking for activities for their children to do. Why not start writing some letters?! I am looking for adults and children who want to write and receive letters--a way to form connections during this time that we are not gathering in person. Please contact me if you are interested in writing letters or if your children would be interested in a church pen pal. If you have additional questions please be in touch. maria_troftgruben@hotmail.com

"Who ya gonna call?"

Have you called someone from church to check in? Young or old, we all benefit from talking to each other. Pastor Paul makes calls, but it's hard for him to call everybody. Remember, we say that we will care for our congregation, and that means each other! (*besides, we don't need to call Ghostbusters*)

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.



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Lutheran Church

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