

Lord of Life

AUGUST 2022 | THE LIFE LINE

From the Pastor

Summer Spirituality

It's Summer. What is God up to in your life this season?

For many of us, Summer is the most enjoyable—and most elusive—season of the year. It's the brief time when our flowers actually flower. When we get our vitamin D naturally. And when other people actually see our legs and forearms.



For most of us, summertime is for recharging. To that end, we go to cabins, take vacations, plant flowers, read books, spend time with kids and grandkids, attend reunions, grill out, go swimming, and take more walks. This kind of recreation "re-creates" us in all kinds of ways, which is precisely what Sabbath-keeping is all about.

As we "re-create" this summer, how are you connecting (or reconnecting) with God?

Connecting with God may happen in many ways: attending worship, practices of prayer, reading a daily devotion or chapter of Scripture, engaging in a service project, taking a full day of Sabbath, or pausing to take stock of our priorities and goals. These are basic practices of spirituality. And they foster a keener awareness in us of God's active presence in our lives.

Connecting with God happens through reading a chapter of scripture and praying over a cup of coffee in the morning (my favorite). It happens through humming a Christian hymn or song while going for a walk. It happens through distributing food to others at a food packing event. And it happens through gathering in worship together. These are just a few possibilities.

Where is God in your summer activities? Even though summer is traditionally a season of limited church programs, that doesn't mean God has left on vacation—leaving behind a "See you in September" sign.

Let me close with a more specific plug. As you ponder your practices of spirituality, I invite you to start with worship.

In worship, we become church. We learn from and give back to others. Our faith is given structure. We confess our sin and receive God's forgiveness. We hear God's word spoken into our lives. We pray, lament, and praise. And we are blessed to become more than who we are individually. ...In worship, we are not so much entertained as we are reconnected—to God and others. And our lives are recentered.

We worship at Lord of Life. As people of faith, it's what we do—more than anything else. In God's eyes, we are not a random bunch of isolated individuals, each with an individualized relationship plan with Jesus. In God's eyes, we are church—deeply connected to Christ and to others.

What is God up to in your life this season? ...Pay attention. God is closer than you think—and up to great things. Embrace them. Receive them. And enjoy God's goodness.

Your brother in Christ,

Troy Troftgruben, Summer Interim Pastor (along with Mark Oehlert)

Faith Formation Update

Faith at Home:

Ways to Pray: Daily Examen

Looking for a way to review the day with your family? Try Daily Examen. It is an ancient practice of prayerful reflection. There are 5 simple steps.

1. Breathe. Take a moment to breathe in God's love and know he is present.
2. Be grateful. Review the day and recall the good moments.
3. Feel. What did you feel throughout the day? What might God be teaching you?
4. Pray. Lift up one part of your day and pray about it.
5. Look forward to tomorrow. What are you feeling? How can God be with you?



Maria Troftgruben,
Faith Formation Coordinator

Take Out Church

- Are you traveling this summer? Looking for something fun to break up long travel days? Grab a Takeout Church kit from the gathering area. In it you will find activities and ideas for fun and fellowship, praising God, praying, and serving. Of course, you can join LOL services online, but this is another way to stay connected when you are away this summer.

Youth Events (6th grade and up):

- Water Day! Sunday August 28th, 3-4:30; Troftgruben's House
6th to 12th graders are invited to the Troftgrubens for some afternoon water fun. Water balloons, squirt guns, sprinkler, water games, and of course a treat! If the weather is bad, the event will be cancelled.

Looking Ahead to Fall

• Children's Bibles

3 year olds will receive the Spark Story Bible and 3rd graders will receive the Spark Bible. If your child is 3 or is beginning 3rd grade this fall, please email me or the church office, so we can have a Bible ready for the fall. Bibles will be presented in September.

• Sunday School Teachers

Volunteers to teach Sunday School are needed! From prek to teens, we need caring adults give their time and share their faith. If you can help out, please let Maria know.

• Sunday School Registration

Sunday school registration forms will be available in early August in the gathering space. Completed forms can be returned to the office or to the Parish Education mailbox.



"... earthly peace is built on the recognition of the unity and goodness of created existence, the oneness of humanity, and the dignity of every person."

From the ELCA Social Statement FOR PEACE IN GOD'S WORLD

Care in Our Congregation

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Caden Hong
Breanna Felderman
Nancy Fuchs
Marilyn Koehler
- 9 Faith Boyle
- 10 Robert Ziegelmaier
- 12 Jessie Gillen
Kara Steffen
- 14 Evan Norton
Nathan Frambach
- 16 Linda Mushrush
Susan Ohms
- 19 Kevin Curoe
- 21 Megan Ingalsbe
- 23 Rosanne Guler-Ludowitz
- 24 Carter Felderman
- 26 Steven Seay
- 27 Rita Dienst
- 29 Sara Jones
David Minnihan



TRANSITIONS

Death:

We pray for Sue & Rich Keppler and family as they mourn the loss of Clara Klein– Sue's mother, who passed away recently.

Relocation:

Long-time member Ramona Kartman recently moved to Florida to live with her daughter. She greatly misses the Lord of Life friends she left behind and would love to hear from everyone! Her new address is:

Ramona Kartman
1308 Honeysuckle Dr.
Saint Johns FL 32259

Senior Lunch group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, January through October. The location changes every month. If interested in joining this group, please contact Peggy Granovsky for information: pagranovsky@gmail.com, 563-663-6555.

The **Men's Breakfast Group** meets at 8:30 am on the 2nd Saturday of each month to make and share breakfast and fellowship. If you'd like to be a part of this great group of guys you can contact Jon Dienst at 599-4524 or just show up!

Thank You to Nancy Fuchs for, again, making more Baptismal Napkins to replenish the supply she made years ago. The Napkins become a keepsake of remembrance of their Baptism.



PS – Pastor Paul will return from Sabbatical to the office and to leading worship on August 15th. Until then, Pastors Mark Oehlert and I will be leading worship and attending to all pastoral care and leadership matters.

Troy Troftgruben

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13: 34-35

**We Pray for Peace, We Pray for Justice,
We Pray That All Will Be Fed**



SUMMER SCHEDULE

Worship at Lord of Life continues on our summer schedule.

Through Labor Day Weekend

Saturdays at 4:00PM

Sundays at 9:00AM



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
2899 Hales Mill Road
Asbury, IA 52002
(563) 582-7371