

Lord of Life

AUGUST 2023 | THE LIFE LINE

Lord of Life Rain Garden



Inside this Issue

- From the Interim Pastor
- From the President
- The Three Cares
- Lord of Life Happenings

From Pastor Karla

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I do not know about you but I have been having a bit of déjà vu. Not in a bad way, but in a way that is exciting and comforting. I am thrilled and honored to be able to serve Lord of Life in this way, once again! However, this time, I come to you, knowing many of you. For those newer members that I do not know yet, I was LOL's interim pastor before Pastor Paul. I am a member of LOL, but I am not around all that much as I am out and about serving as interim pastor at other churches.



Some of Pastor Paul's words from his last sermon with us... "BELIEVE.

- Believe you can be transformed by God's love in Jesus Christ.
- Believe you can make a difference when you use your hands and feet and mind in this world because of the gospel.
- Believe that this congregation has a bright future ahead of it, ahead of YOU!
- Believe that you will get through the in between time and will find your next pastor."

Together, we will live out our baptismal callings to love and serve God.... all the while believing in God's love in Jesus Christ. Together we will believe the Holy Spirit is at work, moving in and among us and the future that God has in store for Lord of Life Lutheran Church will be full of sharing God's love with each other and the community.

Just a bit of housekeeping information:

- These first few weeks I am with you, I will be your "supply pastor" (with you for worship services and on-call for pastoral care needs).
- I will be out of the country beginning August 16th and return to DBQ on September 17th (Some of you have been on "Rick Steves Tours" I will be touring Eastern France with a friend and then meeting up with my hubby, Dean, for a tour of Sicily.)
- While I am away, other pastors will be on-call for any pastoral care needs, please call the church office for more information, if needed.
- Upon my return, I will start as your "interim pastor" (being paid for 25 hours a week with benefits) ...Yes, I will be "part-time" (my preference).
- I am on the Interactive Planning Team for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering and will have to go to New Orleans once or twice during my time with you.

I will have plenty more to share with you as these weeks and months go by, but this is enough for now. In the meantime, please keep the Church Council and the Call Committee in your prayers.

In peace and with aloha,
Pastor Karla Wildberger



From Our Council President

Susan Hansen



Dear members and friends of Lord of Life:

We've had a busy June and July at Lord of Life! We

- said goodbye to Pastor Paul and Lorice. They're off to their new call in Cocoa Beach Florida!
- formed a call committee and the committee has started meeting.
- welcomed Pastor Karla (back) to serve as our Interim.

Call Committee update

The call committee is creating a short description of Lord of Life. This description provides an overview of our congregation and (hopefully) sparks interest from pastors seeking a call. The committee is also beginning work on the Ministry Site Profile. The profile consists of basic information about our congregation (membership, demographics, and information about Dubuque) and outlines our congregation's ministry priorities. This is where you come in.

In the fall, the call committee will conduct a short survey to collect your thoughts about what's important to us as a congregation and what skills we would like to see in our next pastor. Watch for more info as the process for conducting the survey is determined.

Council activities

Your congregation council is working on plans for fall and early winter activities. If you have ideas for mission & outreach, evangelism, worship, faith formation, and property activities/needs, please let a council member know. As of this writing, the list is still being formed, but here are a few items being discussed:

- Continue to support our food pantry/mobile food giveaways. We have applied for 3 grants to support our food pantry needs. The volunteers for this initiative will meet in the fall to organize these activities.
- Provide Sunday School, confirmation, and adult faith formation opportunities. A small committee of parents is working with Pastor Karla to design Sunday School & confirmation plans. If you have ideas for adult faith formation, they are welcome!
- Participate in other mission & outreach activities such as Apples for Students, Prayer Shawl/Quilt making, and supporting the community through open closet and roadside cleanup activities.
- Begin plans for stewardship and a capital campaign for 2024.

If you have ideas or a passion for any outreach or evangelism activities, please make them known!

Susan Hansen

Financial update

<u>July 2023 YTD</u>	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	2023 Annual Budget
Member General Giving	106,616	112,469	115,002	230,000
Hunger	1,525	1,096	1,002	2,000
Lent/Advent	737	642	800	1,190
**Other Giving/Income	38	77	426	985
Total Income	108,916	114,284	117,230	234,175
Benevolence	10,261	7,462	7,550	14,690
Evangelism	0	355	450	900
Mission and Outreach	18	28	126	256
Stewardship	418	425	480	950
Music & Worship	12,932	11,992	12,516	25,024
Faith Formation	5,881	306	654	1,300
Ministry/Pastoral	59,668	64,395	63,682	127,369
Church Home	29,697	23,903	22,504	43,405
Administration	16,574	14,356	15,800	30,600
Mortgage	3,336	0	0	0
Total Expenses	138,790	123,225	123,762	244,494
Net Gain (loss)	-29,874	-8,942	-6,532	-10,319
Mortgage - Non-Operating	35,688	39,024	39,024	78,048
Additional Member Giving				
Share our Abundance	36,020	21,232		
Care for Communities	1,400	0		
Mobile Food Pantry	1,851	1,212		
Apples for Students	505	260		
ELCA Disaster	4,055	25		
Total	43,831	22,729		

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Lord of Life!

Care in Our Congregation

Senior Lunch Group

On Thursday, August 24th at 11:30 a.m. the Senior Lunch Group will be meeting at the Arboretum. Bring your lunch and a lawn chair. Join us for fellowship in the beauty of God's creation. No need to make reservations. Just come and share some time with friends old and new. Call Peggy Granovsky if you have any questions.

THANK YOU!

We are grateful for all of our amazing volunteers, but we want to extend a few special words of thanks this month for landscaping help.



Steve & Sandy Heer - Thanks for beautifying our grounds by tending landscaping around the church: watering, trimming, etc. and to their helpers who filled in during vacation: **Jim & Bernita Gilbertson**. Thank you all!

Megan Dahlke - Thank you for tending the Rain Garden. If you haven't seen it lately... take a look at it - it's looking beautiful! (Hint: see the front page picture) Thank you!

Allan Simms - Thanks for tending the roses by the lower entry. They look beautiful and are a wonderful invitation to worshippers!

Worship Servants

We are always in need of servants to help with varying responsibilities. It would be very helpful especially as we have visiting supply pastors and our Interim Pastor Karla now leading worship. Please continue to check the schedule in the gathering space or signup zone online to sign up where you are able.

Together we make worship happen!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

We are taking a break during August but will meet again in September on the 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space at church. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please join us in this caring ministry. The pattern we use for prayer shawls consists of basic stitches that are easy to do. If you are new to knitting, we will be happy to help you. For more information please contact Peggy Granovsky.

Men's Breakfast Group

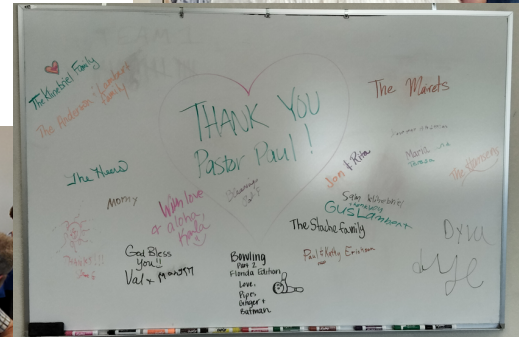
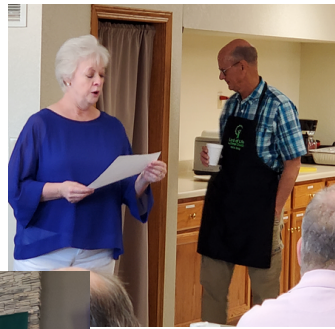
We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday August 12th, in the lower level of the church. Together we make breakfast and share some great fellowship. If you'd like to share in the food and fun you can contact Jon Dienst at 599-4524 or just show up!

Remember to check the Narthex bulletin board for birthdays, prayer list, council minutes and financials.





**Pastor Paul's last service
and Farewell Brunch
July 9**



Care in Our Community and World

Apples for Students

We have collected \$951 for the Apples for Students campaign from Lord of Life members and this amount will be forwarded to St Mark Youth Enrichment Center for their use in buying supplies for school bags they plan to distribute this fall. It is absolutely amazing the generosity of our church family and how they are ready, willing and able to step up to support any campaign lifted up. Thank you to everyone who supported this project!



Anyone who would like to help assemble the school bags can join us at the Five Flags, 405 Main Street, DBQ, on Thursday, August 10, at 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00. If you are only able to work in the morning or afternoon, that is an option. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Arp.

Open Closet

The Open Closet will begin accepting fall and winter clothing for women, men and children in August. Other items needed include shoes/boots, coats, bedding and towels. All donations may be placed in the receptacles by the mailboxes. Please be sure that your donations are clean and in good repair. Thank you!

Little Free Food Pantry

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Lord of Life volunteers who commit their time in filling our Little Food Pantry, and to everyone who continues their support through monetary or food donations!

Mobile Food Distribution at Lord of Life

On Saturday, July 22 LOL sponsored a food distribution from the St. Stephens branch of the River Bend Food Bank. Thank you to all of the Lord of Life members who came out to assist with this wonderful ministry: Dave Cordes, Megan Dahlke, Andrew & Evelyn; Kim Barnes; Phil Granovsky; Susan Hansen; Jon & Rita Dienst; Sean & Amanda Mairet; Barry Pickart; and Pastor Karla Wildberger.

When driveups were finished, the remaining food was distributed to Wartburg Seminary, the VA, and the Rescue Mission with some dry goods held for our Little Free Food Pantry.



Summer Schedule (through Labor Day Weekend)

Saturday service 4:00 pm

Sunday service 9:00 am

All services available in person or online



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



Scan code to give now

www.lordoflife.online