

Lord of Life

FEBRUARY 2022 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Paul

Five years ago...

"I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you..." - Phil. 1:3-4

It's hard to believe that I began my ministry with you five years ago this month! Where does the time go? That's the first thought we often have when we simply think about the macro or big picture, right? I find that happens a lot, but when I take time to dive into the things that have happened between the beginning and the present, I find it easy to see exactly where the time has gone.



Lord of Life has gone through a fair amount of change in five years. Some of our amazing people have moved away, some have entered rest eternal, still others have come to Lord of Life and made it their church home. As Paul says to the church at Philippi in the text I cited above, I thank God for the faithful who occupy this place. If you are reading this article, know that I am thankful to God for you! In fact, I often sit on the edge of the bed before bedtime to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the people who call Lord of Life home.

Lord of Life has been a gift for me and my ministry, too. As a pastor with colleague/friends all over the world, literally, I am often give opportunities to speak your praises. I hear the struggles and the stories of conflict in congregations and I am saddened, but I am also given an opportunity to speak hope to my friends. I know first-hand what it looks like when a congregation and its people embrace the Spirit's leading and seek to be the church together. I know what it looks like to be in a congregation that is not afraid to boldly try new things and to wonder and pray together about how God's mission for us will be lived out next! You show up to feed the hungry, to serve and care for our community and our world (did you see what we did for ELCA Good Gifts?!?!?) and you aren't afraid to serve each other and in worship.

These five years have not been without challenges, but we have faced them together and have responded not always as we wish but as we are able. Who knew five years ago that we would face down a global pandemic? We have embraced being one church with two campuses to serve many of you participating at home and along the way we've grown in our reach across the nation through live-streaming and faith formation online. We are still learning what it means to build or keep relationships going in a world of Zoom and YouTube.

I am thankful for wonderful leaders in this place who continue to answer the call to serve in worship, council, teams and committees, and to be thoughtful conversation and prayer partners as we navigate the road ahead. I hope that you will join me in giving thanks for everyone here as we remember each other in prayers. I look forward to the next five years with you.

In peace and hope, Pastor Paul

From Our Council President

"16 God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that his Spirit will make you become strong followers 17 and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in his love. 18 I pray that you and all of God's people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. 19 I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is. 20-21 I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21



Dear Members and Friends of Lord of Life:

These verses in Paul's letter to the Ephesians are my prayer for our council and congregation as we begin a new year. At our February council meeting we say goodbye to exiting council members **Heather Felderman, Mike Ackerman, Maria Troftgruben,** and **Darlene Curoe** and welcome newly elected members. The Council's efforts in February and March will focus on developing a collective vision for our work in 2022. The past two years have certainly brought challenges. We are called to face those challenges and to stand firm and be deeply rooted in God's love. Your council and committees will continue to work on how best to serve our congregation, community and world. I encourage you to support our council with your prayers and ideas. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine.

Financial Update

| Lord of Life Lutheran Church - 2022 Operational Budget | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2019 Actual | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Budget | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| General Giving | 250,995 | 239,195 | 233,868 | 244,975 | 262,123 | 280,472 | 300,105 | 321,112 |
| % increase | | -4.7% | -2.2% | 4.7% | 7.0% | 7.0% | 7.0% | 7.0% |
| Hunger | 1,752 | 1,113 | 1,706 | 1,800 | 1,845 | 1,891 | 1,938 | 1,987 |
| Lent/Advent | 1,482 | 1,238 | 876 | 1,380 | 1,415 | 1,450 | 1,486 | 1,524 |
| Other | 2,520 | 1,356 | 25,359 | 1,600 | 1,640 | 1,681 | 1,723 | 1,766 |
| Total Income | 256,749 | 242,902 | 261,809 | 249,755 | 267,023 | 285,494 | 305,253 | 326,389 |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Benevolence | 20,884 | 19,101 | 18,953 | 20,329 | 21,608 | 22,974 | 24,432 | 25,988 |
| % of giving | 8.2% | 7.9% | 8.0% | 8.2% | 8.1% | 8.1% | 8.0% | 8.0% |
| Evangelism | 1,855 | 35 | 205 | 1,100 | 1,525 | 1,563 | 1,602 | 1,642 |
| Mission and Outreach | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 256 | 263 | 269 | 276 |
| Stewardship | 1,044 | 998 | 1,034 | 1,047 | 1,107 | 1,170 | 1,238 | 1,310 |
| Music and Worship | 20,393 | 22,831 | 21,980 | 25,024 | 25,650 | 26,291 | 26,949 | 27,622 |
| Faith Formation | 3,648 | 299 | 335 | 14,500 | 14,825 | 15,196 | 15,576 | 15,965 |
| Ministry/Pastoral | 111,286 | 116,219 | 122,654 | 123,146 | 123,045 | 126,016 | 129,061 | 132,183 |
| Church Home | 45,898 | 37,608 | 38,531 | 39,500 | 40,488 | 41,500 | 42,537 | 43,601 |
| Administrative Support | 31,740 | 22,920 | 23,874 | 25,761 | 26,405 | 27,065 | 27,742 | 28,435 |
| Administrative - Other | 9,492 | 9,905 | 12,179 | 9,355 | 9,589 | 9,829 | 10,074 | 10,326 |
| Mortgage Expense | 0 | 10,000 | 22,062 | 6,667 | 10,000 | 16,667 | 23,333 | 30,000 |
| Total Expenses | 246,240 | 239,915 | 261,809 | 266,679 | 274,498 | 288,533 | 302,814 | 317,349 |
| Expenses % change | | -2.5% | 9.1% | 1.9% | 2.9% | 5.1% | 4.9% | 4.5% |
| Net Gain (loss) | 10,509 | 2,987 | 0 | -16,924 | -7,475 | -3,039 | 2,439 | 9,040 |

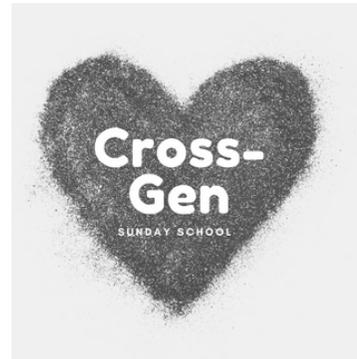
| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Mortgage not covered by Operations | \$75,024 | \$65,529 | \$55,993 | \$71,388 | \$68,055 | \$61,388 | \$54,722 | \$48,055 |
| YE Mortgage Balance | \$1,095,638 | \$1,062,977 | \$1,026,651 | | | | | |
| YE Cash/Liquid Assets | \$131,889 | \$140,838 | \$178,216 | | | | | |
| Non Designated Cash/Liquid Assets | \$94,504 | \$99,835 | \$99,836 | \$82,912 | \$75,438 | \$72,398 | \$74,837 | \$83,877 |
| Designated Cash/Liquid Assets | \$37,385 | \$41,003 | \$78,380 | | | | | |
| Non Operational Receipts | \$86,589 | \$71,311 | \$162,622 | | | | | |

Share our Abundance, God's Mission, Columbarium, Thrivent, Food Pantry, Grants, Altar Flower, Memorials, Mens Breakfast, ELCA Good Gifts.....

Adult Faith Formation

February adult faith formation will take place between services and online. You are invited to join us on **Sunday mornings** as we read through 1Corinthians and talk about Paul's ministry to the church in Corinth. Class will meet in-person and a Zoom option will be offered with sign up. To sign up, contact Pastor Paul in the church office.

Cross-Generational Sunday School is an important time of faith formation for adults and children. All adults, young and old (and everything in between) are encouraged to join us in the sanctuary for this fun, music and activity-filled time of forming faith. Adults, this is your opportunity to model faith and pass along faith to the younger generation! It's also a chance to be surprised by what you might learn from spending time with the group.



Please plan to participate on **Sunday, February 13th** between services.



Nooma Nights with Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul will be resuming Monday evening study using videos and discussion centered around Rob Bell's NOOMA series during the month of February. Join him at 7pm online via Zoom as we think about how our faith in daily life might be impacted by what we learn. www.lordoflife.online

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Thank You Outgoing Council Members

Please join us in saying THANK YOU to our outgoing council members **Mike Ackerman, Heather Felderman, Maria Troftgruben, and Darlene Curoe**. Our congregation relies on our members participating in leadership roles and we are grateful to all of these amazing people who gave their time and energy to working with our congregational council. Why not write a note or send a text or email to thank Mike, Heather, Maria, and Darlene for serving on council?

Thank You!

Faith Formation Update

Cross Generational Sunday School will be February 13th. If you haven't tried this out, make this the month to do so. Last month we laughed over "Would you Rather" questions, tried an object lesson about baptism with toilet paper and water, drew a picture while hearing the story of Jesus' baptism and pondered what it was like for John to baptize Jesus. Plus there is great music from the youth band. Come check it out at 9:15 in the sanctuary.

LOL Youth, let's go sledding! Join Maria and Troy for some sledding fun at Bunker Hill (exact location TBD) on February 6th from 2 to 3:30. If there isn't snow or the weather does not cooperate, the back up plan will be a Valentine's Game Event at church. Either way, plan to join us for an afternoon of fun!



Maria Troftgruben,
Coordinator for Faith Formation

Take Two on the Saints Game. Wish you could have attended the Saints game with the LOL youth, well you still can! The January game was canceled and we switched the tickets for the game on Sunday, February 27th at 3:05 pm. If you already purchased tickets no action is needed, you are set to go. If you would like to sign up, please let Troy or Maria know by February 20th. Tickets are \$15.

Parenting: Joys and Challenges

Join Troy and Maria for a parent support group Wednesdays at 6:15 at church and by zoom. We'll share highs and lows and discuss a parenting focused article each week. It is a great time to share, learn and support each other in the wonderfully challenging journey of parenting.

Join the Team!

The Faith Formation team met in January and many ideas were shared and discussed. Summer programming and VBS, Family events throughout the year, reshaping Milestone/Faithstone ministries, and continued youth events are a few of the ideas. Do you want to be a part of Faith Formation at Lord of Life? The next meeting is Sunday, March 27th at 6:30pm by zoom.

Any questions can be directed to Maria at faithformation@lordoflifedbq.org



February 6th - SLEDDING!

February 13th - Cross-Gen Sunday School

February 27th - Hockey Game Outing

Care in Our Congregation

In Our Prayers...

Please pray for all who are sick or in need of healing in our congregation.

Please pray for those whose journey in Hospice Care.

Please pray for our teachers and all who work in education.

Please pray for our medical workers, nurses and pharmacists, and administrative staff in our congregation.

Please pray for seminary students who call Lord of Life home as they enter into a new semester.

Care in Our World

“Good Gifts” Yield Great Results

The “Good Gifts” were not put in boxes, but they were wrapped in love and given to some of our global neighbors who were most in need. We will probably never see these neighbors, but we know that these “Good Gifts” will transform their lives. **The Mission and Outreach Team** wishes to express our gratitude to everyone who purchased ornaments in support of the ELCA “Good Gifts” fundraiser this past Christmas 2021. **Because of your generous donations** totaling \$3080, many families’ food and financial security will be strengthened, and communities will become more resilient. Because of your gifts, more children will be able to attend school, a community will have help in paying for an irrigation system, and a child will be vaccinated. The animals given will provide not only food to eat, often food rich in protein, but they will also aid in the fertilization of crops as well as offer products and livestock to be sold at market. You see, all “Good Gifts” just keep on giving.

“Good Gifts” donations included the following:

3 School Supplies for a Child

8 Pigs 1 Portion of an Irrigation System

12 Goats 5 Bibles

8 Groups of 10 Chicks

2 Roosters 5 School Fees & Uniform for a Girl

6 Honeybees 1 Feed Refugee Family for a Week

1 Family Farm 1 Feed 10 People at a Soup Kitchen

1 Water Filter 1 Vaccinate a Child

1 Latrine 1 Hygiene Kit

Plus \$600 in Undesignated Donations/To Be Used Where Needed Most



Northeastern Iowa Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 25, 2022

Dear members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

I hope this letter of thanks finds you in a season of good cheer, warmth, and openness to the work of the Holy Spirit as this new year unfolds.

In response to the life-changing love and grace we receive from God in Jesus, we live out the Biblical invitation to *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn"* - Romans 12:15. Thank you for your response through your gift of \$1066.40 for ELCA World Hunger

With your financial support to ELCA World Hunger, you are actively responding to God's work by making it possible for hungry people are fed. Thank you!

I thank God for your partnership in Christ living out the Gospel for the sake of a weary world.

With gratitude,

Pastor Liz Albertson

Assistant to the Bishop for Shared Ministry

Update from Grace Tindell



Grace was our administrative assistant for a few years and has gone to Spain to serve.

Hello Lord of Life,

I want to thank you all for your support and prayers. I have been in Madrid for about 7 months. I am just now getting settled. I am currently taking Spanish classes in the morning and volunteering at a variety of places in the evening. I am currently volunteering at an English club and an after-school program for children. Please continue to pray for Spain and for me. Covid has caused many people to examine their lives which has opened doors for the Gospel. If you would like to be added to my newsletter, please email me at grace.tindell@efca.org.

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST MAILING UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION...



In the interest of being good stewards, we will no longer be mailing the monthly newsletter to everyone. You can still have the newsletter mailed to you. Sign up for the mailing list via the church office.

Call today at 582-7371 OR email office@lordoflifedbq.org and request that you continue to receive the newsletter in the mail.

Newsletters will be printed and available at church AND via our website at www.lordoflife.online at your convenience.



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