



## From the Pastor

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10b*

A friend and fellow pastor, The Rev. Mike Ward, shares his interpretation of what abundance means in his book, ["Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity."](#) Ward says, "I believe that abundance is a mindset and not a condition of wealth. Abundance is recognizing that the One who provides us everything, and recognizing that it is not only enough, but enough to share."

Each week in worship, right before our offering musical meditation, I try to remember to invite you to reflect on the ways in which you have been blessed by God. As you read this article in the newsletter, I want to tweak that invitation a bit. How have you experienced abundance in your life? I'm not talking about financially, though that may or may not be part of your story. Rather, I'm talking about the ways that you've experienced the abundant love and grace of God for you life. How has it mattered that you have heard the Good News? How has it mattered that in God's love we find redemption and renewal in our brokenness? It's not always easy to put into words. Many of us haven't really intentionally thought about what abundance looks like in our lives.

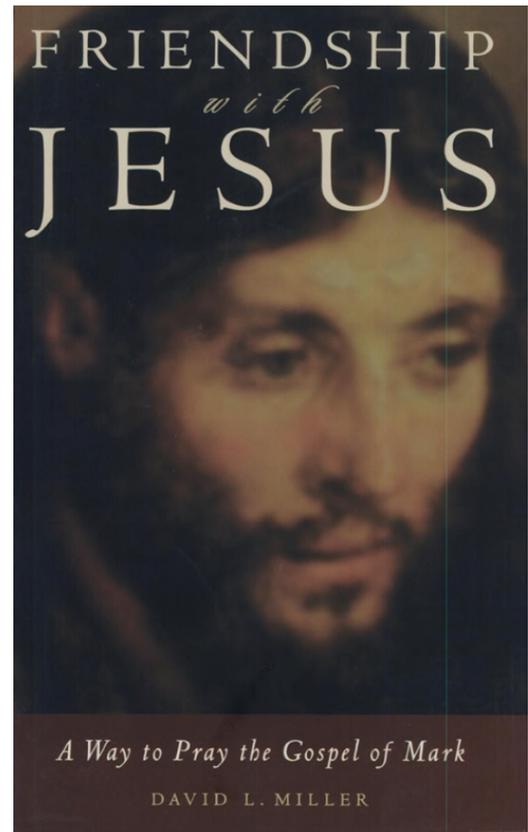
My hope is that you will join me in the days ahead, and particularly as we enter into the season of Lent, in pondering the mystery, the wonder that is God's grace and love for us. Lent is, after all, a time of reflection and prayer. Lent will invite us, you and me, to open our minds and our hearts to the wonder of God's great love for us, even as we consider the ways in which we are not worthy to receive such great love. Such abundant love.

We will begin to mark these days as we have ourselves been marked in baptism, with the sign of the cross marked on our foreheads in ashes. It will look differently this year, but that's okay, whether we mark the cross on our own foreheads as at home on Ash Wednesday or you come through the church parking lot to permit me to mark the cross on your forehead, the work of the cross that makes it all so important has already been done. The marking of the cross is our reminder to enter into the discipline, the practice of Lent.

**FEBRUARY 2021**

We will offer online midweek Lenten services where we will read the Psalms and hear the Word proclaimed by Wartburg Theological Seminary students. These services will help us to mark the time of the season, but they will also be wonderful opportunities to ponder the Good News, God's abundance of love and grace, for our lives. Each Sunday we will continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, together.

I will be hosting a weekly conversation centered around the book "Friendship with Jesus: A Way to Pray the Gospel of Mark" and I invite you to participate by purchasing a book at the church office. Even if you don't join me for the Zoom conversation, my guess is that you will find this book as helpful as I have over the years in considering how my life has purpose and a role in the Kingdom of God come near. I think you will experience an abundance of spiritual grist for your proverbial mill.



Through all of these tools, all of these practices and ways of encountering scripture and God's Word for us, come the reminder that in God there is **abundant life**. That's what Jesus came to bring to us, to all of us. The true freedom of we who call ourselves Christ followers is that we need not worry about our own salvation, about our own brokenness, because God has, already and abundantly, answered all of these questions for us. How we live in response to this abundance, well, that's up to each of us to consider.

Will you join me in wondering this Lent about the awesome and abundant life-giving God who comes to bring us life?

In peace and hope,

Pastor Paul



**FEBRUARY 2021**



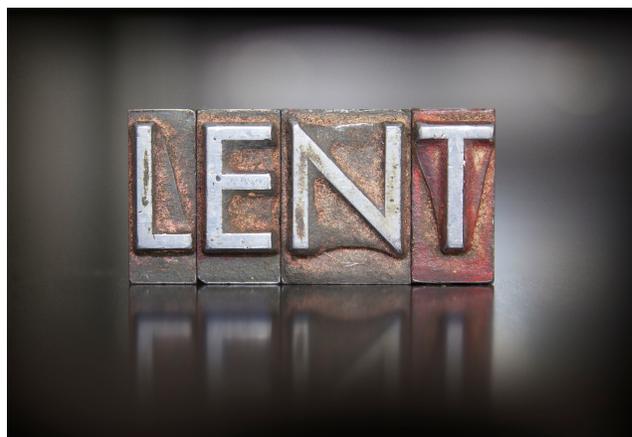
### **ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17th**

Pastor Paul will be providing the imposition of ashes via drive through in the church parking lot on Ash Wednesday between 3-6:30pm. Simply drive up to the lower level entrance, roll down your window (masks required) to receive the ashes. Our worship service will take place online at 7:00pm via website, YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. Please go to [www.lordoflife.online](http://www.lordoflife.online) or phone in using the usual number and information for worship.

### **MIDWEEK SERVICES DURING LENT**

This year we will offer all of our Lenten midweek services online at 7:15pm via live streaming. Each Wednesday during Lent we will read the Psalms, hear a through provoking message, and sing the liturgy together.

Join services via our website, YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. Please go to [www.lordoflife.online](http://www.lordoflife.online) or phone in using the usual number and information for worship.



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### **WORSHIP IN-PERSON UPDATE**

As we sneak up on the one year mark since our last indoor, in-person worship service, we want to give you some insight about our current plans for returning to in-person services. The Council and the Worship & Music Team are working on a plan that will allow us to begin to offer in-person services each Sunday. Our online services are here to stay and we will resume parking lot services soon as well. We ask for your prayers and your patience as we work out these plans and seek to provide a safe environment for gathering inside our sanctuary once again.

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### **We Offer Our Thanks and Praise**

Thank you, church family, for the beautiful cards and kind words at the time of Mom's death.  
~ Bernita, Jim and Michael Gilbertson

FEBRUARY 2021

## From the Council President

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb?

This joke implies that change is not a word in Lutheran vocabulary. I'd like to offer a rephrasing...

How many Lord of Life members does it take to accept change?  
Change? No Problem!



Over the past year this congregation has met each challenge with ingenuity, patience, grace, and concern for others. I feel truly blessed to be part of Lord of Life and truly humbled by the opportunity to serve as Council president.

For those of you who don't know me, my husband Kurt and I joined Lord of Life about 7 years ago when Kurt retired from ministry. I, as of Feb. 1, have retired from University of Wisconsin-Platteville after almost 30 years.

Kurt grew up in Racine WI and I grew up in Kansas City (and, yes, we are relieved that we're a united household watching the Super Bowl!). We have one grown son, Jake, who lives in Dubuque. He works at Heartland Financial.

As we look forward to 2021, change will continue to be part of our lives. Three current topics being discussed at Council are:

1. determining when to return to in-person worship,
2. kicking off a comprehensive stewardship drive and
3. serving as an internship site.

As the Council deliberates over these and other important decisions, know that we are centered on our 3 cares: care of the congregation, care of community and care for the world.

I look forward to working with our wonderful Council, with Pastor, and with you as a congregation! After all, change IS a part of our vocabulary!

Susan Hansen

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## In our prayers...

Please pray for your fellow Lord of Life members and families. We have a email prayer chain that you are welcome to join. Please send an email to [office@lordoflife.online](mailto:office@lordoflife.online) to be added to the list. We also have a prayer group as part of our Facebook presence. Contact Pastor Paul to be added there.

# From the Treasurer

Lord of Life Financial Update

Lord of Life Lutheran Church - 2021 Operational Budget								
	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2022	2023	2024	2025
General Giving	250,995	260,000	239,195	260,000	273,000	286,650	303,849	322,080
<i>% increase</i>	6.5%	3.6%	-4.7%	8.7%	5.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Hunger	1,752	1,500	1,113	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lent/Advent	1,482	1,300	1,238	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Other	2,520	2,400	1,356	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>256,749</b>	<b>265,200</b>	<b>242,902</b>	<b>264,800</b>	<b>277,900</b>	<b>291,650</b>	<b>309,049</b>	<b>327,280</b>
Benevolence	20,884	21,000	19,101	21,000	21,910	22,866	24,069	25,346
<i>% of giving</i>	8.2%	8.0%	7.9%	8.0%	7.9%	7.9%	7.8%	7.8%
Evangelism	1,855	3,750	35	1,700	1,900	2,100	2,500	3,000
Stewardship	1,044	1,250	998	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450
Music and Worship	20,393	22,013	22,831	22,000	23,000	24,000	25,000	26,000
Faith Formation	3,648	16,700	299	16,700	18,000	20,000	21,000	22,000
Ministry/Pastoral	111,286	115,761	116,219	118,114	121,067	124,094	127,196	130,376
Church Home	45,898	46,800	37,608	44,000	44,750	45,250	45,750	46,250
Administrative Support	31,740	25,190	22,920	25,956	26,476	27,005	27,545	28,096
Administrative - Other	9,492	9,040	10,266	9,040	9,240	9,340	9,440	9,540
Mortgage Expense	0	0	10,000	5,000	10,000	15,000	25,000	35,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>246,240</b>	<b>261,504</b>	<b>240,276</b>	<b>264,761</b>	<b>277,643</b>	<b>291,005</b>	<b>308,901</b>	<b>327,058</b>
<i>Expenses % change</i>		6.2%	-2.4%	10.2%	4.9%	4.8%	6.1%	5.9%
Net Gain (loss)	10,509	3,696	2,626	39	257	645	148	222
Mortgage Payment	\$75,024		\$75,529	\$78,055	\$78,055	\$78,055	\$78,055	\$78,055
<i>Mortgage Interest</i>			\$42,868	\$45,865	\$44,428	\$42,926	\$41,359	\$39,721
<i>Principal Payment</i>			\$32,661	\$32,190	\$33,627	\$35,129	\$36,696	\$38,334
YE Mortgage Balance	\$1,095,638		\$1,062,977	\$1,030,787	\$997,160	\$962,031	\$925,335	\$887,001
Does not include \$24,900 in Paycheck Protection Program loan that will be forgiven in 2021.								
2020 giving also included \$43,387 in God's Mission Giving and approximately \$10,000 in giving for projects such as Food Pantry and Well Wishes.								
Total Cash/Liquid Assets as of Dec 31, 2020 was \$140,839.								
Renegotiating Mortgage Loan - Mission Investment Fund raised rate from 3.875 to 4.375% in November 2020.								
Gods Mission designated fund balance is negative \$2,747 and outstanding pledges are \$39,117.								



## Have You Joined us for Coffee Hour Lately?

Each week, following worship, we host a coffee hour. It's a chance to say hello to friends and sip a cup of your favorite beverage from the comfort of your own home. We'd love to have you join us!

FEBRUARY 2021

## Sunday School News

One more round of Sunday School activity kits will be coming your way! The kits will be available to pick up at church the week of **February 15th through the 19th** between 9 am and 3 pm. If you want a kit and have not yet requested one, please be in touch with Maria Troftgruben. If you need the kit delivered, also contact Maria.

Sunday School continues to meet at **10 am on Sunday mornings** by Zoom. It is just 20 minutes long following the Faith 5 format of Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless. If you have yet to give it a try, make this the month you check it out!

## First Communion

Pastor Paul will be offering First Communion Instruction for all who are interested, particularly for any current 5th or 6th graders and families. If you'd like to be included in updates about how we will offer instruction, please let us know by contacting the church office **(563) 582-7371** or by emailing [pastor@lordoflifedbq.org](mailto:pastor@lordoflifedbq.org) today.



## A word from Stephen Ministry

I'm Debbie Thomas (right), Stephen Minister for the past eight years at Lord of Life. After completing the training program, I soon was assigned a care receiver, and learned how rewarding it can be to accompany another person who is going through a difficult time. Whether the challenge is illness, job loss, or personal crisis of any kind, it is a privilege as a Stephen Minister to provide confidential and distinctly Christian, caring.



My experience as a Stephen Minister has been humbling and wonder filled. I have experienced what it feels like to have a God-centered caring relationship where I listen without judgement and care without "fixing" while offering unconditional support. We may start out strangers and become friends. I do the caring, God does the healing.

~ Tara Grace (left)

FEBRUARY 2021

## Worship Online or by Phone

Join us for worship and coffee hour every Sunday using the information below!

As before, you will be able to click on the Worship button on our website, or go to: <https://bit.ly/3iHLydh>  
If prompted to enter a password, use: Luther

To join over the phone, dial 1(312)626-6799 and use:

Meeting code: 563 582 7371

Password code: 456037.



We also offer the LIVE stream of worship via our Facebook page and our YouTube channel each week! Please like and follow (click that you want to see our posts first).

<https://www.facebook.com/lordoflifedbc/>



If you haven't yet, please subscribe and tap the little bell at our YouTube channel! Visit <https://bit.ly/3rBc1Of>

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2021, to direct last year's, 2020, Thrivent Choice dollars. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to (insert your church here). Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. For any other questions give Tim Zauche a call at 608-340-3040.

## Bible Study

Pastor Paul invites you to join him for a reading of the lessons for the week ahead. A handout is provided on our website each week, along with a link to join the Zoom meeting.. Be sure to check out all of the resources available via our website! [www.lordoflife.online](http://www.lordoflife.online)

## Older Wiser Lutherans (Online!) FEB 16

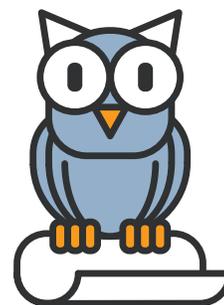
Pastor Paul is inviting YOU for an online social gathering with our Older Wiser Lutherans group on **Tuesday, February 16th at 1:00pm**. So grab your snack and beverage of choice and join the fun of being together online.

Go to our website and click the OWLs Online link to join the Zoom call.  
Need to phone in? No problem.

Dial : +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 563 582 7371

Passcode: 456037



## 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.



**Lord of Life**  
Lutheran Church

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