

Lord of Life

JUNE 2023 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Paul

35 When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, 36 and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me."



37 Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? 38 When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear 39 or visit you while you were sick or in jail?"

40 The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

- Matthew 25:35-40

Lord of Life is about caring for others in our community. We do so by offering our little food pantry and by providing a space for the River Bend Food Bank to distribute groceries (upcoming in July!).

We also do so when we donate clothing or volunteer at the Open Closet and Almost Home. I've been on the board of Almost Home for a few years and my time will come to end with my departure. I will miss this work because I know the heart of the organization and the people at St John Lutheran Church who make it possible. But on their own, St John's can't make it all happen. That's why Almost Home relies on grants and fundraising and the generosity of all of us.

I've seen lives changed. I've heard stories of gratitude from young fathers who've been able to get back on their feet while caring for their children. The shelter does more than provide a room. Clients get access to training and education, mentoring, budgeting, cooking, and so much more. The goal is to set these families up for success and to find long-term affordable housing. It works. Lives are changed.

I tell you all of this, in what may be my last newsletter article, because I want you to be aware of what happens right here in Dubuque to give those in need shelter, food, and a drink of water. I tell you all of this because it is my greatest hope that you will join me on Friday, June 23rd for Party on Purpose and be a part of the voice of hope for those in need. Selfishly, I hope you will come out and we can all have fun together!

Should this be my last newsletter article, I also want you to know how much you all mean to me. You have been voices of hope for me! You have modeled faith in action and you have sung the hymns of the church beautifully. I feel truly blessed to have walked with you for the years we have shared. I know that God is up to something here and that you will be listening for the Spirit's voice in it all. God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine on you with grace and mercy, and may God look upon you with favor and give you peace.

From Our Council President

Susan Hansen



May has been a busy month at Lord of Life. In this month's article, I will continue to introduce new members and provide an outline of the call process.

Two New Families!

Todd and Tanya Vanderlinde moved to Dubuque from South Dakota in 2012. Todd is a hydraulic design engineer for skid steers at John Deere and Tanya teaches English at the University of Dubuque. She notes that her job allows her to homeschool her children, be a college instructor, work as an editor, and serve as chief chauffeur. When not working, Todd enjoys working on vehicles and household projects while Tanya enjoys tending her perennial flower beds. They have three children, Lydia (married to Logan Vanderbush), Tom, and Laurelyn. Tom and Laurelyn are both completing their Associate degree online from South Dakota State University. Both hope to work in film as actors/directors. Laurelyn studies ballet at the Dubuque Academy of Ballet. Ballet is a family affair as Logan, Laurelyn and Tom danced in Academy recitals including the Nutcracker last December.

Logan and Lydia Vanderbush and son Maverick also joined the church in April. Logan is pursuing an electro-mechanical engineering degree from Loras College. This summer he is an intern at RFA Engineering. Lydia is completing her studio art/graphic design double-major from Clarke University. With a 2-year-old son, their lives are very busy but in their spare time Logan enjoys running, working out, and playing with their German Shepards. Lydia enjoys drawing, painting, running, and gardening with her mother. Fun fact, their last name is a combination of Lydia and Logan's last names.

Welcome Vanderlinde and Vanderbush families!

Call Process

In May, your church council met with Assistant to the Bishop Steve Brackett to discuss the call process. The Synod staff will assist us as we move through this transition. The steps we will follow are outlined below.

1. Assigning an interim pastor. Rev. Karla Wildberger has agreed to serve as our part-time interim. She will once again walk with us as we move through the process. Thank you, Pastor Karla!
2. The church council will form a call committee. Our desire is to have a balanced committee of 5-7 people who represent a cross section of the congregation. If asked, we hope you will respond Yes! to serve on this important element of the call process. Assistant to the Bishop Steve Brackett will meet with the call committee.
3. The call committee will complete a Ministry Site Profile. The purpose of the profile is to provide the Synod and pastors seeking calls with a picture of our congregation. The profile includes information about what the congregation collectively seeks in our next pastor. The congregation will have an opportunity to contribute to this process. The council will present a summary Profile to the congregation for its endorsement.
4. Once the Ministry Site Profile is submitted to the Synod, the Synod will provide names to the call committee of interested pastors who match the needs of our congregation.

5. The call committee determines potential candidates for call and arranges interviews. Once interviews are completed, the committee will vote to recommend a candidate to the council. After discussion, the council will vote to recommend the candidate and compensation package to the congregation.
6. The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate.
7. At a congregational meeting, two votes will be taken. The first vote is whether to extend the call, and the second vote is to establish the compensation package. The candidate will be notified about the result of the vote.
8. Once a vote to extend the call is made, a Letter of Call is issued. The pastor has 30 days to consider the call.
9. Upon acceptance of the call, an installation date is determined.

I will keep the congregation updated on progress as we move through this process. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Susan Hansen

Faith Formation News

My last day as Faith Formation Coordinator was May 21st. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Lord of Life in this role for the last year and a half. Although I will not be leading the youth and Sunday School ministries, I will continue to be involved. There is a group of committed volunteers making up the Faith Formation Team. Plans are in place to continue Sunday School for children and youth in the fall.



Maria Troftgruben,
Coordinator for
Faith Formation

Confirmation

Mentors and Mentees can continue to work on service hours and connect throughout the summer!

Incoming 7th graders can think about who they might want to be their mentor this fall.

9th grade confirmation dates for Fall

Sunday, October 8th & 15th 6-7 pm

Preparing Faith Statements

Sunday, October 22nd 6-7:30pm

Dinner for students, parents, and mentors

Sunday, October 29th

Service of Confirmation



Mentors

A big thank you to all of our mentors for their commitment to the students this year. You play an important role in the lives of these young people. You are all appreciated!

Sunday School



Sunday School

Sunday School will start on September 17th. Registration forms will be available in August. There will be one form for PreK - high school. There will be two Sunday School age groups next year:

- Age 3 – grade 4
- Grade 5 through high school

Cross Generational Sunday School will be the first Sunday of the month starting in October.

- October 1st will focus on the Bible. Three-year-olds and 3rd graders will receive their Bibles that day.

HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY



JOIN US
FOR OUR *Party on Purpose III*

A FUNDRAISER FOR ALMOST HOME

A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS
MEN WITH CHILDREN

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 | 6 PM

DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | GRAND BALLROOM

LIVE MUSIC BY DR BAND & II THE BAND | SILENT AUCTION | FOOD & BEVERAGES | CASH BAR

NO COVER CHARGE | WWW.PARTYONPURPOSE.ORG



Party on Purpose is an annual fundraiser for Almost Home, the shelter hosted by St John's Lutheran Church downtown where fathers with children can find a fresh start and hope. The ELCA congregations of greater Dubuque sponsor this event to offset costs for the church. It will be a FUN night with live music featuring David Minnihan's band AND the band Pastor Paul plays with each year. The grand ballroom at the fairgrounds is a great space with a big dance floor. We'll have great food and the bar will be available. We want to encourage each of you to attend this year's event on Friday, June 23rd.

Care in Our Congregation

2023 Graduates

The following Lord of Life members are this year's graduates:

High School:

- Josie Boyle from Western Dubuque High School. Josie will attend University of IA with a double major of English and Communication
- Connor Felderman from Hempstead High School
- Jonathon Muehring from Hempstead High School

Undergrad:

- Kylie Felderman from NICC – Early Childhood. Kylie plans to run an in-home daycare in the future.
- Landon Paul Hermesen from Loras College. Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management & Business Administration

Congratulations to all of these young people and we wish you the best as you move forward!

THANK YOU!

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

Steve Heer - Thanks for giving our little food pantry a fresh coat of paint and stain. It looks GREAT!

Jon & Rita Dienst - Thanks for replacing and freshening up ceiling tiles all around the church! WOW!

Don Backhaus - Thanks for fixing our kitchen cabinet shelves and for sharing your scaffolding with us!

Mark Oehlert - Thanks for bringing your scaffolding so we could fix sanctuary speakers AND for chairing the Party on Purpose committee!

Senior Lunch Group

On Thursday, June 22nd 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. We plan to meet in the park in July and August as well. No need to make reservations. Just come and share some time with friends old and new. Call Peggy Granovsky if you have any questions.

Prayer Shawl Group

We will meet on Thursday, June 1st, 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 June 10th, 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!

Worship Servants

We are always in need of servants to help with varying responsibilities. 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!

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

Care in Our Community and World

Apples for Students

When school is out for the summer, we at Lord of Life, begin to think about helping St Mark's Enrichment Center furnish school supplies for children around the Dubuque Community School area. This is a summer fundraiser to gather school supplies for children entering school next fall. We can support this fundraiser by collecting donations and delivering the donations to St Mark's. The school supplies are purchased in July. Every penny collected goes towards buying the school supplies to put in backpacks for over 1500 children. The backpacks contain items costing more than \$35.00 each. It is a big project initiated by St Mark's. Look for the Apples for Students display in the Narthex to help this cause. We will collect donations starting mid-June through early July.

Open Closet Donations

Due to limited space, only spring and summer items will be accepted at the Open Closet. Please be sure that all donations are CLEAN AND IN GOOD REPAIR!

Roadside Cleanup

The Lord of Life Hiway cleanup crew met on May 20 for the latest in our twice-yearly trash pick-up project. The following participants enjoyed a pleasantly sunny, not-to-hot-not-too-chilly-no-rain hour, and collected a whole lot of roadside litter: the entire Mairet family - Sean, Amanda, Adalyn (with Confirmation mentor Kris Eipperle), Kaleb & Maddox, Kevin Eipperle, Susan Hansen, Harold Knutsen, Jack Steffen (with Confirmation mentor Steve Heer), and Galen & Debbie Thomas. We look forward to doing it again in the fall. Consider joining us then.



A very
productive
hour!

Most
unexpected
find



Say hello to our new Redbud tree, donated to Lord of Life by a good friend of Rosebud and Pastor Henry Grishkowsky. You can pay it a visit next to the parking lot by the shed.



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



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