

Lord of Life

MARCH 2023 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Paul

26 It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, 28 just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many. - Matthew 20:26-28



The Bible has many verses dedicated to serving. This reading from Matthew will come up for us during Holy Week again this year. Serving others is simply a part of the DNA of a follower of Jesus. Sometimes serving looks like helping fill our little food pantry, sometimes it's counting offerings or sewing quilts. In your daily life it may include helping someone who is struggling. Whatever serving looks like, it is a key element of our discipleship walk.

I have been proud of the people of Lord of Life over my six years as your pastor. You step up to help others often. Funeral luncheons, meals for church members coming home after surgery, sorting clothes at the Open Closet and so much more.

But there is one place, since the pandemic, where we are missing the mark. So I need to address it here since our repeated efforts to gain support have failed. Worship, we say, is central to our identity as a community of those who follow Jesus. Worship, I dare say, is the one place each week where just about all of us gather to be together. We offer our worship, our thanks, and praise. We are reminded of God's grace for us through the sacraments. We find support and a friendly ear to listen during fellowship between services. And there is a small, but extremely faithful core group of people who repeatedly answer our urgent pleas for help by stepping into a serving role on Sunday morning. I'm talking about our worship servant list and the all too often blank spaces left there.

We should find JOY in serving, particularly when it comes to serving in worship. We should experience HOPE as we do what we are able to make a difference by serving. So I'm asking you to please make a plan to serve. If each of you were to regularly serve by **ushering** or **reading** we could share the load and reduce the number of times any one person or family needs to serve. If each of you were to step up to be an **assisting minister** or **tech helper**, we won't need to rely on one or two people all the time.

I don't think we are ignoring the call to serve intentionally, but I do think we got out of practice during the pandemic. It's time to get back in the groove, friends. Serving in worship can be fun and rewarding! You can sign up on the table where you find bulletins, you can sign up online, you can even call the office and we'll sign you up. Let's pull together and give thanks to God for the gifts we are able to share in worship. Thanks for serving at Lord of Life!

From Our Council President

Susan Hansen



At January's annual meeting we accomplished several important business matters. We adopted the 2023 budget, reviewed committee reports, voted on constitution changes, and elected new members to our church council. Thank you to our departing council members Kim Barnes, Josie Boyle, Larry Croghan, and Dean Niklasen.

Your service to the church is deeply appreciated. Our 2023 council consists of: Susan Hansen, President, Pat Friedman, Vice President, Alan Stache, Financial Chair, Jenn Cartee, Secretary and five at large members, Kayleen Backhaus, Kris Eipperle, Diane Frambach, Val Kennedy, and Amanda Mairet,

At our first council meeting, we spent some time getting to know one another. In addition to the usual sharing of general information, we each picked a couple of questions that asked us to share likes, dislikes, joys, dreams, and "challenges" (i.e. pet peeves!) in our lives.

I thought it would be nice for each member to introduce themselves to the congregation using answers to some of the questions we drew out of the basket. There's always something new to learn about someone!

Here are a few introductions:

From Kayleen Backhaus: Hello! I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the church council as an at large member for a two-year term. My husband, Don, and I have been attending Lord of Life for almost four years. We moved from the Guttenberg area in 2019, making our new home in Dubuque. We have two sons who also live in Dubuque along with their wives and our two grandchildren. We feel very fortunate to live so close, having many opportunities to spoil our grandkids as often as we can. I am retired from a career in education after 36 wonderful years. I was born and raised in Canada, so unlike many who travel south to warmer weather, we make our way to the north country once or twice a year to visit family and revisit the sights and sounds I grew up with. Music and singing has always been important in my life so I appreciate and enjoy the music each Sunday at Lord of Life.

From Val Kennedy: My family and I joined Lord of Life in 2000 when our small church in Epworth closed because of lack of membership. It was a good fit since the Pastor at Lord of Life was supervising the Intern who was serving us and we had a connection with a few of the members at LOL already! I work at Northeast Iowa Community College as a Student Services Assistant in Admissions. I have been in that same role at the college since I started in March 1996. My youngest daughter, Morgan, and I moved to Dubuque from Farley in June 2020 when I purchased our home out by John Deere. My oldest daughter, Brianna, was married in 2019 and she lives in Dubuque also with her husband Alan and their puppy, Lola Rose.

One of my biggest pet peeves is when people do not use their turn signals! It also DRIVES me crazy (pun intended) when people drive slow in the left lane; and when they slow down to take an exit...you slow down AFTER you exit the highway!! Ughhh! If I could live in any time period, I would go back to the 80's! I graduated high school in 1985 and just remember how much simpler life seemed then (no cell phones or iPads to take up our time-we actually had to dial the phone and talk to people). I still LOVE the music from that time and my girls are also big fans as well...Journey, Culture Club and Wham!, just to name a few!

From Pat Friedman: I have served as Vice President on our church council since 2022. I have been a member of Lord of Life since 1980. I am a widow with 5 children and 11 grandchildren which keeps me busy! I grew up in Cedar Rapids and have lived in Dubuque since 1978 where she I have been an active community member. Before retiring, I was the owner of Prudential Friedman Realty in Dubuque.

From Diane Frambach: I have lived in Dubuque and attended Lord of Life for 22 years, moving from the Chicago area when my partner Nate was called to teach at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I have recently concluded a long career as a high school counselor and am now enjoying other pursuits, including lots of reading, long walks, and serving as a spiritual director in our community. Nate and I are the parents of two sons, both of whom grew up in and were nurtured by our Lord of Life congregation. Garrett now lives in Madison, WI, and Andres is in Winona, MN.

What is my favorite time of day? These last months, when I'm no longer getting up way too early to get to school, I love the morning. It's a quiet time to do my devotions, read the newspaper, and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee.

What is my favorite part of worship: While I appreciate many aspects of Lutheran worship, I especially love the hymnody. Singing hymns is often a prayerful experience for me, and lifting our voices together is especially meaningful.

From Kris Erickson Eipperle: Kris Erickson Eipperle in recent years retired as mental health therapist in multiple local elementary and middle schools and as organist at Lord of Life and New Hope Lutheran churches. Daughter Sophie/husband Matt own photography and food truck businesses in Des Moines, and daughter Sonja is completing a medical technology program in Portland, Oregon.

Remarried 6 years ago, husband Kevin is President of FEH Design, an architectural, engineering and interiors firm. His adult children are Bryce (Shelby) of Dubuque, Miranda of Cascade and Chance of Tampa, FL.

Not surprisingly, Kris especially enjoys our Lutheran liturgy and hymnody. Other areas of passion include major tennis tournaments, cooking, travel (attached photo in Sicily), art galleries and playing pickleball. Always looking for someone who would like to play!!

I encourage you to get to know our council members. They're willing to listen and bring your concerns and joys to council. Please pray for the council as we deliberate how best to navigate our new structure. Susan Hansen

Faith Formation News



Maria
Troftgruben,
Coordinator for
Faith Formation

Faith at Home: Family Lent Activities

Art, baking, coloring, Bible readings—these are all activities for families to do at home this Lenten season. Activities for toddlers, preschoolers, elementary age and youth are available in the gathering space. Check out the table and choose activities to try together. These are great to try with grandkids too!

Sunday School

Cross Generational Sunday School

- **March 12th at 9:15am. Worship
Servant Training**

Have you or your children wanted to be an acolyte, or run tech? We will focus on being servants and training will be offered to all ages for the various roles that make worship happen.

Sunday School

- Large group opening is March 5th.
Children can meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 am



Faith Formation Conversations

Discussion will continue this spring about Faith Formation for children and youth. Relationships, community, and cross generational inclusivity were named as important pieces of our ministries. There is some interest in continuing weekly Sunday School. Watch for emails with information on further meetings.

7/8th grade Confirmation

Lenten Service: Confirmation students are asked to attend at least one Lenten service with their mentor.

Remember to turn in Service Learning forms after completing service with your mentor. Forms are available in the conference room.

If you miss confirmation, please fill out a SOAP form. They are available on the website under confirmation.

Mentors



7th /8th grade Mentors

Lenten Services: Mentors are asked to attend one Lenten service with their mentee.

Thank you for your commitment to the youth!

Youth Events

(6th grade and up)

March: Cupcake Wars Decorating Challenge.

Sunday, March 5th, 2-3:30pm, at church
Teams will decorate cupcakes to best represent the given theme. Cupcakes and decorating supplies will be provided. **Please**

RSVP by March 2nd to Maria.

If anyone wants to be a cupcake wars judge, let Maria know!

Prayer-ground: A Lenten experiment

The worship space has a new addition! To continue helping our families with children feel welcome, we have created a space just for them! There is space to play with quiet activities, read books, and color. Children and parents are welcome in the space at any point in the service.

Care in Our Congregation

Dear Thrivent Members.. Start 2023 on a generous note!

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct 2022 Choice Dollars® until end of March 2023 to the causes that matter most to you.* In fact, there are more than 45,000 organizations in our Thrivent Choice® catalog, including Lord of Life Lutheran Church, from which to choose. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Dan Decker at 563-556-0469 or deckerdbq@aol.com. Thanks



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



2023 Altar Flower Calendar

There are several opportunities available yet to sponsor flowers for the year. The cost remains \$16 if you wish to have them delivered by our supplier. You may also provide your own arrangement in which case it needs to be at the church prior to the first service (on Saturday for summer services). If you sponsor flowers and have them delivered, you may include that cost in an offering envelope (found on the table in the gathering space). Please note the date of sponsorship. Thank you for beautifying our sanctuary!

Worship Servants

A partial list of worship servants for March & April is located in the gathering space and in mailboxes of those scheduled. Please note & find a replacement if you're unable to serve when assigned.

The Prayer Shawl Group

will meet on Thursday, March 2nd, 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 will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday March 11th, 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!

The Senior Lunch Group The Senior Lunch Group will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, at Happy's Place, 2323 Rockdale Road, for lunch and fellowship and maybe a piece of pie. If you have any questions or would like to make reservations, please contact Peggy Granovsky. Hope to see you there.

Do you like treats?

The coffee hour between our worship services on Sunday mornings offers us a great opportunity to informally connect with our friends. Most of us would agree that a few treats tend to enhance this time of fellowship. Please consider signing up to bring a treat or snack to share during our Sunday morning fellowship hour. You are welcome to bake something yourself or pick up a treat at the grocery store. Donuts, rolls, brownies, cookies, bars, bagels, etc. are all possibilities.



Care in Our Community

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks, Lord of Life community, to all who contributed cans of soup for our Little Food Pantry in the Souper Bowl of Caring drive in February. Thanks also for those who made cash contributions in our soup kettle. We wouldn't be surprised if the slight majority of contributions on behalf of the Kansas City Chiefs (176) vs. the Philadelphia Eagles (145) may have influenced the outcome of the actual Super Bowl football game. We appreciate your enthusiastic participation in support of your teams, as well as those in our community who make regular use of our Pantry.



Jack Steffen and Steve Heer (Go Lutherans!!)



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Jazz Service

A great time was had by all!



Care in Our World

Tying Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

In honor of National Quilting Day, there will be an afternoon of tying Lutheran World Relief quilts on Thursday, March 16, from 1:00-3:00pm. Come join us, no sewing experience necessary. For more info, contact Marilyn Koehler, 582-6430.

Prayer Around the Cross



Join us for Midweek Lent services each Wednesday at 7:15 pm.
Each week will feature a specific prayer focus.



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