

From the Pastor

Can you believe it's November already? I mean, I knew it was coming, but still, November? March seems so long ago now. You know, March, as in when this whole pandemic took hold of our world and we were forced to exclusively digital for worship and Bible study and church meetings? November is a wonderful month, though, so I'm excited it is here once again. Perhaps THIS year the idea of "thanks giving" is more difficult for you. Perhaps it will be easier for you. Either way, I am reminded of the Psalm,

*I O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. - Psalm 107:1*

Giving thanks this November (and really, shouldn't we be giving thanks every day?) may be more challenging when we focus only on ourselves or our current situation. Don't get me wrong, we need to lean into our losses and name them. In this article though, my goal is to help us all focus on something bigger than ourselves in order to help us through. You see, when we think in terms of what God has done, what God is doing, when we think about God's righteousness in sending Jesus Christ for the sake of the world, our attitudes change about our circumstances.

What if this year, as we think about Thanksgiving, we also think about thanks-living? Living into God's promise to never leave us or forsake us, to be there for us to see to our salvation through the forgiveness of our sins and to free us from those fears to live into hope. What if, then, we share that hope with others by being a source of light to them by serving and giving and caring about others?

A different approach to be sure, but one that will be life-giving for each of us.

A Day of Milestones for Lord of Life



On Saturday, October 24th, at our parking lot service, we formally dedicated and blessed our new columbarium. Pastor John and Phil made some remarks and we read from scripture and offered a prayer of blessing. The columbarium provides one more way for us to care in our congregation through providing a space on our property and within our faith community for the inurnment of cremated remains. This is sacred space and we look forward to being able to use this space, just not too soon! Thanks to the entire planning team for your efforts.



On Saturday, October 24th, at our parking lot service, we also had four of our five youth affirm their baptism (confirmation) during the service. Pictured, right to left, Lean, Maya, Peter, Kim, Chase, Pastor Paul. We couldn't be more proud of these young people! Thanks to all who mentored and helped along the way.

And, last but not least, we also blessed and dedicated our NEW little food pantry. Special thanks to Grayden Grimm and Dennis Weeks for constructing the new, bigger pantry. Caring for our Community has never been so important. Want to learn how you can help? Contact Andy Spaniol today!





Worship in person in our parking lot! **November 7th at 4:00PM.** We will move our musicians inside and Pastor Paul will still lead from outside. If the weather is bad that day, ie, snowing hard or raining, we ask that you check our website for updates. Sign up today at our website: www.lordoflife.online.

Notes of Appreciation

A big thank you from me, Pastor Paul, for all the many ways the congregation expressed its gratitude during Pastor Appreciation Month in October. A special thanks for the surprise card and gift at our last parking lot service. I continue to be filled with joy in serving as your pastor.

A Heart Tugger...

Following worship on October 24th, the same service where we dedicated the new little food pantry, Andy Spaniol noted that a child from the neighborhood rode up on a bike and placed food in the new pantry. If you wonder whether what we are doing with hunger ministries is making a difference, how about this lesson? She's not alone, neighbors are bringing food to the pantry regularly. Thank God for these examples of compassion and caring in our community.

Advent Services Begin this Month!

Join us beginning November 29th for the Season of Advent! We will be offering midweek services featuring Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday at 7:15pm LIVE from our sanctuary. We hope you will find these services helpful and meaningful as we wait together.



Join us on Sunday mornings during Advent as we follow the behind the scenes adventures of a church as it prepares its Christmas Eve pageant. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and in the end, we'll all find a new appreciation for the journey to Christmas through the story of these characters. Fun for all ages is guaranteed with The Glory of Christmas.

Sunday mornings at 9:00am LIVE from our sanctuary!

November 2020

From the Council President

Greetings everyone,

I want to thank everyone for the support in our little food pantry ministry! We are serving multiple families and even have the neighbors helping with filling the pantry. Speaking of the little food pantry, you may have noticed it is bigger and oriented differently. Thank you to Grayden Grimm and Dennis Weeks on "upgrading" the pantry!

The council is continuing to monitor the coronavirus cases. We do not have a date set for resuming in person worship in the sanctuary. We'll let everyone know when we have a date set and we'll take it from there. The parking lot services have been a hit. People have enjoyed them, including the surrounding neighbors, by the way. We have more parking lot services planned for November, but we are aware of the colder weather too. Our live stream of worship on Sundays began on October 25th. We'll continue to do that. I've received feedback that this feels more like church. That's the idea. Please let me or Val Kennedy know if you have other thoughts concerning worship.

Tis the season to start working on nominating people to serve on Council. We have some positions becoming vacant and I ask for you to prayerfully consider serving if asked.

Thank you everyone for the support you have given Lord of Life Lutheran this year.

Peace to you,
Jon

Celebrating the Ordination of Women in November

Join us on Sunday, November 22nd as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church.

Our guest preacher that day will be none other than Lord of Life's own Pastor Marissa Becklin. Pastor Marissa serves in Pennsylvania. Along with Pastor Marissa, we plan to have other women clergy who've been a part of the life of our congregation in some fashion or another.

We hope that you will join us in giving thanks to God for the gift of women's voices in ordained ministry on this special day.



From the Treasurer

Lord of Life Financial Update

SEPTEMBER YTD	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Total Budget
Member General Giving	185,478	182,554	195,003	260,000
Hunger	1,339	813	1,125	1,500
Lent/Advent	1,071	913	1,000	1,300
Other Giving/Income	1,346	686	1,903	2,400
Total Income	189,236	184,967	199,031	265,200
Benevolence	15,421	14,507	15,778	21,000
Evangelism	1,649	0	2,820	3,750
Stewardship	908	787	936	1,250
Music & Worship	15,358	17,463	16,506	22,013
Faith Formation	3,150	198	11,975	16,700
Ministry/Pastoral	83,601	88,402	87,695	115,761
Church Home	37,409	30,143	36,797	46,800
Administration	30,294	24,991	25,677	34,230
Total Expenses	187,794	176,493	198,184	261,504
Net Gain (loss)	1,442	8,473	847	3,696
Mortgage - (\$6,252/month)	56,268	56,268	56,268	75,024



A Family Effort

Andy Spaniol and her family have been sharing the work of stocking the Little Food Pantry and purchasing groceries. Chase (left) was caught in the act of helping with the groceries shortly after affirming his baptism and promising to live out a life of faith and service. We'd say he is off to a good start!

In our prayers...

We extend our sympathies to the families of Ronald Wartick and Earl Alexander, Sr who died in recent days. Please pray for all who mourn.

November 2020

Sunday School News

We reviewed how Sunday School has been going by Zoom. There has been good attendance. The activity kits have been well received and enjoyed by families. The plan for the next several weeks will be to email out devotions to families. The devotions will continue to include activities that families can do together at home. In December, I will look into getting families some activities/devotions by dropping them off or hosting times to pick up materials. We will continue to meet virtually.

Sunday School activity kits for Advent are being prepared. Please contact Maria Troftgruben if:

- Your family would like a kit
- You can you pick it up at church between 9 am and 3pm M-F, **or** if you would like the kit delivered.

Whether you would like a kit or not, family devotions will still be sent out weekly to families. Further question? Please contact Maria at maria_troftgruben@hotmail.com



November 2020

Worship on the Web

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.

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, along with a link to join the Zoom meeting. Join him on Mondays at 7:00pm. Be sure to check out all of the resources available via our website! www.lordoflife.online

Want to help with worship?

If you are someone who normally volunteers to serve the worship service and are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Paul or the church office for details on how we will do so prior to resuming in-person services. You can also fill out the interest form at <https://bit.ly/2ZMvbV7>

Older Wiser Lutherans (Online!) November

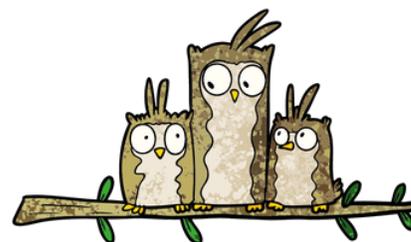
Pastor Paul is inviting YOU for an online social gathering with our Older Wiser Lutherans group on **Tuesday, November 17th at 1:00pm**. So grab your snack and beverage of choice and join the fun of being together online.

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



O.W.L.s

(Older Wiser Lutherans!)

NOOMA Video and Conversation with Pastor Paul

Jesus lived with the awareness that **God is doing something**, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, **Jesus started discussions about what matters most**, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Interested? Join Pastor Paul the **first three Wednesdays in November at 7:15pm** via Zoom. Link on our website.

November 2020

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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