

Lord of Life

NOVEMBER 2021 | THE LIFE LINE

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From Pastor Paul

"Can you believe it's November already? Wow, where has this year gone? Time has a way of passing by quickly when we aren't looking, doesn't it? In some ways the past two years of pandemic-filled life have gone by incredibly quickly, and yet, so awfully slowly. This month I want to keep my message short and sweet (less than a page, in fact). You'll see a theme of gratitude in Intern Lucy's message and in Council President Susan Hansen's message as well. I am grateful for you and for people who live out their vocation as persons of faith in daily life. Our featured Lord of Life member this month is David King. I encourage you to read his interview a few pages down.



"Gratitude is also what I feel when I think about all that we've overcome, together. We have continued to be the church, right here, on the corner of Hales Mill and Springgreen. I have, and will continue to pray for our shared ministry to be guided by the Spirit so that we might meet the needs of our congregation, community, and world through our actions. We are feeding hungry people, serving others, gathering clothing and essential needs for folks from Asbury to Africa.

We have also walked through a time of reflection and prayer and invitation to participate in the financial well-being of this congregation. The Share Our Abundance campaign was a big success on many fronts, not least of which the involvement of 35+ Lord of Life members in the logistical efforts to bring it to fruition. Our prayers led us to invite you to join in making a statement of intent for giving for our annual fund and debt reduction efforts. The last number I heard was that between these two aspects of the campaign we received intent responses well over \$400,000! Of course, I want to thank Pat and Mike for their leadership, and the entire team for their work, but I also want to thank YOU! Each of us, through our commitment to God's call to our shared ministry through sharing our intentions to give, no matter how little or how much, joins in the work of the church that began two-thousand+ years ago and will far outlive us. So THANK YOU for giving to God's work with our hands, in this place, in this time, so that we might share the Good News of Jesus Christ more boldly and more fully as a congregation.

From Intern Lucy

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." -- Philippians 4:6

When do you give thanks to God? My family and I give thanks before meals together, we give thanks here at church before and after we share in the Lord's Supper together, and I give thanks each morning for another day to live in the world. (Continued on next page)



From Intern Lucy (Continued)

But as November approaches, I seem to or least try to pay extra attention to being thankful. But after almost 20 months of pandemic living it is getting harder and harder to practice thankfulness. So many of us have lost out on participating in events, sharing in fellowship, traveling, and seeing the people we love that it is harder to see any positives.

It is necessary to acknowledge the bad stuff in our lives and how those events or emotions affect our lives and relationships. Thankfully, we have a God who desires to hear our supplications, our begging for God's help. When we ask for God's help we acknowledge that we cannot do this thing called life on our own, God reminds us that we are not alone. We are loved by God and through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit God forgives us...and for that is something we can be thankful.

Lynne Baab shares in her in book Joy Together: "Prayers of thankfulness enable us to see what God has been doing and where God has been working. Prayers of thankfulness enable us to notice the specifics of God's work and the patterns of God's goodness in our lives and the lives of others. Prayers of thankfulness make us stop and look."

During the month of November, I'm going to challenge myself to pray a prayer of thankfulness every day. Will you join me in this challenge? I have listed the prompts I am going to follow below, but feel free to create your own. Remember, prayer doesn't have to be when spoken aloud or when you are sitting/standing still. You can pray while walking, driving, or exercising. You can write, draw, or even sing your prayers. I do hope you join me this month thanking God.

Thank you, God, for:

- 1) Those who are no longer with us
- 2) Family
- 3) Leaders
- 4) Work/School
- 5) A talent that you have
- 6) Someone you admire
- 7) Your favorite time of day
- 8) Laughter
- 9) Your town/city
- 10) Sadness—ability to experience all emotion
- 11) Pick your own thing
- 12) Your home
- 13) God's love
- 14) Personality trait you have
- 15) Lesson learned from a struggle
- 16) Friends
- 17) Pets/Animals
- 18) Art/Music
- 19) Forgiveness
- 20) Creation
- 21) For those called to protect us
- 22) Those who think differently than me
- 23) God's Word
- 24) Your faith community
- 25) Material blessings
- 26) Indigenous Peoples & Everything (Happy Thanksgiving)
- 27) Community Organizations
- 28) Small Businesses
- 29) Faith
- 30) Pick your own.

Stories of Faith In Daily Life | Dave King



As a part of our Fall series on discipleship, we are doing some interviews with Lord of Life members. In our this month's "Stories of Faith in Daily Life," Pastor Paul interviews Dave King. We think you will enjoy learning more about Jon and maybe even find inspiration in his answers.

Tell us something about yourself. Where are you from? How long have you lived in Dubuque? How long have you been at Lord of Life?

Originally from Ft. Wayne, Indiana-Transplanted to Dubuque and have been here 20 years. I am not sure how long I have been at Lord of Life; feels like I have always been here.

What brought you to Lord of Life? Did someone invite you? Did you happen to visit and decided to stay?

I was asked to visit by friends when I was at a low point in life and marriage. I finally put on my Sunday best and made my way in the door. I stayed because I saw many familiar faces that welcomed me and I made new friends here.

What kind of work do you do? How does your faith go to work with you as you make decisions or live into your Christian vocation through serving others?

18 years as a Special Education Instructor, I pray every day.....for myself to find patience, for my students to find guidance.

Is there any particular faith practice that is more meaningful than another for you?

I enjoy sharing through NOW (Not Ordinary Worship band) service and being a part of that aspect of sharing music in the faith community.

What are some ways you care for our congregation? Our community? Our world?

I practice care in our congregation by volunteering at church. I helped with holiday decorations, volunteering with our flood bucket drive and I've served as a confirmation mentor. I was involved with the renovation of our sanctuary and have enjoyed cooking for youth events. I care in our community by helping with highway clean up. As for caring for our world, I try to be a better person and leave the world cleaner than I found it.

What would you say to someone who might be thinking about taking a next step in their own faith journey today?

Put words of "I can" or "I Should" into action of I have and I will- don't wait until the right moment because it will pass.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Have a nice day, and pass it on!!

From Our Council President

"Gratitude turns what you have into enough." ~ Aesop

I have to confess that I am tired of the pandemic and all the issues it creates for our lives. Mask wearing, slow supply chains, covid's impact on those with underlying health concerns, increasing prices, limited gatherings all converge to create another layer of complexity in our daily lives. Discouraged, there are times I simply do not want to go anywhere or do anything.



But then, there's this quote. Whatever the problems of the day, what I have, both materially and emotionally, is more than enough. For this I can be grateful. What am I thankful for as council president? Here are a few observations from just the month of October:

- **Care in the congregation:** A supportive ear to someone in distress after church, an intern open to learning and the pastor and congregation that supports her, musicians practicing, council members laboring over the 2022 budget, confirmands writing faith statements
- **Care in the community:** Food pantry fillers, donators of clothing, Asbury Halloween parade bakers and helpers
- **Care in the world:** Quilt makers, world hunger contributors, creators of the ELCA Good Gifts Christmas tree idea

What have you observed? I'm sure there's much more. As we anticipate Thanksgiving Day gatherings, I invite you to join me in prayer for those who truly do not have enough and for a willingness to turn our gratitude into action.

With you in Christ's work in the world,

Susan Hansen

Education News

Important dates for Sunday School coming up in November:

- November 14th is Cross Generational Sunday School. Adults and children are invited to join in a time of fun and faith!
- November 28th No Sunday School

In November, youth are invited to find ways to serve. Sign up to help with the Food Pantry on November 20th at 8:00 AM. Or volunteer to help in worship as an usher, reader, tech. person or assisting minister. Take on the challenge to help out our congregation, our community and our world!

From Our Treasurer

<u>September YTD</u>	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Total Budget
Member General Giving	182,473	182,277	195,003	260,000
Hunger	813	864	1,125	1,500
Lent/Advent	913	525	1,000	1,300
**Other Giving/Income	687	25,320	1,597	2,000
Total Income	184,886	208,987	198,725	264,800
Benevolence	14,508	15,160	15,778	21,000
Evangelism	0	80	1,287	1,700
Stewardship	787	833	945	1,250
Music & Worship	17,495	16,765	16,497	22,000
Faith Formation	198	266	11,975	16,700
Ministry/Pastoral	88,403	90,309	89,234	118,114
Church Home	30,106	27,664	34,681	44,000
Administration	25,066	27,690	26,253	34,997
Mortgage	0	3,750	3,753	5,000
Total Expenses	176,563	182,517	200,403	264,761
Net Gain (loss)	8,322	26,470	-1,678	39

Mortgage - Non-Operating 56,268 54,786 54,783 73,048

**Payroll Protection Loan of \$24,900 from 2020 was forgiven in June 2021



Thank you to everyone who completed an intent card for the debt reduction campaign and also shared an intent for annual giving to support the budget. Having this information allows your council to plan more effectively for the year and years ahead as we steward resources. If you have not completed a card, there is still time to do so. Share Our Abundance cards are available in the gathering space at church and via our website at: <https://www.lordoflife.online/share-our-abundance.html> where you can also watch videos by members of Lord of Life, read about the campaign, and learn more about our goals for the future. But most of all we want to say...THANK YOU!

Care in Our Congregation

In Our Prayers...

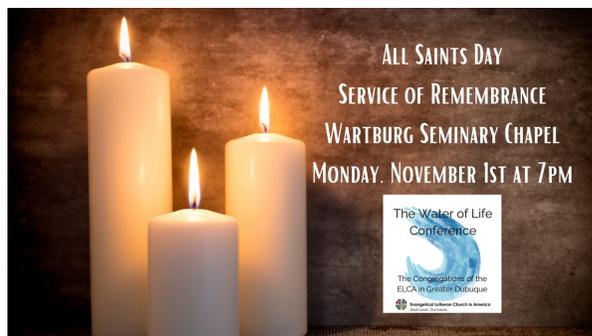
We continue to pray for Kay Zepeski as she recovers from back surgery and all of our friends and family who are in need of prayer. If you have a request, please pass it along to the church office at 582-7371 or by contacting Pastor Paul.

Many Thanks

From Mike Ackerman and his family: "Thank you so much for all the messages, thoughts, and prayers at the loss of my dad. So blessed to be with him at the end but so great knowing I had all of your prayers."

All Saints Day Service of Remembrance Monday, November 1st

The ELCA congregations of greater Dubuque plan to host an All Saints Day service of remembrance at 7:00pm on **Monday, November 1st**. Mark your calendars now, more information to follow in weekly emails and bulletin announcements. This service will be held off site.



We will still have a time of remembrance during our worship service the following Sunday. If you have the name of a loved one whose died in the past year and would like to have the name read during the service, please contact the church office.

Care in Our Community

Mobile Food Giveaway

The Mission and Outreach Committee is hosting a Mobile Food Giveaway on Saturday, November 20, 2021 in the church parking lot. Volunteers are needed to assist with unloading the truck at 8:00 AM and then with the distribution which will start at 9:00 AM. Please consider helping us care for our community! Sign up today on the sheet in the narthex!

Volunteer at the Open Closet

The Open Closet serves over 4000 people each year. The Open Closet requires volunteers to do sort through donations and assist with clients. Lord of Life has a rich history of involvement with the Open Closet. Contact Pastor Paul if you'd like to know more.

Care in Our World

ELCA Good Gifts Program

The Mission and Outreach Committee is collecting donations to benefit the ELCA Good Gifts Program and we invite all our congregants to participate!



The ELCA Good Gifts Program is a celebration of giving and the holidays are a great time to remind ourselves of what we have been given - both in terms of gifts and opportunities. When we think back to the best gifts we have received, it is not the gift itself that we honor with fond memories, but the meaning behind the gift that makes it special.

The items available for "purchase" through the ELCA Good Gifts Program are very special because they afford those in need of an opportunity for a better life. Imagine receiving a goat that provides milk and cheese for your hungry children, or chickens that produce enough eggs to feed your family with some left over to sell at a market. Now, you have food to eat and a source of income as well!

We have the opportunity to provide this kind of help by simply making a donation that allows the ELCA to bestow a beloved barnyard animal to those who are in need.

Please help us give a gift of opportunity and wellbeing to our world neighbors by choosing an ornament from the tree in the narthex and making the corresponding donation. All checks should be made out to Lord of Life with a notation in the memo area indicating the type of barnyard friend you wish to buy. That's it! It's easy and there is no wrapping paper necessary - because for this gift, the wrapping is represented by our love for our neighbor and our CARE FOR OUR WORLD.

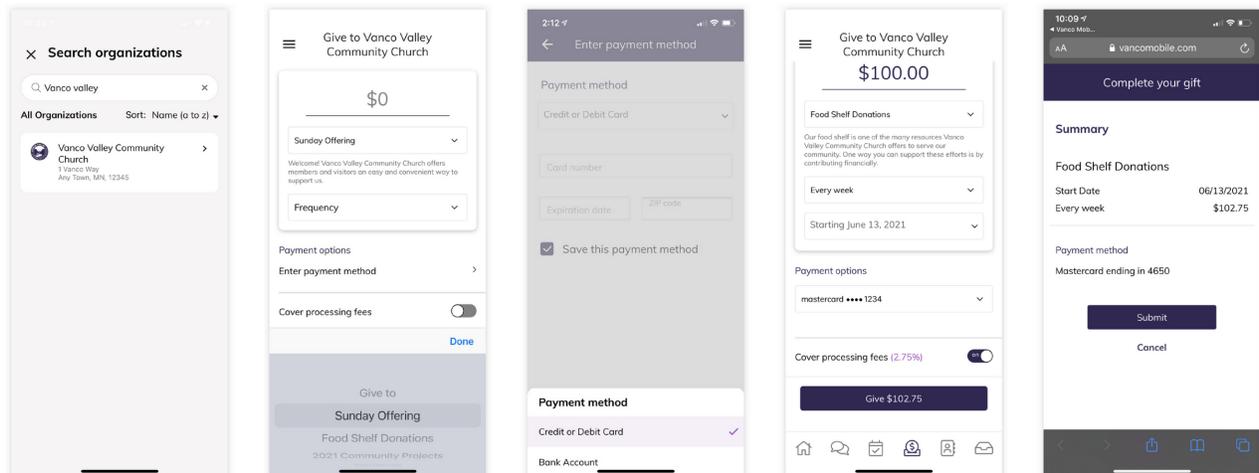
Lutheran World Relief Projects

In October, 110 school kits and 30 quilts from Lord of Life were taken to Cedar Rapids for shipment to Lutheran World Relief for worldwide distribution. Thanks to everyone who made backpacks, donated items, and helped assemble the kits, who sewed and tied quilts, and to Steve and Sandy Heer for transporting these projects to Cedar Rapids.

Giving You Lots of Options (to Give)

HOW TO GIVE USING VANCO MOBILE

Support our ministries from anywhere. Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the Vanco Mobile app for free.



1. Search for Our Church

Enter our church's name or use the invite code and click **Search**. Then, select our church.

2. Select Your Fund and Amount

Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.

3. Enter Payment Method

Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.

4. Choose to Cover Processing Fees

You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.

5. Complete Your Donation

Review and complete your gift by clicking **Submit**.

VANCO
FAITH

GIVE VIA OUR WEBSITE OR AUTOMATICALLY

One of the top ways that people give to Lord of Life is through electronic or automatic giving. It's handy and gives you a break from having to think about it every week. You can even give when you are away or not able to be at church. It makes giving easy, it's safe and secure, you don't have to have cash or a check, you can choose where your gift goes, it gives the church stability and you enable us to plan more effectively for the future, and it makes it easy to track your past contributions. Whether you give online via our website choose to join the many other members who choose 'Simply Giving' as their giving platform, we want you to know how much we appreciate your care for what God has first given to you through your support of our shared ministry.

To learn more about **Simply Giving**, reach out to the church office to be connected with Dan Decker who stewards this effort.



CLOSE to HOME

Advent 2021

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th. We will offer Evening Prayer each Wednesday during Advent with Wartburg Seminary students preaching on our Advent theme based on the Psalms. Each Sunday we will worship together and celebrate Holy Communion as we wait, watch, and prepare for the coming Christ child of Christmas. This year, embrace all that is this special time of year with your church family.

We will decorate the church on **Sunday, November 21st** following the 10:30am service. All are invited to participate in this fun-filled time of preparation for Advent. Our theme this year will be Close to Home.

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing. This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home— wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

Around the Church



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who came out to support the City of Asbury Halloween Parade line up at church on October 22nd. What a great way to care in our community by providing hospitality at church! We had a great group of volunteers handing out hot cocoa and treats made by Lord of Life members. People couldn't believe that we did it all for free! We even had a table for trick-or-treating at the end of the parade. We're guessing that there were a lot of kids who stayed up late that night!

We are committed to serving and to being in our community for good. The parade planners were immensely grateful that we, once again, opened our parking lot and our church for this event.

Coming Events

Nov. 1 - Community All Saints Day Service at Wartburg Seminary, 7:00pm

Nov. 9 - Council meeting at 6:30pm

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day (Thank you veterans!)

Nov. 20 - Mobile food pantry gam

Nov. 21 - Decorating for Advent following the 10:30am service

Dec. 1 - Midweek Advent Services begin 7:15pm each Wednesday



Ministry Opportunities

God blesses each of us with our time and the talents we have. We believe that an important part of being a Christ follower is our service to others. Pick up the materials at church or find them on our website:

www.lordoflife.online/serve.html



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