

Lord of Life

NOVEMBER 2023 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Karla

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray this finds you all well, or, as the Apostle Paul would say:

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-6)



I do thank God for each and every one of you...I really do!!! What a gift that we have been given to be the Body of Christ together; called together for ministry; called to serve God, serve each other and to serve our neighbors.

I know this is hard to talk about...this topic I am going to bring up...it is difficult...but it is part of the world we live in...including the church, our church. This topic is stewardship. This term is not an everyday word...it is not even a word used in the Bible. The dictionary defines stewardship as: "the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property." Whew. Okay, let's break that down...

1. "The job of supervising" – for Lord of Life, I see our Church Council as having this job as they "supervise" the "business" of the church.
2. Taking care of something – for Lord of Life, I see this as taking care of "each other and our neighbor".
3. ...an organization – for Lord of Life, I see this as our ministry as a whole...anything from our worship services to the Little Food Pantry to supporting Almost Home (AND everything in between).
4. ...a property – for Lord of Life, this is caring for our building and the land that it is on.

And from there, we can narrow "stewardship" down to "steward". What is fun here, is that this word is a noun AND a verb:

Noun 1. a person who looks after the passengers on a ship, aircraft, or train and brings them meals.
2. a person responsible for supplies of food to a college, club, or other institution.

Verb 1. (of an official) supervise arrangements or keep order at (a large public event). 2. manage or look after (another's property).

So, with ALL of that in mind, WE are ALL stewards of ALL that encompasses Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Asbury, Iowa. We all are responsible for managing/taking care of all aspects of our church home, which if we put in theological terms...it means that we are to live out the promise made at our Baptisms and the promises we made when we Affirmed our Baptisms:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

We live out our Baptisms as we are each a steward of ALL that God has given us!!!

So, we are a "noun" and a "verb" as a steward, living out our faith as we were called to do at baptism.

Now, in church terms, stewardship includes the time, talents and monies we each have and we give of each of these as we are able, right?

In peace and with aloha, Pastor Karla

From Our Council President

Susan Hansen



Gratitude makes what you have enough

I love this saying. As humans we are innately concerned with "having enough."

The difficulty comes when we don't pair "having enough" with gratitude for what we do have.

Gratitude is more than acknowledging our blessings. Gratitude is a sense of awareness of the needs of others. Gratitude produces compassion and generosity. From these virtues, gratitude prompts us to take action.

In the coming weeks, members of Lord of Life will be reflecting on how we can express our gratitude to the congregation, to the community, and to the world. You will be asked to consider how your contributions of time and talents can help Lord of Life live a sense of gratitude. But, what exactly does that mean?

There are several ways you can express your gratitude as we look to 2024:

- Help our congregation solidify its financial future by considering an increase in your giving. Help us create a breakeven budget for 2024.
- Help organize the quarterly collection for Lutheran World Relief.
- Help to restore the lawn post-Hales Mill construction.
- Help with worship needs, such as communion setup, bread baking, ushering or tech support.
- Share ideas for faith formation (adult, youth, children, intergenerational Sundays.)
- Any other need or project in our community that Lord of Life volunteers could assist with.

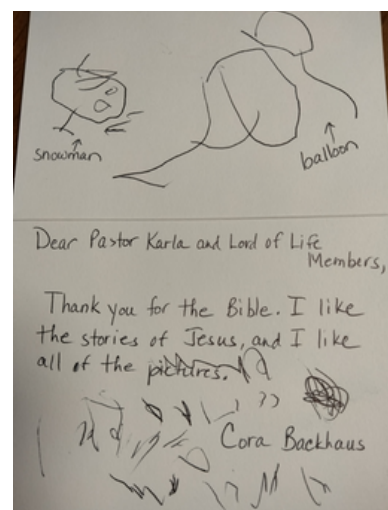
You fill in the blank! You have a talent and passion that is worth sharing!

I invite you to join in the conversation and help shape how Lord of Life will show our gratefulness for what God has provided.

Call Committee Update

The committee met October 25 and continued reviewing the results of the congregational survey. The top priorities were clear. The 2nd priorities are being looked at closer. We sent out 20 letters to members we have not seen in a while to get their feedback and let them know we are in transition. The next meeting is November 8th and the plan is to wrap up the Ministry Site Profile and send to the church Council for review.

We received this very special thank you in the office
and were asked to share with the congregation.
Blessed to be a blessing!



Financial Update

<u>September 2023 YTD</u>	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	2023 Annual Budget
Member General Giving	167,546	166,917	172,503	230,000
Hunger	1,965	3,431	1,503	2,000
Lent/Advent	742	642	800	1,190
**Other Giving/Income	392	506	774	985
Total Income	170,645	171,496	175,580	234,175
Benevolence	14,428	12,540	10,925	14,690
Evangelism	20	434	675	900
Mission and Outreach	36	28	189	256
Stewardship	847	610	720	950
Music & Worship	17,688	17,711	18,774	25,024
Faith Formation	9,337	306	981	1,300
Ministry/Pastoral	95,421	70,284	95,523	127,369
Church Home	39,370	39,375	32,131	43,405
Administration	26,054	21,454	23,200	30,600
Mortgage	5,004	0	0	0
Total Expenses	208,209	162,745	183,118	244,494
Net Gain (loss)	-37,564	8,750	-7,538	-10,319
Mortgage - Non-Operating	53,531	58,536	58,536	78,048
Additional Member Giving				
Share our Abundance	47,639	29,062		
Care for Communities	1,400	0		
Mobile Food Pantry	3,106	3,642		
Apples for Students	595	951		
ELCA Disaster	4,055	25		
Coffee/Flowers/Other	679	738		
Total	57,474	34,418		

First of all, I would like to personally thank you for generously giving of both time and financial resources to Lord of Life Lutheran Church!

Thankfully, 2023 results are better than budgeted. I expect us to meet our general giving budget which is something to celebrate given high inflation and other financial challenges our country is facing. In addition, Pastor Paul's unexpected decision to take a call in Florida has reduced the church's expenses and this will continue until a permanent pastor is called. These results are especially important given the financial challenges we are facing given our debt and I will share more about this during our annual meeting in January.

One additional thing to note is that the Church Council has decided to postpone the 3-year capital campaign that was scheduled for spring 2024. With the transition to a new pastor, we felt it was critical to call a new pastor before we begin this process. Instead, we will be reaching out personally to members for a 1-year commitment which would go from May 2024 to April 2025.

Thank you again for your support of the important mission of Lord of Life Lutheran Church and please reach out to me or any council member with questions.

Alan Stache, Church Council Treasurer

Faith Formation

Intergenerational Faith Formation - Sunday, November 5th

Rev. Dr. Troy Troftgruben will offer some teaching about prayer practices in scripture and today, There will be opportunities to pray and fun activities related to prayer. We will also be gifting Prayer Pillows to our young people. Prayer pillows are a special pillow with a pocket to hold prayer cards.

Adult Faith Formation

It is a gift to have this group gathering together. On November 5, we will be part of the Intergenerational group and the topic of the day will be Prayer. On November 12, we will be joining the Confirmation class as we dig deeper on what it means to be a disciple. Topic for November 19 to be announced later. No class on the 26th as it is Thanksgiving weekend.

Confirmation

We will continue to have great times! Our November schedule:

5th – we will be with the Intergenerational group.

12th – joint class with the adult faith formation group.

19th – just us 😊

26th – no class, Thanksgiving weekend

Youth Outing

7th – 12th graders, please join Pastor Karla on Sunday, November 12th 6-8:30pm at Dubuque Esports League, 3220 Dodge St, Suite 109 (www.dbqesports.org). Cost is \$15 per person. We will have fun gaming and watching Pastor Karla be completely clueless 😊 (In all seriousness, she is looking forward to this new experience... please come join us!)

Looking Ahead/ Save the Date

Sunday, 5 November: All Saint's Sunday

If you would like a name of a loved one, who has died in the last year, lifted up on this day, please e-mail the office with the name(s).

Sunday, 12 November: Stewardship Sunday

Starting in October, we've been hearing more about stewardship and on this Sunday, we will turn in our "commitment" for 2024 for the Church Council to plan and put together a more informed budget for next year. All of your gifts are greatly appreciated for the continued ministry of Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Sunday, 26 November: Decorate Church

All are welcome to stay after the 10:30am worship service to decorate the sanctuary and gathering area for Advent and Christmas.

Looking further ahead:

The 1st Sunday of Advent is December 3rd. Our theme for the season of Advent thru the Baptism of our Lord Sunday is: "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" The theme summed up is this:

"Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared."

(Sanctified Art, Planning Guide, pg. 2)

We will have a variety of opportunities to share this season together... in our weariness and in our joy. Stay tuned for more information!

Care in Our Congregation

Prayers

Continued prayers for Janet Cocayne and family, as John died on October 17th and his funeral was on October 27th. Additionally, prayers for Gloria Klinefelter and family on the passing of Rich on October 22 and funeral October 26th.

Let us pray, Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation for your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

thank you

- To all who sign up and bring Sweet Treats for Sunday morning fellowship
- To all who brought treats and provided hospitality as we hosted the start of the Asbury Halloween Parade
- To Nancy and Mark Oehlert for hosting the youth and families with a Bonfire
- To all who brought food for the Church Brunch on Reformation Sunday
- To all who served at the funeral luncheon for the Klinefelter family.

Senior Lunch Group

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the Senior Lunch Group will be meeting on Thursday, November 9th, instead of on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m. at the Dubuque Mining Company at the Kennedy Mall, 555 John F. Kennedy Road #600. If you have any questions or would like to make a reservation, please contact Peggy Granovsky. All Seniors 50+ are welcome.

Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday November 11th, in the lower level of the church. If you'd like to share in the food and fun you can contact Jon Dienst at 599-4524 or just show up!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

The Prayer Shawl Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the church gathering space at 1 p.m. Please join us on Thursday, November 2nd.



Care in Our Community

Little Free Food Pantry

We are pleased to announce that Lord of Life has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1500 from the Theisen's More for Your Community Grant. We are grateful for this grant and have been very blessed by generous gifts not only from the congregants but by anonymous donors and other grant gifts that aid us in helping those who are needing assistance due to ever-increasing economic woes. We are also thankful to the group of seven dedicated volunteers who alternate weeks to fill the Food Pantry on a daily basis.

We are truly blessed to be a blessing!



CROP Walk

Another CROP Walk for Dubuque County is history. Even though the weather turned cool, it was a beautiful day for a walk at Eagle Point Park. To all who supported this walk either by walking or donating to this hunger appeal, THANK YOU. Our total of \$1,225.00 will be added to the other donations collected from Dubuque County and forwarded to Church World Services to help with hunger, education, disaster relief or wherever needed. As always, 25% will remain in Dubuque County and distributed to PIN (People in Need), the Dubuque Rescue Mission and the Dubuque Food Pantry. Again, thank you all for your generous support!!



Care in Our World

Thank You

to the quilters and their dedication and love on the 34 quilts made for Lutheran World Relief. They were delivered to Cedar Rapids Sat. Oct. 21 by Steve & Sandy Heer and added to all the other congregations' donations for shipping to their final destinations.



Veteran's Day

On the 11th hour, on the 11th day, on the 11th month...never forget.

Let us pray,

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us to be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(pg 66, ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Forces)

Prayer for Peace Among the Nations

Let us pray,

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(pg 70, ELW Prayer Book for the Armed Forces)

Fall Schedule

Sunday Worship

Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am

9:15 Faith Formation:
Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adults

10:30 service livestreamed

Come Join Us!



Lord of Life
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