



## From the Pastor

Fall is a reminder that life is fleeting but still filled with color, if we will take the time to enjoy it. Each year I wait for a beautiful maple tree in our back yard to show it's first signs of bright yellow and red leaves, which signal the change of seasons. The walnut trees are more fickle, dropping their yellow leaves on a whim without much regard for creating a lovely fall tapestry for us to behold. I often joke that the leaves twirling to the ground might be screaming out with one last breath before hitting the ground. We've started thinking about doing the clothing switcharoo (you know, when you take your shorts and summer clothes out of the closet and replace with warmer options?). But mostly, this time of year helps me to appreciate the circle of life.

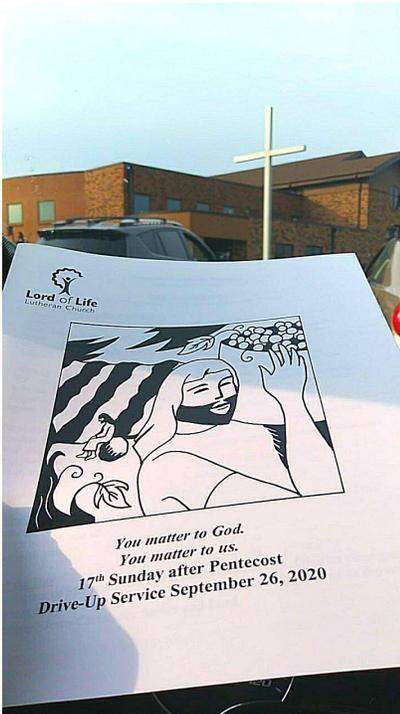
*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."*

- Ecc. 3:1

I've used the full text of Ecclesiastes 3 for funerals for many years, and there's a classic song based on the text as well. But perhaps the best thing it can tell us at this moment in time, is that everything has its season. Even a global pandemic. Life won't be the way it is now forever. At some point doctors and researchers will discover a vaccine and enough people will be vaccinated that we can put COVID-19 into the history books. But for now, the season remains one of waiting and watching, and being people of faith in unique ways.

Sure, we may want to voice our frustrations and even shake our fist in the air that we have been so disrupted by the virus, but let's take a moment to think about the ways that our congregation has adapted. Over the past six months we have developed online worship services that we never had before. These services have even become a part of our long-term ministry strategy.

(continued)



We've developed parking lot services that have brought together an average of 75 people per service. We have been able to return to celebrating Holy Communion with tiny plastic cups while sitting in vehicles in the church parking lot. That's pretty amazing, when you think about it. I have heard over and over again how much it means to be together for worship, even if we aren't inside the building. I am so grateful to our Worship & Music Team!!!

We have continued to serve! Lord of Life members have spent days helping with storm clean up in Cedar Rapids and Springville. We've packed meals for the St. Luke's community dinner downtown. We've hosted mobile food pantries in our parking lot and have seen an incredible increase in folks accessing our Little Food Pantry in the parking lot. Lord of Life member, Karla Wildberger, helped us to apply for and receive grants for thousands of dollars to drive our ministry to the hungry. And I haven't even mentioned how we've stepped up to help The Open Closet provide clothes for those in desperate need in our community.

I have continued to baptize children into the Family of God, though in much more intimate settings than a full worship service, and I've presided at a funeral and done communion visits in entirely different ways. Pastoral care ministry by phone and Zoom video conferencing are the new norm.



It is a new season in the life of the church and Lord of Life has embraced the challenges of this new way of being church, together. I give thanks to God for you and for your faithfulness. A couple of weeks ago we had a weekend where more than 170 people participated in worship. We haven't had that many people in worship for an in-person service weekend since we celebrated our 40th anniversary last year (and there was cake!).

God is at work in this new season. We only need pay attention and ask how we might join in with what God is already up to, all around us, and embrace it all. Thanks be to God for the charge to be the church and to offer our worship, praise, and thanks in this season.





**Parking Lot Church**

Worship in the Parking Lot  
Saturday, October 10th at 5pm  
Saturday, October 24th at 4pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

Lord of Life Lutheran Church | 2899 Hales Mill Rd | Asbury, IA 52002

Worship in person in our parking lot! **Note the time change** for our Reformation service on the 24th. Sign up today at our website: [www.lordoflife.online](http://www.lordoflife.online).

## Notes of Appreciation



We received a big "thank you" from the staff and children at St. Mark's who benefited from the school bags they received and which we helped fill. St Mark's is so appreciative of all the support they receive from Lord of Life. Here is another big thank you to all of you from Mission and Outreach (left).

Six volunteers from Lord of Life spent an evening preparing and readying meals for delivery to those in need of a Saturday night meal (right) at St Luke's UMC downtown.



### From the Neighbor...

Pastor Paul here, I had a great conversation with one of our neighbors while I was chasing our recycling bins across the parking lot on a windy day. He shared with me that he and his wife were grateful for our parking lot services because they are not able to attend their church right now. He complimented our musicians and he told me his wife even took video of the singing so she could listen later!

The same neighbor told me how much he and his wife love our Little Food Pantry. They see people accessing the groceries just about every night. He said, "You'd be surprised how many people visit your pantry." Then he told me that his neighbors have also been bringing groceries to put in the pantry!!! How great is that?!? Praise God for God's work in and through God's people at Lord of Life! #CareInOurCommunity #LovingOurNeighbor

October 2020

## From the Council President

Hi Everyone,

Well it's October and the leaves are changing. A change of seasons. I love the change of seasons and fall is one of my favorite times of the year. This year we get to enjoy fall in the midst of the pandemic. I hope everyone is safe and doing the best they can despite the public health crisis.

Lord of Life has been continuing to show up in assisting through our food ministries, making of quilts, giving of supplies to those less fortunate due to any number of events. Most recently that was helping people displaced due to an explosion on Loras Boulevard. We continue to be the Church.

Has everyone enjoyed the parking lot services we have had? They have been well attended and I've received very positive comments. We may not be able to worship in person in the sanctuary, but at least it allows us to wave at each other and share in liturgy. We will have more opportunities to worship in the parking lot in October. Pastor Paul will share those dates in the weekly news. Look for the dates. The church council continues to look at trend lines with the virus. We'll return to inperson worship in the sanctuary when the time is right. Stay tuned.

We will be doing Stewardship differently this year. Look for a letter in the mail with more details on that. I thank you for your past generosity to the church. I ask you to continue to be generous as the needs are many. Thank you.

Peace and blessings to you all..

Jon



## From the Office

Please join us in congratulating our Administrative Assistant, Sadie, on the occasion of her wedding. Sadie was married to Scott on Saturday, September 26th. We are so grateful for Sadie and her work with us. Please note that Sadie's last name is now Goes.

Congrats, Sadie and Scott!

## From the Treasurer

Lord of Life Financial Update - September YTD

My financial update will be short since very little has changed from last month's newsletter. As previously reported, general giving continues to be strong in some very uncertain times. Through September, 2020 giving is 98.4% of 2019 and 93.6% of our budget. We also received \$24,000 PPP loan in April which kept our staff fully employed during spring/summer months and necessary documentation will be submitted this fall to hopefully have the loan forgiven.

I would like to thank everyone for their financial support for the important work the church does.

Alan Stache, Church Council Treasurer

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Dubuque IA**  
**Donations Account Balances (09/01/2020 - 12/31/2020)**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 Account	Period Activity	Page 1 of 1 YTD Balance
<b><i>Giving Accounts</i></b>		
001 - General	22,735.66	182,238.45
010 - Hunger	125.00	813.30
011 - Debt Reduction	0.00	2,000.00
016 - SS/VBS Offering In/Out	10.00	20.00
020 - Lent	0.00	913.00
025 - LOLYG	0.00	200.00
035 - Memorial - Designated	0.00	1,065.00
041 - Coffee Money	0.00	95.91
060 - Altar Flowers	0.00	450.00
065 - Building Usage Donation	0.00	250.00
081 - Music & Worship	0.00	90.00
088 - Thrivent Choice Funds	85.00	736.00
095 - Confirmation/Comm. (In & Out)	725.00	775.00
143 - Office Supplies/Equipment	0.00	437.90
201 - Apples For Students	0.00	420.00
230 - God's Mission: Together we can, with God we will	7,157.00	28,900.00
235 - Columbarium	0.00	1,500.00
315 - Misc.Acct. In/Out	40.00	40.00
320 - Mobile Food Pantry	0.00	7,700.00
Little Food Pantry Onsite	521.17	2,306.95
Well Wishes	0.00	5,515.34
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$31,398.83</b>	<b>\$236,466.85</b>

**Count: 21**  
**Period: 09/01/2020 - 12/31/2020**  
**Year: 2020**

October 2020

## Sunday School News

Sunday School will continue to meet at 10 AM on Sundays.



OCTOBER 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](http://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!)

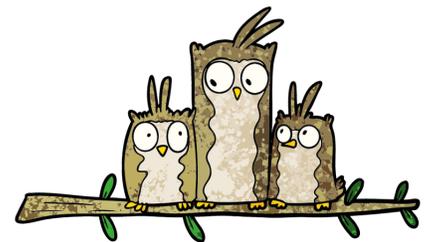
Pastor Paul is inviting YOU for an online social gathering with our Older Wiser Lutherans group on **Tuesday, October 20th at 1:00pm**. So grab your snack and beverage of choice and join the fun of being together online.

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!)**

## Dismissal Videos for Worship Requested

Pastor Paul is looking for submissions of videos with you and whoever else you wish to include, on camera, simply saying, "Go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!" We will use your video for our Sunday services. Please use the landscape format for recording and submit your .mov or .mp4 video to Pastor Paul via email or text. Thanks for being a part of our worship experience!

October 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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