

Lord of Life

OCTOBER 2021 | THE LIFE LINE

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(Cover image Lord of Life member Jon Dienst)



From Pastor Paul

In worship on Sunday, September 12th I challenged our congregation to join me in praying this prayer each day throughout the Fall. As we think about our lives as followers of Christ, and as we consider what Christ has first done for us and the immense gift of grace we have received, we are invited to also consider how we live out our lives of faith in response. I know I sound like a broken record (or maybe that needs to be updated to a bad mp3 file?) but I cannot get past what an amazing thing it is that my sins are forgiven because God loves me, so forgive me if I continue to go on about how we live in response to such a wonderful gift.



Intern Lucy and I have been preaching in a sermon series about discipleship practices and we will continue throughout October. These practices are a framework for our lives of faith AND they inform how we interact with the world around us. This includes our family and friends, coworkers, classmates at school, etc. These practices are important because of what they mean for others we encounter, but even more important for shaping us into the people God desires us to be.

"Discipleship is being called to walk with Christ, equipped to live like Christ, and sent by Christ to love and serve others in the world!"
(Pastor Michael Foss)

We are approaching these practices as follows.

Worship - Work toward the goal of weekly worship, and have a time of daily devotions and prayer.

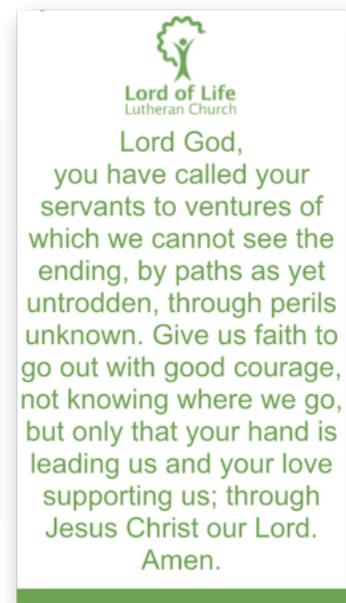
Serve faithfully - Participate in at least one Lord of Life ministry each year and perform five acts of kindness each week.

Grow in your faith and understanding of God - Participate in at least one Lord of Life class each year and read at least one gospel from the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) on your own.

Invite and Encourage - Care for each other, encourage one another, and invite five people this year to join you along the way.

Give - of your time, talents, and treasures with an attitude of gratitude and generosity. Grow toward the goal of a tithe (10% of income given away) and beyond.

Follow along with the sermon series, visit our website, pray the prayer each day and let's see where we are by the start of the Season of Advent!



Stories of Faith In Daily Life | Jon Dienst

As a part of our Fall series on discipleship, we are doing some interviews with Lord of Life members. In our inaugural "Stories of Faith in Daily Life," Pastor Paul interviews Jon Dienst. 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?

I'm originally from Bloomington, MN. I'm the oldest of 3 kids. I have a younger sister and brother. I graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, University of St. Thomas (BA) and University of Wisconsin, Madison (BS). I have lived in Dubuque since 1993. Rita and I have been members of Lord of Life since 1993. I'm a civil engineer at the City of Dubuque. I've been with the City for almost 17 years. Prior to that I worked at Eagle Point Software where I worked in training, support and product development.

What brought you to Lord of Life? Did someone invite you? Did you happen to visit and decided to stay? Rita and I were looking at joining a church when we moved to Dubuque. Rita was pregnant with Marissa at the time and we felt the need for a church home. When we walked in at Lord of Life the first to greet us was Ted Koehler. He welcomed us and we were greeted by others in the congregation. FYI...that does not happen in most churches unfortunately. It needs to.

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? Well...I'm a public servant who works at the pleasure of the City Manager and the City Council. I serve the citizens of Dubuque. My primary responsibility is to ensure the public right of way is open and accessible by all and that I protect the health and welfare of the public as they travel sidewalks, streets and other public rights of way. In everything I do, I am considering how people benefit by the work I do.

I'm involved in making sure we have accessible sidewalks. I design streets and intersections to make sure they are safe for all users. I design bike trails and work with a local bike advocacy group to encourage alternative transportation options. I have a lot of interactions with the public. Some people are having a bad day and I'm that person at that moment who can help turn things around for them. I never forget the impact I can have on people. I have lots of personal interaction stories I could share.

Is there any particular faith practice that is more meaningful than another for you? Lead by example. Be kind to others. How would you like to be treated? Treat people well...you have no idea what they are dealing with. Be compassionate of others.

(continued on next page)

(Stories of Faith in Daily Life continued)

What are some ways you care for our congregation? Our community? Our world? Oh boy. I serve the congregation by serving in tech ministry. I realize the immense responsibility here. If I'm not on my game, Church for some people doesn't happen. I realized that throughout the pandemic. I serve the community in the work I do. Everyday. I serve the world helping at food pantries. Many may not know that I volunteer every month (before Men's Breakfast) by setting up and taking down traffic control for the Dubuque Labor Harvest food giveaway. I also help direct traffic. On a Saturday morning each month I'm onsite at 6:00 am. Even when it's snowing and cold...

What would you say to someone who might be thinking about taking a next step in their own faith journey today? Take that one step. It will lead to another step. Do something that will help others. Invite people to be part of a small group. Make them welcome. Remember we are the hands of God. Loved by God. Sent to Serve.

Anything else you'd like to share? My last name is Dienst which is German for service. Destiny.

Care in Our Congregation

In Our Prayers...

We pray for and extend our sympathies to Mike Ackerman and family on the death of Mike's dad, Nick Ackerman in September.

Mentors for Confirmation Youth

We are looking for mentors for our confirmation age youth. You don't have to be an expert on anything, just willing to hangout, share some service projects, and be a cheerleader for one of our young people. You can select that option in the Ministry Opportunities form OR reach out to Pastor Paul or Heather Felderman.

Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards when my pacemaker was installed.
~ Bruce Bothwell

Celebration of Baptism

Let us celebrate the baptism of Thomas Russell Miller, son of Geoff and Ellen Miller, on July 3, 2021. Alex Haynes was made his sponsor.

Community All Saints Day Service of Remembrance

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.

God's Work Our Hands



Care in Our Congregation:

Sound Panels Covered

Care in our Community:

Cards created for shut-ins

Care in our World:

72 backpacks filled for
Lutheran World Relief





Cross-Generational Sunday School Kick Off

Did you hear the music? That was our very first Cross-Gen Sunday School of the year and it featured a youth band (with a little help from Troy and Bri). They were awesome! We are so excited about how our young people are leading in the church!

Adult Faith Formation in October

Pastor Paul and Intern Lucy will be addressing our weekly themes of discipleship and we'll be talking about how we might live into these practices during the week to come. You are invited to join us in the conference room at 9:15am each Sunday. We will note when Cross-Generational Sunday School will take place.



Grocery Cart Donations

You may have noticed a recent change in our grocery cart food collection. We will now be collecting food and hygienic products in support of our Little Food Pantry. We will continue our support of the greater Dubuque Food Pantry through our donations and involvement in the annual Crop Walk and the Holiday Food Basket Drive.

The Lord of Life Little Food Pantry is located at the entrance to the church. Volunteers stock the pantry daily with food items and hygienic products as needed. This has been a particularly welcome outreach to our neighborhood especially during the covid pandemic. You will find lists of suggested donations in the grocery cart, located in the narthex of the church. These are only suggestions; donations are not limited to these items. Our only limitations are no glass, no medicine, no aerosols, and no bakery items. Please also be sure that cans or other food items do not have expired dates.

Please consider adding a few items to your grocery list and put your donations in the grocery cart. If you are interested in volunteering to help stock the Little Food Pantry, please contact Andy Spaniol at (563) 451-5792 or Sandy Heer at (563) 542-2606. We are grateful for your continued support!

Mission and Outreach Can Begin in Your Closet!

With the seasonal weather changes, we often find ourselves in our closets surveying our wardrobe. If you find yourself in the closet or digging through drawers, you may find clothing items that are no longer needed. Please consider donating those items to the Open Closet.

The Open Closet is located in the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church on White Street. Although Covid has altered some practices at The Open Closet, it is still opening its doors and provides a shopping opportunity for people in need, with all items being offered free-of-charge.

Children's clothing and winter coats for men, women and children are often in higher demand, although all seasonal clothing items are accepted. Towels, bedding, shoes/boots, mittens/gloves are also accepted. There is always a need for NEW socks and underwear for all ages, especially children. Please be sure that all of your items are clean, in good repair and seasonal (Fall and Winter). All items may be placed in the designated receptacles next to the mailboxes at Lord of Life, and they will be transported to The Open Closet. Storage is limited, so if they have an abundance of certain items, those items may be donated to the Dubuque Mission in support of their outreach programs.

As you set out on a mission to clean your closets, please also consider making it your mission to donate those items that are no longer needed to The Open Closet. Thank you!

School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief

We are pleased to report that the Lutheran World Relief backpack project was a huge success. Lord of Life members donated enough school supplies to fill **72 backpacks**. Thank you to Barbara, Dennis and Marie who made the backpacks. Thank you to those who donated money and bought supplies. Thank you to everyone who helped pack the bags on Rally Day Sunday as part of our God's Work Our Hands efforts. Thanks for caring in our world We plan to do this project again next year!



Education News

It is great to see all the kids back at church again! If you have yet to make it on a Sunday morning, there is a place for all the kids! There are classes for pre/k, elementary, and middle & high school youth at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Each week the curriculum for pre/k and elementary follows the lectionary, so what they learn in class follows closely the lessons they hear during church. If you want to continue the faith connections at home, grab a Taking Faith Home leaflet, or look up Faith at Home on the church website, and have a conversation over lunch. There are questions, prayers, devotions, a blessing...all you need to make some faith talk happen at home. Challenge your family to give it a try!

Sunday, October 10th will be a cross generational morning. Plan to bring the whole family to Sunday School for some fun, faith, and connections. The second Sunday of each month will be cross generational this year. If you have never attended, please give it a try. If you have come in the past, try to commit to come regularly as a family.

If you have questions about faith formation and Sunday School or are looking for ways you can help out, contact maria_troftgruben@hotmail.com

Confirmation News

Our young people who've completed their work in confirmation will Affirm their Faith during our **Reformation Day** service at **10:30am** on October 31st. This is a big day for these youth as they begin their journey of faith in a new way. Please help us congratulate them when you see them at church. Confirmation classes with our 7th & 8th graders are off to a great start. What a wonderful group of young people! We are truly blessed at Lord of Life.

From Our Council President

Greetings in Christ!

It has been so very good to be together in worship again, even though masked. Our **God's Work Our Hands** Sunday on Sept. 12th was marvelous! So many people got involved to assemble Lutheran World Relief school kits (care for our world), making cards (care for our community), and finish building acoustic panels for our gathering space (care for our congregation). God is at work here!



Things your church council will be focusing on in the coming weeks include the 2022 budget, revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws (bo-o-r-ring but long overdue) and following up on our Share Our Abundance Campaign. More details to come.

Regarding the rain garden, the recommendation is to burn the area. Burning will kill the weeds but not the foliage planted last year because these plants have deep roots which survive fire. Then we'll assess the garden's additional needs, if any, and develop a scheduled maintenance plan. Eventually, the plants will crowd out excess weeds and we'll have a beautiful area to enjoy!

Finally, our pastor is encouraging us as individuals and as a congregation to re-dedicate ourselves to the call of discipleship. I am making a personal pledge to follow our pastor's lead and to examine ways I might increase my role as a disciple of Jesus. I encourage each of you to consider how you might find new ways to serve, invite/encourage, grow, give/generosity, or worship. Need ideas? Look on our website under Grow & Learn and click on Discipleship.

Serving with you in Christ,

Susan Hansen

From Intern Lucy

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank you for generously showering us with gift cards and notes and cards of welcome. It was a wonderful experience of your hospitality. I look forward to caring for our congregation, our community, and our world alongside you! Thanks, again. God's peace,

Intern Lucy (Ross & Samuel, too!)



From Our Treasurer

<u>August YTD</u>	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Total Budget
Member General Giving	159,737	166,139	173,336	260,000
Hunger	688	789	1,000	1,500
Lent/Advent	913	525	1,000	1,300
**Other Giving/Income	671	25,236	1,264	2,000
Total Income	162,009	192,689	176,600	264,800
Benevolence	12,916	15,160	14,136	21,000
Evangelism	0	80	1,144	1,700
Stewardship	738	765	840	1,250
Music & Worship	16,256	16,797	14,664	22,000
Faith Formation	198	85	10,400	16,700
Ministry/Pastoral	79,298	80,950	79,608	118,114
Church Home	28,212	22,787	31,572	44,000
Administration	22,695	25,489	23,336	34,997
Mortgage	0	3,333	3,336	5,000
Total Expenses	160,313	165,447	179,036	264,761
Net Gain (loss)	1,696	27,243	-2,436	39

Mortgage - Non-Operating 50,016 48,699 48,696 73,048

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

Halloween Parade Outreach Opportunity



Lord of Life has been asked to provide hospitality for the Asbury Halloween Parade on Friday, October 22nd. This marks the return of the big parade and we couldn't be happier to partner with the Asbury Area Civic & Recreation Foundation. In order to provide CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY we need your help.

Specifically, we need,

- 1) Cookies and treats to hand out during parade line up at church
- 2) Parents and confirmation youth to help with hospitality
- 3) People to host a trick-or-treat table after the parade at Asbury Park.

Can you please help? Sign up to bring treats via the Parade Help clipboard at the coffee bar at church or reach out to Pastor Paul in the church office. This is a LOT of fun and it is a great way for our neighbors and our community to get to know the people of Lord of Life better.



We are offering a service of healing prayer with music and Holy Communion.

There has been so much lost over the past many months of the global pandemic. Come and hear God's Word, listen as we pray and sing together, taste God's promised forgiveness in the bread and wine of communion.

The sanctuary will be open for prayer beginning at 7:00pm. Service to begin at 7:15pm.

Sermon Series Continues

We continue our sermon series on discipleship in October. We pray that this series will give you courage to live into your faith in daily life. Here are the weekly themes.

Worship - Work toward the goal of weekly worship, and have a time of daily devotions and prayer.

Grow in your faith and understanding of God - Participate in at least one Lord of Life class each year and read at least one gospel from the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) on your own.

Give - A life of generosity means living with an open hand, ready to give but also to receive.

Consider growing your giving by 1% each year until you reach a tithe.

Serve faithfully - Participate in at least one Lord of Life ministry each year and perform five acts of kindness each week.

Invite and Encourage (Relationships) - Care for each other, encourage one another, and invite five people this year to join you along the way.

LoL Youth Pumpkin Patch Party

Sunday, October 17th, 1:00-3:30pm, Schuster Pumpkin Patch

All Lord of Life youth (6th grade & up) are invited to a Sunday outing to Schuster's Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze. Meet at church at 1:00pm. Transportation provided (Please RSVP) -- or whole families welcome to drive & join the fun. Bring a bit of cash for activities (see Schuster's Pumpkin Patch website or Facebook page for pricing). For info or RSVP, contact Maria Troftgruben (maria_troftgruben@hotmail.com).

Coming Events

- Oct. 6** - Parent Support Group 6:15pm
- Oct. 9** - Mens Breakfast Group at the Park 8:30am
- Oct. 12** - Council Meeting 6:30pm
- Oct. 13** - Service of Healing 7:15pm
- Oct. 17** - 9th Grade Confirmation Meets 6:00pm
- Oct. 22** - Asbury Halloween Parade Line Up at Church
- Oct. 24** - 9th Grade Confirmation Meets 6:00pm
- Oct. 30** - Confirmation Rehearsal with Parents 6:00pm
- Oct. 31** - Reformation Day, Confirmation
- Nov. 1** - All Saints Day Community Worship 7:00pm
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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



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church

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