

# Lord of Life

OCTOBER 2023 | THE LIFE LINE



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# From Pastor Karla



Greetings Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I'm back!!! I had a fabulous trip to Eastern France and Sicily...so many stories and photos to share. I saw and experienced so many new things and ate as many pain au chocolats and gelato as possible (photo for proof)!

In last month's newsletter, I talked about what it means to be a disciple and I asked you to think and pray about how each of us live, hear, share, proclaim, serve and strive as we live out our baptisms and my hope ... and prayer ... is that you have been thinking about this. Last month, I also shared with you a few Dietrich Bonhoeffer quotes ... "the call to follow at once produces a new situation"....

As I write this article and ponder that quote, I think of our guide we had in Sicily....when it was time to "go" (get off the bus, start walking, etc.), she would say, "Amuninni (aa-moo-nin-nee)!!!" And then we would all reply, "Amuninni!" Amuninni is the Sicilian way of saying, "let's go!" (the rest of Italy says, "Andiamo"). Our guide, Virginia, would say this as a way to tell us it was time to go, but mostly, she said this as a way to get us excited!!!

Amuninni!!! This is what I say to all of you – we have been called as God's disciples ... God's hands here on earth and there are things to do and people to see and God's love and grace to share. Amuninni!!! Yes, God is saying to us, "let's go." Lord of Life .... as a community, as the Body of Christ .... we are to BE community!!! How does this work? By working together!!! How do we do this? Each of us do this in our own ways ... it may be by writing a check to help reduce our debt; it may be by teaching Sunday School; it may be by being a Eucharistic Minister; it may be by sitting in the tech booth .... I want you to fill in the blank.

How do YOU respond to God saying, Amuninni?

In peace and with aloha,  
Pastor Karla

PS... have you noticed the round tables in the narthex making fellowship so much more comfortable and inviting?? 😊

## Call Committee Update

The call committee has met several times to discuss the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) forms required by the ELCA to call a pastor. The committee has filled out the MSP as much as possible. The congregation is now being asked to fill out a survey about our congregation including our vision for mission, leadership needs, mutual expectations and gifts for ministry we desire in a pastor. This information will be used to complete the remainder of the site profile. The next call committee meeting is October 11th. Thank you for your help and please continue to pray for us during this time of discernment.

Peace, Jon

# Financial Update

<u>August 2023 YTD</u>	2022 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	2023 Annual Budget
Member General Giving	144,819	151,787	153,336	230,000
Hunger	1,935	3,431	1,336	2,000
Lent/Advent	742	642	800	1,190
**Other Giving/Income	348	361	568	985
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>147,844</b>	<b>156,221</b>	<b>156,040</b>	<b>234,175</b>
Benevolence	13,594	11,783	9,800	14,690
Evangelism	0	434	600	900
Mission and Outreach	18	28	168	256
Stewardship	768	548	640	950
Music & Worship	16,093	16,395	16,888	25,024
Faith Formation	8,123	306	872	1,300
Ministry/Pastoral	85,331	69,610	84,910	127,369
Church Home	33,566	33,154	28,922	43,405
Administration	22,896	19,490	20,734	30,600
Mortgage	4,448	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>184,842</b>	<b>151,754</b>	<b>163,534</b>	<b>244,494</b>
<b>Net Gain (loss)</b>	<b>-36,998</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>-7,494</b>	<b>-10,319</b>
Mortgage - Non-Operating	47,584	52,032	52,032	78,048
Additional Member Giving				
Share our Abundance	42,354	26,545		
Care for Communities	1,400	0		
Mobile Food Pantry	3,001	2,537		
Apples for Students	595	951		
ELCA Disaster	4,055	25		
Coffee/Flowers/Other	653	702		
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,058</b>	<b>30,760</b>		

Thank you to Alan Stache for keeping us up to date on our financials. The numbers here are through the month of August 2023. Please notice the 2023 YTD numbers, we are a little behind. Please check your records; are you current with your pledges (for general budget and for the "Share the Abundance" (mortgage) budget). I don't know, but I give via credit card and I do have to be reminded to make sure I am current on my giving.

I know it is hard to talk about financials and money, but it is part of life.....including our life together here at Lord of Life. In the coming weeks, we will be hearing more about stewardship as we gear up for our stewardship Sunday on November 12th.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

In peace, Pastor Karla

# Faith Formation

## Adult Faith Formation

It is a gift to have this group gathering together. On 1 October, we will be part of the Intergenerational Sunday School group. On 8 October, we will be joining the Confirmation class as they continue to discuss what it means to be a disciple. Topics for 15 and 22 October to be announced later.

## Confirmation

Class will be every Sunday in October (between worship services), except for the 29th, no class, but please join us for the Affirmation of Baptism at the ONE service we will have that day at 10:30am.

## Sunday School Classes

It is never too late to sign up your child(ren) for Sunday School. Please e-mail Megan Dahlke (megan.dahlke@gmail.com) and she will get you all the information you need.

## ELCA Youth Gathering

Pastor Karla will have informational meetings on **Sundays October 8th or 15th, at 11:40am** (after worship). If your youth will be finishing 8th – 12th grade in May of 2024, they are eligible to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Please join Pastor Karla. If you cannot attend on either of those days, please email her and let her know of your interest, [pastor@lordoflifedbq.org](mailto:pastor@lordoflifedbq.org)



# Looking Ahead/Save the Date

## Friday, 20 October: Asbury Halloween Parade

Once again, LOL will be hosting the starting point of the parade. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex for bringing treats.

**Sunday, 22 October:** Youth Bonfire 5:30-7:00 pm at Mark & Nancy Oehlert's 13038 Swiss Valley Road.

**Sunday, 29 October:** ONE worship service, 10:30am with Affirmation of Baptism, with a breakfast starting at 9:00am. When someone is baptized, we, as a congregation promise our support, so we will gather for ONE service this day to support our confirmands.

## 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 will be 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.



# Care in Our Congregation



## Sweet Fellowship

Whether you attend the 8:00 or the 10:30 AM service, you are invited to enjoy some sweet fellowship between services. Come early or stay late, grab a cup of coffee and a sweet treat, spend some time visiting with friends, meeting some new friends, or attending an adult education class. Class topics vary and walk-ins are always welcome; no advance preparation is needed. You are also invited to sign up to purchase or make a treat to share with others during the fellowship time between services. It's a great opportunity for some sweet fellowship.

## Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday September 14th, in the lower level of the church. Together we make breakfast and share some great fellowship. 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, October 5th. Prayer shawls can be knit or crocheted and our knit pattern is easy to learn. We have a nice supply of prayer shawls on hand and encourage anyone in the congregation to contact Marilyn Koehler or Peggy Granovsky if you know someone who is having a difficult time and might appreciate receiving a shawl. It is a blessing to be able to provide this ministry.



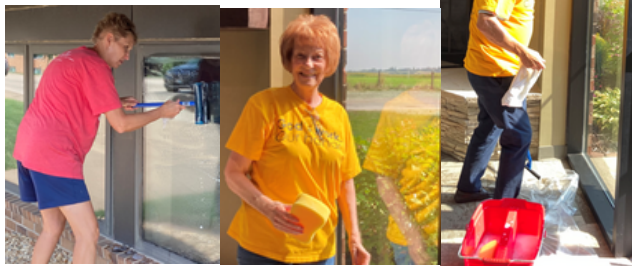
## Senior Lunch Group

Seniors (50+) are invited to join us for lunch at Kalmes Restaurant, 100 Main St., St. Donatus on Thursday, October 26, at 11:30 am. Please join us for food and fellowship. Carpooling will be available. For more information or to make your reservation, contact Peggy Granovsky. We look forward to seeing you.

*Thank you*

My family and I would like to give thanks to Lord of Life for hosting my brothers wake and memorial service. To Pastor Mark Oehlert for the wonderful service and eulogy. A big thank you to the "Church Basement Ladies" for serving the funeral dinner and the clean up afterwards. Last but not least a big thank you to Rita Dienst for all she did to make that day so wonderful, and on her day off. I am proud to be a member of Lord of Life ! I am continually amazed at the members of our church who spread the Word of God by sharing, caring and taking care of each other. Thank you and God Bless!

Sam and Sue Deaver



## November/December Worship Servant Schedules

Please Check your mailboxes for November/December servant schedule assignments. We need **VOLUNTEERS** to sign up for serving on Dec. 24 & 31. Please help where you can!





## Sunday Sept. 10 God's Work Our Hands Service projects



# Care in Our Community

## Time to Clean the Closet

With our cooler temperatures, you may find yourself cleaning closets or going through your drawers. Perhaps you will discover that you are tired of an old sweater or that the outfit that you purchased last fall just isn't as appealing as it was a year ago. Please consider making a donation to the Open Closet. Needed items at the Open Closet include men, women, and children's clothing, coats, boots, and shoes. Other items that are always helpful include bedding, blankets, and towels/hand towels/washcloths. Your donations may be placed in the plastic containers near the mailboxes at church. Please be sure that all donations are seasonal (fall and winter), clean, and in good repair.

## Hiway Cleanup Time!!

Lord of Life volunteers will again do a litter cleanup along the Northwest Arterial this fall. In 2002, we "adopted" a one-mile-long stretch along the last northbound stretch of road, on both sides of the bike/pedestrian trail. We do this twice yearly, in the spring and the fall. Volunteers will gather at 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 14 at the lower level of the church, be issued safety vests, trash bags and "grabber" tools, and carpool to the Arterial. The trash pick-up usually takes a little over an hour, and we can expect to be back at church by 11:00 AM. Details and sign-up are in the fellowship area on the table near the coffee bar. Or contact Steve Heer (563-451-8063 or [ssheer@mchsi.com](mailto:ssheer@mchsi.com)) with questions or to volunteer.



## Little Free Food Pantry

We are pleased to announce that Lord of Life recently received a gift in the amount of \$1000 from an anonymous donor who set up funds which are directed to the food insecure of the Dubuque area. We are grateful to this donor and have received funds from them in the past as well. Lord of Life is very blessed by generous gifts not only from the congregants but by donors such as this 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!



## Dubuque 2023 CROP Walk

This year's CROP Walk for hunger. will take place SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023. Note that this walk is again on a **Saturday**; not Sunday! Please consider joining the walk. Those walking will meet at EAGLE POINT PARK at 9:30 a.m. to register. Walkers can walk any portion of the route - pets welcome. See sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. CAN'T WALK? Please consider donating. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected will remain in Dubuque County and are distributed to the Dubuque Rescue Mission, People in Need (PIN) and the Dubuque Food Pantry. The remaining funds are donated to Church World Services (CWS) and are distributed world-wide for disaster relief, education, poverty, etc.

## Care in Our World

**"Water Is Life, Water Is Food.  
Leave No One Behind."**

October 16, has been designated as World Food Day by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations since 1979, as an opportunity to recognize our global food systems and raise awareness about hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This year's theme stresses the critical role that water plays for life on earth and as the foundation of our food. It also seeks to raise global awareness about the importance of managing water wisely as rapid population growth, economic development, urbanization, and climate change threaten water availability.



### No Gift Is Too Small

We will be collecting our quarterly offering for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal during the month of October. Remember, no gift is too small when someone has nothing to eat. Your donation can make the difference between a child going to bed hungry or receiving a nutritious meal.



### God's Work Our Hands

**Creating quilts for  
Lutheran World Relief**



# 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!

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