

Lord of Life

SEPTEMBER 2022 | THE LIFE LINE



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From Pastor Paul

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? - James 2:14

Engaging Your Faith

You'll hear that phrase a lot in the coming weeks and months. In fact, I'm proclaiming the next year to be our year of engaging faith.

Technically, we engage our faith each time we worship and serve and care for others. But I want to challenge you, especially in this year as we learn what it means to live in a world with COVID as a constant companion, to engage your faith in new ways. More intentional ways. An engaged faith has life to it, energy, participation in response to the wonderful gift of grace first given to us by God.



What might engaging your faith look like? I'm glad you asked! Have you ever spent time reflecting on your faith and how you practice faith each day? Some people keep a journal. Others love their iPad or smart phone with a notes app. Whichever your choice, start writing things down. How often have you participated in worship? (this can be online or in person) When have you prayed? How have served others? Have you cared for our church and its people, our community, or connected with caring for our world through our hunger appeals or in some other form of advocacy? These are all possible "engaging" options. More you say? Okay, okay. How about reading scripture? Write it down if you've done it this week. How about spending quiet time listening for the Spirit's words for your life? Hmm.... That one is a bit trickier for most of us since we often are too brain busy to do this one. There are tools to help you, though. Our very own Diane Frambach, now a spiritual director, shared some wonderful things in a class during Lent earlier this year. Our church library also has some resources, and of course I'm always happy to help.

But be careful!

An engaged faith leads you to an active participation in your relationship with God. It will turn worship into a life-giving, integral part of your life and not simply something you passively sit through each week. It will empower you to explore empathy and compassion more fully. You will find yourself interested in justice issues out of concern for and care for your neighbor (you know, the ones Jesus calls us to love?). An engaged faith may lead you to new ways of experiencing your relationship with God! Perhaps you'll try out a retreat or a new adult ed class or special offering during Advent or Lent?

So I challenge you. Yes you, dear reader, to engage your faith more fully in the months to come. I will be here to cheer you on and to lend assistance when needed.

In peace and hope,
Pastor Paul

From Our Council President

September tries its best to have us forget summer.

– Bernard Williams

As we move away from summer, there are several events & activities to note:

- Welcome back! Pastor Paul. And a very BIG thank you to Pastors Mark and Troy for their service during the summer. We are truly grateful for their willingness to adjust summer plans!
- Take a look at the rain garden! A small but mighty group has been planning, identifying plants, weeding, and generally having a good time getting the garden into shape. Moving forward, the plan is to relocate some plants in the spring and plant grass around the edges. Thank you to Megan Dahlke who, along with husband Dave & children Andrew & Evelyn, have spent many hours gathering information, creating a general plan for the garden and leading the weed control group in their weekly quest to tame the area! Many thanks to faithful workers Sandy & Steve Heer, Sandy Arp and Jenn Cartee who have lent their hands (and backs) to the project. There's room for more volunteers!
- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will be Sept 11. Review the article in this newsletter about fun opportunities. Lunch will be available at noon. This is a great way to re-connect if you've been away for a while.
- Over the summer, the Council has finalized revisions to the Bylaws. We will have a forum on changes to the bylaws on Oct. 16 followed by a congregational meeting on Oct 23 to ratify the constitution and amend the bylaws. Both events will take place between services.
- Finally, an opportunity to provide your thoughts on shaping Lord of Life's future. At the center of our church life is our mission statement, Loved by God, Sent to Serve. The past few years have certainly challenged the way in which we enact our mission. Last April, your congregation council came together to explore ways in which we should continue past traditions and ways to set new traditions. You may recall my April newsletter article asked you to ponder how our congregation's work has changed or stayed the same within the context of our three cares: care of the congregation, care of the community, care of the world.

In mid-September, you'll see 3 large posters in the gathering space depicting council's ideas as they pondered the following questions: what has changed? what has stayed the same? You will be invited to add your perspectives to the posters.

I pray that you will have a smooth transition away from summer! Susan Hansen



Fall Confirmation Information

Whether your child is starting confirmation for the first time or entering 9th grade and being confirmed on Reformation Sunday at the end of October, please fill out the [registration form](#). Please note that we take full participation and an engaged faith seriously as a part of the confirmation process. You will find helpful ways to ensure this on the newly updated form. Please return to the church office when completed.

For parents of 9th graders, hopefully you have seen the schedule which has been shared in multiple places and multiple times, but if not, please let me know and I will send it along.

We will have an informational meeting for confirmation on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00pm.

9th Grade Confirmation dates:

Sunday, October 2nd 6:00-7:00PM

Sunday, October 9th 6:00-7:00PM

Sunday, October 16th 6:00-7:00PM

Sunday, October 23rd 6:00PM Celebration Dinner for confirmands, parents, and mentors.

Sunday, October 30th - Reformation Sunday, the date for Affirming Baptism (aka confirmation).

Faith Formation Update

Maria
Troftgruben,
Coordinator for
Faith Formation



Sunday School

- **God's Work, our Hands Sunday, September 11th , 10am**
Help make birthday bags for the LOL Little Food Pantry. Join in decorating gift bags on the 11th or donate items to fill the bags. Suggested donations: cake mix, frosting, and candles, sprinkles, balloons, birthday plates and napkins.
- **The first day of Sunday School** will be September 18th . Prek – 2nd grade will be meeting in Room 2. 3rd grade to 5th grade will meet in room 4. Please have your children meet in their classroom.

Youth News and Events (6 th grade and up):

- **Confirmation Classes:**
 - o 7th/8th grade information meeting September 7th 6-7pm
 - Confirmation begins September 14th 6-7pm
 - o 9th grade begins Sunday, October 2nd 6-7 pm
- **7th/8th Confirmation Milestone**
There will be a blessing of our 7th & 8th grade confirmation students during worship on Sunday, September 11th . There is one worship service that morning at 9am.
- **September Youth Event: Bonfire and Bible Study Sunday, September 25th 6:30-8 pm**
We will meet in Pastor Paul's backyard to do a Bible study, enjoy a fire, and have some S'mores!
- **Upcoming events** (tentative dates and times)
 - *Sunday, October 9th 3-4:30pm bowling at Cherry Lanes
 - *Sunday, November 13th 2-3:30pm Games with St. Peter's youth at LOL
 - *Sunday, December 18th time to be determined Caroling and Cookies

Looking Ahead to Fall

- **Children's Bibles**
Bibles will be presented to 3-year-olds and third graders during both worship services on Sunday, September 18th . Please let Maria know which service you plan to attend.
- **Sunday School Registration**
If you have not completed a registration form for your child, please do so. There are registration forms for youth 6 th and up this year too.
- **Faith Formation team meeting Sunday, September 18th at 6:30pm by zoom**
- **Cross Generational Sunday School** will be the Second Sunday of each month. We will begin in October. All ages are invited to join us for growing in faith, connecting, and having fun. Never attended before? Now is the time to give it a try!

Care in Our Congregation

Birthdays and Anniversaries

After a brief return of birthdays and anniversaries to the newsletter over the summer, we will return to our policy of not including them in documents that are posted online. The council affirmed this position at its August meeting after discussing the issues of privacy and the risk of sharing information in a public way that could be used to steal the identities of our members. We will, as always, provide printed copies on the bulletin board in the gathering space, and of course you can request an electronic copy via email by contacting the church office. Thank you for your understanding.



Worship Servants

The schedules for September & October have been posted on the narthex bulletin board as well as placed in appropriate mailboxes with contact information for all servants. If you can't serve when scheduled, please switch with someone and let Rita know. Thank you!!



Do you like treats?

The coffee hour between our worship services on Sunday mornings offers us a great opportunity to informally connect with our friends. Most of us would agree that a few treats tend to enhance this time of fellowship. Please consider signing up to bring a treat or snack to share during our Sunday morning fellowship hour. You are welcome to bake something yourself or pick up a treat at the grocery store. Donuts, rolls, brownies, cookies, bars, bagels, etc. are all possibilities.



THANK YOU

To all who sent cards, offered food and prayed for me: Thank you for your kindness. I'm doing so much better in my recovery! Blessings to you all! From Sue Comer

Senior Lunch group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, Phil and I will be traveling in September, so we will miss the meeting on Thursday, 9/22. It's the first day of fall, but we feel confident you could still gather in the park that day. If anyone would like to volunteer to make reservations at a restaurant for September, I would be happy to help you publicize the event. As always, thanks for your input. We hope to see you soon. Peggy Granovsky

After a brief hiatus, the **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday September 10, in the lower level of the church. Together they 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!

2023 Altar Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for next year is up and located in the office on the wall by the door. If you wish to donate flowers for service(s) next year, you may sign up on your chosen date(s). (There are also 2 dates open yet this year: October 23 & November 13)



Mailboxes

Please check your church mailboxes for communication from the office! Servant schedules, altar flower envelopes, etc. Thank you!

Homecoming Worship & Celebration

Let's Get Together Again! Sunday, September 11

We hope your summer offered many smiles, good experiences and some memories to cherish.

Sunday, September 11, will give us all a great opportunity to come back together again and to kick off our fall programming at Lord of Life. We will begin with our worship service at 9:00 am. followed by several "God's Work, Our Hands" service and training opportunities for all ages from 10:00 am – Noon. We will then come back together to share a noon luncheon, generously funded by Thrivent Financial.

Please join us for part of the activities or all of them. Feel free to come to worship and return for lunch. **Most importantly, we hope to see you!**

You will find a display in the narthex at church listing all the opportunities available for Sunday, September 11th. Please sign up for lunch and any of the activities you plan on participating in. This will assist the Mission and Outreach Committee with their planning and preparations.

Thank you!

Care in Our Community

The Open Closet is one of the services offered under the umbrella of Almost Home. The Open Closet is located in the lower level of St. John's Lutheran Church, 1276 White Street. Clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, hygienic and other household items are offered free of charge to those in need on a first come, first served basis, on the first Saturday and the third Thursday of each month. All inventory is received through donations and stocked by volunteers.

If you have items that you would like to donate to the Open Closet, you may put your donations in the labeled tubs near the mailboxes at Lord of Life, and they will be transported to the Open Closet. All donations need to be seasonal, clean and in good repair. If you have questions regarding donations, or if you would like to join the group of volunteers from Lord of Life, please contact Sandy Arp (563-580-1771) or Sandy Heer (563-542-2606).



Open Closet Volunteers:

Left to Right: Phyllis Fishnick, Pat Friedman, Jan Helwig-Schrobilgen, Sandy Arp, Jayne Cate, and Sandy Heer Inset: Donna Bannon (Not pictured: Sally Fuller)

Camp EWALU's 35th Annual Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Online Sept. 19-25 Live at Ewalu: Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022 All proceeds from this event support the year-round ministry at Ewalu.

Apples for Students



Back row L-R: Sandy Heer, Phil Granovsky, Barb Lindecker, Grayden Grimm, Middle row seated L-R: Dale Schrobilgen, Jan Helwig-Schrobilgen, Front row seated, L-R: Pat Friedman, Nancy Davis

Mission & Outreach would like to thank everyone who donated to the Apples for Students program. We collected \$595.00 and it was delivered to St Mark Youth Enrichment Center. The needs are many at St Mark's and our donations are very helpful in filling the school bags with school supplies. In addition to our monetary donation, we provided approximately 166 water-color paints to St Mark's for the school bags. This donation was possible through the Thrivent Action Card worth \$250.00 which Mission & Outreach applied for and received.

Another big THANK YOU to the eight volunteers from LOL who gathered at Five Flags on Wednesday, August 10, to help fill the school bags. It was a busy day but one that opened our eyes to the vast project that St Mark's undertakes each year. St Mark's has expressed to me that they think we are amazing and they really appreciate our continuous support.

Care In Our World

BREAKING NEWS:



The fall **CROP Hunger Walk** is set for SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022. Yes, this year the CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022, starting at 9:30 a.m. through 12:30, at Murphy Park, 1700 So. Grandview. Lunch will be provided after the walk. Please consider joining the CROP Hunger Walk on this date. Funds collected are donated through Church World Services (CWS). For over 75 years, CWS has assisted communities responding to disasters and has helped resettle refugees, among other things, in the U.S. In some 80 other countries, CWS helps with relief, development and refugee assistance. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised also remain in our local area going to PIN (People in Need), Dubuque Rescue Mission and the Dubuque Food Pantry. During the month of September, I will have CROP Walk envelopes available for anyone who wants to walk (or sponsor a walker) for this worthy project.



Update from Grace Tindell on August 4

During this year in Spain, God has taught me a lot about patience and relying on Him. My time in Spain has been spent language learning and building relationships with people. This year, I started helping at an after-school program for children of immigrants. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and practicing my Spanish. I taught Sunday School at a church and have really enjoyed telling the kids about missionaries and about the Bible.

During this summer, I helped a high school group from the USA during their mission trip. During this time, I was able to have a conversation with Carlos, who is interested in spiritual matters. Please pray that I can continue these conversations with Carlos. Due to the pandemic and learning the language, I was limited in what I could do. Next year, I hope to do more as my Spanish has improved and more possibilities have opened up.





HOMECOMING WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

Join us on **September 11th** for our annual unified worship service at **9:00AM!**

Everyone worshipping together after a long summer

(and who are we kidding, a long pandemic!)

Celebrate the launch of Fall Faith Formation

God's Work Our Hands Service Projects to Engage Your Faith

Lunch Provided!!!!



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