

# Lord of Life

SEPTEMBER 2023 | THE LIFE LINE



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# From Pastor Karla

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and Jesus said to him, 'follow me.' And Levi got up and followed Jesus." – Mark 2:14*



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This is the verse which begins Dietrich Bonhoeffer's chapter 2, "The Call to Discipleship", in his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. I have been thinking about "discipleship" quite a bit lately and I usually end up with this book in my hand. (If you have this book, pick it up again and take another read, you will always find something new!) Here are a few lines from this chapter:

*"It is Jesus who calls...When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person. The grace of his call bursts all the bonds of legalism. It is a gracious call, a gracious commandment...Christ calls, the disciple follows: that is grace and commandment in one...Discipleship means adherence to Christ, and, because Christ is the object of that adherence, it must take the form of discipleship...The call to follow at once produces a new situation. To stay in the old situation makes discipleship impossible."*  
(pp. 61, 63, 67)

When we were baptized, we immediately became a disciple. Promises were made on our behalf and then those promises were affirmed at the time of our confirmation:

"You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the Covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

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 examples of Jesus,  
And to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?

The response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me." (ELW p. 236)

Being a disciple.... this is what I challenge us all to think about...pray about...how do each of us live, hear, share, proclaim, serve and strive? This will be our focus in confirmation class, and I would like it to be our focus, as a community, a congregation. How do we live out our faith: At church? At home? At school? At work?

As Bonhoeffer wrote, "the call to follow at once produces a new situation". We have been called to follow. What new situation might be produced for you? Think about it. Pray about it.

In peace and with aloha,  
Pastor Karla Wildberger

# From Our Council President

Susan Hansen

Dear Members and Friends of Lord of Life:

*"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."*

Jonas Salk



As I write this I have just returned from a trip through England and Scotland. I learned a great deal about the history of these countries, which dates back thousands of years. One of our stops was Stonehenge. This place has been occupied by people as far back as 3000 BC! The stones were brought up the hill and placed so that major seasonal events could be measured. By aligning the "heel stone" (a stone placed outside the circle of stones) with a stone placed in the center of the circle, ancient peoples could determine the longest and shortest days of the year. The change of seasons was important to decisions about planning, herding, and gathering in preparation for winter. They likely had no idea about the impact their daily lives might have on future generations.

Throughout history, people have taken great care to lay a good foundation for the future. All we can see is the end product of Stonehenge, but it was probably built over several years and with much discussion and experimentation. Small decisions added up to the final product that we appreciate 5000 years later.

As I viewed Stonehenge (and for that matter many other historical sites representing centuries of events) it gave me a sense of the small piece of history each of us holds. For us today, it's hard to imagine how the collective work we do now may impact future generations.

One small slice of our congregation's history is being undertaken by the work of the call committee. The committee's work is important and will take time. In August, the committee met several times. They continue working on the Ministry Site Profile, and this is where you can help.

The call committee is preparing to distribute a congregational survey. Details as to distribution of the survey are being finalized, but at the September 17th worship services we will begin the process with a blessing and prayer. Over the course of several weeks and through your participation in the survey, you will have the opportunity to provide your perspective on our next steps as a congregation. Surveys will be collected and collated to help build a picture of Lord of Life. This information will be included in the Ministry Site Profile submitted to the Synod.

As we all create our daily pieces of history, whether that be in our work as a church, in our professions, in our schools, or in our community, I ask that you continue to pray for our call committee and council members.



## September 10th Rally Day/God's Work Our Hands



Please have your child(ren) bring their **backpacks** to worship to be blessed. The school year has started; let's add another layer of prayer upon those backpacks on this day. We will also be blessing our Sundry School AND School teachers.

After the service we will be doing service projects together around the church.

**Sunday School** teachers and leaders are so excited for classes to begin on September 17th!!! If your child(ren) have attended Sunday School in the past, you will receive an informational e-mail with an electronic "registration" form. If you want to sign your child(ren) up, please e-mail Megan Dahlke (megan.dahlke@gmail.com) and she will get you all the information you need.



**Confirmation Class** will also begin on Sunday, September 17th. This year, the class will be held in between worship services. We will be concentrating this year about living out our baptisms... what does it mean to be a disciple? How do we live this?

It is going to be fun.... Pastor Karla is excited 😊

### Adult Faith Formation

As Sunday School and Confirmation kick off, so will adult classes. A big thank you to Steve Heer for helping organize this time. Please join Steve on Sunday, September 17th to hear about the schedule and to share ideas of topics to mull on this year. Please know that this time is welcome to all confirmed youth and adults – it is a time for spiritual support, fellowship and conversation.

Just as a heads up, as part of Adult Faith Formation, Pastor Karla will be inviting all adults to join the confirmation class on the 2nd Sunday of every month as we learn, together, what it means to be a disciple!

### Children's Bibles

Bibles will be presented to 3-year-olds and third graders during both worship services on Sunday, October 1st. If you have a three-year-old or third grade child interested in receiving a Bible, please contact the church office by phone or email. And plan to join us for a Cross Generational Bible Faithstone at 9:15 to learn more about the Bible together!

### ELCA Youth Gathering

Attention all parents and youth: if your youth will be finishing grades 8-12 in May of 2024, they are all eligible to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana. You can find heaps of information here: <https://www.elca.church/gathering>



Pastor Karla will have an informational meeting after she returns from her trip. In the meantime, please pray about attending this fabulous event and save the dates on your calendar. Pastor Karla has been volunteering at the youth gathering (in various capacities since 1997...and will be again in 2024) and wants to share this opportunity with LOL youth!!!



# Care in Our Congregation

## Livestream Services

Moving forward, we will stream only one service each weekend. If there is only one service, it will be livestreamed. For our regular fall schedule, the 10:30 service will be livestreamed. That service can be viewed at any time after its live airing via our YouTube channel, website or Facebook page.

## Worship Servants

We are always in need of servants to help with varying responsibilities. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, especially as we have visiting supply pastors and our Interim Pastor Karla now leading worship. Please continue to check the schedule in the gathering space or signup zone online to help where you are able.

Together we make worship happen!

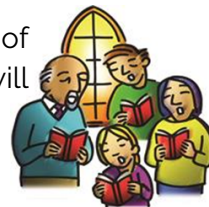
## Senior Lunch Group

On Thursday, September 28, the Senior Lunch Group will be on the road again. We will be enjoying lunch at the Potosi Brewery, 209 Main St., Potosi, at 11:30 a.m. Carpooling will be available from the church parking lot. If you have any questions or would like to make your reservation, contact Peggy Granovsky. Please join us for good food, fun and fellowship. Hope to see you soon!

## Men's Breakfast Group

We will meet at 8:30 am on Saturday September 9th, 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!

Fall worship times of 8:00am and 10:30am will begin on September 17th!



## School Supplies

In an effort to be good stewards of God's gifts, we would like to offer some school supplies that your children may need. As we are cleaning out closets in preparation of Sunday School, we have found an overabundance of items such as children's scissors, glue sticks, etc. These items are placed on the table outside of the office. Please help yourself to whatever your children may need for the upcoming school year (or crafts at home).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

The Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting the first Thursday of each month in the church gathering space at 1 p.m. Please join us on Thursday, September 7th. 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.



Remember to check the Narthex bulletin board for birthdays, prayer list, council minutes and financials.

# thank you

Dear Lord of Life Family, Lorice and I want to extend our great gratitude for all of the many ways that you showed us your love and appreciation as we parted with you. We love the clock, which is currently proudly displayed in my new pastor's study here. We laughed and cried as we read the many cards and notes you all gave us. Please know that you will all be in our hearts for the rest of our lives and that we give thanks for you and for the amazing years we shared. We will be praying for you as you search for your next pastor. In peace and hope, Pastor Paul & Lorice

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Lord of Life!!! We cannot do what we do without you. In July, you received your mid-year giving statements. If you've donated and/or pledged to the Share our Abundance campaign you may have received two pages. The page titled 'Giving Statement' was for **all** giving in the first half of 2023: including special funds and "General Fund". The accounts associated with the offerings are listed on the statement and are distributed to the specified account: 'General Fund' goes to the day-to-day operation of the church. The page titled 'Share Our Abundance Giving Statement' is for the 3-year campaign raising funds towards debt reduction. If you pledged and have a balance remaining, that amount was noted on your statement. This campaign ends 4/30/24.

Again, thank you for all of your time, talents and monetary support of Lord of Life.

## Care in Our Community

### Apples for Students

We collected \$951 for the Apples for Students campaign from Lord of Life members and this amount was forwarded to St Mark Youth Enrichment Center for their use in buying supplies for school bags they distributed this fall. Additionally, Sandy Arp received a Thrivent gift card which was used to purchase 120 binders for the bags! Thank you, too, to the eight volunteers who helped fill the school bags on Thursday, August 10. (See front cover) Over three days at Five Flags, volunteers helped fill over 3,500 bags for Dubuque area schools. Thank you LOL members for your continued generosity!



### Little Free Food Pantry Receives McDonough Foundation Grant

We are pleased to announce that Lord of Life is the recipient of a 2023 McDonough Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1000. The McDonough Foundation was created to honor Jim and Melita McDonough, a couple who lived in Eastern Iowa. The mission of this foundation through the course of the past 11 years has been to improve the quality of life in Eastern Iowa by supporting the work of other Eastern Iowa charitable organizations. We are both grateful and honored to be selected to receive this grant.

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!

## Open Closet

The Open Closet began accepting fall and winter clothing for women, men and children in August. Other items needed include shoes/boots, coats, bedding and towels. All donations may be placed in the receptacles by the mailboxes. Please be sure that your donations are clean and in good repair. Thank you!

## 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

## Continued prayers for the war in Ukraine --

O God, as war between Russia and Ukraine rages, we pray:

- For all in hiding, searching for safety...
- For those forced to take up arms...
- For all journeying to new lands, leaving behind homes and loved ones...
- For children surrounded by confusion and chaos...
- For those in Russia who bravely advocate for peace...
- For journalists risking safety to report on daily events...
- For those consumed by the power to dominate and control, that they are filled with compassion for all people...
- For the difficult work of diplomats, world leaders, and international organizations...
- For all providing welcome, protection, and sustenance to those who have fled...
- For medical workers as they attend to the injured...
- For all grieving those who have died...

In your mercy, receive our prayer. Amen.

(Taken from: Worship Resources for the Eastern Europe Crisis.pdf, ELCA)



Please continue to pray for the people of Maui and the Big Island that have had their lives disrupted by the fires. If you would like to give to help in the recovery effort, Pastor David Nagler and the staff of the Pacifica Synod, ELCA have set up a fund. You can donate here: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ82/campaign/C-149JR>

## **Summer Schedule ends Labor Day Weekend**

**4:00 pm Saturday in-person/online**

**9:00 am Sunday in-person**

## **Sept. 10 Rally Day/God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

**One service at 9:00 am in-person or online**

**Followed by service projects**

## **Fall Schedule begins Sept. 17**

**Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am**

**9:15 Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Ed.**

**10:30 service will be livestreamed**



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