

April 2020

LIFELINES

The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5601 Washington Rd. • Kenosha, WI 53144
E-mail Address: office@lordoflifekenosha.org Phone: (262) 656-1995

Peace be with you, people of God at Lord of Life. My hope is that you are finding hope, care, comfort and God's presence through our online worship, FaceTime Lenten worship, daily 'contemplations' and connections with staff and volunteers.

For the newsletter, though, I want to focus more on the challenge of being church during this time. It is hard to believe that it was just three weeks ago that the Council officers met to plan our March meeting. We decided, out of an abundance of caution we thought, that it would be a good idea to not offer wine during communion. One week later - just a week and a half ago, we decided to worship outside to avoid sharing germs. And as you read this, China, Italy and Spain are burying people by the thousands; New York City is scared - preparing, and praying in light of over 10,000 reported cases of Covid 19; and the state of Wisconsin is under a "Safer at Home" order. No one could have predicted this!

My question is, what do we do with it? What now?

Just to clarify, by "we", I mean our congregation - Lord of Life Lutheran Church. As individuals and families, we all have things to do that concern safety and well-being. But I'm wondering about how our community of faith responds to this.

For the past month, the Council has been trying to get into a book written by Peter Steinke, entitled *A Door Set Open: Grounding Change in Mission and Hope*. Given other recent distractions, I have to admit that we have not been particularly successful. However, a couple folks have found one of Steinke's observations both intriguing and disturbing. He writes:

To many, religion is a good thing, as long as it provides personal comfort and meets individual needs. Consequently, they want the church to double the offer—to give them not only a message of salvation but also the elements of a benefits plan, such as self-improvement methods, life-coping skills, satisfaction enhancement, and stress reduction. At best, the church is viewed from a consumer's view, especially as a provider of reassurance in tough times.

I think that "tough times" is a pretty good description of where we are at right now. And as I review the efforts of the Council, staff and myself in the past couple weeks, I think we have done a pretty decent job of adding life-coping skills and stress reduction to the message of salvation. This is all good. But I hope and pray that this is not all Lord of Life is about.

Lord of Life's mission, written years ago, is "to transform lives through grace by being an accepting, serving, and caring community, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in faith." During these tough times, I believe our invitation (or perhaps 'challenge') is "to transform lives through grace." But that invitation is not just for the pastor, staff and Council members - it is for the whole 'body of Christ' that gathers together - whether in person, or in spirit.

I invite you - or challenge you, if that is more appropriate - to be in ministry during these tough times. Reach out to support those who are isolated and in need. Call people and check in. See if you can pick up some groceries. Maybe you can help someone figure out how to get online. Take food to the Shalom Center. Designate funds to be used to assist people who have been laid off. What else can you think of?

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: "As I have loved you, so also you must love one another" (John 13:34b). So, what now? We have our marching orders: Love one another.

Peace, grace and love in these tough times,

Pastor Carol

SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

Pastor Carol Jeunette
- Interim Pastor
Angie Wollschlager
- Church Administrator
Connie Wittmus
- Administrative Assistant
Sue Quever
- Parish Nurse
Jodi Iorio
- Connections Ministry
Leader
Claudia Murillo
- Bookkeeper
Kerry Bieneman
- Music Director
Lynn Kancian
- Nursery Coordinator
Pat Skinner
- Financial Secretary

Church Council

Jackie McCarthy
- President
Joe Nosalik
- Vice President
John Meyer
- Secretary
Brian Lynch
- Treasurer
Kathi Strott
Sonja Wolfe
Liz Young
- Members at large

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Closed on Friday

Our Website

www.lordoflifekenosha.org

LifeLines deadline
The 15th of every month

Our mission is to transform lives through grace by being an accepting, serving, and caring community, empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in faith.



At this point we don't know if it will be in person or virtual, but we do still have plans for Holy Week worship. The times listed are only if we are able to worship together in person. Additional information will be shared via email and our website if virtual worship is still necessary.

Palm/Passion Weekend

Saturday, April 4th 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 5th ONE SERVICE: 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9th 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, April 10th 6:30 p.m.

**No worship service on
Saturday, April 11th**

Easter Sunday

April 12th 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.



NEW SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP TIME AFTER EASTER

Beginning Saturday, April 18th, the time for our Saturday evening worship gatherings is shifting from 5:30 p.m. **to 4:00 p.m.** This change is in response to the positive feedback we received at a meeting held after worship on Saturday, February 1st. We plan to try this out through the summer and then re-evaluate.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING; UPDATES TO OUR CONSTITUTION

Our constitution was last updated in 2015, and since then the ELCA has approved two updates to the *Model Constitution of Congregations of the ELCA*; in 2016 and 2019. As we update our constitution to conform to the updated model, we are also taking the opportunity to present two Lord of Life—specific amendments that have been recommended by our Council. See page 3 for more information.

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 2020, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. worship gathering

Topic: Approve amendments to Lord of Life Constitution

A Special Congregational Meeting is being called as provided for in section C10.02 of the Constitution of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This Special Congregational Meeting will have a single order of business: to approve Amendments in the Constitution as recommended by the Congregational Council, and to bring us into conformity with the 2016 and 2019 Amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. A quorum of 10% of voting members is required.

Some of the amendments incorporated to conform to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America include:

- Strike the words "ordained minister/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament";
- Strike the word "clergy" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament"
- Strike "synodical" and replace with "synod"
- Strike the term "the congregation" and replace with "this congregation" where appropriate

Lord of Life specific amendments are:

- C10.02 Change number of voting members required to call a special meeting of the congregation from 10% to 5%.
- C10.04 Change number of voting members that constitute a quorum from 10% to 5%.
- C11.02 Change term of officers from two (2) years to three (3) years.
- C12.02 Change term of congregational council members from two (2) years to three (3) years.
- C16.01 Change number of voting members required to propose constitutional amendments from 10% to 5%.
 - The change in Council term provides a better opportunity for continuity and momentum that will lead to greater effectiveness, deeper faith, and stronger ministry.
 - The change in the number of voting members that constitute a quorum aligns with what has become standard in many congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Copies of the full Draft Revision are available by request.

FEBRUARY 2020 FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Funds on Hand

Cash on Hand - General Fund \$20,638.28

Restricted Accounts

Youth Account \$5,352.58

Restricted Accounts Total \$12,321.04

MEMORIAL FUND	\$	8,630.54
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY	\$	1,318.51
HIGH FIVERS	\$	147.00
WOMEN'S TEA	\$	1,055.91
55 AND OVER	\$	120.00
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	\$	-
WOMEN'S RETREAT	\$	644.13
KINGFISH GAME	\$	(240.00)
COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS	\$	990.43
Scrip Account		\$4,501.42
Scrip Card Inventory		\$21,464.81

LIABILITIES

Credit Card Balance	\$	135.41
Payroll Withholdings	\$	128.85
Line of Credit Balance	\$	-
Mortgage Balance		\$1,198,238.00
Total Liabilities		\$ 1,198,502.26

February

YTD Income -	YTD Expenses -
YTD Income	\$63,479.16
YTD Expenses	\$58,108.70
YTD Revenue	\$5,370.46
MEMBERS GIVING YTD \$7,936.54 OVER BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD \$2,620.84 OVER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$713.92

For a more detailed financial report including line by line income and expenses please contact the Church Treasurer, Claudia Murillo at treasurer@lordoflifekenosha.org. Thank you!

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes: March 17th, 2020



Screenshot of our meeting, which was conducted online via Zoom.

Full report of minutes available by request.

- We welcomed the members of the Strategic Planning Team (Sherry Sinnen, Brianna Laabs & Aaron Sens) and discussed what was going to happen with the Zeidler report and what the next steps would be. It was agreed that we should acknowledge the receipt of the document, and recognize the effort that was put forth. An executive summary, using data from the report, will be created and the points have already been acted on or are currently being acted upon will be highlighted. Council will create the initial report then share it with the Strategic Planning Team for review prior to being shared with the congregation.
- Pastor Carol presented her report. She also reported that the staff had met yesterday. Unfortunately, due to the Governor's declaration that 10 or more people cannot congregate anywhere we cannot do outside services anymore. We will have to switch to an online format. We discussed having Wednesday Lenten services on You Tube as well as weekend services. As far as Holy Week, at this point, it's up on the air right now. Sue Quever and Kathy Sadowski were working on connecting with older more vulnerable members of the congregation to see if they need any assistance. There was discussion on ideas on how to connect with and help members of our congregation and community. We went over the details on who will be using the building. It was decided that the building is closed for the time being. We also looked at ideas to promote giving. It was decided that we raffle off a 25.00 gift card for new online givers.
- Financial Report: Brian reported that the numbers from last month didn't look too bad. There was an over budget on offerings in February. This is good news! Overall giving is now 53% due to Simply Giving. As far as the mortgage, the best we can hope for is a holding pattern, We discussed the details of getting a new AR loan. Also we need to do an audit. One hasn't been done in quite a while.
- Administrators Report: Angie shared an update on the replacement of the wireless microphone system, that is required due to the FCC selling off the bandwidth that our current equipment operates on. We will no longer be able to utilize our current equipment effective in July, however equipment manufacturers are offering instant savings now, that won't be available much longer. Angie did thorough research on this subject, obtained several bids, and got input from others in our congregation who are familiar with this type of equipment. The cost of the recommended equipment is \$4,775. The Memorial Team approved funding half of this cost and Council approved. We discussed how to come up with the other half and Scrip funds were suggested and approved.
- New Business: We discussed looking at the SCRIP inventory to see what we could sell off. As to the proposed Fund-raising Policy, there were no questions. Brian moved to adopt these policies and Sonja seconded. Motion passed. Brian said he would let the team know. Joe reported that the majority of people who donated to the furnace fund agreed to have that money go towards the building of a new shed. Liz brought up the fact that sometimes there was sewer gas emanating from the drains downstairs. Angie said that when you put water in the drains you don't smell it. The traps need water and due to low usage and high winds, it can evaporate. She said she would keep an eye on that. Joe suggested that we assemble a small group together to clean the Church. We need to find a time to organize this.

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung but we have all been practicing social distancing and are not gathering in our usual ways because of COVID-19. We are people that enjoy fellowship and connection with others. The lack of direct meeting with others can bring on stressful feelings. School and church functions have been canceled, weddings postponed, funerals downsized, and family/friends activities canceled.

It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis. Being able to talk to people you trust can help. Calling a friend or family member for support can really help!

Here are a few more tips to help you so you don't suffer while you stay home and cocoon either as you heal or quarantine from the virus.

- Maintain a healthy lifestyle including proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contacts by email or phone.
- Don't use smoking, alcohol, or other drugs to deal with your emotions
- If you feel overwhelmed and stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row, talk to your healthcare provider or counsellor
- Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching, reading or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting. (Put your phone down or turn your computer off and walk away for a while) J
- Help create new routines in your new environment especially if you have children home, including school/ learning as well as time for safely playing and relaxing.
- Respond to your child's reactions in a supportive way, listen to their concerns and give them extra love and attention.
- Take deep breaths, stretch, journal your feelings or meditate.

Here is more information about taking care of your behavioral health during an infectious disease outbreak: <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4894.pdf>

We care about you, you are important to us! We want you to feel support from your church family. We are praying for you. Many have read this scripture in times of peril and I pull it out when I feel anxious.

Philippians 4:6-7 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

Coping with the COVID-19 outbreak can stretch us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. God hears your prayers, groans, cries, and yes your fears. You are covered by God.



Shalom,

Sue Quever R.N., F.C.N.
AdvocateAurora Faith Community Nurse

The Ministry of Connecting and Caring
Needs You!



In this time of anxiety and fear, we as a church community need to hear from each other ~ to be reminded that God loves and cares for us, as does our church family. We are building a team of people willing to make weekly phone calls to our members and friends just to say hi and to check in. Would you be willing to do this?

Email Jodi at connections@lordoflifekensoha.org
or leave a voice mail at 262-656-1995

April 2

Jim & Lynn Cimfel

April 4

Robert & Sandy Aker

April 8

Tim & Camren Owens

April 16Brad & Wendy Haugstad
Jurey & Connie Wittmus**April 19**

Mark & Sherry Sinnen

April 22

Don & Bev Estes

April 24Ed & Tanya Brady
Lori & Brandon Booth
Joe & Jean Garretto**April 25**

Jeff & Tricia Winden

April 29

Karl & Jodi Erickson

**April Birthdays**

- 1 Michele Frese
- 3 Eric Larson, Colin Freitag, Allison Stanislawski
- 4 Megan Wilke, Barb Gray, Livy Schneider
- 5 Kristin Hulbert, Tom Sepanski, Jonah Hawlish
- 6 Laura Lynch, Ralph McCarthy, Riley Dutton, Sloan Hobson
- 7 Andrew Freitag, Mike Fisher, Timothy Arnold
- 8 Chad Relyea, Bill Taft
- 9 Nancy Haldeman, John Lynch, Bayleigh Tienhaara
- 10 Jeff Wollschlager, Ronald Daniels
- 11 Brad Haugstad, Caleb Swisher
- 14 Gordon Lake, Melanie Landro, Luke Bondus, Ashlie Hurlbut
- 15 Sue Schmidt-Decker
- 16 Jeff Winden, Emersyn Schneider
- 17 Lori Sullivan, Lisa Romano, Cathy Decker, Savannah Strott
- 19 Neil Kersten, Coralie Witek, Maggie Pomerening
- 20 Michaela Isetts-Williams
- 21 Grace Kleutsch, Helena Faraca, Brian Voss
- 22 Jean Garretto, Justin Weis
- 23 Kathy Prokes
- 24 Sandy Vidas, Jurey Wittmus
- 25 Cavan Paff, Victoria Hobson
- 26 Tyler Vogel, Trevor Norgaard
- 27 Kathy Dutton, Sydney Parker



Once we have a better idea of when we'll be able to worship together again in person, we will share a schedule of volunteers.





MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



Since our March Ministry of the Month was so affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue the same collection once we are able to gather again in April.

This month we will be collecting items for Safe Harbor Humane Society.

Some of their most needed items will be for the upcoming spring kitten season:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cat litter | Wet/Dry Kitten food |
| Kitten nursing bottles | Paper towels |
| Meat varieties of Gerber baby food | Dawn dish soap |
| Small aluminum pans | Digital thermometers |



Transforming lives through Grace...



Saturdays
5:30 p.m.
Contemporary Worship

Sunday Mornings
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship

WE WELCOME

- ALL** Races & Ethnicities
- ALL** Religions
- ALL** Countries of Origin
- ALL** Sexual Orientations
- ALL** Gender Identities
- ALL** Abilities

YOU ARE SAFE HERE




www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKenosha



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.