August 2020

The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church 5 6 0 1 Washington Rd. Kenosha. Wl 5 3 1 4 4 E-mail Address: office@lordoflifekenosha.org Phone: (262) 656 -1995

Thoughts and an Invitation from Pastor Carol...

A couple weeks ago, in-between leading online systems training sessions for first-call pastors (one of my other passions and jobs), I opened an email from a colleague and learned that another colleague and friend - Pete Steinke - had died of a heart attack the evening before. Pete, a Missouri-Synod Lutheran pastor (with strong ELCA connections), congregational consultant and author was one of my teachers through years of thinking about congregations as systems and developing skills to help troubled congregations move toward greater health. The Council has been reading one of his books, *A Door Set Open: Grounding Change in Mission* (2010).

My reaction to Pete's death has been interesting. Of course, I'm sad. Unexpectedly, the world and the church have lost a tremendous resource, and I have lost a friend - not a close friend, but someone whom I respect and who has always shown respect for my work. Pete's death caused more than grief in me, though. It stopped me in my tracks and made me think about my own mortality. I am 68 years old (my mother would be aghast that I admitted that!), and although I'm fairly healthy, I don't know how long I will live. In the days after Pete's death, I started asking myself questions: what do I want to - no, what do I need to accomplish before I die? How am I spending my time and using my gifts? Am I doing what I am called to do?

Through some soul-searching, several things have emerged. In relationship to my work with Lord of Life, I realized that since the pandemic began, I have allowed my focus to shift from helping the congregation figure out what is necessary to discern and move forward in mission to just figuring out how to "be church" during a pandemic. This isn't bad - it has been necessary during these months. However, it is time now to shift the focus back to using the gifts and skills I have to help prepare the congregation for future ministry - not just surviving a pandemic.

My question for you is: are you ready to do this work? This interim period is not a time to sit back and wait to see who the new pastor is. I'm not here as a 'placekeeper' pastor until you call a 'real' one. As my friend, Pete Steinke used to say to congregations he worked with, "I'm here so your suffering doesn't go to waste!" If you are ready to work, I'm all in. If not...

In his book, A *Door Set Open*, Pete used the term 'mission drift' to describe congregations that are "limping along without a focus." He continued,

It is what happens when people have forgotten what their objective is and are just going through the motions. To judge from my experience, congregations in mission drift will at some point:

- Engage in conflict
- Suffer a malaise of spirit
- Decline in some statistical manner
- Adapt to their most immature members
- Fail to mobilize people's gifts and energy
- Surrender to apathy or complacency

Continued on page 2 ->

SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

Pastor Carol Jeunnette

- Interim Pastor

Angie Wollschlager - Church

- Church Administrator

Connie Wittmus

- Admin. Assistant

Sue Quever

- Parish Nurse

Jodi Iorio

- Connections Ministry

Claudia Murillo

- Bookkeeper

Kerry Bieneman

- Music Director

Lynn Kancian

- Nursery Coordinator

Pat Skinner

- Financial Secretary

Church Council

Kathi Strott

- President

Sherry Sinnen

- Vice President

Lori Vogel

- Secretary

Brian Lynch

- Treasurer

Lisa McCarthy

Liz Young

- Members at large

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Our Website

www.lordoflifekenosha.org

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.

2 PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

- Do little planning
- Become turned in on themselves
- Blame outside forces (or perhaps one another) for their depression, and/or
- Be unable to make effective appropriate changes.

I believe Lord of Life is suffering some of the symptoms of mission drift. I think that the way to not waste the 'suffering' experienced in the last couple years, and to not waste the 'suffering' we are experiencing now as we are unable to be in the building in-person is to be intentional about using this fall to discern our mission, to connect more deeply with each other, and to practice working together as the people of God.

But - this will take work on your part. My call is to lead you in your work. The Council and I are asking for your commitment to participate.

Details are still being worked out, but this is the general idea:

- 1. Everyone in the congregation will be invited to be part of a small group that will meet virtually or through a conference telephone call (for those without necessary technology).
- 2. Small groups (8 10 members) will have 10 gatherings of 45 minutes between Labor Day and New Year's Day, 2021. Each group will schedule its own gatherings.
- 3. Each gathering will have a structure that includes a pre-written (by me) opening prayer, a quick check-in (highs and lows of week), a short Bible passage, one or two questions to discuss (about mission, gifts, etc.) and a closing prayer.
- 4. Responses to the discussion questions will be shared with me and the Council, and will be used to help discern and articulate the mission of the congregation as it moves into the future, and to begin to shape what is necessary to do before moving into a call process.

Sisters and brothers, Lord of Life has many gifts. I'm not sure about how much energy for mission remains, however. Between the pandemic and the interim, it would be easy to sit back and see what happens.' I believe that sitting back would be a 'waste of your suffering' as well as a waste of time (yours and mine!). And I believe that we are always called to ask ourselves the questions: How am I spending my time and using my gifts? Am I doing what I am called to do?" These questions are relevant all the time, not just when faced with an unexpected death.

God is calling this congregation to be in mission. Our response to that call - at this time - involves listening carefully to God, to our community, and to each other. My prayer is that participation in this project will be overwhelming - and provide a sign that God is indeed still active in this congregation.

By the way - I'm trying to come up with a name for the project. Setting Sail? Shifting the Drift? All Hands on Deck? Don't let the suffering go to waste? I'm rotten at coming up with titles, and am open to ideas.

Peace to you, my friends.

Pastor Carol



Thriving During a Pandemic Task Force Report

How does a church - the body of Christ - continue to be a church when by gathering together we run the risk of making each other sick? How do we continue to be a church when our gathering together and dispersing to home, work, the grocery store, sports and entertainment runs the risk of making our neighbors outside the church sick as well? How does a church thrive during this time? These are questions your Council has been grappling with since last March. In this grappling, the basic question has been this: how do we love our neighbors?

At their July meeting, the Council appointed a task force - the *Thriving During a Pandemic Task Force* - to study these questions and make recommendations on how to move forward. Task force members are Sue Quever (our Parish Nurse and chair of the task force), Joe Nosalik (former council member, police lieutenant and Public Information Officer for the Kenosha Police Department), as well as a member of the Kenosha County Covid-19 task force), and Pastor Carol Jeunnette. The Council has charged this group to draw on the best science available, as well as recommendations of local health officials and the broader church to develop recommendations on how we can continue to "be church" during this pandemic.

Below is the first draft of recommendations the task force has developed. Your email responses to these recommendations are invited (email covidtaskforce@lordoflifekenosha.org,). Responses received by Sunday, August 9 will be reviewed and taken into consideration as the task force finalizes these initial recommendations and presents them to the Council at their August meeting.

The *Thriving* task force requests that you consider these things in your responses:

- 1. Whether you are in agreement with the recommendations or not in agreement, please respond.
- 2. Please speak only for yourself and/or your household. Comments like "many people" are not helpful. If you are aware that "many people" share the same opinion, please encourage these folks to respond indi-
- 3. If you have questions about information underlying these recommendations, please check out the website page, https://lordoflifekenosha.org/covid-19-resources. If you still have guestions, please email them to the above address.

Recommendations of the Thriving During a Pandemic Task Force - Draft 1

- 1. <u>Building</u>: Through the end of September, 2020, the building will remain closed with these exceptions:
 - a. Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10:00 a.m. noon, members may purchase Scrip cards or drop off offerings or donations to the Ministry of the Month collection.
 - b. Ladies of Lydia may meet in the fellowship hall. There may be no more than 10 people in the room.
 - c. Anyone in the building when others are present is to wear a face covering.
- 2. Worship: Through the end of September, 2020, continue to worship using different genres: lawn, drive-in, Zoom-live and pre-recorded.
 - a. For 'in-person' worship, to the extent possible, also broadcast it live on Facebook and make a recording available within two days.
 - b. Explore the possibility of "phone-in" for all genres of worship.
 - c. For lawn worship mitigation efforts include social distancing (at least 6 feet between different family groups) and face covering. The willingness of the worshippers to follow these guidelines will be a factor in future decisions on returning to worship in the sanctuary.
 - d. For drive-in worship, one parking space shall be left between vehicles. Worshippers may sit outside the vehicle with the understanding there will be at least 6 feet between household groups.

4 TASK FORCE REPORT CONT.

- 3. <u>Faith Formation</u>: Through the end of December, 2020, there will be no meetings of faith formation groups in the building.
 - a. Sunday school leaders are working to move faith education for our children online. This will begin no sooner than the end of September. More information will be available soon.
 - b. Confirmation will be designed to be done online and with families.
 - c. Several online adult courses will be designed and offered, with the option to participate by telephone.
 - d. This decision will be re-evaluated in November/December to make decisions for January, 2021.

4. Other Recommendations:

- a. Sidewalk Sacraments: consider how to make Eucharist available to a larger number of people.
- b. Develop small groups that will begin meeting virtually after Labor Day. This will be a way to keep people connected, continue faith development, and deepen our ability to be church together during a difficult time.

This is a difficult time - which everyone knows. We yearn for connection and a return to 'normal.' There are differences of opinion on the level of risk posed by Covid-19, as well as differences in the willingness to risk exposure. I, (Pastor Carol), struggle with this. Are we being too conservative and fearful? The average number of daily cases in Kenosha County is 22 per 100,000 people, or .022% (July 27, New York Times). That number is so small. So why are we not able to meet in person, as normal? Are these recommendations too strict? These are factors that lead me to support these recommendations:

- 1. The reported infection rate does not reflect people who unknowingly carry the virus whether asymptomatically or pre-symptomatically. The average number of new confirmed cases in Kenosha County sounds very small, but that number is not reflective of the reality.
- 2. The average number of people that one person with Covid-19 is likely to infect is 2.5 (CDC). If 22 (of 100,000) are infected, and they each spread to virus to 2.5 people, that would raise the infection rate to 55 people. If each of the 55 people spread it to 2.5 additional people, that is 137.5. The next round would take it to 344 people, the next to 860, and the next up to 2,150. Keep in mind that the base number, 22, is the average number of confirmed new cases each day. It does not take into account asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people.
- 3. Covid-19 is an aerosol virus. It hangs in the air for a long time. When we meet at church, whether for worship, learning or fellowship activities, we share the same space for an extended period of time. It isn't like walking through the grocery store. We talk to each other which spreads the virus. We love to sing which spreads the virus. We share bread and wine which puts us in close proximity to one another. We do all this in a space that does not have windows that open sufficiently, which means we recirculate the air that may contain the virus. Churches have been identified as places where the virus is likely to spread.
- 4. Jesus said the greatest commandment is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt: 22:36-40). The command to love our neighbor means not putting our neighbors at risk especially when we have the capacity to gather, worship, learn and serve in ways that are safe. No, it is not ideal. But I think the small sacrifices we make to mitigate the risk of making each other sick especially those who may suffer greatly from this virus -are worth it.

Please, keep the congregation, your sisters and brothers In Christ, and the world in your prayers.



August 1st & 2nd

Pre-recorded video will be shared on Saturday

Saturday, Aug. 8th at 5:30 p.m. & Sunday, Aug. 9th at 9:30 a.m. Worship on the back lawn & Council Installation

Sunday, Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Parking lot worship (Chairs allowed near cars, as long as 6 foot distance is kept between family units/individuals.)

Sunday, Aug. 23 at 9:30 a.m. Zoom live from our homes

Saturday, Aug. 29th at 5:30 p.m. & Sunday, Aug. 30th at 9:30 a.m. Worship on the back lawn

September 5th & 6th

Pre-recorded video will be shared on Saturday



For students entering 7th, 8th and 9th grades - and their parents... This fall, confirmation preparation will be done at home and online. Details will be sent out in the next month.



Stay tuned for information about Sunday school - coming in early September.



Congratulations to Jessica & Steve Hupcher, who welcomed Erin Michelle on June 24th!





July 11 & 12 worship on the lawn







July 19 Zoom worship from home



COUNCIL'S CORNER



Some Questions

- · What, about God, are you most sure of?
- · What is the church?

Mortgage Balance

Total Liabilities

- · What is the church to be about?
- · What do you think this congregation might become?
- · What is "leadership" in the church?
- · What gifts do you bring to your position as a leader of Lord of Life?
- What is your prayer for the congregation? The council? Yourself?

The July 14, 2020 Council meeting was conducted via Zoom and included both the outgoing council members and the newly elected members. We welcomed new Council members Lisa McCarthy, Sherry Sinnen, and Lori Vogel and thanked our departing members John Meyer, Sonja Wolfe and Jackie McCarthy for their faith in the church and work on the council.

A major part of the meeting discussion was the handoff of information and progress from retiring to new council members and addressing the thoughtful slides shown below that Pastor Carol shared.

Council officers were also appointed, with Kathi Strott as Council President, Sherry Sinnen as Vice President, Lori Vogel as Council Secretary, and Brian Lynch continuing as Treasurer. At this time the Council also received the resignation of Joe Nosalik from the Congregational Council. Per the Lord of Life Constitution, the Council may appoint a member to fill out the remaining year of Joe's term. The Council will address this at its August meeting.

May we grow back - not to what was - but instead toward what we can become.

A copy of the full minutes are available by request.

JUNE 2020 FINANCIALS

1,188,984.19

1,214,363.65

ASSETS Funds on Hand \$67,777.06 Cash on Hand - General Fund Restricted Accounts \$5.132.58 Youth Account Memorial Account Total (ALL RESTRICTED) \$10,328.69 MEMORIAL FUND 6.292.54 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 \$9,403.32 Scrip Account \$16,348.06 Scrip Card Inventory LIABILITIES Credit Card Balance \$ 130.33 Payroll Withholdings \$ 134.13 SBA Loan - Forgiveable 25.115.00

June

YTD Income -	YTD Expenses -
YTD Income	\$185,566.57
YTD Expenses	\$157,857.72
YTD Revenue	\$27,708.85
MEMBERS GIVING YTD \$19,702.24 OVER BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD \$8,605.86 UNDER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$1,427.84

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!

Dear friends,

I can't believe it is already August, summer is almost over, and the national health observance is immunizations. It is important that you keep up with your child's immunizations, even during COVID. Various health organization are commenting that immunizations are down 50% this year. This is not good for the health of children. Immunization (vaccination) is a way to create immunity (protection from) some diseases. This is done by using small amounts of a killed or weakened germ that causes the disease.



Germs can be viruses (such as the measles virus) or bacteria (such as pneumococcus). Vaccines accelerate the immune system to react as if there were a real infection. It fends off the infection and remembers the germ. Then, it can find the germ if it enters the body again. We pray for a COVID vaccine to be available soon.

You might ask...what are the different types of vaccines?

- Killed (inactivated) viruses or bacteria are used in some vaccines, such as in (IPV) inactivated polio vaccine and the yearly influenza vaccine.
- Attenuated (weakened) live viruses are used in some vaccines such as in the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Toxoid vaccines contain an inactivated toxin produced by the bacterium. For example, the diphtheria and tetanus vaccines are toxoid vaccines.
- Conjugate vaccines combine a weak antigen and a strong antigen as a carrier so the immune system has a strong response to the weak antigen (such as Hib Hemophilus influenza type b) -babies and children below age 5 can get a lifelong disability or it can be deadly from this disease.



The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children get combination vaccines when possible. The good news is that many vaccines are offered in combination to reduce the number of shots a child gets.

Some vaccines may cause mild reactions, such as soreness where the shot was given or a fever. But serious reactions are rare. The risks of vaccinations are small compared with the health risks of the diseases they are intended to prevent.

Immunizations are one of the best means of protection against contagious diseases.

Fun Fact: There are over-the-counter personal pain relief devices that use cold to numb the area and vibrations to reduce sensation while a shot is given. The helpful tools are called Buzzy Bee Pain Relief System and Shotblocker. Both are rated high by parents because the devices distract the child before they even know they are getting an injection. I found both on Amazon. Where were these products when my boys were little?

Please keep wearing your masks, social distance and wash your hands! ©

Shalom,

Sue Quever R.N., FCN AdvocateAurora Faith Community Nursing Program

9 THE CONNECTIONS CENTER

COMMUNICATING OUR ENGAGEMENT

Tish Harrison Warren is a writer. Her story intrigued me. And to be completely honest, I wanted her advice on how she does it. Writing that is. She wrote early on. Since she was young, she had always felt the need to write something, anything, to get the words out. I was hoping she would spark a passion in me too. You see, I get that dreaded feeling every middle of the month when my article for our church is due. I have a struggle putting down my thought is a logical order. I love to read and when I find something that excites me and want to share, my mind just goes all over the place and my sentences read like mish mash. Ms. Warren inspired me in many ways.

She said when we write we participate in Adam and Eve's vocation in the garden: the vocation of naming. We give words to reality and through our words we shape reality. She said whether we write an essay, verse, or story, naming allows us to encounter a new and mysterious depth of relationship with the realities we name. These acts change how we experience the world-they change us. Tish Harrison Warren worked in campus ministry with graduate students and faculty at Vanderbilt University. In 2011, when the campus Ministry was in Jeopardy because of a broad statement about Christian beliefs. When conflict started spiraling around her, many of it not being true, she decided to write and remain neutral. Speaking the truth with love and humility. Through her blog and through essays, she wrote in the campus newspaper and made a case for preserving a diversity of viewpoints and ideas on campus instead of flattening differences by stamping out creeds and religious communities. In the end, she was kicked off campus with fourteen other religious organizations, which represented nearly 1,400 students. During that year of controversy on campus, she saw, in a very new way, the power of words. She was reminded that we are called to love others, so we need to talk and write about those with whom we disagree in terms they would recognize. She was moved by the scripture writing from Mathew 7:12, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." She knew her writing and words had to be used carefully and respectfully.

As I was reading my devotional for my morning, it made me think about what the skill of writing and speaking have in common. My devotional was on a reading in Exodus. God instructed Moses to gather the people before his holy mountain and have them wash their clothes and be ready for his direction in three days. I thought to myself, what a tough job Moses had! He had to speak words from God to direct the Israelites. God spoke only to Moses. Moses had to be humble, and wise as he chose the words to speak to the Israelites. Moses became a herald for God, moreover, he was also a leader.

A herald's words do not actually save anyone. Rather a herald's job is to be a messenger, to proclaim someone and something else. Ms. Warren writes, to be a herald is not only to learn to say a message but to learn to speak it contextually and improvisational, in the right way, at the right time. The goal of a herald is never to be heard or right. Ms. Warren taughtme in writing and speaking we must learn to cultivate depth. Furthermore, we must practice silence and listening. We must cultivate attentiveness and to listen deeply to others. "We learn in time and in community, through patient silence, listening, and prayer, to name the world truthfully, to herald our message, clearly and humbly." - Tish Harrison Warren.

(Inspired and paraphrased from "Uncommon Ground"-a book written and compiled together by Timothy Keller & John Inazu; Part two: Communicating our Engagement, the Writer, Tish Harrison Warren)

Even though we aren't meeting in the building, our volunteers are still a critical part of worshiping together—whether online or in person. Here are some ways you can get involved:

Outdoor lawn services or parking lot services

Lesson reader Assisting Minister Usher

(Hand out bulletins for lawn services, assist worshipers in finding an area to place their chair, or a spot to park their car.)

Greeter

(Hold a welcome poster, greet people as they enter the worship area.)

Health Monitor

(Keep an eye out for our worshipers for any signs of heat/sun related distress.)

Online/recorded worship:

Lesson reader Assisting Minister

If you would like to learn more, or sign up to volunteer contact me, Jodi Iorio, at connections@lordoflifekenosha.org

August 1

Herb & Jeanine Jantz Grant & Sue Quever

August 2

Matt & Ashley Hanson Joe & Cheryl Weber Chris & Jill Jeseria

August 4

Dan & Helena Faraca

August 5

Jim & Jan Niederloh

August 6

Cathy & Dan Mossman Brian & Kim Voss



August 11

August 14

August 18

Jerry & Lisa Romano

August 22

Bill & Becky Dorst

August 23

Jeff & Alyssa Dishno

August 27

Gordon & Jan Lake

August 30

John & Nancy Slye



August Birthdays

- Suzanne Hulbert, Janice Hysell
- Alyssa Dishno
- Cheryl Sadowski, Tim Van Berg Stephanie Thompson,
- Lori Capelli
- 7 Colton Schnuck
- 8 Becky Dorst, Mikenna Theisen
- 9 Elliott Sens, Isaac Sens, Joey Theisen, Clara Mayerak, Annabelle Berry
- 10 Brittni Bray, Sophia Hanson
- 13 Kathryn Barnhart
- 14 Charlene Clark, Hazel Guttormsen
- 15 Linda Agness, Tanya Brady, Keira Schroeder, Michael Witek, Tenley Barnhart
- 16 Jennifer Freitag, Leah Holloway, Bonnie Landwehr, Isabella Gardina, Kerry Bieneman, Kim Sly
- 17 Lou Molitor, Emme Smith, Jessica Hupcher, Josh Hiser
- 18 Jan Marrelli, Debbie Laurence, Wyatt Jeserig
- 19 Allison Grazier
- 20 Christopher Andres, Brooke Hyland, Jack Fisher
- 21 Paul Gifford
- 22 Warren Diemer, Adam Bieneman, Blake Norgaard, Linda Johnson, Lori Vogel
- 23 McKenzie Kugler, Kayla Rutkowski
- 24 Joel Kaufmann
- 25 Andrew Lake, Matthew Schneider, Walter Sarafin-Johnson
- 26 Sue Quever, Jenn Sinnen, Kristie Fowler
- 27 Emma Sexton, Jessica Claeys
- 28 Janet Gifford, Janet Swihart, Doug Terrell, Charlie Fisher,
- 30 Debby Gross, Trent Barnhart
- 31 Tracy Pavilonis



Eric & Trish Steffen

Dan & Kris Cresco Joe & Maggie Harmsen Bill & Rachel Taft



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.



11 MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

This month we will once again support the Grace Welcome Center.

They continue to serve breakfast each Thursday and Friday, distribute 140-160 boxes/ bags of food every Tuesday, and distribute diapers and wipes through their Diaper Ministry on Thursdays! Some suggested items to donate are:

Canned chicken/tuna
Canned stew
Canned soup
Canned spaghetti/ravioli
Macaroni & cheese
Fruit/pudding cups
Diapers of all sizes
Diaper wipes



Donations can be placed in the weatherproof box outside of church at any time. Or you can CLICK HERE to shop from an Amazon wish list and the items can be shipped directly to Lord of Life.











