

August 2021

LIFELINES

The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Come Together

♪ *It's been a long time comin'
With the pandemic and all
But Jesus now is callin'
His church to gather again*

*He, and she, and me and we
Walking in our mission it will set us free!*

Come together, right now, over Him ♪

Think the Beatles, Abby Road album, and no, these are not the original words. (Even John Lennon described the real words as *gobbledygook*.) Try the words above to the original tune.

There you have it! The Lord of Life theme for Fall, 2021: *Come Together*.

The past three years have been tough. Between pastoral change, conflict, the perception of a shaky future and the pandemic, too many of Lord of Life's folks have been hanging around the edges. This is the good news: Jesus is here, and Lord of Life is here, and you are missed! For those who have been on the sidelines - for whatever reason - it is time to come back together as the people of God here in the northwest corner of Kenosha.

In the Revelation to John, we hear the promise "See, I am making all things new." These words, written to faith communities undergoing suffering, continue to carry meaning and hope. They are not just the promise of "pie in the sky, by and by," but are the promise that God is with us, now, and that through Christ everything is continually being made new.

The question is - do the people of Lord of Life have the faith, courage and curiosity to walk into the new future that God is offering? I believe you do, and I invite and encourage you come together again to be God's people in this place.

So, what is the plan for this fall? The plan is to gather together for worship, for faith growth, for fellowship and for service. Some ways of doing that will be very familiar. Some very familiar things may be at different times. And some things are not going to look very familiar at all. This is all okay. Please know and trust that your leaders (including me, Pastor Carol) are using this time to do some experimenting - to see if there are more effective ways to be in ministry together. Some things might stick. Some things might not. Either way, God is in it, making things new. Our challenge is to try it out. Your challenges are to participate and to help make things happen.

Continue reading about our fall plans on page 2. →

SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

Pastor Carol Jeunnette

- Pastoral Consultant

Angie Wollschlager

- 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

Tanya Brady

- President

Russ Brewer

- Vice President

Brian Lynch

- Treasurer

Lori Vogel

- Secretary

Lynn Kancian

Lisa McCarthy

Rhiannon Urso

- Members-at-large

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

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.*

2 CONTINUED FROM COVER - FALL PLANS

Sundays: We will begin with one service on Sundays, at 9:00 a.m. This will be followed at 10:15 a.m. by Sunday school for all ages (assuming we have the volunteers to make it happen). When our average attendance at 9:00 a.m. worship reaches around 75, we will begin to make plans to add a second service at 10:30 a.m. Hmm.... Did you catch that? Sunday school begins at 10:15 and the second worship service would begin at 10:30? Yep! This is one of the 'new things'. Around 11:15 a.m., Sunday school children and youth will be escorted upstairs to join their parents for the Eucharist (communion) and the end of worship. (We may even work in a children's sermon during that time.)

Wednesdays are the BIG 'new thing'! We are calling them "Wednesdays with Jesus", and the plan is to begin with a simple meal in the Fellowship Hall, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. (There will be a small charge for this - to be determined.). From 6:15 - 7:00 p.m., we will have contemporary worship in the sanctuary. From 7:00 - 7:50 p.m., we hope to offer multiple options: Confirmation, Choir, Adult Bible Study and Homework Help. At 7:50 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary to give thanks for the day and send everyone home with God's blessing.

What about Saturday evening worship? It is still under discussion, but with just one pastor, it is a challenge. For now, the hope is that the contemporary worship on Wednesday evenings will reach our contemporary-leaning members. (If you are concerned, please talk with council members.)

Our Come Together Day is Sunday, September 12. *Come Together* for worship. *Come Together* for Faith Growth - Sunday school for children and youth, Faith Growth for youth and adults. And stick around to *Come Together* for a picnic (following Covid-19 precautions) and a special *Come Together* Beatles concert offered by our own Kerry Bieneman and a group of her talented musical colleagues.

Come Together - you are part of this faith community, and now is the time to be part of all that God is making new in this place.



You know the Sunday school song: *I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together....*

In the early church, the disciples and followers of Jesus banded together for ministry: to worship, to care for each other, to teach about Jesus, and to care for the community around them. There were no pastors, no paid staff members to make sure the newsletter went out, no youth directors: just the people of God, working together, committed to being God's hands and feet where they were.

With a staff to keep things running at church, sometimes folks assume that "all I have to do is show up and take advantage of all the opportunities here." That is a nice thought, but it just doesn't work that way. ***We are the church together.*** That means, if we are going to have a vibrant ministry - good worship, engaging Sunday school for our children, youth and adults, care and service inside and outside our walls - we all have to be part of it. We all have to step up to offer our gifts and help.

This fall, we are doing a "reboot" of our ministries. As you read above, there is lots going on. But it will take *you and me and he and she and we* to pull it off. Next week you will receive a link to a Ministry-Wise Sign Up site. There, you can sign up to help in many ways: serving for worship on Sunday or Wednesday, helping with Sunday school, helping with food on Wednesday evening, or being a homework angel, or making sandwiches for God's Kitchen of Kenosha (see Ministry of the Month on last page), or... (To prepare - check out Jodi's Sunday School page and see where you can help.)

People keep asking me, "Pastor, is Lord of Life going to make it?" My response is, "It will, if you respond to God's call to being part of 'making it.' God bless you as you use your gifts in this place!

Pastor Carol



Since last March, twenty-five people have been working diligently in the *Moving Forward Process*. They have looked into the recent and past history of the congregation, into the community, and to the future, with the purpose of discerning God's mission and future direction for the congregation, what potential stumbling blocks might be, and how to prepare to move into God's future.

This week, they are finalizing their reports and submitting them to the council. The council, along with representatives from each of the workgroups, will study the reports in preparation to meet in retreat later in August. During the retreat, they will clarify their understanding of Lord of Life's mission, put together a draft for the *Ministry Site Profile*, and gather other information that they identify as crucial for the call committee to consider when they begin meeting and interviewing pastoral candidates.

On September 8, the draft *Ministry Site Profile* will be sent out with the Wednesday email. During Sunday school on September 12 & 19 (10:15 a.m.) and at 6:30 p.m. on September 15, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss it. The council will take your comments, and develop the final *Ministry Site Profile* that will be sent to the Greater Milwaukee Synod at the beginning of October. Bishop Paul Erickson will be with us for a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, October 24 to review the *Ministry Site Profile*, and formally accept it.

During September, the Council will be collecting names of people who are interested in serving on the Call Committee. Watch for further information.

Lord of Life is *Moving Forward!* Thanks be to God!

What about Covid-19?

Hopes were high last spring! With the release of the vaccines, it looked as if we might get closer to normal. Unfortunately, with only about half of the population vaccinated, and with children not yet able to receive the vaccine, the risk of contracting and transmitting the virus - especially the Delta variant - remains significant.

The Covid Task Force has developed the following guidelines:

- Masks will be worn in the sanctuary during worship until the COVID infection daily rate is 2 per 100,000 for 2 consecutive weeks. If the rate rises in the future mask wearing will be reinstated.
- Masks will continue for the unvaccinated and children younger than 12 years old until further notice.
- Hymnal usage will may be resumed.
- Singing by worship leaders and congregation permitted.
- Individual communion elements (no baggies). Collection by ushers.
- Physical distancing in the pews continues.

Lord of Life has purchased several air purifiers, which we primarily used in the sanctuary, and will be used in Sunday school areas this fall. These offer another layer of protection.

As Christians, we continue to prioritize love of neighbor - even when this is challenging. Thank you for your faithfulness and love of neighbor.

August Sundays
9:30 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary



Wednesday, August 11th
6:30 p.m.
Contemporary Lawn Worship

Wearing a mask is an easy way to keep everyone safe, especially when children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, are in our midst and the Delta variant is running rampant. Therefore, at this time, we will continue to require that masks be worn, with the exception of when consuming the communion elements.

Bring a lawn chair and keep some distance between other family units or individuals. Masks are not required for our outdoor worship.

(If weather prevents us from meeting outdoors, we will move inside to the sanctuary, with masks required.)

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is my pleasure to bring you good news about our restart from the pandemic. As you all may have noticed, our sign out in front of the church has LED panels that are out. The original panels are beyond warranty and can only be replaced. We have been shopping for replacements and they are all coming in with quotes around \$20,000, which will actually be a full color display. This is our most outward facing part of our property that communicates to our neighbors what we are doing and at what times. In the hopes that we can reach out and serve our neighbors better, we have received a faith filled donation of \$10,000 to help replace the panels. We are extending this stewardship opportunity to all of you to help. We do have some funds from Memorial and Scrip to go toward this major repair and we are still about \$6,000 short. God has graced us all with his abundance so that we can share. This is an opportunity for you to share with your Lord of Life family and our neighbors as well. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution. You can send it directly to the church office or place an envelope marked in the offering basket.



Peace to you all,

Russ Brewer
 Stewardship Team

Confirmation is Coming!

Calling all incoming 7th, 8th and 9th graders and parents: Confirmation will be starting up in September. Here is the plan:

Sunday, September 19:

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.	7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Orientation; students and parents
6:45 - 7:30 p.m.	Reboot Youth Ministry: youth, parents, mentors
7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	9th Grade Confirmation, with parents and mentors

Wednesdays, September 22 - December 8 (except Nov. 24), 7th & 8th graders:

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	Dinner for all (if we have volunteers!)
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Confirmation

Wednesdays, September 22 - October 20, 9th graders:

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	Dinner for all (if we have volunteers!)
6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Meet with Mentors


One week, I would like to have 9th graders work on a service project, but this will need to be arranged.)

Sunday, October 31, Reformation Day: Affirmation of Baptism for 9th Graders

July 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Two of our members whose terms just ended also attended the meeting and they, along with the continuing council members, spent time sharing their thoughts on serving on Council for the new Council members. Some highlights of things shared are; "felt called to step up", "We need to be ready to step up and pull hard to those that are not here.", and "expect the unexpected...nobody told us we would be doing this during a pandemic."
- Pastor Carol then led a devotion on Romans 5:5, "hope does not disappoint" and asked each person to share where they saw hope. Some responses were; "increasing number of people around here and people being ready to act", "recovery from the pandemic", and "At some point people will start to feel that they "need" to be in person and BE with others.". Pastor Carol shared that she is hopeful that the spirit continues to work and that what will come is going to be beyond creative and beyond what we can imagine.
- The election of officers was held, with the result of Tanya Brady serving as President, Russ Brewer as Vice President, Lori Vogel continuing as Secretary, and Brian Lynch continuing as Treasurer. Lynn Kancian, Lisa McCarthy, and Rhiannon Urso will serve as at-large members. We thank them all for their leadership and dedication.
- Discussion was held, and a motion made and passed, to purchase five air purifier units to be used throughout the building. These units use ActivePure technology, which continuously disinfects surface and air contaminants. This technology currently is used in the International Space Station, the Ground Zero Memorial, the Cleveland Clinic, homes, offices and churches. For further information about this technology, visit www.clearrails.com.
- The replacement of the sign display was discussed at a previous meeting and it was shared that we have received a \$10,000 donation to be put towards this project. The four quotes received are all approximately \$20,000. Council approved approaching the Memorial Team for \$2,000 of memorial funds to be put towards this project and another \$2,000-\$3,000 will be used from Scrip profits. The remaining \$5,000-\$6,000 will be raised by a special fund drive. More information will be in the August newsletter.
- Much discussion was held regarding our fall programming and plans. Staff and ministry leaders will continue to finalize the plans and announce them in the August newsletter.
- Discussion was held on some of our ministry teams that need leadership. Russ Brewer volunteered to lead the Stewardship team and Tanya will approach some suggested names regarding leading the Property Team.
- Council reviewed and approved an addendum to Pastor Carol's contract, which goes through the end of the year. As previously agreed upon, her status and salary will move to full time beginning in September, for the remainder of the year.

JUNE 2021 FINANCIALS

ASSETS		May					
Funds on Hand		YTD Income -	YTD Expenses -				
Cash on Hand - General Fund	\$61,139.83	YTD Income	\$125,256.04				
Restricted Accounts		YTD Expenses	\$138,065.04				
Youth Account	\$9,649.59	YTD Revenue	-\$12,809.00				
Memorial Account Total (ALL RESTRICTED)	\$10,305.78	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MEMBERS GIVING YTD</td> <td>TOTAL EXPENSES YTD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2,479.32 OVER BUDGET</td> <td>\$3,823.21 UNDER BUDGET</td> </tr> </table>		MEMBERS GIVING YTD	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD	\$2,479.32 OVER BUDGET	\$3,823.21 UNDER BUDGET
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\$2,479.32 OVER BUDGET	\$3,823.21 UNDER BUDGET						
MEMORIAL FUND	\$6,367.54	ELCA Benevolence Paid \$4,916.65					
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY	\$1,143.51	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!					
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	\$12,587.57						
Scrip Card Inventory	\$15,710.00						
LIABILITIES							
Credit Card Balance	\$ 95.24						
Payroll Withholdings	\$ -						
SBA Loan - Forgivable	\$ -						
Mortgage Balance	\$ 1,162,850.18						
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,162,945.42						

Note that the YTD numbers are based on our annual budget divided by 12 months. We had several larger than usual expenditures early in the year, such as staff bonuses and extra donations to outside organizations, which cause the difference between income and expenses to look severely unbalanced. It will even out as the year progresses. We are so grateful for your continued support of our mission and ministry!

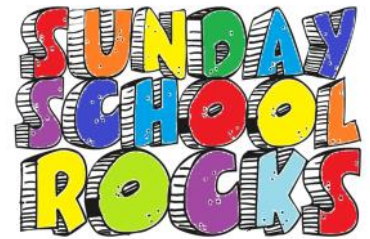




Sunday, September 12

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. Parents and kids meet downstairs in room 2/3. After the welcome and a blessing, the parents will move to Fellowship hall.



September 19th & 26th

Class at 10:15 a.m.

Measures to keep everyone safe will be enforced. Masks for children and teachers will be required, air purification will be used, and cleaning will be done regularly.

The September newsletter will have more information about a family worship experience we'll hold the first Sunday of each month, beginning October 1st.

Watch your emails for registration and the opportunity to sign up to help!



Communion Instruction

Class Date

Sunday, November 7th from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Celebration of First Communion

Sunday, November 14th during worship

We'll share this time together learning about Communion and what it means. This class offered to children beginning in 4th grade, to younger children whose parents feel their child is ready to receive the gifts of communion, or to older children who may have never attended the class, especially our 5th graders, who missed this class last year. At least one parent or sponsor must attend the class with their child.



By the middle of Third grade, students are no longer learning to read; they are reading to learn. We feel this is the perfect time to give them the most important book ever written. Third graders (and fourth graders who missed this class last year), and a parent or sponsor are invited to attend.

Class Dates

Wednesdays, September 22nd & 29th, and October 6th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Bible Distribution

Sunday, October 10th during worship

With the building now open, I am happy to see many of our church friends again. 😊 When we opened for worship in the sanctuary, we loved seeing our faithful raving fans. But, if you would come to the service and look around, you will also notice some faces missing.

A year ago I was making many phone calls and checking in with our congregation. We also had a volunteer team that made weekly phone calls. Back then, we heard the extreme opinions of people ready to go back to church at any cost and those who are not planning to come back for quite some time. I recently talked with someone who thought our church was closing! I am reminded that what we communicate represents Jesus and the gospel. It's common for humans to get caught up in personal feelings, opinions, and politics. However, as Christian leaders, it's vital to think about reopening from each layer by considering every ministry and how they'll be affected.

As I continue to make calls and emails, there are many families who will be honest and tell me that they need to get their families back to the church routine. And many admit that they kinda have gotten used to their Sunday morning's with their hot coffee and eating breakfast with their family. They are just exhausted with the weekly running out the door and that a "stay at home Sunday" is a breath of fresh air. I get that, I had three children too. They are now adults and they were brought up in church, just like I was. I pray that I have laid a foundation and continue to do my job as a parent to teach about church and community. I pray with every ounce of me that when they have kids, they will be bringing them to church too. It is how we get through life... to learn, explore and see God every day. Sunday is our recharge for the week...

I found an interesting article from Church Fuel about [a recent Gallop Study](#) that has found American's mental health ratings to have sunk to a new low.

Across the board, people report that they are doing worse this year compared to last year. It's the worst it's been at any point over the last two decades, with a nine-point drop from last year to this year. This didn't surprise me one bit.

HOWEVER...The ONLY group doing better?

People who attend religious services weekly.

Let this sink in for a minute.

- ◆ Men say they are doing worse.
- ◆ Women say they are doing worse.
- ◆ Republicans say their mental health is down.
- ◆ Democrats say the same thing.
- ◆ Marital status and income...all down.



But those who attend a religious service weekly have experienced a 4 percentage point INCREASE.

I'm convinced one of the reasons for this is the need for community of church gatherings. Church isn't just where we worship...it's where we worship *together*. Church isn't just where we pray...it's where we pray *together*.

No, our beautiful church is not closing, but we will need everyone's help to get everyone back! Our fall worship, Christian education, and serving our community has been planned out with lots of opportunities needing YOU! Please sign up to help and serve. Our weekly emails will include an opportunity to sign up.

Jodi Iorio
Connections Ministry Coordinator
connections@lordoflifekenosha.org

August 1

Herb & Jeanine Jantz
Grant & Sue Quever

August 2

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

August 4

Dan & Helena Faraca

August 5

Jim & Jan Niederloh

August 6

Brian & Kim Voss



August 11

Eric & Trish Steffen

August 14

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

August 18

Jerry & Lisa Romano

August 22

Bill & Becky Dorst

August 23

Jeff & Alyssa Dishno

August 30

John & Nancy Slye



- 1 Suzanne Hulbert, Janice Hysell
- 3 Alyssa Dishno
- 4 Cheryl Sadowski, Stephanie Thompson,
- 5 Lori Capelli
- 7 Colton Schnuck
- 8 Becky Dorst, Mikenna Theisen
- 9 Elliott Sens, Isaac Sens, Joey Theisen, Clara Mayerak, Annabelle Berry
- 13 Kathryn Barnhart
- 14 Charlene Clark, Hazel Guttormsen
- 15 Tanya Brady, Tenley Barnhart Michael Witek,
- 16 Jennifer Freitag, Leah Holloway, Bonnie Landwehr, Isabella Gardina, Kerry Bieneman, Kim Sly
- 17 Lou Molitor, Emme Smith, Josh Hiser
- 18 Debbie Laurence, Wyatt Jeserig
- 20 Christopher Andres, Jack Fisher
- 21 Paul Gifford
- 22 Adam Bieneman, Blake Norgaard, Linda Johnson, Lori Vogel
- 23 McKenzie Kugler, Kayla Rutkowski
- 24 Joel Kaufmann
- 25 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 Pavidonis



Congratulations to Daniel Kleutsch, who Affirmed his Baptism during a Service of Confirmation at our midweek contemporary worship service on July 14th!



LOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 9:30 a.m. Worship	2	3 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	4	5 7:00 p.m. AA	6	7	
8 9:30 a.m. Worship	9	10 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	11 6:30 p.m. Contemporary Lawn Worship	12 7:00 p.m. AA	13	14	
15 9:30 a.m. Worship	16 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	17 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	18	19 7:00 p.m. AA	20	21	
22 9:30 a.m. Worship	23	24 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	25	26 7:00 p.m. AA	27	28	
29 9:30 a.m. Worship	30	31 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia					

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Our August Ministry of the Month will be collecting items to make bagged lunches that we will assemble as a service project and will be distributed by God's Kitchen of Kenosha.

Our goal is to prepare 50 lunches, and need your help with donating these items:

Monetary donations or Scrip cards to purchase lunch meat, cheese, and bread the week before the service project date.

Individual bags of chips/salty snacks (example: Cheese Its, potato chips)

Fruit cups in 100% juice

16.9 ounce bottles of water

On-the-go drink packets to be added to water bottles

Pre-packaged dessert (example: Little Debbie treats)

Sandwich-sized zip-close bags

Then, on Sunday, August 29th we invite families and individuals to join us in Fellowship Hall to assemble the lunches immediately after worship. Watch your email for an opportunity to sign up.



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