

February 2021

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

Where Are We, How Did We Get Here, and What Next? Thoughts from Pastor Carol

It was late one evening last year, pre-pandemic. I had been at a council meeting at church and was on my way home. We live on the north side of Racine/Caledonia/Wind Point, and despite a lot of houses, it gets pretty dark. I wasn't paying much attention, and all of a sudden realized that I wasn't where I thought was. When I saw the "No Outlet" sign, I realized I had missed my turn toward home. I wasn't quite sure how- but there I was, trying to figure out where I was.

In November, 2019, when I came to Lord of Life, I think the congregation was in a similar situation. It had somehow lost its way - partially because of losing several pastors - partially because of conflict and differences, partially because the mission that had been central to its existence had gone somewhere else, maybe partially because it had not been paying much attention.

You were about at the end of a process with the Zeidler Center, one that had been contracted by Pastor Stacy, had actually gotten started with Pastor Adam after Pastor Stacy's departure, and had been completed after Pastor Adam's departure and around the time of my arrival. The process with Zeidler helped get some intense feelings and thoughts out. But the reality is that when Pastor Stacy initiated the process with Zeidler, its purpose was to help the congregation refocus on mission - on discerning it and figuring out how to move into it. A year and a half after those initial arrangements were made, when I arrived, that need was still there, but by then, significant conflict, anger, hurt, confusion, withdrawal and grief had made navigating the road toward discernment of mission much more complicated.

I knew I was walking into these challenges. These are the things I love to work with! And at the beginning of 2020, we were getting started on that work. (I realize there are folks who believed the best action would be to just close the door on the past couple years and move quickly toward calling a new pastor. But - trust me on this, folks - that would be like rushing into a new marriage a month after the death of a partner, or right after a divorce. Those relationships often don't work out really well.) My plan was to stand calmly in midst of the conflict, anger, hurt, confusion, withdrawal and grief - giving you space and some ideas on working through it toward healing - and then to move back toward mission discernment, and finally toward calling a new pastor.

And then the pandemic hit. The work on those challenges to navigating the road toward discernment of mission had to give way to the work of just trying to be church during a pandemic. To be honest, I don't know where you are right now in terms of challenges that needed to be worked through to get to discernment of mission. My guess is that you don't know either. But the reality is that it is time to move forward. God is calling. It is time for Lord of Life to respond.

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SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

Pastor Carol Jeunette

- Interim Pastor

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

Kathi Strott

President

Russ Brewer

- Vice President

Lori Vogel

Secretary

Brian Lynch

Treasurer

Lisa McCarthy

Rhiannon Urso

Liz Young

- Members at large

Office Hours

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

Our Website

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.

I believe that there is one gigantic factor that underlies all of the other challenges - and I believe you are very well aware of what it is: Lord of Life is not clear about its Mission. The congregation is not clear about why it exists, about what it is for, about what God calls it to be and do. Given the age of the congregation and the drastic changes in the culture, this is not surprising, nor unusual. But it is serious.

And all those challenges in the road - I believe that, at this time, a clear focus on discerning God's mission for this congregation will help you move past the challenges that had blocked your road a couple years ago. I think that a year of the pandemic has created enough distance and settled the emotionality enough that it is possible to refocus on mission. And I think that learning a little better how to deal with differences will also contribute to moving forward.

Later in the newsletter, you will read Kathi Strott's (Lord of Life Council President) article about *Moving Forward*, a process that I have designed, the council has adopted and the congregation is being invited to implement in order to prepare to call a new pastor.

The success of *Moving Forward* is dependent primarily on your involvement! This means that after almost a year of almost no volunteer opportunities - there are going to be opportunities - no, calls - for just about everyone! The Mission of Lord of Life Lutheran Church cannot be discerned by me - an interim pastor and consultant. It cannot be discerned by your 7-member council, nor by your staff. Nor should it be discerned by a pastor-to-come. *You* are the people of God at Lord of Life, and *you* are the ones who are called to listen to God, to look around you, and to discern what God is calling this congregation to do and be. *You* are called to work *together*, which means figuring out how to move past conflict, hurt, anger, withdrawal and grief. (If and when those things come up, I'll help you!).

You, together, are the faith community that is discerning God's call, and calling a pastor to walk with you and help you in your faithful and exciting future. Without your involvement in this process, very simply, it will not happen.

There are two "help wanted" sections in our newsletter today. Check out the article on "Lent in a Bag", and then figure out how you can help. The other "help wanted" section is underneath Kathi's article on *Moving Forward*. I'm looking for some folks with specific skills and interests as we develop this process. Don't worry if your skills don't mesh - there will be lots and lots more things to help with as we get going in early March!

At our last Council meeting, Russ Brewer, Vice President, gave his view of Lord of Life at this point. His analogy beats the one I used at the beginning of this article! Here it is:

I have been asking myself one question: Are we here to feed ourselves or do God's work? I feel we have gotten lost floating down the river of life on our inner tube. We got comfortable soaking in the Son's rays while we floated past the scenic shores. Being a passenger along for the ride. We have not been attentive to the flow of the river and the stream seems to have dwindled to a trickle, stranding us on the sandy river bottom.

Looking back upstream, we can remember a lot of good times, some shallows that took steering, limbs occasionally jutting out from the edges to avoid, smooth stretches, sunshine and gentle breezes. Along the way we have gained tubers and some have left the party. Now we seem stuck. Yet, if we look closer, we can see this is really just a large sand bar we're beached on. At this point, we could pack up our things and hike our way home for some other adventure another time and place, or we can pick up our tubes and move the 100 yards across the sand to get back in to the river current and continue the journey.

I'm not saying it's all easy current & sunshine, but I for one am going to pick up and move across this sand bar to continue the trip. There is work to be done and it's time we get back to doing it. So let's get up and continue on.

Amen, Brother. Amen.
-Pastor Carol

Pastor Carol has developed a unique structure for us to begin the call process. As she has told us many times, she is not here to tell us what to do, but to facilitate our discerning what God is calling us to do and be.

What is required?

- Clarity of vision: What is LoL for? What is God calling LoL to do and be in this time and place?
- Allowing the past to inform and support moving forward, but not inhibit it. (Grace & Growth)
- Connection, engagement and involvement of a broad group of members.



What are the tasks to be done to move forward?

1. Discern what Lord of Life has wanted/has been called to be "for" in the past. (History)
2. Discern what Lord of Life wants/is called to be "for", now and in the next 10 years. (Vision)
3. Discern what needs to shift in order to move toward that future. Prayerfully and intentionally begin that work. (Healing and growth)
4. Strengthen our sense of being church together

How will these tasks be done?

Four small workgroups will be developed and given specific goals and data to gather.

1. Looking Back to Move Forward
2. Looking Into the Community
3. Looking Into the Congregation
4. Looking to the Future

Then what?

- ⇒ Each group will submit written reports to council. Council and group representatives will meet and develop a Mission, Vision and our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP serves as the first impression that we wish to give to prospective pastoral candidates and is meant to be a conversation starter or introduction to the life and work of our ministry.
- ⇒ Meetings will be held to share the recommendations and confirm the MSP contents with the congregation.
- ⇒ The Bishop or an Assistant to the Bishop will visit and meet with the congregation to review the Ministry Site Profile before it is officially made available to be viewed by pastoral candidates.

The success of this process will be 100% determined by the quantity and quality of the participation of the congregation. Please prayerfully consider committing to guiding the future of Lord of Life.

We are Church! Let the work begin.

-Kathi Strott, President, Lord of Life Congregational Council

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Moving Forward has four workgroups, each with 4 - 8 participants, plus the Council - each working on specific tasks and discernments. The plan is to have them up and running in early March. However, as Pastor Carol puts all of this together, she is looking for few people with very specific skills and interests to help with the development and planning. If you are interested - or even if you just want to learn a little more, please email her at: pastorcarol@lordoflifekenosha.org.

The **Looking Back to Move Forward** Workgroup needs two early workers. First, someone who is very comfortable putting together spreadsheets (or even better - a database!). Second, a leader who loves to organize people and information - and perhaps has been around the congregation for a long time. This group will be delving into the history of the congregation and gathering lots of information.

The **Looking into the Community** Workgroup needs a leader who knows Kenosha well, and can help organize ways to study the community.

The **Looking into the Congregation** Workgroup needs a leader to assist in developing and leading a congregational self-study.

The **Looking to the Future** Workgroup needs a leader/reader to help choose several books on Mission, the church in the future and other resources that will help this workgroup develop a broad view of the future of the church.

**Sunday, February 7**

9:30 a.m. Drive-In Worship & Carside Communion
(If dangerously cold or snowy, we will switch to Zoom.)

Saturday, February 13

4:00 p.m. Contemporary Zoom

Sunday, February 14

9:30 a.m. Traditional Zoom

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Zoom Worship
Have communion elements on hand

Sunday, February 21

9:30 Drive-In Worship & Carside Communion
(If dangerously cold or snowy, we will switch to Zoom.)

Wednesday, February 24

Lenten Midweek Zoom Worship

Sunday, February 28

9:30 a.m. Zoom Worship

ZOOM WORSHIP INFO

When we gather through Zoom from home for any worship event, please note that you do NOT have to have fancy technology to connect with us. You can call from any phone—including a landline—and listen in real time.

We will always use the same link/meeting info/call-in number for our Zoom worship gatherings:

For connecting on a computer, smartphone or tablet:

[CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link or visit
www.zoom.us or use the Zoom app and enter:

Meeting ID: 222 163 2537

Password: Lutheran

OR

From any telephone dial (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 222 163 2537 followed by #

Passcode: 542413 followed by #



Dusty & Different: LENT 2021

Last year, Ash Wednesday was on February 26. I remember the service well, as we received ashes upon entering the sanctuary, and then wiped them from our foreheads before coming to the altar to receive the sacrament. We had two more weekends of worship, and two midweek soup suppers and Lenten evening prayer services before “the church left the building.” It was crazy as we tried to figure out how to be church outside the building. We continued through Lent and Easter - making it up as we went along.

This year, despite a long-shot hope that we just might be able to do Easter in the sanctuary, at least we know what we need to do. So, we can do a little more planning. This Lenten season will be different from anything you have done before. But it will be creative, and faithful, and meaningful! Lent will happen - even if we have left the building.

Central to this *Dusty and Different* Lent is our **Lent in a Bag**. Each family at Lord of Life will receive a bag with these supplies for Lent:

- ✝ A special ash cross tattoo for Ash Wednesday worship. We will apply them at the beginning of our worship together online. (This will be a ‘provide your own communion elements’ worship.)
- ✝ An overview of our Sunday *Biblical Broadway* themes.
- ✝ A weekly *Walking Dusty* devotional suitable for individuals or families, including a symbol for the week.
- ✝ A *Dusty Wednesday Evening Prayer* book to use with our “Holden Evening Prayer” worship on Zoom, each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Lent is a time to reflect on Jesus’ life and death, and to prepare for Easter. We remember that Jesus, after his baptism, withdrew into the desert for 40 days. Perhaps, in ways, it feels like we have been in Lent for the past year. But perhaps, as we look with hope to the future that is possible with vaccines and continued care, we can draw strength out of the wilderness that has marked our lives for so many months, and be better prepared to celebrate the new life of Easter. I hope you will *Walk Dusty* with us - beginning on Ash Wednesday.

In order to make this happen, we need you! Help is needed to stuff and deliver our Lent in a Bag. We’ll be packing the bags the weekend of February 6th & 7th and will need help delivering them to LoL families by February 14th.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up to help or leave a message for the church office; (262)656-1995.



Mission: POSSIBLE Recap

We thank all of you that participated in the Mission: POSSIBLE process for taking the time to meet with one another to work through this process of discovery. The Council has taken time to review your responses and discern the common themes. We want to share our findings with you all.

The first thing that is evident is that we all want to get back in to the building to worship together. We are all feeling the same discombobulation of COVID. Another thing that you all are wondering about is "What is the process moving forward" for Lord of Life. Everyone would like continued communication on what is going on and how things are progressing.

All of the respondents feel that we need to commit to a purpose. Going to church needs to be more than just being in the building. Purpose is something that a lot of you feel we are missing.

That being said, there are a lot of things you all like about Lord of Life. We like the community of great people, the faith and mission statements matching our beliefs, the welcoming and caring community, the family feeling and family atmosphere, the sense of community, and that we serve the greater community.

In reviewing all of this input it was clear that you all feel a strong sense of community and are searching for a path for the future of Lord of Life that includes a dedicated purpose. As the Council we are working with Pastor Carol on developing a path forward to calling a pastor and will continue to define our purpose to serve our community.

Blessings,
Council

DECEMBER 2020 FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Funds on Hand	
Cash on Hand - General Fund	\$73,894.16
Restricted Accounts	
Youth Account	\$9,649.59
Memorial Account Total (ALL RESTRICTED)	\$10,229.93
MEMORIAL FUND	\$6,292.54
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY	\$1,143.51
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	\$9,260.64
Scrip Card Inventory	\$17,566.76

LIABILITIES

Credit Card Balance	\$ 39.72
Payroll Withholdings	\$ -
SBA Loan - Forgivable	\$ 25,115.00
Mortgage Balance	\$1,174,994.51
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,200,149.23

December	
YTD Income -	YTD Expenses -
YTD Income	\$341,913.69
YTD Expenses	\$303,639.79
YTD Revenue	\$38,273.90
MEMBERS GIVING YTD \$9,029.82 OVER BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD \$31,367.21 UNDER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$4,283.52

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!



WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

The building may be closed but the church is not!!

January 10th Drive In Worship & Carside Communion



Thank you to our leaders & volunteers who bundle up to make this happen!



**January 17th
Zoom Worship**
We love seeing your
smiling faces!



**January 24th
Zoom Worship**
(This was originally scheduled as a Drive In worship, but the snow was still falling that morning and made it unsafe.)



Dear friends,

In the month of February, we focus on having a healthy heart. Did you know that people who have close relationships at home, work or in their community tend to be healthier and live longer? One reason, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), is that we are more successful at meeting our health goals when we join forces with others.



Why Connecting is Good for Your Heart:

- ♥ Feeling connected with others and having positive, close relationships benefit our overall health, including our blood pressure and weight.
- ♥ Having people in our lives who motivate and care for us helps, as do feelings of closeness and companionship.
- ♥ Follow these heart healthy lifestyle tips with your friends, family, coworkers, and others in your community and you will all be heart healthier for it:
 1. Be more physically active. Walk on a regular basis. Thirty minutes of activity - 5 times a week is recommended.
 2. Maintain a healthy weight. Find a friend that wants to reach or maintain a healthy weight and support each other on this goal.
 3. Eat a nutritious diet. Share low-sodium meals or recipes with a friend.
 4. Quit smoking. To help you quit, ask others for support, or join a support group. Research shows that people are much more likely to quit if their spouse, friend, or sibling does.
 5. Reduce your stress. Join with a friend or family member to do a relaxing activity every day, like walking, yoga, or meditation. (Use social distancing by using zoom, facetime, or outside activities during a pandemic)
 6. Get enough quality sleep. Family members and friends: remind each other to turn off the screen and stick to a regular bedtime. Instead of watching TV before bed, relax by listening to music, reading, or taking a bath.
 7. Track your heart health stats. Keeping a log of your blood pressure, weight goals, physical activity, and if you have diabetes, your blood sugars, will help you stay on a heart healthy track. Ask your friends or family to join you in the effort.

You do not have to make big changes all at once. Small steps will get you where you want to go.

Thank you, God, for the gift of community. Help us to encourage and support others. Inspire us all to care for one another and our own health.



Shalom,

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



February is Considered the "LOVE" Month

I started thinking about all my loved ones and how much they have impacted me and my life. How would things be different if I never allow those I love to mold and shape me? I am reading the book titled "One Thousand Gifts." It is also a video led bible study written by Ann Voskamp. She has our group practicing the routine of journaling our everyday gifts. On my first day, I took out my journal and listed my husband and all my family members and friends that I love. The next day I listed all the people who have meant a lot to me. My mentors, my co-workers, and my neighbors. Every single person has put a stamp on my life. I added one word next to theirs that was an example of how they live their lives and how it impacts me.

My "One Word" for 2021 is Eucharisteo. The book I mentioned above sheds light on what this word means. The author points out that in Matthew 26: 26-29, Jesus broke bread and offered the cup, He spoke this beautiful word: *eucharisteo*. Remember, the New Testament was written in Greek. Our modern English version uses the word *blessed or/ and gave thanks*. *Eucharisteo* means *thanksgiving, giving thanks...In the Matthew scene, Jesus offers thanksgiving for even that which will break Him and crush Him and wound Him. Interestingly, the root word, "charis" means grace. "Chara" means joy. This one word that Jesus spoke captures three distinct and powerful ideas. My favorite being that deep "chara" joy, can only be found at the table of thanksgiving.*

The author asks this question: What can we do to deepen and expand our thankfulness, joy, and experience of grace?

How about you give it a try...

By God's hand and kindness, we all know people who have revealed lives of *eucharisteo; grace, thanksgiving, and joy*. Reflect on your journey of faith by listing a few people - past or present - who have been models and mentors when it comes to living like Jesus. Now, list one word next to their name that reminds you of the examples they pass on to you.

1. _____: _____ 2. _____: _____ 3. _____: _____

Next, pause and thank God for the examples these people have shown you. Think of ways you can show others their example and let it continue to shape your faith and life. Finally, send them a Valentine card and thank them for being an example of *eucharisteo*.

Happy February my friends, keep love in your hearts...

Jodi Iorio, Connections Coordinator



Below are the words of a song that I just can't get out of my head right now. The song is called "Love Moved First" by Casting Crowns. Look it up on YouTube!

What kind of grace, relentless grace, would chase this rebel down
Crawl into this prisoners cage, take my hand and pull me out
You knew I couldn't make the change, so You became the change in me
And now I live to tell the story of the God who rescues

You didn't wait for me, to find my way to You
I couldn't cross that distance, even if I wanted to
You came running after me, When anybody else would've turned and left me at my worst
Love moved first

From the throne to the manger, from a manger to the grave
Your cross is the proof, love made the first move
From a grave meant to keep You, to a stone rolled away
Your cross is the proof
Love made the first move

I remember where You found me, I'm amazed by where I stand
Your cross is the proof
That love made the first move

You didn't wait for me, to find my way to You
I couldn't cross that distance, even if I wanted to
You came running after me, when anybody else would've turned and left me at my worst
Love moved first...



February 4

Dan & Cindy Lein

February 6

Scott & Amanda Hanna



February 12

Rob & Amy Wikstrom

February 14

Tom & June Pomatto

Chris & Rhiannon Urso



- 1 Becca Booth
- 3 Lauren Deschler, Joe Kaiser
- 4 Martin Haugstad, Trish Steffen
- 5 Ian McGovern, Katie Fisher
- 6 Sofia Rademacher
- 7 Liz Young
- 8 Sean Maddox, Steven Hupcher, Cooper Stark
- 9 Gary Stogsdill, Norah Landro
- 11 Jennifer Romano, Collin Steffen Elinor Cyzak
- 12 Sarah Kersten, Nora Schneider
- 13 Jordan Gardina, Karen Kinsman
- 14 Cayden Moran, William Klaus, Nicole Relyea
- 16 Samantha McGovern, Roger Wilde, Don Hurlbut
- 17 Dolores Arnett, Nikki Guttormsen, Todd Orland
- 18 June Pomatto, Blake Berry
- 19 Frank McDonald, Doug Kancian, Karen Stogsdill, Maya Emerson
- 20 Diane Pomerening, Jonathan Haigh,
- 21 Wilma Jenewein, Cody Iorio, Karen Falkenstern
- 22 Kent Bothe, Josephine Mayerak
- 23 Norma Lundstrom, Chase Moran, Jim Niederloh
- 24 Patti Molitor
Lisa Moran, Samantha Goodenough
- 26 Brendan LaBelle, Janet Koroscik, Sarah Rinke
- 27 Ryan Johnson, Lindsay Deinhammer, Logan Fowler, Gary Kovacs
- 28 Jack Owens, Benjamin Stanislawski

We commend to God's eternal care...

Joyce (Hill) Westerman

December 29, 1925 - January 18, 2021

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

Our phone-calling ministry is VERY IMPORTANT!

We are putting a larger team to call members on a bi-weekly basis to check in on them. Would you volunteer a couple hours a month to make sure your church family stays connected? You would receive a list of 5- 7 names to call twice a month.

If this is something that "calls" to you, please email office@lordoflifekenosha.org or leave a message on the church office voicemail, (262)656-1995.

If you haven't received a call, we may not have your phone number! Email or call the church office to update your information.



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Grace welcome Center

Helping Those in Need in Kenosha

Grace Welcome Center provides multiple means of support for those in need in Kenosha and we are providing an opportunity to donate to any of them this month:

Food Pantry

Each Tuesday evening the GWC Food Pantry distributes over 3 tons of nutritious food to over 140 families.

The food pantry's current most needed items are: jelly, mayo, tuna, and toilet paper

Hot Breakfast

Each Thursday and Friday morning Grace Welcome Center prepares a tasty hot breakfast.

The best way currently to support the breakfast program is with a financial contribution, as the breakfast meats and dairy products used are purchased each morning of operation. Due to the Covid pandemic, there is also an extra expense for the paper goods used for the carryout meal.

Shower Facilities

Separate showers for men and women are offered each Thursday and Friday morning. Along with showers, the guests receive a new t-shirt, new underwear, new socks, and personal hygiene products to help them stay clean.

Items needed for this ministry are:

- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Razors, Feminine products (pads & tampons)
- Toothbrushes, and Toothpaste
- Men's underwear size M,L,XL and Men's t-shirts size L & XL

Donations of physical items can be dropped off at Lord of Life during office hours (Mondays & Wednesdays from 10am—Noon) or placed in the weatherproof box outside of the doors closest to the sanctuary. We have also created an Amazon wish list, where you can purchase items and they can be delivered to Lord of Life: <https://a.co/cW1P1wo>

Monetary gifts can also be dropped off or mailed to Lord of Life, but please make checks payable directly to Grace Welcome Center.



www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKenosha

