

March 2021

LIFELINES

The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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This morning, for the first time in at least a couple weeks, I opened all the heavy drapes and quilted panels that have been covering most of the downstairs windows in our house. There is light! And even though snow still covers the ground, it is good. Icicles are dripping. Forecasts say it will be in the upper 30's all week, and there are no snowflakes on my telephone weather app until next Tuesday.

Okay. I know we are not yet out of the winter 'woods'. Snow in March is common, and even has shown up in April. But signs of warming bring hopes of spring. And hopes of renewal and rebirth are just what I need - what all of us need - right now.

It seems that the lightening of winter is coinciding with the lightening of Covid-19. No, we are not yet out of the Covid-19 'woods' either. Variants keep popping up, but the vaccine is being distributed. And at least some of the numbers appear to be on a downward trajectory.

One number - the total number of lives we have lost to Covid - has not decreased. Yesterday the death toll in the U.S. topped 500,000. As individuals, families, congregations, and a nation, we grieve the loss of so many loved ones. At the same time we give thanks for the tireless care of our medical officials, and for the development of a vaccine. We celebrate glimpses of hope, knowing we are not yet out of the woods.

Not only are things beginning to 'thaw' with the weather and the virus, things are beginning the 'thaw' - or shift in the congregation. For the first time in a year, we can begin to figure out how we can be together for worship, for learning, for serving, and for fellowship inside the church building. It probably will still be awhile - but there is hope. For the first time in a couple years, the congregation is able to begin to focus on how it will be part of God's mission moving into the future. This is the purpose of the *Moving Forward* project, which you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is a real sense of hopefulness in the air. This hopefulness, juxtaposed with the season of Lent, is interesting. During Lent, we move with Jesus toward the darkness of death and Good Friday. We know Easter joy will dawn, but intentionally, we sit in the tension and reality of our sinfulness. This year, having sat in the darkness for so long, I think it may be challenging to stay there. Glimpses of hope bring joy. And that is okay. Our God brings life out of death, and at each sign of new life, God must revel in our joy.

However, it also is fine to hang out in Lent. There is lots happening at Lord of Life during Lent this year. Biblical Broadway graces our worship on Sunday mornings. Wednesday Evening Prayer is a chance to refocus ourselves midweek - through music and reflection. Walking Dusty devotions offer a chance to again return to the Lord our God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Light is beginning to seep into some dark times - for individuals, families, the congregation, the nation, and the world. As we walk through Lent, let us give thanks, through Christ, for the continuing love and guidance of our gracious God.

Peace,
Pastor Carol

SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

Pastor Carol Jeunnette

- 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

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.

2 MOVING FORWARD: IT IS TIME!



Our *Moving Forward* process is ready to take off. And we, Pastor Carol, the council and the staff, hope and pray that you are ready to jump on board to be part of it.

During March, April, and part of May, four *Moving Forward* workgroups will be working to gather information about the history of Lord of Life, where it is now (and in the past couple years), the community around us, and possibilities for the future.

Facilitators have been recruited for three of the four workgroups. Each of the workgroups needs additional 'workers' - so please prayerfully consider where God is calling you to contribute. You will be able to sign up for a workgroup through the website, or by calling the church office.

The *Looking Back to Move Forward* workgroup, led by Sue Schmidt-Decker and Michelle Eisenhauer, will look back through the history of the congregation - beginning with the earliest thoughts about starting a congregation in the northwestern part of Kenosha. Old annual reports will be combed through to identify mission, strengths, things that got in the way of mission, and the major shifts of the congregation. This group will study and assess the history and effectiveness of the move from a "Pastor-Centered/Led" to a "People-Centered/Led" congregation. The idea is not to hash through old problems, but to learn from when things went well, and when things didn't go so well.

The *Looking into the Congregation* workgroup will do just that: look deeply into the congregation and how it has done during the past 3 - 5 years. It will look at all the ministries during this time, and gather information from the congregation on what went well, what got in the way of it going well, what might need to shift in the future. It also will delve into the report and recommendations from the Zeidler Center process that was done in 2019. Another task will be to begin to consider the important ministry tasks for leaders in the future. Facilitators for this group are still needed. (Contact Pastor Carol if you feel called to facilitate this group.)

The *Looking into the Community* workgroup, led by Lynn Kancian and Kathy Sadowski, will draw on some of the "Faithful Innovations" process the synod has put together. This involves exploring where God might be at work, and what God might be up to in the community (as well as in the congregation). It will involve careful study of our community - its needs and resources. The underlying question is: how can Lord of Life be part of what God is about in this place and time.

Looking into the Future is the fourth workgroup. These folks will spend time doing research: reading books about the changes and challenges of the church moving into the future, about mission, and about the context of the church. They will look around the community, the nation, and possibly the world to learn how other congregations are thinking about and meeting new challenges. They may even pick the brains of people in the congregation about what they think is important, and pick the brains of leaders of congregations that seem to be finding creative ways to carry out God's mission in their context. John Meyer is the facilitator of this workgroup.

Continued on page 3 →

What will this look like?

1. Each of the workgroups will have an initial meeting on Zoom. The meeting will begin with a time of "Dwelling in the Word". Next will be a more detailed description of the tasks of the workgroup. The workgroup will break into sub-groups that will be assigned one or more of the tasks.
2. The subgroups will meet separately to determine how they will accomplish their tasks. They will develop a timeline, and schedule "check-in" meetings along the way. They will report their plans back to the facilitators of the workgroup.
3. Before May 9, the workgroup will gather again as a whole to report on the tasks accomplished. (This may take a couple meetings.) They will then begin to address mission-related questions that are relevant to the work they have done. Responses to these questions will be put together in a report to be sent to the council by May 28.
4. Workgroup facilitators will participate in a day-long retreat with the council, during June. The goal of this retreat is to discern how Lord of Life is called to be part of God's mission *Moving Forward*. This group also will work on the Ministry Site Profile, in preparation for its submission to the Greater Milwaukee Synod, sometime in August or September.
5. Once the Ministry Site Profile is submitted, and the congregation has a Town Hall meeting with the Bishop, a Call Committee will be formed and begin its work. It will be important that the Call Committee is composed of people who have been integral to the *Moving Forward* process.

Some important closing thoughts:

1. Lord of Life stands right now in a liminal time - on the threshold to God's future for the congregation. It has been struggling with the clarity of its mission for a long time. Now, - between pastors and living through a pandemic - is the *time/Kairos* to look carefully at itself, its community, and how it will participate in God's mission of proclaiming the gospel to a hurting world.
2. The Ministry Site Profile could be put together by a small group of people - a Ministry Exploration Team. However, to move with courage and creativity and strength into God's future, the congregation needs to be part of the discernment and decisions. The strength of this process- its outcome - will be directly related to the involvement of the larger congregation.
3. God is here! Give thanks. Celebrate. Be an active part of this faith community. Thank you to all the faithful, creative and discerning followers of Jesus who will be part of *Moving Forward!*

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

To sign up for any of these Moving Forward workgroups,
visit <https://lordoflifekenosha.org/movingforward-1>


Wednesday, March 3

 6:30 p.m. Midweek Zoom Worship—*Walk Together*
Sunday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 10

 6:30 p.m. Midweek Zoom Worship—*Walk in Hope*
Saturday, March 13

4:00 p.m. Contemporary Zoom Worship

Sunday, March 14

9:30 a.m. Traditional Zoom Worship

Wednesday, March 17

 6:30 p.m. Midweek Zoom Worship—*Walk in Care*
Sunday, March 21

9:30 a.m. Traditional Zoom Worship

Wednesday, March 24

 6:30 p.m. Midweek Zoom Worship—*Walk in Love*
Sunday, March 28—Palm/Passion Sunday

9:30 a.m. Drive-In Worship & Carside Communion

ZOOM ISN'T JUST FOR VIDEO!

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 #



HELP NEEDED!

Deep in the tradition of the Christian church is the practice of praying the Way of the Cross, or the Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday. The objective is to follow Jesus' path on that last day, from the trial where he is condemned to death, to taking up the cross to carry it, to falling - all the way to his death. Often, "stations" are set up in a sanctuary with images of these specific points in Jesus journey on that day.

One of the variations of this devotional practice is done in communities. A small group walks from place to place in town, reads scripture about Jesus journey, and prays a special blessing for the people in particular places. And, of course, the group carries the cross.

Given the challenges of Kenosha this past year, wouldn't this be an amazing way to pray for this city?

Pastor Carol needs some help to create a variation of this devotional practice to be videotaped and shown during our Good Friday worship. Her idea is to choose particular sites in town that we want to remember in prayer, and then gather members of the congregation there to hear scripture, and pray. But, this will need both organization (as in, which sites, getting permission if needed, communicating to participants), and participation, and videotaping.

Anyone who is interested in participating, and/or planning, please contact the church office or Pastor Carol (pastorcarol@lordoflifekenosha.org), as soon as possible.



Have you ever noticed that the colors decorating the sanctuary change?
 Read more about it on page 8 and let us know if you'd be interested
 in helping form a team to take care of making these changes as
 the liturgical seasons change.

February 9, 2021 Council Meeting



The minutes of this meeting were not available at the time of publication, but the Council continues to work with Pastor Carol and our LoL staff to do the work of the church.

We continue to follow the recommendations of the ELCA and the Wisconsin Council of Churches on considerations to returning to in person worship. The Wisconsin Council of Churches revised recommendations, entitled "Holding Our Plans Loosely" can be found [HERE](#) or can be found on their website; www.wichurches.org.

We are so grateful for the faith and continued support of our Lord of Life congregation!

JANUARY 2021 FINANCIALS

ASSETS	
Funds on Hand	
Cash on Hand - General Fund	\$70,227.04
Restricted Accounts	
Youth Account	\$9,649.59
Memorial Account Total (ALL RESTRICTED)	\$10,230.10
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	\$8,258.05
Scrip Card Inventory	\$18,750.00
LIABILITIES	
Credit Card Balance	\$ 240.35
Payroll Withholdings	\$ -
SBA Loan - Forgivable	\$ 25,115.00
Mortgage Balance	\$1,172,704.73
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,198,060.08</u>

January	
YTD Income -	YTD Expenses -
YTD Income	\$22,821.19
YTD Expenses	\$26,688.77
YTD Revenue	-\$3,867.58
MEMBERS GIVING YTD \$1,673.81 UNDER BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENSES YTD \$1,688.88 UNDER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$2,583.33

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!!

February 7th Zoom Worship

Saturday, February 13th Zoom Worship



Sunday, February 14th Zoom Worship

Sunday, February 21st Zoom Worship



Behind the Scene of our Ash Wednesday Zoom Worship



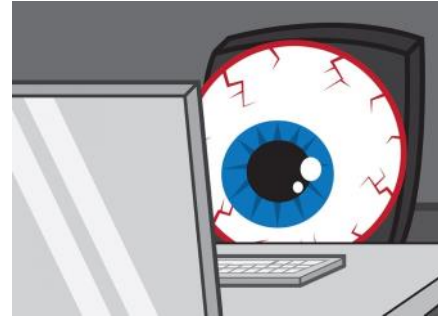
Dear friends,

The National Health observance in March celebrates "Save Your Vision Month" This health topic is ongoing as we spend more time in front of computers during school and work. While not everyone spends every day looking at a computer screen, most people do use smartphones. So, do screens make your eyesight worse? Well, the good news is that eye strain is not a long-term problem.

The American Optometric Association recognizes computer eye strain with the following common symptoms.

- Blurred vision
- Dry eyes
- Headaches
- Sometimes neck and shoulder pain

How can you protect your eyes from computer/smartphone screens?



ENLARGE TEXT



- Use the 20/20/20 rule – on the hour only look at the screen 20 minutes, then look at something at least 20 feet away from you for 20 seconds.
- Make sure your room is well lit. Less light in your room is better when you are working on a computer. Use lower voltage bulbs and make sure your ambient lighting is about half as bright as the average office.

BLINK



- Get regular eye exams
- Reduce glare on your computer screen. Use an anti-glare matte screen if you wear glasses have an anti-reflective coating
- Use high-resolution screens
- Reduce blue light – either use special glasses or reduce color temperature of your screen

ADJUST BRIGHTNESS



- On a smartphone lower the brightness when you are home or turn on automatic brightness settings to let your phone adjust depending on your environment. Increase text size to make reading text messages easier to read.
- View everything from your phone at 16 and 18 inches away from your eyes
- Turn the night mode feature on and your phone will automatically adjust screen settings depending on the time of day

THE 20-20-20 RULE



- Blink periodically to keep eyes moist and refocused as you use your tablets and smartphones
- Artificial tears can be an effective tool in keeping eyes comfortably lubricated

May the Lord bless and keep you. Continue to wear your mask, social distance and wash your hands. I am praying for you!

Shalom,

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

Thank you Nancy for 30 Years!!

What would our sanctuary look like if there were no color on the altar? Or no banners with words of wisdom and encouragement hanging on our beautiful brick altar wall?

Did you know that for each Liturgical season, the colors in the sanctuary change to represent the season? How many Liturgical seasons and colors are there? Nancy Haldeman will definitely know! If it were not for Nancy's faithful service of changing the linens and banners, our beautiful sanctuary would be bare and void of color.

We would also like to recognize the Ladies of Lydia, led by Nancy, who have faithfully created, sewn, and dressed the altar table with linens, and beautiful pieces of art that enhance the beloved cross that is the center behind the Altar.

Nancy has made many worship banners in her life! When I asked how long she has served in this Ministry, she didn't know. So we started counting and came up with close to 30 years!

Quite possibly our longest volunteer, who passionately served our Worship arts Ministry for around 30 years. Her love of sewing and creating has been her gift for many years. Nancy learned to sew around the age of 8 years old. She began sewing and creating paraments for the church in 1992. Nancy and her husband, Gale, are founding members of Lord of Life and Nancy served as the church secretary for nearly 20 years.



Nancy will continue to sew until she no longer is able and continue to lead our quilting group, the Ladies of Lydia. She also leads the funeral luncheon/dessert server team. However, she is passing the torch of "changing the linens" to our next generation. Connie Wittmus is looking for volunteers to create a team who will take turns "changing out the linens" and hanging up the different banners when needed. Connie is willing to train and schedule volunteers to take three turns a year. Please call the office and leave a message or email office@lordoflifekensoha.org if this interests you.

Thank you Nancy for your indescribable gift!! You have been a blessing to Lord of Life!



This banner, which is used for the liturgical season of Advent, was the first banner Nancy made for Lord of Life, in 1994. It was hung on the wall behind the altar in our original sanctuary, which is now the Fellowship Hall.



Thank you to the over 30 volunteers who sorted, stuffed, or delivered our Lent in a Bag to LoL families!



March 5Keith & Carol
Gumbinger**March 9**

Russ & Becky Brewer

March 21

Cliff & Norma Lundstrom

**March 25**William Paquin & Marsha
Dawson-Paquin**March 27**

Dick & Leslie Woods

March 31

Guy & Denise Sorgio



March Birthdays

- 1 Sandy Aker, Kira Schmidt,
Janice Daniels
- 2 Tammy Corrao
- 3 Sara Klimisch, Solan Degefa,
- 5 Jill Arturi, Danni Dunasky,
Isabelle Deinhammer
- 6 Adam Miller, Jean Walrath
- 7 Doug Swihart, Katie Lambrecht,
Warren Arnold
- 8 Linda Kramer-Betz, Barb Hess
- 9 Melissa Haigh, Melissa Retzlaff,
Levi Hobson
- 10 Dave Klimisch
- 11 Brad Baranowski, Anne Fuller
- 12 Luke Rasmussen, Dan Kleutsch
- 14 Brittany Kugler, Freya Guttormsen
- 15 Sandy Mikolas, Evelina Fisher
Zachary Quever
- 17 Josh Goodenough
- 18 Cynthia LaBelle,
- 19 Audrey Hartman, Chase Parker,
Kinsley Baranowski
- 20 Rhyen Larson, Scott Fowler
- 21 Greg Schaeffer, Axel Guttormsen,
Amber Addison
- 23 Paul Schroeder, Amanda Robinson,
Briel Weis, Charles Klaus,
- 24 Brendan Freitag, Joe Harmsen,
Mallory Kaufmann
- 25 Marsha Dawson-Paquin,
Barbara Chaparro
- 26 Greyson Lambrecht
- 28 Dianne Wilde, Joe Lanser
- 29 Jackson Van Pay, Karl Erickson,
Benjamin Mayerak
- 30 Bill Remiker, Dave Messenger

Beginning in March, with the exception of the week of March 15th, Pastor Carol will be in the office on Monday and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.



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



This month we will be collecting items for Safe Harbor Humane Society. They have been serving the Kenosha area for over 100 years and each year care for thousands of cats, dogs, and other small animals. In addition to caring for homeless, abused, and abandoned animals; they also offer many public services.

General Use Needs

paper towels	55 gallon black trash bags	thermometers	small, inexpensive buckets
hand soap	disposable gloves	Petroleum Jelly	Kitchen sponges (one side scratchy)

Cat Needs

washable toys	play tunnels	squeezable Cat treats	scratching posts
Non-clumping cat litter	litter boxes - just the pan, no covers	Digital kitchen scales - to keep weights on kittens/sick cats	K&H Pet products microwavable pet bed warmers (to keep abandoned kittens warm)

Wet cat food brands: Fancy Feast, Friskies, Wellness, Royal Canin

Dry cat food brands: Purina One, Hills, Iams

(Avoid dry food that shows a picture of multi colored pieces. The fewer ingredients the better.)

Wet kitten food brands: Royal Canin Mother & Baby, Fancy Feast

Dry kitten food brands: Royal Canin Mother & Baby, Purina One, Iams

Dog Needs

washable toys (no tennis balls)	poop bags	peanut butter	canned pumpkin
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Wet dog food brands: Wellness Grain Free, Natural Balance, Blue Buffalo

Dry dog food brands: Core, Wellness Limited Ingredient, Purina One, Blue Basics, Natural Balance

(Avoid dry food that shows a picture of multi colored pieces. The fewer ingredients the better.)

Donated items can be dropped off at church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, or brought to any of our Drive In worship services. We have once again created an Amazon Wish List, where you can shop and have items shipped directly to Lord of Life: <https://a.co/b5fFO5C>



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



www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKenosha