

October 2020

LIFELINES

The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5601 Washington Rd. • Kenosha, WI 53144

E-mail Address: office@lordoflifekenosha.org

Phone: (262) 656-1995

Being Church During a Pandemic

The clouds moved in yesterday, and the temperature dropped this morning. No more avoiding the fact that summer has passed and winter is quickly approaching. I have been so grateful for the weather this summer that has enabled us to worship outdoors, comfortably. But, the question that has been nagging at us is going to have to be answered: How are we going to worship, during the pandemic, when it gets cold?

My hope, of course, has been that we would get this virus under control, and be able to begin moving back into the sanctuary. There would be significant restrictions, of course, but at least we would be back inside the familiar, holy space. In reality, increased time indoors has been accompanied by significant rises in positive COVID-19 test results and hospitalizations. Unfortunately, this is not a good time to move indoors.

Here is the plan: As we move into the fall, we will begin to shift to Zoom-live and pre-recorded worship. The weekend of October 10 - 11 will be our last "Lawn" worship. On October 25, Reformation Day, we will have our last "Drive-In" worship. However, we will add "Communion Drive-Throughs" to the schedule once weekend a month. The famous Lord of Life Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest will be celebrated live on Zoom, and we are planning midweek Advent services with Pastor Carol's Contemplations. Also - plans are underway for a Christmas Musical Celebration.

Folks, this has been a long, hard haul. I'm tired. You are tired. We long to return to what was. We long for some relief - to hug each other during the peace, to share the sacrament, to sing with gusto. We will. In the meantime, we wait and hope. We know that God is with us. Out of God's love, we seek new ways to love our neighbors. We seek new ways to be church - together - even though we occupy different spaces. And we trust that God is bringing new things out of the old. Keep looking around you. Where do you see 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

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

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.

What is Next? Thoughts from Pastor Carol.

Although it was almost December before I got started at Lord of Life, the anniversary of my initial meeting with the Executive Committee of the Council is the first of October. At that meeting, we talked about what my role might be as the pastor for the interim and congregational consultant. Somehow, this year hasn't quite been what any of us expected!

I don't know if it is the pandemic or something else, but it is interesting that no one has asked me, "Pastor Carol, when are we going to start the call process?" To be honest, if someone had asked that during the past few months, I probably would have cried. Or laughed. Or just stared.

However, my purpose at Lord of Life is to help the congregation stabilize and consider what is needed to move ahead in mission. Granted, much of my energy over the past 6 1/2 months has been focused on stabilizing and being church in the midst of a pandemic. But it is time to shift my focus back to my basic purpose: what is needed to assist you to move ahead in mission.

The first step is embedded in the Mission: POSSIBLE process that begins this month. (If you have not signed up for this already, please email or call the church office now!). Connecting with one another is a significant goal in this process. However, just as significant is the goal of getting better at talking with one another about important things - especially when we have different ideas. There have been times in the history of this congregation when difficult conversations have devolved into significant conflict, or have never happened because people were too uneasy to speak up. As a congregational consultant, I see the Mission: POSSIBLE process as an important step in strengthening our ability to be together as the people of God, and to discern and move forward in mission.

After Mission: POSSIBLE ends, and after our Advent preparation and Christmas celebrations, the plan is to move into the Mission Exploration Process. This process of studying the congregation, the community, and discerning how we can participate in God's mission will take several months, and will produce the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Once the MSP is affirmed by the congregation, a Call Committee will be formed and their work will begin. My hope is to draw on folks who were part of the Mission: POSSIBLE process to spearhead both the Mission Exploration process and the Call Committee.

(A little aside: I am a bit concerned about how this process will go. Again, perhaps it is the pandemic, but I'm not sure where our leaders are. We have a few who are very committed, but even filling a council vacancy has been challenging. Leaders - please come forward and be part of this. We need you!)

Does the pandemic make this process a bit more challenging? No doubt. However, the pandemic might also be the nudge we need to broaden our lens a little on what it means to "be church." Who knows what future God is calling Lord of Life into? What role might we play in loving Kenosha? In speaking up where brothers and sisters are excluded? In being the hands and feet of Christ? Keep on praying, folks! God is listening. And God is calling.

In Christ,

Pastor Carol



Saturday, October 3 at 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Lawn Worship

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m. Traditional Lawn Worship

We'll kick off our Faith Together at Home Sunday School at both services and distribute materials and the first packet of supplies. In the event worship has to be moved to virtual due to weather, the kickoff will be held October 10 & 11. See below for more information.

Saturday, October 10 at 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Lawn Worship

Sunday, October 11 at 9:30 a.m. Traditional Lawn Worship

Pet blessing weekend—bring your pets to worship! See below for more information.

October 17-18: A recorded worship service will be shared on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday, October 25 at 9:30 a.m. Reformation Drive-in worship

*Decorate your car in **RED** as we celebrate and remember the work of Martin Luther and other theologians that came out of the Protestant Reformation. What a great day it will be remembering our Lutheran heritage and taking a look at where we came from and where we are going!*

If inclement weather affects any of our outdoor services, worship will be changed to Zoom from Home worship at the same scheduled time.



Join us for the 2020/21 Sunday School year as we get "Back to the Basics" through exploration of some of the foundational building blocks for faith formation.

Each week, families will be invited to review a key element of the practices and beliefs of our faith through selected Faith Together at Home devotions and activities.

We will kick off this Sunday School year the weekend of October 3, 2020 and October 4, 2020 when we come together for lawn worship. In the event of rain, the kick off will be rescheduled to take place the following weekend. A packet of supplies and information will be available for pickup on our kickoff weekend!



Pets in church! Each October, it is not unusual to see a stream of pets heading into churches around the world, in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis loved all creatures, from the larks flying around his hilltop town to the donkey that nudged him and his fellow monks out of their small hovel.

At our worship services on the weekend of October 10 and 11, Lord of Life will center worship on giving thanks to God for all creatures in creation. Our worship that weekend will be on the back lawn.

You are welcome to bring your pet to worship, and to receive a blessing. Pets need to be on a leash or in a crate. Please also bring supplies to clean up any messes they make. ☺ You are also welcome to bring a photo of your pet(s) if you're not comfortable bringing them in person. Please remember to keep at least 6 feet between you (your family) and others in worship, and wear your mask. (Also, don't forget your lawn chair and communion elements!)

Do you prefer to love animals from a distance? If so, no worries. We will designate part of the lawn for people and pets, and part of the lawn for just people.

That Sunday, we will also welcome a new brother into our faith community. Quinn Gonsalves will be baptized. What an amazing day!



Our office hours for October will remain Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. However, there will be a couple of exceptions in October to allow Connie to cover for Angie while she is out of town.

On Mondays, October 12th and 19th the office hours will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

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

September 19th Lawn Worship & Baptism of Brynlee Retzlaff



September 20th Lawn Worship & Baptisms of Erin Hupcher and Matteo Bilotta



September 26 & 27 Zoom Worship from Home

September 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

- Opening devotion time was spent reviewing parts of the ELCA's Social Statement, Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture and how we must have more conversations about this to become a diverse and inclusive church. The council members will review the full statement from the ELCA and discuss it further at the next meeting.
- Pastor Carol's Report: Shared worship plans through October, that several baptisms are coming up, and recommendations from the Covid Task Force. Discussions on moving back into the building can't be had until virus cases begin a downward trend. We will have to get creative for Advent and Christmas. We need more volunteers!
- Church Administrator's Report (Angie Wollschlager): Phone provider change-over is in process and will be a significant monthly savings. Our lender is still waiting for more direction from the Small Business Administration regarding PPP loans and applying for forgiveness. The loan we received is still considered a liability until it is forgiven.
- Treasurer's Report (Brian Lynch): We are \$17,000 ahead of budget on our expenses. Revenue is strong - about \$18,00 ahead of projection. We need to start thinking about creating a budget for next year.
- Old Business: Discussion was held regarding filing the Council vacancy left by Joe Nosalik and filling that position.
- Full minutes are available by request.



Thank you to everyone who signed up to participate in these important small group discussions. Watch for details on the group meeting days and times.

AUGUST 2020 FINANCIALS

ASSETS**Funds on Hand**

Cash on Hand - General Fund \$73,853.04

Restricted Accounts

Youth Account \$6,462.36

Memorial Account Total (ALL RESTRICTED) \$10,329.04

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

Scrip Account \$7,884.29

Scrip Card Inventory \$17,378.06

LIABILITIES

Credit Card Balance	\$	10.60
Payroll Withholdings	\$	-
SBA Loan - Forgivable	\$	25,115.00
Mortgage Balance	\$	1,184,365.71
Total Liabilities	\$	1,209,491.31

August**YTD Income -****YTD Expenses -**

YTD Income	\$239,376.40
YTD Expenses	\$205,560.06
YTD Revenue	\$33,816.34

MEMBERS GIVING YTD
\$18,382.22 OVER BUDGET

TOTAL EXPENSES YTD
\$17,778.02 UNDER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$2,855.68

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,

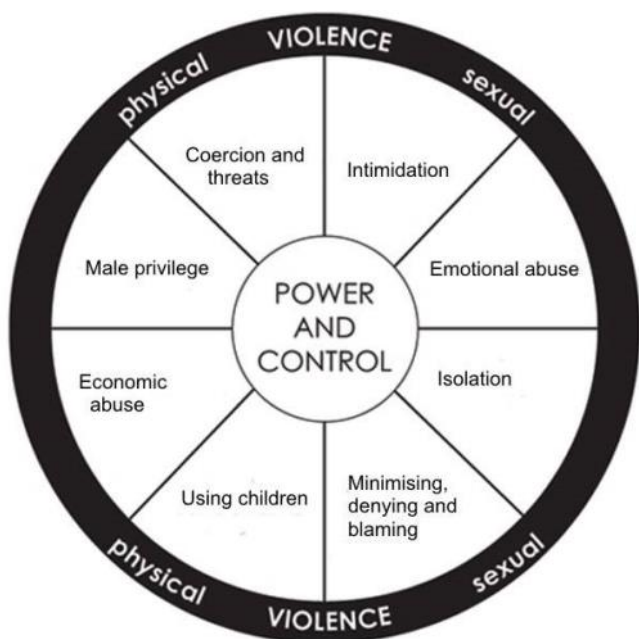
Pumpkin season has arrived as well as virtual/in person - family/friend fall gatherings. As we focus on October's National Health Awareness subject - Domestic Violence, we are reminded that there are people in society that struggle with unhealthy relationships and forms of abuse. Domestic violence can be described as willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and a patterned power and control by one intimate partner against another.

Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community. It involves various ages, gender, religion, race, economic status, sexual orientation, and nationality. The violence often is accompanied by emotional abuse and controlling behavior which involves dominance and control. Physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death can be the end result from Domestic Violence. The violence can cross generations and can last a life time without intervention and professional help.

You might think that this issue doesn't affect you personally but your neighbor might be suffering in silence. During COVID many people have been cooped up in a house of tension and possible danger. It takes caring and knowledgeable people to know the warning signs of abuse, to be supportive, and to be able to direct the victim to safe resources.

Some people get frustrated because there can be a long time lag between when someone gets useful information, support and resources and the time the survivors decide to act on it. There is more to helping someone than thinking they have to do what you want them to do immediately or at all. Leaving a domestic violence relationship is a dangerous process and can be lethal.

It's up to you to decide what you feel you can help a survivor with or not. It's just as important for you be safe. Your role is to help, not rescue them.



- 1) Listen.
- 2) Believe.
- 3) Don't judge.
- 4) Tell them it's not their fault. That no one deserves to be treated like that.
- 5) Remind them that they are not alone.
- 6) Do not degrade her/his abuser. It may take time for a survivor to learn to trust a person and feel safe.
- 7) Refer to Women and Children's Horizons advocacy and shelter services. (262-652-9900)
- 8) Respect the victim's pace and choices.
- 9) Make a safety plan.
- 10) Share what you feel you can offer. A car ride? Bus money? Encouragement?

Women and Children's Horizons (WCH) in Kenosha is present to help people navigate during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have many staff working from home, most will have access to their email. The administration office is open intermittently and the shelter is

open. Please call 262-652-9900 if you or someone you know are in need of services. They will try to serve some clients over the phone if possible. See the last page for information on our Ministry of the Month and how we will be supporting WCH.

Shalom,

Sue Quever R.N., FCN

AdvocateAurora Faith Community Nursing Program

My first drive I took downtown a week after the Kenosha tragedy that hit national news, took my breath away. I saw beauty amongst the ashes, including beautiful hand-painted artwork on boarded up business, depicting a world full of love, kindness, acceptance and beauty. I heard about the food and clothing going to families that lived in uptown, and downtown Kenosha where their business and homes burned. Human kindness is beautiful. It's the little things that can mean so much. I went searching in my folders for a story I heard and typed up a handful of years ago. It was a sermon I heard on the radio. It's about a small random act of kindness can make a difference. Find kindness in your heart and share it every day!

- Jodi Iorio, Connections Ministry Coordinator
connections@lordoflifekenosha.org

The Virtue of Kindness

A Cab driver arrived at 2am to a dark downtown building with one ground floor light on in one window. The cab driver decided that night he needed to ring the doorbell instead of honk the horn, which he often did. He didn't know what prompted him to get out tonight and ring the door bell, but he did. He heard a frail elderly voice say, "Just a moment." When the door opened, the elderly woman had a small nylon suitcase. She asked him politely, if he could carry it for her. She grabbed his arm and slowly walked with him to the cab. She thanked him profusely as he helped her in the car. As we were pulling away and she gave me her destination address, she meekly asked if I would please drive through downtown. I told her I know a shorter way that was much faster, but she said that's ok, I am not in a hurry anyway. "You see I am heading to a hospice house", she said. "I don't have any family left and the Doctor said I don't have very long." I reached over and shut off my meter and started driving through downtown. For two hours we drove all over the city, She showed me the post office where she worked for many years. She had me drive past her first home that her and her Husband lived. We passed an old abandoned building that use to be their favorite. She pointed out many restaurants that they enjoyed for their Friday night dates. She had me pull in front of another dark building that she just stared and said nothing. As the first light of sunlight came upon the horizon, she said, "Ok, I am ready, let's go now." We drove in silence to the address she had given me. As we pulled up, two orderlies came out with a wheel chair and helped the elderly lady in the chair to wheel her inside. I opened the trunk and grabbed the suitcase. She asked, "What do I owe you?" The cab driver told her that she owed him nothing and unexpectedly bent over and gave her a hug. She held on to him tightly and said, "You gave an old women, a little bit of joy, thank you."

As the cab driver got back into his cab, the slam of the door of the building haunted him all day long. It was the sound of a closing of life. As his day carried on, he could not stop thinking about the elderly lady that he had picked up at 2:30 in the morning. What if it would have been a different driver? One that would not have waited, or one that was either angry or impatient. The cab driver decided that he has never done anything more important than what he did for that little old lady. To extend his kindness. It was that easy. -This story is taken from Kent Nerburn's book, "Make Me an Instrument of your Peace: Living in the Spirit of the Prayer of St. Francis".

There is one thing that we all have in common, and that is, we all have been mistreated by somebody. Others worse than I can even imagine. Those things have a way of siphoning off your tank of kindness. But don't let it. Revenge isn't healthy, and never heals a wound. It can make you hard. Be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving one another. When you are truly free of revenge and bitterness, there will be plenty of room left for kindness.

What are some kind words or phrases to encourage someone can you tell someone today? What kind actions that may mean the world to someone will you do tomorrow?

October 1

Jeff & Suzanne Hulbert

October 2

Jim & Jill Arturi

October 5Ralph & Lisa McCarthy
Doug & Cindy Terrell**October 7**John & Roberta Bloner
Damon & Melanie Landro
Marty & Karen Knight**October 8**

Matt & Kerry Bieneman

October 9

Felma & Doni Degefa

October 12

Tory & Meghan Bilotta

**October 15**Bill & Julie Chase
Steve & Patsy Kolner
Jack & Cheryl Kasdorf**October 16**Dave & Stephanie Paff
Dan & Kristi Kleutsch
Jonathan & Melissa Haigh
Jeff & Angie Wollschlager**October 19**Trevor & Brianne
Norgaard**October 20**

Mac & Cheryl McCoy

October 21Tom & Amy Hyland
Scott & Judi Johnson**October 22**

Eugene & Lori Capelli

October 25Dave & Alice Messenger
James & Deanna Hawlish**October 27**

Matt & Katy Schneider

October 29

Trent & Kathryn Barnhart



- 1 Abby Swihart, Brianne Norgaard
- 2 Lily Erickson, Kelly Wegmuller, Renee Schnuck
- 4 Bev Estes, Cathy Mossman, Christopher Urso
- 5 Savannah Moran
- 7 Carol Gumbinger, Gianna Romano
- 8 Jeff Wamboldt, Cheryl McCoy, DeEtta Iverson, Emma Brewer, Beth Smith
- 9 Denise Sorgio, Libby Nelsen, Karl Paff, Melissa Luebbers, Quinn Gonsalves
- 10 Gloria Cottingham
- 13 Kim Skendziel, Amber Walentowski
- 14 David Claeys, Rick Walentowski, Avriel Frese
- 15 Scott Hanna, Eric Steffen
- 16 Carrie Anderson, Demarcus Fowler
- 17 Samuel Schneider
- 19 Julie Remiker, Adilyn Hiser
- 20 Bill Andres, Damon Landro,
- 21 Steve Miller, Autumn Cutler, Roberta Bloner, Liam Barnhart
- 22 John Bloner, Amanda Kancian
- 23 Russ Brewer, Ashley Claeys
- 24 Jennifer Johnson, Cullen Norgaard, Kristen Wold, James Hawlish
- 25 Sherry Fox, Jonah Harmsen, Dan Santelli
- 26 Doni Degefa, Randy Gross, Zachary Carter
- 27 Jacob Wollschlager, Veronica McCarthy
- 28 Katy Schneider, Ashlynn Booth,
- 29 Aaron Sens
- 30 Mark Sinnen
- 31 Kathy Miller

**August 30, 2020**

Elliot Russel Dishno, son of Alyssa & Jeffrey

September 19, 2020

Brynlee Grace Retzlaff, daughter of Nathan & Melissa

September 20, 2020

Erin Michelle Hupcher, daughter of Steve & Jessica

September 20, 2020

Matteo James Bilotta, son of Meghan & Tory

Upcoming on October 11, 2020

Quinn Lee Gonsalves, son of Deb & Paul

***Congratulations and welcome to the
family of God at Lord of Life!***



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this month we will be collecting items for Women and Children's Horizons, who provide support, shelter, education, training and healing services to victims of sexual and domestic abuse, their families, and the community.

These are some of their most needed items:

Pillows & waterproof pillow covers (Clients take their pillows/covers with them when they leave, so they are in constant need of these items.)

Twin sheet sets

NEW women's bras, socks, & underwear of all sizes

Shampoo—any size

Shower gel—any size

Body lotion

Razors

Deodorant

Toothbrushes & toothpaste

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Donations can be brought to outdoor or drive in worship services or placed in the waterproof box outside of the doors closest to the sanctuary at any time. Or, even easier, you can shop from an Amazon Wish List and have it shipped directly to church: <https://a.co/13CV8SY>



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



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