



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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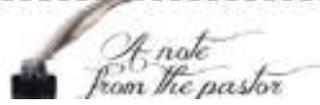
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2020



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIFELINES



As has been the case for this year's Lifelines note from the pastor, I'm highlighting words straight from Martin Luther. I have avoided interpreting his words so that they can stand on their own. What follows is a portion of conversation recorded in the volume of Luther's Works called Table Talk. As we begin a new year of Christian education for children and adults, Luther reminds us of his life-long journey of learning the basics of the Christian faith alongside his children. I hope his humility and down-to-earth approach help us set the stage for our learning this year.

"I wonder whether Peter, Paul, Moses, and all the saints fully and thoroughly understood a single word of God so that they had nothing more to learn from it, for the understanding of God is beyond measure. To be sure, the saints understood the Word of God and could also speak about it, but their practice did not keep pace with it. Here one forever remains a learner....

Though I am a great doctor, I haven't yet progressed beyond the instruction of children in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer. I still learn and pray these every day with my Hans and my little Lena. Who understands in all of its ramifications even the opening words, 'Our Father who art in heaven'?

For if I understood these words in faith - that the God who holds heaven and earth in his hand is my Father - I would conclude that therefore I am lord of heaven and earth, therefore Christ is my brother, therefore all things are mine, Gabriel is my servant, Raphael is my coachman, and all the other angels are ministering spirits sent forth by my Father in heaven to serve me in all my necessities, lest I strike my foot against a stone. ...this faith should not remain untested...Our faith wavers. Our weakness gives rise to the question: 'Who knows if it is true?' So this one word 'your' or 'our' is the most difficult of all in the whole Scripture. It's like the word 'your' in the first commandment, 'I am the Lord your God' [Exodus 20:2]

Luther's Works, 54:9

The Church Council of Lord of Life has prayerfully outlined our next phase of in-person worship and in-person group gatherings. Directions for Worship Sign-Up and a Facility Use Application was emailed to the congregation. ***All groups and committees that would like to use the church building will be asked to complete a Facility Use Application to be approved by the Church Council.*** However, should state officials return to a more restrictive phase due to rising COVID-19 cases, plans for worship and in-person gatherings would revert accordingly.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES:

If you would like a July, August, September Daily Devotional Booklet, please email or call the church office and we can put one in the outside mailbox for you to pick up. Please let us know if you would like large print or regular.

THOSE WHO MOURN



The members and friends of Lord of Life offer prayers and condolences to those who have lost family and friends:

Mark & Kim Puchalski and the Linder family on the death of John Linder.

Kimberly, Paul, Anna and Sarah Scanlan and the Huddle family on the death of Kimberly's father, George Michael "Mike" Huddle.

May the memory of our departed loved one always be a blessing.

Kits for WINGS Families

Looking for a way to help others during the pandemic? How about creating kits for WINGS families? Donations are traditionally slow during summer, and due to the impact of COVID-19, donation drives have diminished even more. From baby kits to cleaning kits to laundry kits, WINGS needs it all! Click here to see what's needed:

<https://wingsprogram.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WINGS-Donation-Kits.pdf>

You can shop and ship needed items to WINGS through Amazon Smile:

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?>

[orig=Lz9vcmlnPSUyRmh6JTJGY2hhcmI0eWxpc3QIMkZscyUyRjM2TFMzODE5TTFWUjEIMkZyZWYIM0RzbWIfY2xfbHNfbG9sX2xzJTNGcGxkbINpdGUIM0Qx](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=Lz9vcmlnPSUyRmh6JTJGY2hhcmI0eWxpc3QIMkZscyUyRjM2TFMzODE5TTFWUjEIMkZyZWYIM0RzbWIfY2xfbHNfbG9sX2xzJTNGcGxkbINpdGUIM0Qx)

For more information, contact Tabitha Nilson at tnilson@wingsprogram.com

Green Team Message

Avoiding the Second Half of the Chessboard

No doubt you've heard the folktale about a skilled craftsman from the East who carved a beautiful and ornate chessboard to present to a very high-ranking official. "How much of a reward would you like for this beautiful piece of art," asks the official. "Oh, I would be perfectly happy with just a penny or just a single kernel of wheat or just a single grain of rice placed on the top left square, and then double that for the square next to it the next day and double it again for each subsequent square".

The price seems trivial at first, until the great official realizes sometime early in the second half of the chessboard that further doubling is so vast that it would be beyond any resources he may possess not only in his kingdom or empire but likely throughout the Earth itself.

As of August 20th, 2020, over 5 million cases of the coronavirus have been recorded with over 173,000 deaths. Public health officials know that the hospitals, doctors, nurses, clinics, and personal protection equipment available are fixed in number compared to the incredible power of the virus to increase its numbers exponentially as it finds suitable "hosts." In order not to overload the treatment resources, the cooperation of the general public is a must. It is one thing to treat 10 million people over a period of 10 years. It is quite another to try to treat 10 million people if they are all outside the hospital doors at one time.

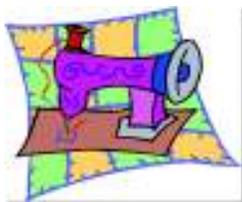
As your Green Team, we mention this because we have not brought the virus under control, and we sincerely wish to avoid the second half of this frightening chessboard.

We all share the earth, and we all have a stake in this pandemic. What better time to go from an "I" culture to a "We" culture? We've seen it in teachers who go to school buildings to keep food programs going even though classes are no longer in session. We hear of athletes who fund a fresh food market that will be staffed by high school students in what had been a food desert. We know people who have made masks for friends and neighbors to protect them and those around them. Lord of Lifers are known for their care and concern for others. If you have a chance, encourage someone else in your circle of relationships to focus on "we" rather than "me."

Take care of each other – wear a mask, and keep your distance.

Remember to **take care of the earth** by wearing cloth masks if possible. If you must use disposable masks, throw used masks in the garbage.

And finally, **take advantage** of the incredible weather with which God has blessed us! Outdoor interactions with people are much safer than those indoors. Take a walk in a forest preserve or in some gardens. Spend time with friends on a deck or patio. Breathe deeply, calm your nerves, and be thankful for the health you're enjoying.



The **Mission Quilters** wish to thank the congregation for its continued support through fabric/blanket/sheet donations the past few months. The quilting closet is full and work on all the various tasks has resumed. The group was saddened to learn that quilts from Lord of Life were among the 22,000 lost in Lutheran World Relief containers in the Beirut explosion on August 4. An enormous loss for many who will suffer from the cold this coming winter. Therefore, the group has decided to bless and transport all quilts now in storage for immediate shipment to LWR headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, rather than wait until October. May these quilts wrap our neighbors in love and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in God.

PHASED RE-ENTRY PLAN DONATIONS:

- Disinfecting wipes (such as Lysol, Clorox or Alcohol wipes), Disinfecting cleansers (such as Lysol Liquid Cleaner/Disinfectant or Lysol disinfectant aerosol spray; or at least 70% Isopropyl or Ethyl Alcohol)
- Masks and Rubber gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Advanced audio/visual equipment and internet capacity for on-going church based live-streamed worship

OUR PRAYER CIRCLE is full of women who will add their prayers to yours. If you have a prayer request, call anyone listed below to start the prayer moving around the circle.

Cathy Thoma

Marilyn Luthardt

Barbara Dobson

Dee Anders

Bev Jelen

Ruth Ann Pickard

Diane Gioe

Sandy Smith

June Ross

LIVE-STREAM CHURCH COUNCIL INSTALLATION SERVICE

Join us on Facebook Live, Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 pm, as our 2020-2021 Church Council members are installed in their leadership positions. As we worship together, we will pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing, guidance, and power as we begin working with you to discern our mission as a congregation in these difficult times. May the Lord bless and keep us faithful to the gospel.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP



Beginning Sunday, September 13, Lord of Life will return to a modified in-person worship service of Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. Essentially, we are moving the Tuesday morning spoken Holy Communion service to Sunday morning at 9:00 am. We hope this allows us to come as close as we can to some semblance of “normalcy” as we navigate this pandemic

1 Midweek Service	2 Sunday Services	
<p>Date & Time: Thursday, 7 PM</p> <p>Worship Service: Holy Communion</p> <p>Music: Instrumental</p> <p>In-person: Go online to Sign-Up Genius to reserve your slot https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4aaaac2ba6fd0-midweek</p> <p>Occupancy: 20* individuals and family units* maximum</p>	<p>Date & Time: Sunday, 9 AM</p> <p>Worship Service: Holy Communion</p> <p>Music: Instrumental</p> <p>In-person: Go online to Sign-Up Genius to reserve your slot. New link coming soon.</p> <p>Occupancy: 20* individuals and family units* maximum</p>	<p>Date & Time: Sunday, 10 AM Online</p> <p>Worship Service: Service of the Word</p> <p>Music: Pastor sings</p> <p>In-person: None</p> <p>Occupancy: Pastor, Musician, Audio/Visual person</p>
<p>* Including Pastor and musicians</p> <p>* Family units are those who have been sheltering in place in the same household.</p>		

While the table above outlines our up-coming plan for weekly worship, as pastor, I ask that you please understand this plan is always subject to change should any worship leader not be able to gather in-person or provide live-streaming. As a parent of young children who are back in school, in-person, and the wife of Michael, who is teaching music, in-person, there is always a possibility that Andrew, Lydia, Michael or myself might suddenly not be feeling well on a Saturday night or a Sunday morning. Should that happen, I would certainly not be present for in-person worship or for live-streaming so as not to risk possibly exposing someone to COVID-19. In this case, other arrangements for worship would be made. Thank you for your flexibility as we seek to maintain our worship and praise of God while safeguarding those in the congregation from disease.

In Christ,
Pastor Rebekah



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

GRADES K-5

The Christian Education Committee is committed to continuing to grow in faith and worship with our congregation's youth. As we kick off the start of the Sunday School year for 2020-2021, we face the continuation of necessary precautions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Sunday school will commence as a remote learning platform until we have the opportunity to safely return onsite. We have been fortunate enough to have some additional resources provided by our current curriculum provider that will allow us more flexibility and engagement in offering the lessons in a virtual format. In order to determine how to best engage our children in faith, we will be sending out a short survey, respectfully requesting your feedback and commitment for the coming year.

colaborate Lutheran Confirmation

GRADES 6-8

Confirmation will resume on Wednesday evening, September 16, at 6:30 pm. We will continue our study of the Reformation and the Lutheran Confessions. There is a possibility that we might begin live-streaming confirmation class in order to open up this learning to any parents and adults who might want to collaborate with us and brush up on the basics.



ADULT FORUM



ZOOMING WITH JESUS

Lord of Life's adult forum has a new name: Zooming with Jesus. We will resume our study of the Essential Jesus via Zoom on Sunday, September 13th at 11:30 am. Email Pastor Rebekah at pastorrebekah@lord-of-life.org if you would like to join the study, and a zoom invitation will be sent to you.



"C"- (See) Pastor **C**ostello, to **C**onnect, in **C**hrist, during **C**OVID-19, over **C**offee, to **C**onverse virtually about ... a **"C"**- word of your choice.

C8 can be used to connect virtually with me to cover any topic you would like. Think of it as the virtual act of knocking on my office door to chat about this or that. Choose the 8th "C"-word to complete the phrase above. We'll use it to jump start our conversation. Be creative and comical if you'd like, or contemplative and concerned. We'll converse via Zoom. During our time together I can offer a brief devotion and prayer. Sign up for your C8 meeting at this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4aaaac2ba6fd0-signupc82> to Lord of Life's SignUpGenius. I'm looking forward to "C"-ing you! ~ Pastor Rebekah



NEED SOMETHING TO DO AND A WAY TO HELP?

We all feel a little helpless, anxious, distracted, and not sure what we can do to help in this strange time of COVID-19. The Social Action team wants to explore how the people of Lord of Life can put our God-given gifts to use helping our neighbors and each other in this time of unprecedented need. If you are willing to volunteer in some capacity, follow the link below to take a very short survey and tell us how you can help. Feel free to use the "Other" comment box to add your own ideas. (When you click "Done," you will be taken to another SurveyMonkey page—which you can close and ignore.) Thank you!

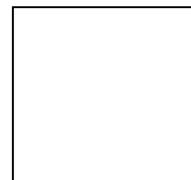
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBN8WN6>

Note: Your responses are anonymous. The purpose of this questionnaire is simply to gauge congregational interest. Once the results of the survey are in, further information will follow about how we might match up volunteers who can provide help with people who need it. This survey will remain open until September 10.



Articles for October **LIFELINES** are due Friday, September 25th. You can email them to me at lifelines@lord-of-life.org. Or drop them off at the office. Thank you

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
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DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



Know, Grow, Serve, Share

Lord of Life is a community of faith that is warm and welcoming. We strive to **KNOW** Christ by honoring traditional forms of worship as well as being open to innovations. We continue to **GROW** in Christ to a closer relationship with our Lord through learning and study. We **SERVE** Christ in the work of ministry by volunteering our time, energy and faith to church services and social programs. We **SHARE** Christ in mission and outreach within our church and community by supporting those who need our assistance and relief.