

LifeLines

January 2017

	<h3>Lord of Life</h3> <p>Lutheran Church 20844 Bonanza Blvd. • Elkhorn, NE 68022 402-289-3437 • www.LordOfLifeElkhorn.org</p>
<p>Gather! Grow! Go!</p>	
<p>Worship - Sunday • Christian Education - Sunday • Midweek - Wednesday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. 9:15 a.m. 1st - 8th Grade - 6-7 p.m.</p>	



Gather, Grow, Go!

What ministries do we need to do that will bring people into a saving faith relationship with Jesus, build them up, and bring glory to Jesus? Please be in prayer over this.

Every area has its unique needs. The ways to discover the needs of our community are to follow the news, pay attention to the local online conversations, and listen to people. Ask "What would help you?" and then listen.

Build relationships. Relationships are the most effective bridge across which the Gospel travels. Once you know the needs, share your ministry ideas with someone and how we can go about starting them.

Pastor's Corner

When someone is leaving, we'll often say, "Keep in touch!" Today we can do that better than ever. With cell phones, text messaging, emails, and Facebook we can be in contact with people anywhere and anytime. It's important for us to keep in touch with people who are important to us.

Nehemiah is a man in the Old Testament who organized and directed the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and gates in 52 days! He's a fantastic model of keeping in touch with God.

When Nehemiah was at home in Susa (southwest Iran) and heard how badly things were going in Jerusalem, he immediately got in touch with God. "When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." (Nehemiah 1:4) His first response to bad news was to go to God.

Nehemiah works for the King of Persia. One day when Nehemiah was sad and told the king about the destruction in Jerusalem, "The king said to me, 'What is it you want?' Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king." (Nehemiah 2:4) Nehemiah asks for the king's help in rebuilding Jerusalem. It was a pressure moment in front of the most powerful man in the empire, so Nehemiah stays in touch with God so he can get the right answer.

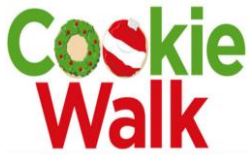
Later, Nehemiah is in the middle of the construction project and his enemies threaten to shut them down. Nehemiah prays, "Hear us, O our God. Turn their insults back on their own heads." (Nehemiah 4:4) Things got worse "They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God." (Nehemiah 4:8-9)

Nehemiah constantly turned to God in prayer. Make prayer a lifestyle, not a compartment of your day. Notice the Lord's presence throughout your day. As you get ready in the morning, travel to work or school, work, eat, exercise, or whatever you do throughout your day, stay in touch with God!

We tend to put God in a prayer compartment of our life that we go to only a couple of times a day. We have a prayer in the morning, at night, or when we eat. Then, we go about our day and ignore God. But staying in touch with Jesus throughout your day – even it's only for a moment – will make all the difference in how you handle things.

We live in a world that's wired for constant communication because we understand that it's important to stay in touch. What would your day be like if you got in touch with God as often as you sent a text, messaged, checked Facebook, or called someone?

Pastor David Linkugel



I would like to express a sincere thank you to everyone who helped to make our first Lord's Lambs Cookie Walk a huge success. As a result of the generosity of several bakers, we had a wonderful variety of cookies to sell. I would like to thank everyone who donated their time at a busy time of year to bake cookies. I would also like to thank the congregation for purchasing cookies and contributing to Lord's Lambs start up funds.

The support and encouragement demonstrated by this congregation is inspiring and appreciated.

Results:

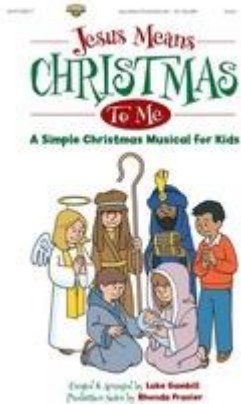
Dec 11 = \$781.10

Dec 18 = \$146.05

Total = \$927.15

A special thanks to Thrivent for providing four Community Action Grants of \$250 each for this fundraiser!

Denise Kempnich
Lord's Lamb Director



Jesus Means Christmas to Me

At its core, Christmas is quite simply...Jesus.

Preschool – Grade 6 Christmas Program

We are so proud of our children! Yet another beautiful retelling of the Christmas story was presented on December 11th. So many volunteers contributed to the success of the program! A huge thank you to Joyce Black and her helpers for coordinating the costumes and Nativity scene. And we wouldn't have had a Nativity without Jim Bezoni and his Board of Properties team, along with Pastor Caleb and Pastor David, to set up the risers, stable, manger, lighting, etc. etc. etc. Thank you to the volunteers who helped break down the set and risers. We didn't get your names, but you know who you

are. And a final thanks to Kris Castle and Kris Bamesberger for filling the gift bags for each child.

Of course, we wouldn't have a program without the children! Here are the talented participants. Those with (D) were our special duet singers.

Well done, good and faithful ones!

Grade 6: Carter Voorhees (D), Joshua Buck (D)

Grade 5: Kaylee Warnsing, Elly Thiem, Kady Swanson, Marek Rasmussen, Alyssa Dinapoli (D), Elly Cheatle (D), Morgan Castle

Grade 4: Will Thiem

Grade 3: Marlo Rasmussen, Hannah Petersen, Millie Ortmeier, Lilly Howe, Nikki Haack, Ethan Dinapoli, Alayna Cox (D)

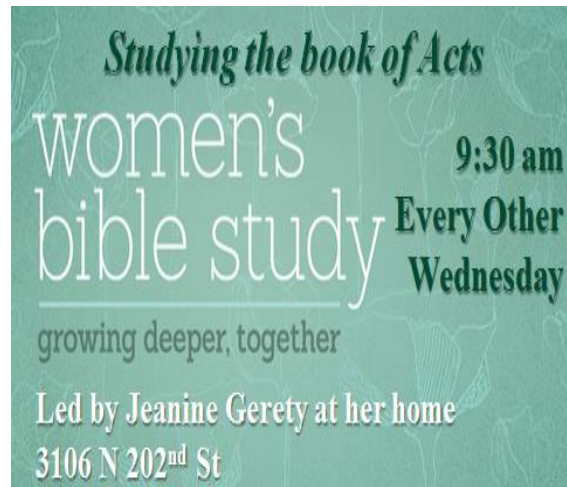
Grade 2: Jameson Thiem, Alex Ishmiel, Ivy Haack, Will Gutz, Lilly Goedeken (D), Raegan Castle, Jacob Buck (D)

Grade 1: Olivia Schauer, Henry Paulsen, Emma Meyer, Grant Metschke, Roxy Gohr, Emmett Cheatle (D)

Kindergarten: Payton Warnsing, Wesley Taber, Rilynn Mercer, Caroline Gutz, Gavin Gleue, Camden Ford, Breelyn Black, JJ Armstrong

Pre K-4: Easton Wehrmann, Reylynn Johnson

PreK-3: Hudson Worner, Marshall Schauer, Dan Paulsen, Stella Meyer, Joel Metschke, Reese Mercer, Amelia Gutz, Rylyn Gleue, Clara Kruse, Cale Ford, Emmaline Black, Zechariah Armstrong



Pray for our Missionaries



Lord of Life provides prayer and financial support for Rev. Andrew and Kelsey Schlund who serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as career missionaries in Mexico. In his role, Andrew works with other missionaries in the theological education of existing pastors and possible future pastors. He also preaches and teaches whenever needed. Through the relationships that are formed, Andrew and Kelsey seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Mexico. Andrew and Kelsey have a beautiful daughter,

Charlotte.

Please pray for the Schlunds as they serve in Mexico. Pray for all the missionaries and their families in the Latin America region, for the members of El Buen Pastor and San Pedro in their work to spread the Gospel, and for the Schlund family as they continue to adjust to life in Mexico City.

- Birthdays: Andrew – Oct. 21, Kelsey – Aug. 16, Charlotte – March 28
- Anniversary: June 17

**With our limited meeting areas,
please reserve
meeting times
with Frances**



Reserve a Meeting Room



Mite Box Sunday

Lord of Life's **Women's Ministry** designates the first Sunday of every month as **Mite Box Sunday**. We invite everyone to give your mites (offerings) to support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Mites are collected in mite boxes to support the mission projects approved by the LWML membership in convention every two years. Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel. The national Mite Box Goal for 2015-2017 is 2 million dollars – that's a lot of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! Look for the LWML Mite Box in the entry and add your mites.



Friday Faith Food Fellowship / Bible Study



The Friday Faith Food Fellowship Bible Study meets every Friday at Valentino's, 5022 S. 108th St. We gather at 1:00 pm for lunch and have a Bible study led by Pastor David from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join the Bible Study. We are studying 1, 2 and 3 John.

Installation and Leadership Planning Meeting

All church officers and board members who were elected at the congregation meeting in November will be installed on Sunday, January 8 at either the 8:00, 10:30, or 5:00 worship service. We will meet on Saturday, January 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, to get organized, equipped, and make plans for 2017. This meeting is for all church officers and Board members from all the Boards.

Officers and Board Members

As you serve as a congregational leader, commit yourself to:

- 1) Be faithful in worship.
- 2) Be involved in a Bible study
- 3) Be a good steward of your time, talents, and treasure
- 4) Serve faithfully



January Activities

No Youth Group on January 1st and 29th.

High School Youth will meet on January 8th and 15th at our normal time.

Middle School Youth will meet on January 22nd from 6:30-8:00pm.

High School Summer Servant Event Meeting

We are having a meeting on January 11th at 6pm at church to talk about plans for a Summer Servant Event. Parents and Youth should both attend. We'll be picking a place to serve, so come and hear about the opportunities we have. This meeting will happen during CDT/Confirmation and will be done by the time class ends.

New High School Youth Bible Study: Generation Change

This past fall, Lord of Life offered a Financial Peace University Class during which over \$19,000 in debt was paid off by 5 families and over \$6,000 was saved. Many of the individuals in the class said they wished they would have gone through a class like this when they were younger. Starting in January, our high school youth will spend their Bible Study time going through Dave Ramsey's "Generation Change" and learning not only about how God wants us to manage our money, but also other Biblical truths about God's love for us.

Discipleship

Are you willing to make a commitment to grow in your faith during the year? Here is what we expect from church members and also what you, as a member, can expect from Lord of Life.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of Lord of Life, I will:

- Support and further the mission of Lord of Life to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Pray for my church and fellow members regularly
- Be present in worship on a regular basis
- Support my church with my spiritual and financial gifts
- Find an area of ministry through which I can serve Christ and others

As your church family, we will:

- Provide opportunities for you to live out your faith in service to others
- Provide faith-building opportunities for you to grow as a Christian
- Provide opportunities for you to develop deep and lasting friendships with others
- Provide opportunities for lifelong learning as you deepen your understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith
- Be good stewards of your financial contributions to your church





I Have Good News For You

Are you interested in learning more about what the teachings of the Lutheran Church, especially the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod? Are you interested in joining Lord of Life? Starting in January, after construction is completed and we have additional classroom space available, the “I Have Good News For You” class will be offered at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. The class will use a ten-week Bible study designed for those who do not know Christ, for those who do know Christ but want to know Him better, and for those who are looking for a church home.

Pastor Caleb and Pastor David will alternate teaching this Bible study, in addition to the regular Pastor’s Bible study on Sunday mornings. You can participate in the class and may simply listen or ask questions. There are no obligations to join Lord of Life when the course is finished, but anyone who completes the class will be ready for church membership. Please feel free to bring your friends with you. The classes are open to everyone. We will have a definite starting date and location for the class as soon as construction is finished and we can start using the addition. The class will not start any earlier than January 29.



Weekend to Remember

Wouldn't it be great if "happily ever after" really were the end of the story?

Great marriages require intentionality and investment—just like a garden that must be watered in order to grow. FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember getaway offers

- biblically-based insights from top speakers and marriage experts;
- relaxing alone time to rediscover the reasons you fell in love, free from distractions; and
- helpful tools, projects, and resources for an immediate impact on your marriage.

The Omaha Weekend to Remember is March 10 to 12, 2017 at the Hilton Omaha, 1001 Cass Street. Register online at www.WeekendToRemember.com using the group name: LordofLifeElkhorn and you can save! Weekend to Remember brochures are available in the church entry.


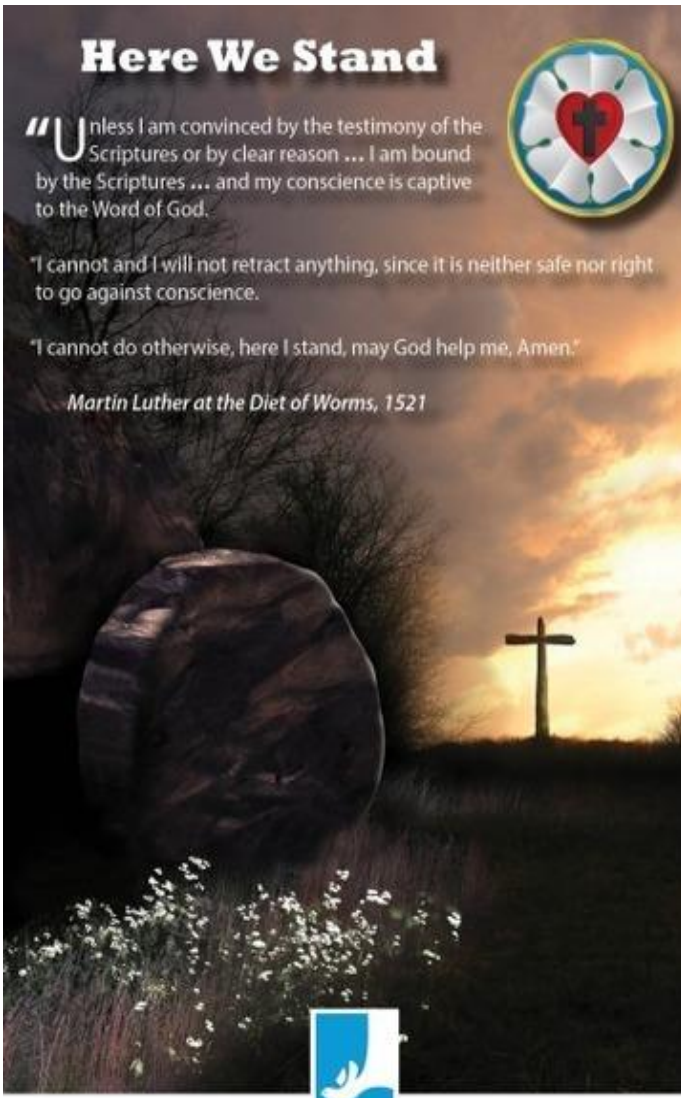

Here We Stand

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

“I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, 1521

www.lutheransforlife.org

Life Sunday– Here We Stand

We will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 15, 2017

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:13)

- Here We Stand to declare and defend the precious value of every human being.
 - Here We Stand to celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life.
 - Here We Stand for every human life, at each stage, in any state—no matter what she’s done, no matter what he can’t do.
 - Here We Stand from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death—because of God’s purpose, not our own plans.
 - Here We Stand behind Jesus Christ’s passion, not our own pride.
 - Here We Stand bearing His Holy Spirit’s presence, not our own capacities.
 - Here We Stand against sin and selfishness, death and the devil, not against one another.
 - Here We Stand speaking truth and sharing love—in joy and not out of anger, in hope and not out of fear.
 - Here We Stand for forgiveness and not comparison, for salvation and not competition; to relieve and release, not to accuse; to listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend—not to attack.
 - Here We Stand with millions of His children around the world and multitudes across the centuries.
- Here We Stand with you and for you, wherever you are, wherever you’ve been, wherever you’re going.
 - Here We Stand for anyone vulnerable or victim to violence against life—as Gospel-motivated voices For Life.



NEBRASKA RIGHT TO LIFE

WALK FOR LIFE

01-14-17

Join your fellow Missouri Synod Lutherans at the Nebraska Walk For Life on Saturday, January 14th. Senator Ben Sasse, a member of the LCMS, will join the Pre-Walk Gathering this year! The walk is about 6 or 7 blocks from the Capitol to the UNL Student Union. Participants will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Lincoln (two blocks from the Capitol) at H & 12 Streets. Please park in their lot. The schedule is as follows: 8:30-8:45 a.m. — Refreshments’ 8:45-9:15 a.m. — Remarks By Senator Sasse; 9:15-9:45 a.m. — Worship; 10:00 a.m. —

Walk For Life.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; Carotid Artery (plaque buildup—a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main

blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/advantageclub and receive your “Advantage” club discount and your Preferred Appointment!



President Rich Snow

Rev. Rich Snow, president of the Nebraska District LCMS, will visit Lord of Life on Sunday, January 22, 2017. President Snow plans to visit all the congregations in the Nebraska District. He will lead the adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Plan to attend the Bible study and hear from President Snow what the Lord is doing among and through the congregations in the Nebraska District.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) It's a New Year!

Nathan Meier, LCEF Vice-President for the Nebraska District, will provide a presentation on the Lutheran Church Extension Fund during the adult Bible study on Sunday, January 15 at 9:15 a.m.

Get a fresh start financially this year. For those unexpected expenses in life, open an emergency fund that also helps ministries share the Good News.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) can help you build financial security while helping build God's kingdom through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries. LCEF's Family Emergency StewardAccount® is designed to prepare you for those moments when you need funds not allocated in your monthly budget.

1.0% Interest Rate (Dec. 2016)

Your investment builds over time with electronic funds transfer (EFT) and interest earned. Access funds easily when you need them most. For complete details, visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount access services are offered through UMB Bank n.a. The StewardAccount is not available to investors in South Carolina. The Family Emergency StewardAccount is known as the Family StewardAccount in the State of Ohio.





Feed My Lambs

Some of you have inquired what our lambs can use as we prepare to open Lord's Lambs Child Care. Here are a few items that would be helpful: wrapping paper, wrapping paper and paper towel tubes, bows, ribbons, tissue paper, envelopes, cards, name tags, stickers, large boxes (please hold on to these until we gain occupancy!), books for children up to 6 years old, quality used toys, cd players, a vacuum, and swiffer mops, brooms, dustpans, refrigerator, small refrigerators, a small microwave, and bottle warmers. All items may be brought to the church office. If you have questions, please ask Denise, our Director at 402-813-0738 or at DeniseKempnich1@gmail.com.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes me." (Mark 9:37)

Thank you for your support and generosity.
Denise
Lord's Lambs Director



Help Us Build A Playground Like This Without Spending an Extra Dime!

We participate in several no-extra-spending fundraising programs that help raise funds for our new playground. The top 2 money-earners are AmazonSmile and Scrip.

*Scrip (Every giftcard purchase through the Scrip program earns 2%-50%.)

**Amazon Smile (Every purchase made through Smile.Amazon returns 0.5%).

***Proseeds (Register your credit/debit card and earn 5% at local

businesses.)

****TAGG! (Scan your receipt and earn 5% at local businesses.)

All profits from these programs help our Playground Fund.

** Keep reading for details on each program. If you have questions, please contact Julie Koenemann at church. **

- "Scrip" is purchasing merchant gift cards through church, and the merchants sell them to us at a discount.
- Every card returns rebates of 2% up to 50%!
- Order days are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, with added dates near holidays. Order online or with a paper form, and place your payment in the Scrip mailbox in the entryway. (Paper forms are in the kiosk.)
- A limited inventory is kept onsite that can be purchased during the week and on Sunday mornings.
- Sign up for ShopWithScrip.com with our enrollment code of **9194FD1128994**.
- You can get your Scrip even sooner when you place Reload and ScripNow® orders and pay with PrestoPay™.

January Scrip Order Dates

****2nd and 4th Sundays****

January 8 and January 22



amazonsmile
 You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop Amazon, go through smile.amazon.com, and select Lord of Life Lutheran Church Elkhorn as your charity, 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to the Playground Fund. Just think what can happen if we direct our Amazon Christmas shopping!

This is an easy one! Proseeds is a new fundraising opportunity founded right here in Omaha. All you do is register your debit or credit card through a secure link, and select Lord of Life Lutheran Lord's Lambs as your cause. Then you simply pay with that credit or debit card at a participating business, and the rest happens automatically!

We've already received \$1.26 from 2 supporters in our first month. Think of the many blessings if we all participate! Go to GiveProseeds.com to learn more.



And yet another easy way to help raise money Lord's Lambs without spending an extra dime! Whenever you're at a TAGG business, snap a

picture with your smartphone of your receipt and choose us. TAGG businesses donate 5% of your purchases! Download TAGG today!

Follow these links for more details:

TAGG Overview Video (2 minutes) – [YouTube Link](#)

How to TAGG Demo (40 seconds) – [YouTube Link](#)

TAGG Businesses – [Link to view](#)

HOW TO TAGG

- 1 Download the app + login
- 2 Find participating tagg businesses
- 3 Snap a photo of your receipt
- 4 Find our organization + TAGG
- 5 Share your good deed with friends + family

Thrivent Choice Dollars



Thrivent Members: You can select to direct annual Choice Dollars to Lord of Life, and they will be applied to the Playground Fund.



**Thank you for supporting the
Christian Outreach Program of Elkhorn (COPE)**

Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10:00 am - Noon
Tuesday and Thursday 5:30-7:30 pm
Closed Sunday

COPE needs **volunteers** to help with various activities, including sorting clothes, helping with training classes, bread and pantry pick-up, assisting with donation drop-offs, and loading client vehicles.

COPE always appreciates donations of slightly used clothing, but because of limited space at COPE, we suggest donating only seasonal clothing please. We also accept household goods and appliances. For large appliances, please contact the COPE office prior to donating.



We Need Your Help

We are looking for new volunteers to train and serve on our Media Tech Ministry Team for our worship services. We will let you shadow until you're comfortable going on your own. Please talk to Julie Koenemann if you are interested.



Worship Team

Do you, have you, or do you know someone who plays an instrument or sings? We'd like to add musicians and singers to our worship team. Please speak to Julie Koenemann or any Rejoice! Member.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy



In the event of inclement weather causing the cancellation of Elkhorn Public Schools, any school-age education activities at Lord of Life scheduled for that afternoon or evening are also cancelled.

Worship and all adult events (Bible studies, meetings, rehearsals) will be by individual determination. Watch for notices on local TV stations, via email, or text messages.



“Well done, good and faithful servant.” Thank you to everyone who served so faithfully during the past year as church officers, board members, Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers, and volunteers in many other ministries at Lord of Life. Your gifts and your service of love are always appreciated, even though you’re not often publicly commended for it. Thank you to everyone who served in official and unofficial capacities to enable Lord of Life Lutheran Church to reach out with love to create new and abundant lives in Christ.

Thank you everyone for your cards and gifts that you have blessed us with throughout the year! We are truly blessed and grateful for each and every one of you! We are humbled and honored to be serving here at Lord of Life. God’s Blessings to you always.

Pastor David and Diane Linkugel

Thank you to everyone for all your blessings to us this past year. We can’t imagine a better church family to have helped us through some major life changes this year and the support that you continue to give to us. We truly count ourselves blessed to be at Lord of Life. We look forward to all that God will do through our partnership together in 2017. May God bless you and your families.

Pastor Caleb and Brittany, Clara and Auggie Kruse



Lord of Life’s Mission

We are “Reaching out with love to create new and abundant lives in Christ.”