

Reaching out with love to create new and abundant lives in Christ



**Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church**  
**Lifelines**



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# January 2021

[Click Here for December's Calendar and Volunteer Schedules](#)

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Thank you for your wonderful Christmas gift. Diane and I continue to be amazed by your spirit of generosity and giving every year. It is a blessing to serve Lord of Life. May God richly bless you in the new year.

- *Pastor David and Diane Linkugel*

Thank you to our Lord of Life family for the generous Christmas gift. I am blessed to be one of your pastors and it is truly an honor to serve here at Lord of Life with you. Thank you for the support you continue to give to me and my family. God's richest blessings to you all as we continue to serve Him moving into 2021.

- *Pastor Caleb, Brittany, Clara, August, Frederick, and Louisa Kruse*

It's not often that I am rendered speechless, but you succeeded. I can't sufficiently express my appreciation for your incredible generosity this Christmas. I am especially humbled given the challenges and sacrifices this year has presented. It is an honor and privilege to serve the Lord and you here in this place. May you be blessed in kind for the blessings you have brought to me.

- *Julie Koenemann*

Thank you everyone for all of the gifts (*the cards, the sweets, financially, and in prayer*). You all

are so beautifully generous. Since starting in March, I have had no problem in expressing to others how much Lord of Life has always seemed to step up in whatever needs lie within or outside of the church. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV. God has used you in being wonderful examples in this verse and it's been such a blessing working here. Thank you again!

- Andy and Tarrin Reed

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## Pastor David's Corner



### **Jacob the Wrestler**

In Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob wrestles with a man in the darkness of night. Jacob wrestles him down and refuses to let go of his mysterious opponent, even demanding a blessing of him. The wrestler asks Jacob, "What is your name?" As Jacob holds on to the man with all his strength, he answers, "Jacob" which in Hebrew means "Heel-grabber." (See Genesis 25:24-26 for the birth and naming of the twins Esau and Jacob.) Jacob's name is a reference to his talent for not letting go.

*Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." (Genesis 32:28)*

Jacob wrestles with God. He struggles with God and men. He struggled with God for the blessing. He struggled with Esau for the blessing, with Isaac for the blessing, and with Laban for the blessing. In each struggle he eventually prevailed. He is Jacob the wrestler. Jacob pursued a life of wrestling because he recognized the blessing of God was worth the struggle. Esau was willing trade the blessing for a bowl of soup, but Jacob was willing to wrestle for it his entire life. Jacob teaches us the value of the eternal. We are to hold on to

God, and refuse to let go of Him, no matter how difficult the struggle.

Too often we are quick to let go of God. When He does not answer our prayer, we let go of Him. When He smites us, when He touches our hip and injures us like He did Jacob or strikes us in some other way, we let go of Him. Jacob did not let go. God didn't want Jacob to let go. Neither does He want us to let go. He wants people who will hold onto Him, cling to Him, and grasp His heel through the dark night of struggle.

We don't understand why God conceals Himself when He could reveal Himself. We don't understand why we must grope in the darkness to apprehend Him, or why He leaps on us in the darkness of life, but He does.

From Jacob's wrestling account, we learn there are two kinds of people in this darkness. There are those who will hold on to God and those who will not. A person overcomes only by imitating Jacob, who did not let go.

2020 was a year marked by wrestling. We wrestled with a pandemic, with job losses, with health issues, with financial issues, with grief, and with other personal struggles. As we begin 2021, we don't know the wrestling matches ahead of us, but we do know God has promised the marvelous blessing of eternal life for those who don't let go of Him. Cling to Him, even when you're exhausted and you don't understand why you're on the mat for another grueling wrestling match. The blessing is worth it.

*Pastor David Linkugel*



### **Youth Group Dates**

- **January 3** - High School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 pm

- **January 10** - High School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 pm
  - **January 17** - High School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 pm
  - **January 24** - High School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 pm
  - **January 31** - High School Youth Group 6:30-8:30 pm
- 



We certainly welcome 2021 and pray that it is a better year for our nation, community, and families. So many of us had to learn to live day-by-day and sometimes hour-by-hour due to the pandemic. During this time, it reminded me that God is in control and even though I don't understand why the events in our nation are occurring, He does and He will use all of for His good. What a relief and comfort to know that our Heavenly Father is caring for us every minute of every day.

We are thankful to have so many wonderful families allow us the pleasure of providing their child/ren in our program. It is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. We work daily to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. It is a joy to be able to pray for sick friends and family members, and to celebrate the birth of siblings, new puppies, and all other life events.

Please pray that all us remember that what makes Lord's Lambs different from other centers is that Christ is the focus here and that as His servants we work in a manner that Christ will someday say "well done". Please pray that we are able to hire one more full time staff member. We want to be able to increase our enrollment, but without one more full time staff member we will not be able to move forward with that goal.

Although our older children were not able to perform their annual Christmas program, each class individually sang Christmas songs and we were able to put them on

our Facebook page. We hope you enjoy them. The children spent all of December preparing for the birth of our Savior and celebrating His birthday!  
May the New Year bring you peace, health and joy.

God's Blessings,  
*Mrs. Denise Kempnich, Director*

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## **Concordia Open House**

### ***Kindergarten Round-up!***

It's that time of year again! Concordia will be hosting their annual open house. It will begin Thursday, January 21st in the evening from 6-8 pm and there will be a second opportunity Friday, January 22nd in the afternoon from 1-2:30 pm. This will include overviews with the teachers and staff and refreshments will be included as well.

*For more information or to request admission information, [click on the image below.](#)*

*Real* students.  
*Real* teachers.  
*Real* school.

LEARN MORE AT  
*Kindergarten Round-up!*

**CONCORDIA**  
MUSTANGS

JAN. 21 , 6-8 PM  
Pizza at 6, Kindergarten  
overview with teachers  
and staff begins at 6:30

JAN. 22 . 1-2:30 PM <<  
Kindergarten overview with  
teachers and staff, light re-  
freshments included

TO REGISTER, CONTACT Dawn Cooksey, Admissions Director 402-990-9444 or [cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org)

## Sunday Worship

Our Sunday morning services are both in-person and via Livestream. *[Our 5 pm services are postponed until further notice.]*

In respect of the Omaha Mask Mandate, we must maintain a 6 ft social distancing for each household and continue to wear masks as we enter and exit the church. Printed bulletins, hand sanitizer, and free masks are available. We have resumed attendance records at the bulletins table. Please complete and place in the basket.

**Livestream** services are on both [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#). You can access these pages on our website at [LordofLifeElkhorn.org](http://LordofLifeElkhorn.org). Links to the bulletin are also posted. You may watch live at the service times or view the recordings at your convenience either on the website > Publications > Sermons, or on the Videos page in Facebook and YouTube.

**Do not feel guilty** if you feel uncomfortable in returning to in-person worship. You're always welcome to stay home and worship with us online. Whichever way you're able to join us, we're just thankful you are able to join.

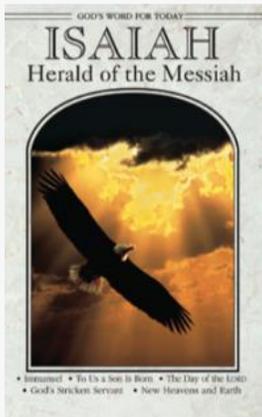
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## Bible Studies

The **Men's Bible Study** will be starting a new bible study in January, so if you would like to participate it'd be a great time to begin. They will continue to meet online (via Zoom) on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8:30 - 9:30 am.

Contact Bob Karle at 308-379-8483 or the church office if you would like to join this study.

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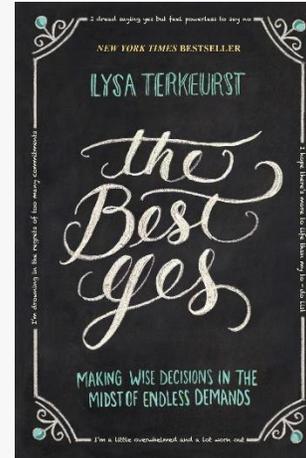
The Women's Morning Bible Study continues the study of **Isaiah: Herald of the Messiah**. Classes will meet online (via Zoom) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 am.

For more information, please contact Deb Karle at 308.379.8481.

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The Women's Evening Bible Study will start Lysa TerKeurst's study, ***The Best Yes***. The study will be online (via Zoom), beginning on January 11th at 7 p.m. and continue every 2nd & 4th Monday.

The Bible study will be facilitated by Monique Rassmussen. For any questions, please contact Janet Macklem (call or text 402.290.9793 or [email](#) her).



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## 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

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### ***Well Done***

**“Well done, good and faithful servant.”** Thank you to everyone who served so faithfully during the past year as church officers, board members, and volunteers in the many ministries at Lord of Life. Your service to the church with your time and talents is appreciated -- even though you're not often publicly commended. 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.



In November, Lord of Life voting members elected approximately sixty-five officers and board members to join the returning volunteers. Many of the newly elected people have previously served on a board or as an officer for our church. **We thank you returning volunteers for your dedication to give your time and talents.** But we also have a good number of elected people who willingly said yes to serve for the first time. **We thank the new volunteers for stepping forward to serve, and we welcome you!**

Our officers and board members appreciate your prayers. But they also would like your feedback and ideas as to how Lord of Life can better serve the many needs you observe for our members, our community, and our daycare teachers, children and parents. **Please contact our pastors or a board member if you have an idea as to how Lord of Life can serve different individuals or groups, especially now that we have many participating online.**

## Stewardship Corner

A new year offers a new start for many of us. Like Paul, we "[forget] what is behind and [strain] toward what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13). Through Christ, Who has paid the penalty for our sins, the slate is clean; we can forget about the past. We are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), ready to go forward in His strength to serve Him with the gifts He has given us.



We are gathering items for a January 4th shipment being transported to Haiti via Orphan Grain Train. Angela has provided this list of their most urgent needs. If you feel so moved to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church by **Sunday, January 3rd.**

### **Items of Highest Priority**

- } Dry erase markers**
- } Backpacks**
- } Tools and Tool Boxes (for household repairs, as well as school bus and truck repairs)**
- } Toothpaste**
- } Mosquito nets / Natural Repellents**
- } Bath Towels**



*Collection for Haiti*

Year-round Collection

JANUARY



**Plastic Storage Containers  
Kid's Vitamins  
Wooden Puzzles**



[Click Here to View/Download the Collection List for Haiti](#)

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**LCMS Foundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

In Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, the younger son is the focus of our scorn. Yet the father graced him when he returned.

What often gets overlooked is that the older son was angry with his father for showing grace to his younger brother. He felt his rightful share of the inheritance was late in coming to him. Jesus specifically told this parable to convict religious leaders of the Jews that their religious construct had written off God's grace and they were focused on what they were entitled to.

We have a tremendous opportunity when constructing our gift plans within our

estates to reclaim grace as we give gifts with God's gifts, rather than grudgingly give "deserved shares" to ungrateful family or ministries. Your gift plan can maximize reflection on God's grace, and you can even bear witness to that before the Lord calls you home. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or [craig.stirtz@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.stirtz@lfnd.org)

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## ***Ways to Support Lord of Life and Lord's Lambs***

***\*\* at no extra expense to you \*\****

**Lord of Life - Lord's Lambs Child Care** received a **\$130.32** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020!!

**Opportunities to Support Lord of Life** (details follow)

- **Amazon Smile** (0.5% return on purchases through Smile.Amazon)
- **TAGG** (Upload a photo of your receipt and earn 5% at local businesses.)
- **Scrip** (2%-50% rebate on purchased gift cards) Online at ShopwithScrip.com or through the Raise Right App
- **Direct Your Dollars** (Family Fare receipts)
- **Direct Your Labels** (\$25 for every 500 UPC barcodes of Our Family brands)
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

***[Click Here for Directions and Details](#)***

\*If you have questions on any program, please visit our [website](#) or contact Julie Koenemann.\*

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