

Our Purpose: Love all, serve all, welcome all as Christ.

2023-2024

9th Grade Service Project

THE WHY

During Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism preparation, we focus on gaining a deeper understanding of what part we play in our community as a whole and how we can help our community needs. Service is based on doing God's work with our hands, moved by the Holy Spirit with the example of Christ, who came to serve.

From Pastor Beth and John:

Martin Luther taught in his essay "On the Freedom of a Christian" that "A Christian is a perfectly free Lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

So What?

This means that we are freed from sin and death and cannot earn our salvation, Jesus has done all that for us, but we are free FOR our neighbor. God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does. Therefore, as a part of your promises at baptism that you will renew and state for yourself at your Affirmation of Baptism, we will put that love into action.

Intrinsic Impact

A service project being an aspect of Lord of Life Lutheran Church's Affirmation of Baptism criteria is to help in the understanding of being a Christian and living God's love through action and connection. The hope is to have a lasting impact on you, the student, through increasing overall life satisfaction, through helping others, and feeling connected to the community while increasing social awareness and responsibility. It is the intentional journey leading to the impact of having created goodness and what that means for all those involved. Cognitively, the hope is that you enhance your personal knowledge of project management, problem solving, social cooperation, communication, and public speaking. In turn, this provides a rewarding leadership experience for you, and a solid example on how to follow God's footsteps.

Extrinsic Impact

Any type of service project, volunteerism, or community service should have the goal to make the world around you safer, cleaner, more prosperous, or an overall "better" place to live for all. The impact can be far reaching through many in need people benefitting in a small way, making a huge impact on one person's life, or increasing awareness for a cause. Other impacts include

setting a good example of being a citizen of our world. Lord of Life Lutheran Church and you advocating and embodying the service mindset can impact both individuals and organizations to be more involved in their community in many ways.

OVERVIEW

Your service project can be done individually or in groups of two. There are certain checkpoints where certain objectives will be submitted to keep you on track to finish. By the end, the expectation is to have a project that is **at least 10 hours of service** and for you to professionally present your project to the congregation.

Contacts

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

- Pastor Beth - bwalch@lordoflifebismarck.org
- Pastor John - jstreccius@lordoflifebismarck.org
- McKaela Halvorson - m.larson1007@gmail.com

If you need help finding specific resources or information please contact McKaela.

EXPECTATIONS

Timeline

For large and small projects, sorting out the timeline is often the first and most important job. If you don't know the deadline or when certain tasks within the project need to be done, there is little chance they will be completed on time.

There's no one way to make a project timeline, but the two most common methods are going from start to finish or working backward.

Start to finish: If you know how much time each step in the project will take but don't have a deadline, figure out task deadlines based on how much time each step will take. Work your way through to the end of the project, and you've got a completed project timeline.

Working backward: If the deadline is established already, start with that and work your way back to figure out when each task needs to be done in order to hit that deadline.

2023-2024 Timeline

- Preparation: Begins 10/11/2023** with the overview of service projects at 7:00pm Lord of Life Fellowship Hall.
- Proposal: Due 11/15/2023** and the document must be emailed to McKaela, Pastor Beth, and Pastor John by 9pm CST.
- Project: 11/15/2023 - 04/03/2024** this is done by the student(s) with the assistance of the parent/guardian(s).
- Practice: 04/10/2023** - 7:00pm in Lord of Life Sanctuary. The presentation must be given via a flash drive to McKaela on this night.
 - A tips session for creating and giving the presentations will be **01/17/2024** at 7:00pm in the Lord of Life Fellowship Hall.*
- Presentation: 04/24/24** - 7:00pm Lord of Life Sanctuary (congregation is invited to attend.)

Preparation

Your preparation begins with this document and with your attendance at the overview with McKaela on 10/11/2023. It is very important to take the preparation seriously, meet the deadlines, and to keep proactive preparation top of mind throughout each step.

To prepare your proposal, lists will be your friends. Start with the list of your strengths and interests. From there look into the needs of our community, under-supported groups of people, or a cause you are passionate about through speaking with family, friends, congregation members, Pastor Beth and John, your mentor, and teachers. Do any of the things on either list match up?

You can choose anything that you can imagine as long as it does not benefit you directly or is an expectation for another group (Honor Society, a school assignment, Scouts, part of a parent's job, etc.)

If you would like, please contact McKaela via email to set up a time to talk about your project at any point. She can be available on some Sundays between services or some Wednesdays during confirmation time.

Once you have a community need or underserved group you'd like to help with, you have to pick your type of service action. This is a great resource on the types of service action. [Click Me!](#)

Considerations...

Your service project should reflect YOU and Christ through YOU! The service project you pick and/or the volunteering that you participate in does not have to be what you “think” you “need” to do but how your passions and strengths align with our community needs.

When thinking about or doing service, the following points should also be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- The idea of service is not to be viewed as a way to earn the right to your confirmation, confirmation is a gift from God in and of itself.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism and all through your life.
- You are not alone! We advocate for you to look beyond our church walls and you have a whole congregation to enlist for more hands or knowledge if you so choose! Our congregation made a promise to help you in your faith journey. Do not be afraid to hold them accountable to that.

If you pick fundraising for a particular charity or organization please read this article to help aid you in avoiding scam charities. Local charities are the preferred option to strengthen our community. [Click Me!](#) and [Click Me!](#)

Proposal

Good service projects help someone or a group of people by providing a resource through a physical contribution or through other means. A great service project has the previously stated attributes but comes from compassion, a strength of the facilitator, and matching to a real community need. Once you've done this there is a proposal that should lay out all the important parts of your project, the resources your project will have, and goals or outcomes you hope to see.

Below is a brief outline of your **1 page proposal** that you'll turn in by 11/15/2023.

Proposal Outline:

- Title (optional) You can just use “2023-2024 Service Project Proposal”
- Your name and contact information
- Project Overview
 - This is used as a summary of the whole project. The brief what and who.

- Project Activity
 - What exactly is the project? What are you doing, supporting, donating, etc.
- Connection to Baptismal Promises and the description of your Why
 - to live among God's faithful people,
 - to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 - to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 - to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 - and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
- The Timeline
 - This is where you can get specific with what things will be done by what date for your project. Do you need to contact someone by a specific date? Do you need to create a sign up sheet? Do you need to buy or get supplies donated?
- Project Needs (or a budget?)
 - Do you need volunteers, supplies, a venue, money to purchase supplies or the resource to donate? How do you intend to get them? Do you need permission from someone or an organization?
- Expected Outcomes
 - Who is this intended for, what aspects of the Christian tenets is it hitting and how specifically? This may be covered in your baptismal promises section as well. You can use those here if you'd like.

Project

This is your most actionable step! It is time to make the impact, have the event, collect the resources!

If you need examples of past projects or just project ideas please talk to McKaela. Be creative, make it your own, there is no wrong answer, you got this!

Practice

We will be having a practice session for our presentations with just the 9th graders, and small group leaders before presenting to the congregation. This is an important step to make sure you're comfortable enough with your project to confidently share your amazing works. The expectations of the presentation are the following (hint: use your project proposal but add the actual outcomes to the end!) We will go over this and more 1/17/2024 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The slideshow (PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc.) must be put on a flash drive and turned in on 04/10/2024. You will have access to the projector/screens, the clicker to move your slides, a handheld mic, or podium with a mic. Please be ready to present yourself professionally.

Presentation Expectations: You must answer the following in a 5 minute presentation.

- Who are you?
- Why did you pick this project and how did you find the need?
- What was the project specifically? The activity or fundraiser?
- Who or what benefitted? A person, group, organization, charity?
- What did you learn? What went well or not well? How have you changed? How did you feel?
- What unique experiences did you have?
- How does this project connect to or help you live out your Baptismal Promises?
- Include any testimonials, feedback, or pictures (with permission.)

Presentation

The last step!

It is time to share with your congregation your service project and how it went. You already completed the hours, made the presentation, and now you're ready to publicly speak on it. Follow the presentation expectations from the practice section, pull from what we'll speak about 1/17/2023, and have fun!