



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Advent Greetings!

This past month has been an emotional one. There have been moments of joy and fun, alongside some challenges, but through it all, God has been present.

We began with All Saints Day, which is always a time of reflection and emotion. This day serves as a powerful reminder that, even though our loved ones may no longer be with us physically, they remain present in the sacred space created during communion.

Election Day was busy with many turning out to vote for the next president. Given the contentious nature of the election and the candidates from both major parties, many people (myself included) feel uncertain about what the future holds for our county. But one thing I am sure of is that Lord of Life will remain a place of welcome for all God's people.

I know this was a particularly troubling time for many, and several of my peers have reported an increase in visitors at church, just as we experienced here the Sunday after the election. Many visitors commented on the hospitality and welcome they felt, and while time will tell if they will continue to attend, it was encouraging to see so many seeking spiritual community during such a time.

After delivering a passionate sermon the Sunday following the election, I traveled to Florida to assist my parents and grandmother, who are facing significant health challenges. I worked to establish systems to support them in their daily lives. I am incredibly grateful for the encouragement I received from the congregation to be with my family during this time.

Throughout the month of November—our "Give Thanks Month"—a handful of members have shared their testimonies about why they continue to give their time, talents, and treasures to Lord of Life. Each person who shared admitted to feeling nervous, but this has been an invaluable discipleship moment. As 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us, "...always be ready to give your testimony to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you."

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to express how deeply grateful I am for Lord of Life. The people here truly desire to deepen their relationships with God and with one another by loving and serving others. It is a true honor to serve as Pastor to such a wonderful community.

Gratefully yours,

Rev. Adam Dowd

Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Darien.





Downers Grove Area FISH is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization in existence since 1969. They are dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for at-risk members of surrounding local communities. And, Lord of Life is doing its part.

During our God's Work Our Hands November project, we collected a total of 146 lbs. of canned cranberries, boxes of mashed potatoes, and cans of corn and mixed vegetables. The volunteers at FISH truly appreciated our outreach.

International Christmas Celebration

Lord of Life will host an International Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 PM. There will be a short program followed by a buffet dinner. Tickets are on sale now after service. Please purchase tickets in advance: Adults \$15, Children \$7 (5-12), 4 and under free. Family cap at \$45. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions or comments, please contact Judy P or Arlene D.

Final Donations for 2024

All cash and check donations for 2024 need to be in the Church office by **10:00 AM on Monday, December 30th** to be included in the final count for 2024. All electronic donations for 2024 need to be submitted by Sunday, December 15th to be included in the final count. Thank you!

Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Longhorn, 708 Janes Avenue Bolingbrook, Woodridge on **Tuesday, December 10th 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP. to Elaine Sherman at 708-638-2642. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits will meet on **Thursday, December 19th at noon!** We will continue with our Potluck luncheon! We are going to play Christmas Bingo and a couple of other games! We will also have a \$10.00 Gift Card exchange for those who want to participate!

Seniors is open to everyone! If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 1 (630) 927-9996. Marilyn

December Birthdays

December 5th Bruce D.
December 8th Art K.
December 10th Raymond S.
December 17th Ray S.
December 20th Dale P.
December 25th Paul R.
December 26th Mason C.



Un-Decorating the Church

Come and join us to un-decorate the church on January 5th at 11:15 am. Please sign up to bring treats. There is a sign up in the narthex. It will be a jolly good time!

Council Recognition

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. posed this challenging question: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Dr. King's challenge can be seen in so many aspects of Lord of Life's daily actions. Most recently, it was seen in:

- **Bruce Danielson** who rose at dawn to opened Lord of Life for the election judges
- The **many volunteers** who greeted voters and applauded first time voters at the presidential election.
- **Jim Kelly** who secured Wolves tickets for our February 1st adventure.

Chicago Wolves



Save February 1st for a night of exciting Chicago hockey with the Wolves. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex, call the office 630-323-3161, or email lordlifesecc@gmail.com



Christmas Eve
Tuesday, Dec 24th at 5pm & 11pm

Christmas Day
Wednesday, Dec 25th at 10am
Lessons and Carols, Pajamas, and Pancakes

Midweek Services

December 4th

Bible Study and Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Pray 7:00 PM
Lord of Life

December 11th*

Bible Study and Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Pray 7:00 PM
Christ Lutheran Church
Rt. 83 and 55th Street
Clarendon Hills.

December 18th*

Bible Study, Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Pray 7:00 PM
Prince of Peace
2600 West 75th Street
Woodridge

*For those who would like to carpool, we will meet at Lord of Life at 5:30 PM, each Wednesday.

Poinsettias

Our 2024 Poinsettias this year will come in a foiled 6-1/2" sized pot with 5 or more flowers on the plant. The cost is \$17.00 per plant. Please mark the color you prefer (red or white), how many plants you are ordering and the amount enclosed. Please place your order envelope in the collection plate or give it to the church office by December 15th at the very latest! Thank you!



Committee Reports

Christian Education:

"During this Lenten season, Pastor Adam had been conducting the Bible classes in the evening at 6 p.m. prior to the Holden Evening Service. Numerology has significance in the Bible and specifically these 40 days of Lent. Other periods of 40 days discussed Jesus' being in the wilderness. In Exodus, Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 days and had communications with God. Thereafter, the Israelites wandered in the Sinai for 40 years and only Caleb and Joshua, of the original group were living to enter the Promised Land. Pastor Adam describes the region and what the limitations were for the people and why God did not permit those who questioned him to enter the Promised Land> All are welcome to join the interesting discussions". - Connie Allekian

Finance:

October donations were modest. The \$15,828 total is the fourth lowest October in the last ten years, trailing an extraordinary 2023 (\$44,132) by \$28,304 while exceeding a modest 2022 (\$15,147) by \$682. October expenses (\$21,961) were higher than 2023 by \$380 and higher than 2022 by \$3,429. October operations generated a \$6,133 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$50,396, again the highest at the end of ten months.

At the end of ten months, 83.33% of the year, 82.5% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 83.33% were highly seasonal. However, it should be noted that in prior years the percent expended has been several percent lower than the completed portion of the year.

Donations through October recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

No pass-through funds are overdrawn. Ten on-line donations totaling \$724.62 were received by the last counters report date (10/28/24). There was one \$20 Thrivent donation (YTD there have been 4 Thrivent donations totaling \$148).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$49,736 since 12/31/23. The decrease is due to the operational deficit and payments for the gathering place project. Without phenomenal donations during November and December totaling approximately \$87,000, Lord of Life will end 2024 with a substantial operational deficit. - James T. Kelly, Treasurer



Judy Padera - Council President
Art Kardatzke - Council Vice President
Roberta Sejnost - Council Secretary, LCW
Connie Allekian - Stewardship, Christian Ed
Marlene Carlson - RIC
Arlene Danielson - Finance, LCW
Elsy Eggert - Children and Hunger
Ron Matta - Property
Debbie McNichols - Hospitality
Sherry Sejnost - Evangelism,
Marilynn Sells - Worship and Music, Nominating
Alice Tangorra - Hospitality
Pastor Adam - Christian Education, Vision

Council Highlights

- Committee budget requests for the 2025 budget are due to Jim Kelly
- The Bulletin Board/Narthex subcommittee was allotted \$100.00 from the Hospitality committee budget to purchase bulletin board/narthex seasonal decorations
- Due to additional purchases, the new profits from the Treasures in the Trunk sale is \$886.45
- Thus far, \$1,470.00 has been raised for the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response-Hurricane Relief.
- The Adopt a Plot subcommittee was allotted \$1,000.00 from the Property committee budget for landscaping.
- Council approved increases in the salary of the Pastor, the administrative assistant, the music director and the custodian with final approval at the Congregational meeting in January.
- Church room rates were increased: Fellowship Hall=\$125.00; West Room=\$100.00; North Room=\$75.00; Kitchen=\$75.00; South Room=\$30.00.
- The Children and Hunger committee will collect 4 large bins and 2 small bins of Christmas dinner food for Mt. Carmel
- The next Lord of Life adventure is a trip to a Wolves game in February 1st.

Month in Video



December

SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 12pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Bible Study and soup Su 7pm AA 7pm Host Holden Evening Pra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 12pm Loving Word Service 4pm International Christmas 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Holden Evening Prayer a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Luncheon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day for Poinsettia Order 10am Worship Service In Pers 12pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 7pm Church Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Bible Study At Prince of 7pm AA 7pm Holden Evening Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Senior Spirits 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 12pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve 5pm Christmas Eve Service 5:15pm OA 11pm Christmas Eve Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Day 10am Lessons and Carols 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 12pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 1 Rosita's Work Anniversary New Year's Day 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 6pm SDA Funeral

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congressional Meeting January 26, 2025

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
725 75th Street
Darien, Il 60561

