

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725-75th Street - Darien, Illinois 60559

January, 2021

From Pastor Carole

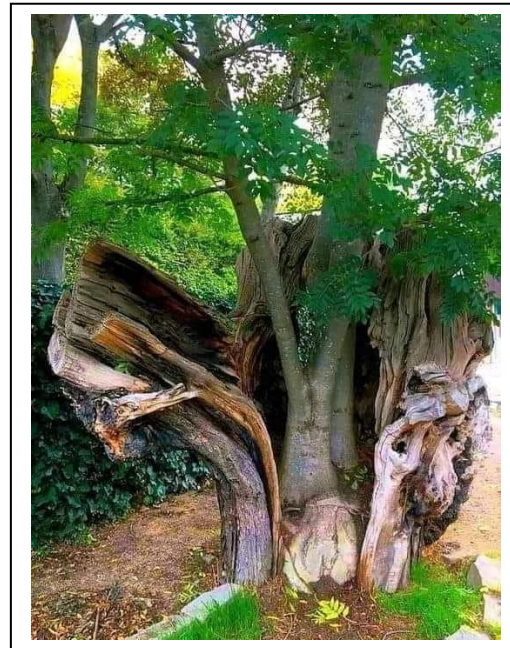
Silent night, holy night. Christmas is so much like the eye of a hurricane. Peace and calm in the center but swirling all around it category 5 winds blow the dickens out of everything we know. Scripture reminds us of the death of infants ordered by Herod. How do we balance the peace and the call to stand against the forces of evil, death, and destruction? This is the life of the spirit to which we are dedicated to in our baptism. A key to finding this balance is witnessed in our promises made at our baptism and repeated in Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation as most of us remember the rite. The liturgy asks: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: 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?

- Buy some groceries for the food pantry-check.
- Participate in the daily Bible reading-check. Comment on the reading—double check.
- Attend weekly virtual services/or in person when we can— maybe once a month-one quarter check.
- Study and support our church's advocacy against racism, extremism, and terrorism of all kinds-ooo that sounds controversial, I don't feel comfortable with that.
- Attending faith development and Bible study---well, I already did that. Can I check that off? (probably not) We never stop growing in our faith in God. Intentional reflection, study and worship makes a big difference.
- Pray before meals-check.

- Support Lord of Life through regular offerings, attending meetings, serving on committees—well, maybe? But what about covid?

It's been hard and it is going to remain hard for some time to come. If you need help with your electronic devices give the church a call. We have a number of computer-savvy members that could help you to purchase, install, or learn to use various apps like zoom. The pandemic has challenged the church to change. While some things about in-person meetings, prayer and

worship will never be diminished joining the electronic age is here to stay. In fact, it will provide entry to some people who have not been active in a church community before. Lord of Life can embrace these opportunities in order to be a congregation



for the present and the future. We are blessed with knowledgeable people to guide those of us that are behind the curve. We have hospitality ministry teams, worship ministry teams, why not technology ministry teams!

No matter what Lord of Life's ministry looks like in 2021 you can be sure your church is here for you.

January Activities at Lord of Life

Holy Communion pick up- Each Saturday from 10 a.m to noon communion packets are available at the east entrance of the church.

Virtual Coffee Hours- Each week during January join your friends for a cup of “Joe” and good conversation at 10:00 am. A Zoom link is included in your weekly email. Use this link to enjoy a time of mutual conversation. Each coffee hour has special themes. Coffee Hours will also be devoted to discussions to frame the vision statement

Virtual Coffee Hour Schedule

January 10- Review of the Revised Constitution

January 17-Visions for the future of Lord of Life

January 24- Visions for the future of Lord of Life

January 31- No coffee hour- Annual Meeting at 11:00am

Virtual or you can make a reservation for in-person.

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for January 31, 2021 at 11:00. Please call the church office to make your reservation, whether you will attend in person or view on-line.

MINISTRY PROJECT FOR JANUARY

The Willowbrook Wildlife Center is the focus of our contributions. The Center often has additional urgent needs and special requests between March and August, the busy baby season. Some of the many items requested on their wish list are: facial tissues, gently used or new bath towels, heating pads, heated water bowls, rectangular plastic litter pans, distilled water, dog, puppy or kitten food, dish soap, rubber gloves, paper towels scrub brushes, ZipLoc storage bags, AAA, AA or 9V batteries, etc. A complete list of items is available for pickup with your communion packets. A collection bin will be set up in the narthex for your donations. We will also continue to collect food for the Mt. Carmel food pantry.

In Progress : Next Steps For Lord of Life

GOOD NEWS: Lord of Life is moving forward in preparation for the search for a new permanent pastor. The financial audit is underway under the guidance of Art Kardatske, Aimee Jimenez, and Kerry Spitznagle

A congregational profile, based on the demographics of the Lord of Life community, is being researched by Janet Kardatzke, Sue Tomaszek, Debbie McNichols and Arlene Danielson.

Bobbie Sejnost, Sheryl Sejnost and Judy Padera have completed the update of the Lord of Life constitution. You should have received a copy of the proposed revised constitution by email. We have a limited number of paper copies. If you would like one call the church office to reserve a copy. You can pick it up Saturday morning from 10 to Noon. And join us the January 10th Coffee Hour for discussion.

IT's CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINATING TIME

The time has come for the Nominating Committee to place interested candidates on the ballot to be elected to the Congregation Council for 2021-2023. The Lord of Life Council Nominating committee consists of Don Dibbern, Marilynn Sells, Debbie McNichols and Arlene Danielson. If you are interested in serving on Council, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members. Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 7:00 PM and are limited to two and half hours. If the agenda items are not covered within that time frame, an additional meeting is scheduled later in the month. Council meetings are conducted in a hybrid approach in person and virtually.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER???

We are updating our directory! Kathy will be reaching out to everyone to update their information in the church directory. We will include multiple telephone numbers for individuals and families with a note of the preferred number. You will also be able to indicate whether or not you want your information published. We would also like to include birthdates as it is part of the Shepherd's Staff database. Don't worry – we will not share anyone's age. Keep an eye out for the form to fill in your information.

Something New Has Come Our Way

Ron Matta and the Property Brothers have been working with a Boy Scout as he completes his requirements for the Eagle Scout rank. A major requirement is the completion of a major project, and to accomplish this, a Scout has designed and built an oak veneer, removable multi-shelf cabinet to house the various collections we periodically conduct at LoL. While this cabinet will not necessarily replace any existing objects used for collection means, it looks very nice in our narthex.

Offerings

Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the new secure lock box outside the west entry. Using the locked mailbox adds another layer of security for your offering.

Thank you to everyone who has been coming out to do this. To access the secure electronic donations go to our website at <http://www.lordoflifedarien.com/> and click on the green "Give" box. With your help we will be able to continue to serve you and the community "*Sharing God's Love.*"

Highlights from the December Church Council Meetings

- A new church directory will be compiled. Families will be sent a form to complete providing names, addresses and phone numbers via email in January.
- The success of Project Spirit with its advent wreathes, presentations on St. Nicholas with chocolate and candy canes and Santa Lucia with gnomes was very successful.
- The date and time for the Annual Meeting was established as January 31st at 11:00 A.M. via a hybrid connection of Zoom and in church meetings. Reservations must be made by calling the church office and declaring preference of in person or virtual.
- The Council has devised a format for anonymous voting for Council candidates and the constitutional changes
- The 2021 budget draft was discussed. Pastor Carole kindly proposed not increasing her salary and housing allowance for next year. The only Pastoral budgetary difference will be in Pastor Carole's mileage allowance.
- The first half of December offerings was \$12,000.00. However, 2020 may end with an approximate eight thousand dollar deficit.
- LoL Committee annual reports are due to Kathy by Monday, January 11.
- Council moved that Pastor Carole contact the Synod and Jim Eckwall to arrange a donation of the harpsichord, which is in disrepair and difficult to tune.
- Council recognition for December were:
 - ✓ Mary Szyszka for her St. Nicholas Coffee Hour presentation
 - ✓ Arlene Danielson and Judy Padera for the Santa Lucia Coffee Hour presentation
 - ✓ Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost for the many hours they dedicate to recording the virtual Bible readings, sermons and coffee hours
 - ✓ Marla Suda for researching Shepherds Staff ability to interface with the new directory

2020 Council Members and Committees:

Arlene Danielson	President Vision Team Finance Committee Personnel Comm.
Sherry Sejnost	Vice President Evangelism Personnel Comm.
Bobbie Sejnost	Secretary Vision Team
Stacie Plzak	Worship & Music
Marla Suda	Christian Education
Judy Padera	Children & Hunger Hospitality
Sheila Ruh	Evangelism
Ron Matta	Property
Carolyn Katt	LCW
Pastor Carole Willer	
Jim Kelly	Treasurer Finance Comm.



Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

Please pray for members

Dolores Schramm
Brenda Slonek
Manny Jimenez

Pray for other family and friends ...

Ace Savage, Caryl Schaer's nephew
Chris H., friend of Sue Ames
Sue Horton, daughter of Toni Blesy
Joseph Capozziello, son of Toni Blesy
Former LoL members Ken and Bonly Dry
Dick Eggert, Bob's brother
Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt
Ella Jones, Eggert's friends' young child
Gilbert, Elsy Eggert's nephew
Gloria Valentin, Elsy Eggert's sister
Carson, grandson of the Gullifords
James Hazelton
Stephen Plunkett, cousin of Carolyn Katt
Jaden Rhode, grandson of the Mattas
Scott Hutt, Judy Padera's brother
Jim Gardner, friend of Cor Peterson
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson
Jan Dubick, sister of Cor Peterson
Ryan Hart, friend of Cor Peterson
Joanne Mutz, niece of Cor Peterson
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas
Marion Sletten, friend of Caryl Schaer
Bev, friend of Debi Scarpelli
Lisa Schramm, granddaughter of Dolores
Hannah Stapleton, great niece of the Sloneks
Mary Wojtala, sister of LeeAnn Swanson
Mary Haapoja, goddaughter of Mary Szyszka
Margo Bonbrake, friend of the Waechters
Ken Kettner, Sandy Waechter's brother
Don Michaels, brother-in-law of Nancy Zavattaro
The Rinaldi's, friends of Nancy Zavattaro
Nance Nagy, friend of Nancy Zavattaro
Bob, friend of Deanna Riha

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY

Brian Irizarry, Elsy Eggert's grand nephew
Dalia Wenckus
Anthony Modica, Denise's son

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630-323-3161

Call us at (630) 323-3161

Web Address: lordoflifedarien.org

Visit the ELCA home page on the Internet at <http://www.elca.org>

Address Service Requested

Lord of Life Staff

Pastor Carole Willer

Rosita Yao, Church Musician

Kathy Clinton, Secretary (e-mail: LordLifeSec@aol.com)

Mark Rokicki, Custodian

All are welcome!

Dated material-Please deliver promptly

January, 2021

January 31 - 11:00 am - Annual Congregational Meeting

