



September 2021

As August began to wane and signs of Autumn began to appear, I was taken aback. Although many tell me they love Autumn and they love putting on their sweaters again, this year I am not so sure. As a result of Covid threats, outdoor gatherings are a great way to gather with friends and family and feel a little safer. Yet, I feel hesitant.

However, reading James E. Miller's *Autumn Wisdom* I was caught by these words, "Your time of endings is best marked by new beginnings." This is so true on so many levels, personally, as families, and as a congregation. Each level reveals a truth about the ongoing movement of life. Life doesn't end; it re-creates itself. Miller writes, "life does not come to a halt in autumn; it readies itself for what comes next. Life does not slowly disappear; it busies itself for an unfolding reappearance. At its truest and its best, autumn is a time of transformation."



How are you being readied for transformation with Autumn season? How is Lord of Life? Certainly, as Lord of Life prepares to call a new pastor, the time of endings will be marked by new beginnings. Paul writes in *Romans 12 verse 2*: "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" May we all be transformed so that we can determine the will of God for all matters of our life and faith together. Like the transformation in Autumn, through listening to one another we can experience new beginnings. A perfect example exists when one hikes through forest paths among golden leaves and suddenly discovers an amazing new beginning when that new path or direction, which was blind to us when the forest was blanketed in lush green, now clearly emerges. How could we have missed it? Just so, the ending is making way for something new. "I am doing a new thing," says our God, right in the beginning of Autumn. Let's make way, with hesitancy perhaps, but with openness to the promises of God. Let's go hiking together through the Autumn trails and find out where they lead us.

In Christ, Pastor Carole

Join Us: Celebrate and Learn the Word

What: Our Adult Education Program

When: 10:00 A.M. every Sunday in September

Where: In person in the Lord of Life Sanctuary or by Zoom

How: On September 5th, 12th, and 19th we will complete our reading and reflection on 2nd Corinthians. In these last chapters Paul makes his case for the gospel of grace for all people.

On October 3rd: we will explore connection to the Holy Catholic Church

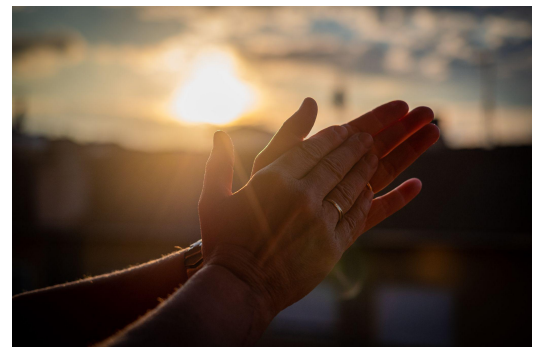
Most Sundays we confess in the Creed that we believe in "the holy catholic church, the communion of saints..." What does that concretely mean? How are you connected? How is Lord of Life connected?

The bulletin every Sunday says that we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). What is the ELCA, actually? How big is it? What does it do? What does the "Evangelical" mean? How is "Lutheran" different than Methodist, or Southern Baptist or Catholic? What does it matter?

On October 3rd these kinds of questions about belonging will be explored. Our guest presenter will be Rev. Dr. Roger Willer who works in the Office of the Presiding Bishop at the ELCA's national administrative center, located here in Chicago . Come join us to find out what it means to be part of the Lutheran national church and the Lutheran international communion. Lord of Life already is connected so come learn what that means! Come find out about how Jesus' command to "love your neighbor" connects us across the town, the nation, and the globe.

LET'S GIVE THANKS TO...

The LCW Committee extends a big thank you to all who participated in donating cleaning and personal care items for the FISH food pantry during the August God's Work: Our Hands campaign. The volunteers at FISH were so very thankful for the generosity of the people from LoL. We have demonstrated Sharing God's Love in a very important way. Thanks to all of you who participated.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE LOL MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Agnes D | September 7 |
| Christine P | September 11 |
| Marla S | September 11 |
| Jenna S | September 11 |
| Gregory D | September 14 |
| Robert E | September 18 |
| Judy P | September 20 |
| Sherry S | September 21 |
| Sheila R | September 22 |
| Linda K | September 27 |
| LeeAnn S | September 30 |

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

- Attendance remains steady at both the 9:00 A.M. and 11: A.M. services
 - A picture of Pastor Todd will be hung in the church's breezeway
 - The Virtual Bible Study continues have good attendance
 - Comfort Dogs will be the featured program for Senior Spirits in October. A free will collection will be offered during the meeting.
 - The shopping cart used for donations for the family shelter will remain by the front door
 - The Sunday School program is seeking additional volunteers to help teach. Anyone interested can reach out to Marla Suda or Aimee Jiminez
 - Our first **Mini Golf Family Outing** will be held on **September 12th** at Miners Mike at McCollum Park. The cost is \$6.00 to play
 - Lord of Life's **Annual Pet Blessing** will take place on **October 3rd**. Judy Padera and Marilynn Sells are the event coordinators
 - LoL's participation in Darien Fest saw lots of visitors stopping by the booth. Many visitors inquired about Sunday school for children.
 - Hymnals will soon be returned to the pews
 - July donations were weak, and our financial deficit is slowly increasing. Pastor Carole will write a letter encouraging second quarter donations
 - The Worship and Music committee has ordered new banners for Christmas and Easter

The Dogs are Coming; the Dogs are Coming!

Lord of Life's God's Work Our Hands campaign for September is the LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry, launched in August 2008, is a National Human Care Ministry that embraces the unique calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers.



The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. In addition, they serve every day in many ways in their community and are dispatched in times of disaster. Above all, the LCC never charges those they serve. Instead, they depend on donations to support their Ministry. To that point, donation envelopes dedicated to the support of the Comfort Dogs will be available during the month of September. Checks should be written to Lord of Life.

TIME FOR FABULOUS FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In August **Senior Spirits** met and partnered up in teams to assemble jigsaw puzzles. A special treat was enjoyed after the teams completed their puzzles, all were Appreciative.

Senior Spirits will meet again at noon on **September 16th**. The Darien police will be the featured program and will discuss the current scams that often target senior citizens. Folks should bring their lunch and a beverage. A special dessert will be once again provided.

Do you enjoy a good lunch? Then you must connect with LoL's **Lunch Bunch**, which meets monthly. This month **Lunch Bunch** will meet at NOON (note time change) on Tuesday, September 14th at the **Public Landing** in Lockport, 800 West 8th Street, Lockport. 815-838-6500.

Please RSVP to Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996, and if you need a ride, please let Marilyn know and a ride will be arranged.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Unfortunately, the pandemic claimed our regular florist's business; and established florists are simply out of our price range. Because we want our altar to be adorned with flowers, members have been purchasing grocery store flowers.

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, fill out the donation sheet as usual, but indicate you will bring them. Many vases are available if you want to arrange them. However, if you would like Kathy to arrange them for you, call the office and

let her know early in the week. Typically, members bring the flowers to Kathy for arrangement on Friday.

WE WERE THERE!!! AT DARIEN FEST

Under the leadership of Arlene Danielson and Judy Padera, Lord of Life members Judy and George Padera, Pastor Carole, Carolynn Katt, Raymond Silhan, Connie Allekian, Aimee Jimenez, Stacie Plzak, Sherry Sejnost, Bruce and Arlene Danielson set up a table in the parking lot of the Q Bar on the weekend of August 14th & 15th and spread the word about Lord of Life

Many visitors stopped by to receive brochures, flyers and water, and the children put together different crafts while LoL talked to them and their parents about our Sunday School and services.

This year donation jars for LOL, the Comfort Dogs, and the Children's Shelter were available at the booth and a total of 81.95 in kind was garnered.

Our tent was a little sad this year because the frame was bent, and we could not find the top cover so we had to improvise and use our VBS parachute. On the bright side, the chute kept us shaded and served its purpose. In addition, the children who came to our booth said they loved the pretty colors and thought it was pretty cool that we used a parachute as a cover.

Needless to say we will have to retire the tent, but it served its purpose all these years at Lord of Life.



God Bless every one of you who gave your time and talents to make this a fun event.