

**Welcome to Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
March 5th, 2023
Second Sunday in Lent**



During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Welcome: Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This is a safe space to bring your whole self. If there are ways we can make participation in worship easier for you, we will do our best to accommodate.

Worship: *Masks:* DuPage County community level is **Low**. Since we are at the low level, masks are optional in our building.

Communion: All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

For those worshipping from home: Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You will need your communion packet, this service folder, and if your phone is convenient, you can use it to pass the peace. Lighting a candle hallows your worship place. We distribute packets of pre-consecrated bread and wine (gluten free option is available) for those who call the church office. We are here for you!

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*
Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.
*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

The assembly stands as they are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,

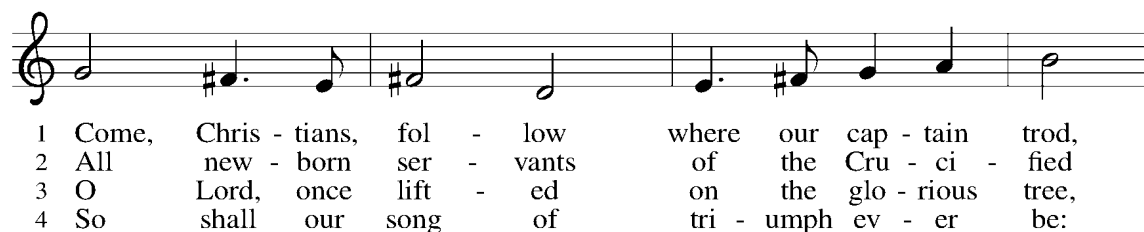
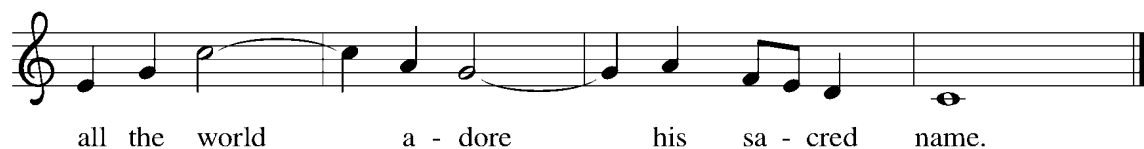
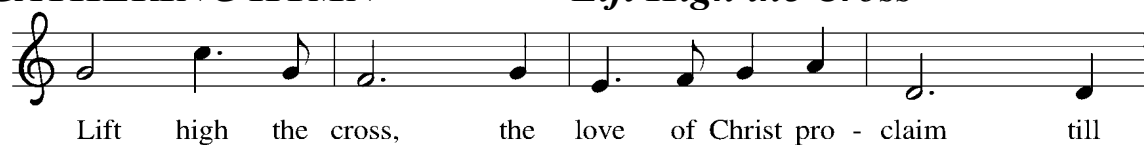
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

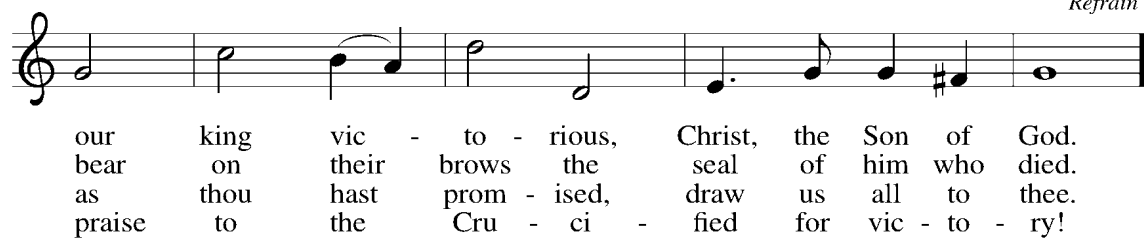
GATHERING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymn 660



Refrain



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
and also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Assembly is seated

YOUNG AT HEART SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

Word

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift

but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Son of Man must be lifted up,

That whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (*John 3:14-15*)

THE GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John, the Third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the

kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

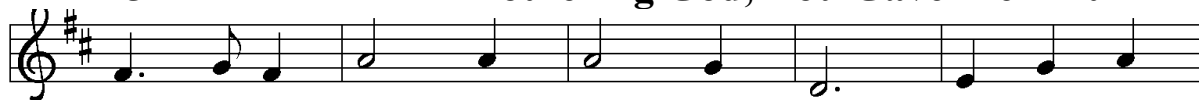
¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are able.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress especially for Toni, Penny, Ken, Kerry, Jim, Roberta, Caryl, Gale, Don, Ron, Nancy and Cor. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available text a word of peace to someone who is worshipping alone.*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

Offering Reflection

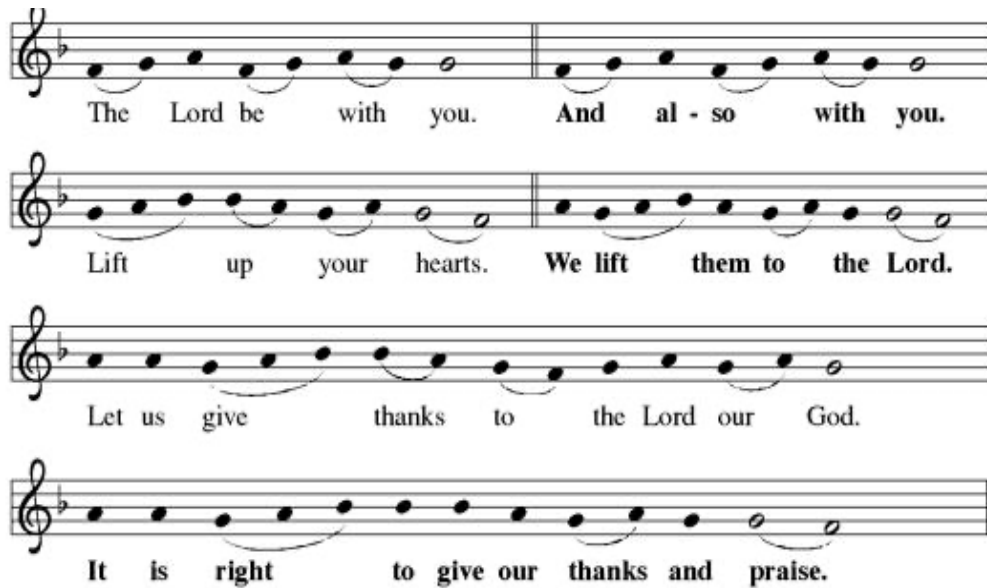
The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

God of good gifts,
 receive these and all our offerings
 as we present them in faithful service
 for the sake of your gospel.
 Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
 as you pour out your very presence
 through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are able.



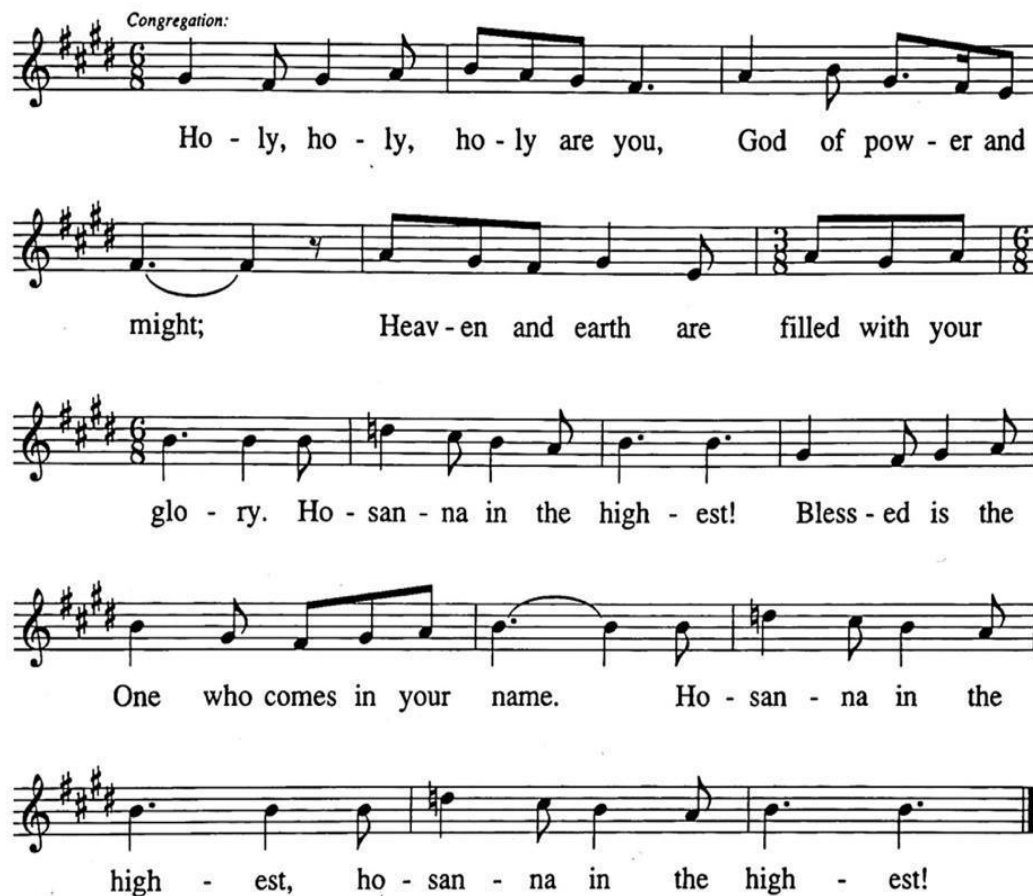
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER... join their unending hymn



Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the

One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION

*All are seated. As we sing When Peace Like a River, please take time to
prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION *When Peace Like a River***ELW 785**

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

Hymn 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Eucharistic Prayer- Nathan Nettleton, used with permission
Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister	Pastor Adam Dowd
Assisting Minister	Jon Silkaitis
Organist	Rosita Yao
Reader	Roberta Sejnost
Guitarist	Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd
Greeters	Marilynn Sells
Ushers	Arlene Danielson and Bruce Danielson
Video	Sherry Sejnost

Announcements – 3-5-2023

This month the **Wine and Candles** are provided by **Judy Padera**.

Flowers today are provided by the **LaVerne Cook** in memory of Kathy.

Easter Flowers Envelopes for Easter flowers are on the table in the narthex. Help beautify the sanctuary for the Easter season! A 6-1/2” potted lily is \$14.00, and tulips and hyacinth are \$12.00 each. **Orders need to be in the church office by Monday, March 27th.**

Easter Meal Boxes This Easter season the Children and Hunger Committee will again be organizing LoL's participation in the holiday meal program with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. Please sign up and then bring to LoL specific grocery items. The sign-up sheets will be available on **Sundays, March 12, 19 and 26**. We plan to fill four large and four medium sized boxes. We will include canned or fresh hams in all the boxes. You may drop off nonperishable items until April 1. Please bring all perishable items to the church on **Saturday, April 1, by 11:00 AM**. Thank you very much for your generosity and your help.
Spring Ahead Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour ahead on March 12th.

Lunch Bunch In March, we will meet at Ki's 705 North Ave. Glendale Heights, on **Tuesday, March 14th, at 11:30 am**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Leona Breede at 630-254-8584 or Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996.

Senior Spirits **Thursday, March 16th at Noon** Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please call Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996.

Potluck and Bingo Join us for a potluck dinner and bingo on **March 17th, at 6:00 pm**. Please bring a dish to share.

Adopt a Plot Do you have a green thumb? Would you like to help make the landscaping at Lord of Life beautiful? Come to the Adopt a Plot meeting on Sunday **April, 23 at 11 AM** and see how you can help. If you have questions, please call Arlene at 630 918-7890 or Judy Padera 630-235-2195.

Feed My Starving Children On **Saturday, April 22nd, from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm**, LoL has a set time to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We will be hand-packing rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets, and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. We can meet at the church and carpool together. You can register online at <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=4WV8EY> or you can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 630-323- 3161.

Donations - Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the drop box outside the west entry. Thank you to everyone who have 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 “Give” tab on the top right. With your help we will be able to continue to serve you and the community “*Sharing God’s Love.*”

Please pray for members:

Toni Blesy	Penny Scukanec	Jim Eckwall
Cor Peterson	Roberta Sejnost	Caryl Schaer
Gale Dyskie	Don Dibbern	Ron Matta
Nancy Swanson	Kerry Spitznagle	Ken Gulliford

A full list of relatives, friends and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday. A list will also be printed in the bulletin the first Sunday of the month.

Last Week’s Giving – \$2605.00

Electronic Donation for the month of February - \$1047.52

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	3/5	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		11:00 AM	Christian Education (Adults and Children)
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship
Tuesday	3/7	5:15 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		7:00 PM	Troop 56
Wednesday	3/8	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		7:00 PM	Holden Evening Prayer
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time (AA)
Friday	3/10	9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	3/11	9:00 AM	Seventh Day Adventist
		12:30 PM	Seventh Day Adventist Luncheon
Sunday	3/12	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		11:00 AM	Christian Education (Adults and Children)
		2:00 PM	Loving Word Worship

Upcoming Events

March 8, 2023	Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM
March 12, 2023	Daylight Saving Time (move clocks forward)
March 14, 2023	Lunch Bunch Ki’s Restaurant 11:30 AM * (contact L. Breede)
March 15, 2023	Worship and Music Meeting 11:00 AM

	Prayers Around the Cross 7:00 PM
March 16, 2023	Senior Spirits Noon
March 17, 2023	Potluck and Bingo 6:00 PM
March 19, 2023	Refreshment Table 11:00 AM
March 21, 2023	Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM
March 22, 2023	Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM
March 27, 2023	Easter Flower orders are due
March 29, 2023	Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM
April 2, 2023	Palm Sunday 10:00 AM
April 4, 2023	Elections All Day
April 5, 2023	Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM
April 6, 2023	Movie Night Prince of Egypt 6:00 PM
April 7, 2023	Good Friday 7:00 PM
April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday 10:00 AM
April 11, 2023	Lunch Bunch Public Landing 11:30 AM* (contact L. Gustafson)
April 13, 2023	Senior Spirits Noon
April 22, 2023	Feed My Starving Children 4:30 PM*

Wednesday Mornings – Bible Study 10:00 AM

Friday Mornings - a group gets together to play cards 9:30 AM

* You need to sign up for this event

