



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Beloved Members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

As we journey through the season of Lent, I am reminded of the power of reflection and repentance in deepening our relationship with God. During this time, we are called to examine our lives and recognize the areas where we have fallen short of God's grace, and to strive towards living in accordance with God's will.

As we are about to come together for our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday services, I encourage you to use this time as an opportunity to connect with God in a deeper way. These services provide a chance to reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, to mourn his death, and to celebrate his resurrection.

As a congregation, we are committed to serving our community and those who are most vulnerable. I am proud of the ways in which our congregation has come together to collect non-perishable food items and hams for Our Lady of Mount Carmel food pantry during this season of Lent. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in our community who are struggling.

Additionally, I love serving our community as a polling place for the local elections. It is always a joy to see our neighbors and chat with some of the folks as they grab a cup of coffee or a snack after voting. Thanks to all who volunteered and welcomed our community.

In addition to our outreach efforts, we have been coming together as a community to deepen our understanding of important Lutheran women who have faithfully been serving as leaders in God's church, even in the face of gender based discrimination. I am grateful for these women and all women who labored in service of the Gospel and help us more fully understand God's mothering and feminine aspects.

As we approach the end of Lent, I am reminded of the hope that the resurrection of Jesus brings to our lives. This hope sustains us through the difficult times and reminds us that we are not alone. May we continue to grow in faith and service to one another, knowing that God's love and grace is always with us.

May God bless you and keep you throughout Holy Week.

Blessings,  
Pastor Adam

# ALERT- ALERT: COMING ATTRACTIONS

Mark Your Calendars!

**April 4th** Once again Lord of Life is serving as a polling place. We are well known for our snacks and friendly greetings. Join the fun and sign up for a two-hour shift.

**April 6th** Movie Night! Join us to watch Prince of Egypt. Will there be popcorn? Will there be snacks? Come and find out.

**April 8th** Come on Holy Saturday at 2:00 P.M. to sweep, and dust and clean to make our wonderful church bright and shiny for Easter.

**April 14th** Pastor Adam is once again showing his creative talents by leading us in an evening of Paint with Pastor. Think you are not a painter? Not talented? Dismiss those thoughts. Under Pastor's guidance, you will become an artist.

**April 16th** Another Movie Opportunity! Join us this time to watch Jesus Christ Superstar. Don't miss this wonderful movie with a special surprise included.

**April 22nd** It's time to Feed My Starving Children once again. We have 50 slots reserved so sign up now. Folks who joined last time are still raving about the fun and satisfaction they felt. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

**May - September Outdoor Worship** will be held on the first Wednesday of May-September. The weather will be beautiful, the surroundings lovely and the message meaningful. Mark your calendar now so you don't forget.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ~ **John 14:6**



## Lunch Bunch

In April, we will meet at Public Landing 800 W. 8th St., Lockport, on Tuesday, April 11th, at noon. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Laurie Gustafson at 815-725-4776

## Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits will meet on Thursday April 13th (please note change of date) at noon. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage. We will have a Representative from the Darien Police Department to bring us up to date on the latest Scams. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions please call Marilynn at 630-927-9996.



## A Special Mission for the Shopping Cart

Since SNAP, benefits have returned to pre-COVID levels, and prices at the store are inflated, folks are feeling the pinch. In just one (1) week FISH provided food to 197 families and delivered food to a record number of 34 seniors.

To help meet this need, on **April 16th**, as a congregation, we are collecting, **CEREAL**. We need cereal in any form: cold cereal in boxes, any size, any kind or hot cereal such as oatmeal/instant oatmeal packets.

Please drop your cereal donation in our trusty shopping card and help FISH help the community.

## 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.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=4WV8EY> or you can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 630-323-3161.



## April Birthdays

April 3 Margot W.  
April 7 Austin C.  
April 13 Carolyn K.  
April 18 Deborah M.  
April 20 Margie C.  
April 20 Steven F.  
April 23 Don D.



## The Song of Unsung Heroes

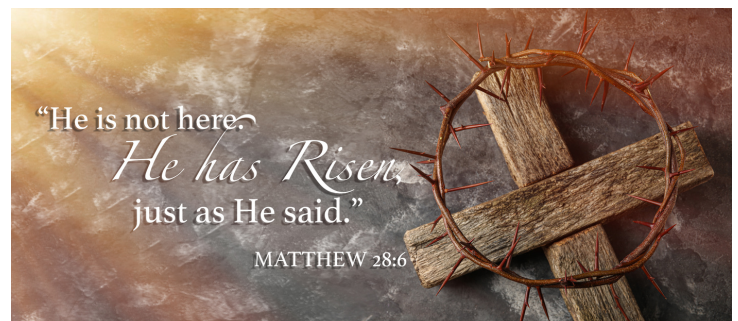
May we sing the song of special thanks to those who keep our church services going on no matter what:

Thanks to Arlene Danielson, Jon Silkaitis and Sherry Sejnost who wrestle with the video system and getting it working smoothly Sunday after Sunday.

Thanks to Sue Tomaszek for stepping up and leading the March 29th Holden Service without missing a beat.

Kudos and a big thanks to Bruce Danielson who arrives at 6: A.M. every Election Day to let the election judges in to set up the polling place at LoL!

Special Easter thanks to Elsy and Bob Eggert and their team for collecting Easter dinner for Mt. Carmel families.



# Committee Reports

**Finance** - February donations were very weak. The \$11,846 total is the fourth highest February in the last ten years, trailing a very weak 2022 (\$11,856) by \$10 while exceeding a very weak 2021 (\$10,885) by \$961. February expenses (\$18,936) were higher than 2022 by \$1,568 and higher than 2021 by \$3,063. February operations generated a \$7,090 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$18,475, the highest at the end of two months in the last twenty-five years.

**Property** - March 2023 Property Report to LOL Council

The following are the activities of the property committee since the last council meeting:

1. The new water cooler has been installed.
2. The recycled bench will be installed by the playground as soon as a secure location is determined by the property committee.
3. Work on the audio/visual system in the Sanctuary continues. The A/V desk has been moved to its new location and one camera is installed at its final location. One camera remains to be installed when materials are received.
4. A new 85" high definition TV has been installed.
5. The Seventh Day Adventist congregation has purchased new wireless microphones to be used in the Sanctuary.

**RIC** - The RIC committee met on March 7th with Pastor Adam, Connie Allekian, Andy Buda, Toni Blesy, Janet Kardatzke, Sheila Ruh, Bobbie Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost in attendance. The committee continued to discuss the book Rescuing Jesus: How People of Color, Women, and Queer Christians are Reclaiming Evangelicalism focusing on the chapter untitled Coming Out.

The next meeting will be held on April 11th at 4:00 P.M. to discuss the next chapters of the text and explore resources found on the RIC webpage. Future considerations of the committee will focus on visiting churches to become familiar with how people of color, and queer Christians worship and developing a message that welcomes and affirms all people in regard to their gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

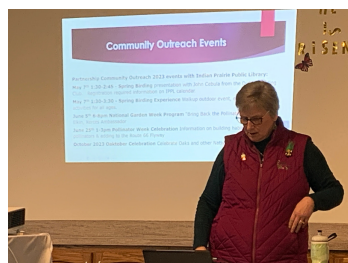
**Worship & Music Committee** - The Worship & Music Committee met on March 15th. A discussion was held regarding how ushering is going and it's been better but still needs some work. Altar Guild is going well. We discussed the organ needs to be played and Pastor will work with Rosita. We discussed sending out a survey to the members asking them to list 3 or 4 of their favorite hymns. Our next meeting will be on May 10th at 11:30 AM.



# Council Highlights

- Lord of Life By Laws are in the process of review
- An Eagle Scout project will re-stain the Pergola and clean the stone path
- The list of inactive members was reviewed; Pastor Adam will contact the three families identified to determine their status.
- The collection of plastic bags will continue with a possible partnership with the Darien Garden Club
- The grocery cart will be available in the narthex one Sunday a month for the collection of a specific food item needed at the food pantries.
- The nursery area and the front bathrooms are under review for redecoration
- An auction will be held at one of Lord of Life's potlucks to gain the honor of dedicating our new garden benches to someone special.

## Pictures Throughout the Month



2023 Council Members  
 Judy Padera - Council President  
 Art Kardatzke - Council Vice President  
 Roberta Sejnost - Council Secretary, RIC  
 Connie Allekian - Stewardship  
 Arlene Danielson - Finance  
 Elsy Eggert - Children and Hunger  
 Ron Mata - Property  
 Debbie McNichols - Hospitality  
 Elanie Sherman - LCW  
 Sherry Sejnost - Evangelism  
 Marilyn Sells - Worship and Music  
 Alice Tangorra - Hospitality

Pastor Adam - Christian Education, Vision, Social Ministry

## April 2023

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Apr 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> <li>11am Christian Education</li> <li>2pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>	Last Day To Order Easter F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> <li>7pm Holden Evening Pra</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Meal Baskets Distri</li> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> </ul> 2 more	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30am Election</li> <li>5:15pm OA</li> <li>7pm Troop 56</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm AA</li> <li>7pm Holden Evening Pra</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Movie Night ( Prince</li> </ul>	7 <b>Good Friday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul> 2 more	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> <li>12:30pm SDA Luncheon</li> <li>2pm Holy Saturday Chur</li> </ul>
9 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> </ul> 2 more	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Lunch Bunch</li> <li>2:30pm Executive Counc</li> </ul> 2 more	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Senior Spirits</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> <li>6pm Paint with Pastor</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
16 <b>Fill the Cart with Cereal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> </ul> 2 more	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm Property Committe</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> <li>7pm Church Council</li> <li>7pm Troop 56</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> <li>4:30pm Feed my Starving</li> <li>7pm SDA - Town Hall anc</li> </ul>
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> <li>11am Adopt a Plot Meeti</li> </ul> 2 more	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In</li> <li>11am Christian Education</li> <li>2pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>	May 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> <li>7pm Troop 56</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6:30pm Outdoor Worship</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ~ **John 11:25-27**