

**Welcome to Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church  
May 4, 2025  
Third Sunday of Easter**



*The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church’s long-standing credo is “We share God’s Love”.

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *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.

**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***

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#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.  
**Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN    The Church of Christ, in Every Age        ELW 729***

- 1    The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
      beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
      must claim and test its heritage  
      and keep on rising from the dead.
  
- 2    Across the world, across the street,  
      the victims of injustice cry  
      for shelter and for bread to eat,  
      and never live before they die.
  
- 3    Then let the servant church arise,  
      a caring church that longs to be  
      a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
      and clothed in Christ's humanity.
  
- 4    For he alone, whose blood was shed,

can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

- 5 We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.

## ***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.**

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we  
laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show  
yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

*All are seated*

## ***Word***

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### **First Reading: Acts 9:1-20**

*Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed  
the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his  
transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the  
way to Damascus.*

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup> He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was

baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 30**

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD my God, I cried out to you,  
and you restored me to health.**

<sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful;  
give thanks in holy remembrance.**

<sup>5</sup> God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime.  
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

<sup>6</sup> **While I felt secure, I said,  
“I shall never be disturbed.**

<sup>7</sup> You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”  
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

<sup>8</sup> **I cried to you, O LORD;  
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

<sup>9</sup> “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup> **Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;  
O LORD, be my helper.”**

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

<sup>12</sup> **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

## **Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14**

*The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”*

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

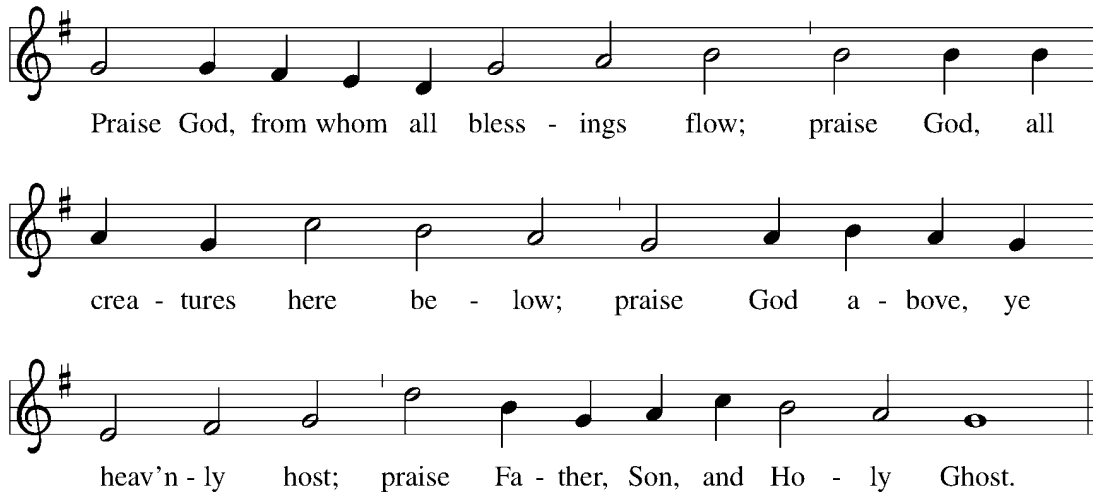
<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Alleluia.* Our hearts burn within us **while you open to us the scriptures.** *Alleluia.* (Luke 24:32)

***THE GOSPEL READING: John 21:1-19***

The holy scriptures according to John, the twenty first chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just

caught.”<sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord.<sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.<sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”<sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”<sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”<sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

*All are seated.*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Adam Dowd*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus is Just Alright*

*Doobie Brothers*

***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

**THE NICENE'S CREED**

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

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. God of grace,

**Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care especially Ken,

Vernette, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, Gale,  
and Cor. God of grace,  
**Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community  
of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us  
how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality  
in this place. God of grace,  
**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places.  
May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today  
and every day. God of grace,  
**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that  
you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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 worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

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

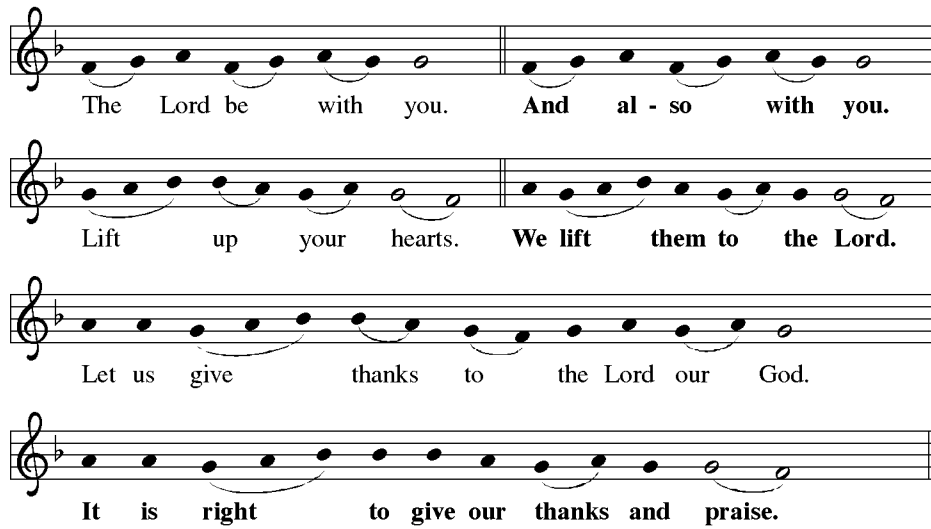
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence,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

Risen One,  
 you have gathered us around your table of grace  
 along with these gifts we bring.  
 Come among us again,  
 breathe your life into us,  
 and enliven us with this meal,  
 that we may live as your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

***Meal***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*



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*



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.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.*

*....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

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

***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us “*SING*” 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

### ***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

### ***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

## ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.  
**Amen.**

### ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

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***

### ***I Love to Tell the Story***

***ELW 661***

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings

as nothing else would do.

### Refrain

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

### ***DISMISSAL***

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***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**

Ray Silhan III

Lector

Art Kardatzke

Organist

Rosita Yao

Guitarist

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Greeters

Connie Allekian

Ushers

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Acolyte

Judy Padera

Video

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements – 5-4-2025**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by Andrew Buda

**Bingo Night – May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** Join us for a fun-filled evening of Bingo, fellowship and prizes! Whether you're a season player or new to the game, all are welcomed to enjoy the excitement. Bring your lucky charms, invite a friend, and get ready for an unforgettable night. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. Please no shellfish.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at 3 Corners, 7231 Lemont Road, Downers Grove, on **Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Sandy Waechter at 630-853-2437. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Outdoor Worship** Join us as we take our worship outside on the second Wednesday of the month starting May 14 at 6:30 pm. We'll gather under the open sky to celebrate God's presence in His creation.

Invite your friends and family to this special time of praise and fellowship.

**Please pray for members:**

Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle
Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera	Linda Matta
Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy	Jim Eckwall
Cor Peterson	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving** – \$16,460.00

**Electronic Donation for the month of April** - \$997.16

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	5/4	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Treat Table Daughters' Day</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Monday	5/5	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Property Committee</b>
Tuesday	5/6	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	5/7	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>11:30 PM</b>	<b>Hymn Pick Committee</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	5/8	5:00 PM	Dance Academy
		<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Bingo</b>
Friday	5/9	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	5/10	9:00 AM	SDA
		12:30 PM	SDA Luncheon
Sunday	5/11	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word