



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Beloved of God,

This summer, the Spirit is on the move at Lord of Life. In worship, around town, and within our walls, I've seen signs of God's presence breaking through in joy, courage, and connection.

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated the baptism of a new adult member, welcomed several new folks into our church family, and rang bells with abandon as we praised the God who sets hearts ablaze. Our average worship attendance continues to rise—even in the summer months—which is no small sign in a time when many churches are wondering about their future. Here at Lord of Life, I see not just stability, but vitality. Our roots are deepening, and new shoots are sprouting.

Over the past month, we've taken our faith into the public square—literally. We joined Equality Downers Grove to paint windows for Pride Month, face painted and temporary tattooed (I wonder where we got that inspiration) at Downers Grove Pride Fest, and hosted a powerful screening of the film *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* in partnership with the Darien Arts Council. These aren't just events. They're acts of witness—moments when we declare that love is louder than hate, and Christ's welcome is wider than the world often allows.

One visitor told me, "It's really important that your church is having these conversations—thank you." I pass that thanks on to you. Your openness, your hospitality, your willingness to grow—it matters. It's making a difference.

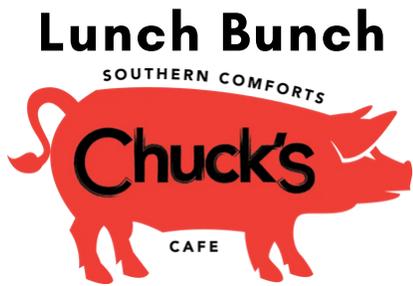
We're also exploring new partnerships, including one with the DuPage Senior Suburban Orchestra, which could bring beautiful music and meaningful intergenerational connection into our sanctuary. And with a strong turnout at our first summer outdoor worship and film night, I'm excited for what lies ahead: more worship under the trees, joyful parades, celebrations, shared meals, and sacred moments.

As Romans 12:11 reminds us: "Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord." Friends, you are living that out. Keep welcoming. Keep praying. Keep showing up. The world needs the kind of hope and belonging that this congregation embodies.

In flaming color and fierce love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Dowd".

Pastor Adam



We will meet at Chuck's, 8025 Cass Avenue, Darien on Tuesday, July 8th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Toni Blesy at 630-297-8330. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Happy Birthday

- July 4 Jonathon S.
- July 7 Toni B.
- July 13 Adeline S.
- July 15 Lynn R.
- July 20 James K.



Cougar's Game



It is All Faith's Night at the Kane County Cougars on July 25th at 6:30 pm. Pastor will have his July event at the baseball stadium. Tickets at \$12.00 for reserved seats, at the end of the game there will be post game fireworks and you are able to run the bases. If you are interested please let Sherry know.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on Thursday June 19th! We had a speaker from Keller Williams who gave a good presentation about aids available to Seniors who are considering moving!

The next meeting is on Thursday July 24th at noon with the a Potluck luncheon!

Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me!

Marilynn Sells
630-927-9996

School Supply Collection

Drop off school supplies in the cedar chest at church.



Pastor praised the entire congregation for cultivating a genuinely welcoming environment reflecting in multiple positive affirmations from visitors.



Committee Report

Hospitality: Strong feedback on church welcome.

Christian Ed: Sunday School interest noted.

Property:

- Work on gutter covers and Sanctuary table is ongoing.
- Exploring conversion of bathrooms to gender-neutral.

Finance:

May donations were outstanding. The \$25,599 total is the highest May in the last ten years, exceeding an anemic 2024 (\$10,870) by \$14,728 and a very weak 2023 (\$11,407) by \$14,192. May expenses (\$20,620) were lower than 2024 by \$320 and higher than 2023 by \$1,977. May operations generated a \$4,979 surplus. The year-to-date deficit decreased to \$19,243, the deficit is the fourth highest at the end of four months in the last ten years.

At the end of four months, 41.67% of the year, 42.0% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 42.0% were highly seasonal. However, it should be noted that in prior years the percent expended has been several percent lower than the completed portion of the year.

Donations through May recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

One pass-through fund is overdrawn. The To Be Determined Later pass-through was used for the Kane County Cougars tickets and will be repaid by individual participants. Ten on-line donations totaling \$633.82 were received by the last counters report date (05/27/25). There was one Thrivent donation totaling \$19. (YTD there have been 5 Thrivent donations totaling \$384).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$20,688 since 12/31/24. The decrease is due to the operational deficit and the Gathering Place project.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Council Highlights

Discussion: Volunteer Protocols and Sanctuary Safety

- Pastor introduced sanctuary safety and volunteer protocols drafted in response to national immigration enforcement and privacy concerns.
- Congregations are encouraged to protect privacy, avoid sharing personal information, and be cautious with unfamiliar visitors.
- Training proposed for ushers and greeters.
- Protocols distributed for review; follow-up to be scheduled at a future meeting.

Pastor's Report Highlights

- **Energy and Spirit:** Strong attendance and engagement noted; average of 48.5 worshippers in the past month.
- **Senior Suburban Orchestra:** Possible Tuesday night practice partnership with proposal to exchange space for monthly musical contributions during worship.
- **Darien Arts Council:** Exploring joint events including art shows, open mic/storytelling nights, and potential theater productions.
- **Secret Shopper Report:** Positive feedback on church hospitality; suggestion to possibly remove pulpit riser to enhance safety.
- **Bathroom Accessibility:** Proposed switching locks/signs to convert two bathrooms into gender-neutral, single-use restrooms.

Synod Assembly Report

- Attended by Pastor, Marilyn, and Marlene.
- Bishop Curry was re-elected.
- New ideas gained for worship visuals and community engagement.

Special Services & Events

- **Pentecost:** High energy; feedback noted that bells/cheering should pause during baptism and sermon.
- **Outdoor Worship:** Well-attended with 25 people.
- **Community Involvement:** Participation in Downers Grove Pride and 1946 film screening drew new attendees.

Pastoral Care Update

- Prayers and cards requested for Amy Jimenez, recovering from surgery.
- Renewed interest from Amy, Stacey, and Marla in restarting Sunday School.
- Potential collaboration with Our Saviour's youth group in Naperville for teen ministry.

Old Business

- **Fourth of July Parade:** Prep ongoing. Glow sticks and banner discussed.
- **Darien Fest:** Church will participate. Sign-ups forthcoming.
- **Hinsdale South School Supply Drive:** Church will collect supplies; backpacks not needed.
- **Audit Committee:**
 - Restructured to include 3 members (only 1 council member, not the president).
 - **Motion:** Approve revised audit committee structure.
 - **Seconded & Carried**

New Business

- **Mission Investment Fund CD Renewal:**
 - **Motion:** Renew for one year at 4.15%.
 - **Seconded & Carried**

• **Legal Checklist Review:**

- Identified need to update registered agent due to former agent's passing.
- Most compliance items are met; minor follow-up needed on personnel policy and safeguarding training currency.

Scheduling

• **July Council Meeting:**

- Decision: Keep meeting on the calendar for July 22.
- The Executive Committee will determine a week in advance if the meeting is necessary.

2025 Council Members

- Marilynn Sells - President, Personnel, Worship and Music
- Ron Matta - Vice President, Personnel
- Linda Glover- Secretary
- Jim Kelly - Treasurer
- Connie Allekian - Evangelism, Stewardship
- Wendy Amurao
- Marlene Carlson - RIC
- Elsy Eggert - Children and Hunger
- Art Kardatzke - Property Committee
- Ray Kozak
- Debbie McNichols - Hospitality
- Judy Padera - LCW
- Alice Tangorra - Hospitality
- Pastor Adam



Lord of Life Lutheran Church Invites You

Worship Services

Sundays @ 10 am

Midweek Outdoor Worship

6/11, 7/9, 8/20, 9/10, 10/8

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

Darien 4th of July Parade

Friday, July 4th

Kane County Cougars Baseball

Friday, July 25th @ 5:30pm

Darien Fest

August 9-10th

Paint with Pastor

Friday, September 5th @ 6:00pm

New Members



New Members (left to right):
Evie Fagan, John Motes, Ethan Motes,
Donna Motes
Not Pictured:
Andrea Motes

July

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE Jul 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 12pm Loving Word Ser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Property Meeting 1pm Property Commit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darien 4th of July Para Independence Day 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 12pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 12pm RIC meeting 6pm Outdoor Worship 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Lunche
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2
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For if you forgive other people
when they sin against you,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
Matthew 6:14

DailyVerses.net