



Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ,

This month has been a deeply personal one for me. My father passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. His final days were spent at home in Florida, surrounded by family, exactly as he wished. The last years of his life were difficult. Parkinson's gradually stole the things that had made him the man we loved—working with technology, the card games he played his whole life, even the small freedoms of daily life. The disease brought hallucinations, paranoia, and confusion.

And yet, in the midst of that struggle, there were moments of grace. When my brother and I entered his hospital room, his eyes lit up. When we played hymns, he mouthed the words, connecting to the music that had shaped him for a lifetime. Even in his frailty, he never lost sight of where he wanted to be. His last, raspy words were simple and profound: "home." He is now safely home—not in Milwaukee, not in Minnesota, not in the Florida house where he spent the last decade, but in the arms of his Savior.

As I reflect on this, I am grateful for this congregation and the journey we share together. Just as my father longed for home, we long for the fullness of God's kingdom, where we are known and loved completely. Just as my family cared for him in his final days, our congregation cares for one another as the body of Christ, offering presence, compassion, and support. It is a truly beautiful thing to behold.

As we move into the fall, the church is also moving into a season of transition. The rhythms of summer give way to autumn, and soon, Advent will beckon us toward anticipation and hope. In this season, we are reminded that God's promises are sure, even when life is difficult or uncertain. The God who welcomed my father home promises to welcome each of us, offering rest, peace, and joy beyond measure.

May we, as a community, hold one another with care, even in the challenging seasons of life. May we find hope in the familiar rhythms of worship, the comforting words of Scripture, and the promise that, ultimately, we are all held in God's loving arms. And as the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, may we be reminded that even in endings, there is the promise of hope and home.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Adam Dowd  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church

## Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Longhorn, 708 James Ave. Bolingbrook, on Tuesday, September 9th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

## Happy Birthday

Sept. 7 Agnes D.	Sept. 21 Sherry S.
Sept. 9 Marilyn S.	Sept. 22 Sheila R.
Sept. 11 Jenna S.	Sept. 23 Vernetta S.
Sept. 11 Marla S.	Sept. 27 Linda K.
Sept. 14 Elaine S.	Sept. 30 LeeAnn S.
Sept. 15 Bob T.	
Sept. 18 Robert E.	
Sept. 20 Judy P.	



## PAINT WITH *Pastor*

**SEPTEMBER 10**

**7:30 PM**

**SIGN UP IN THE  
NARTHEX**



## Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on August 21st! We had a good presentation by a Representative from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District on Pollinators and Native Plants!

The next meeting is on Thursday September 18th at noon with our usual Potluck luncheon! If all goes well we will have a Comfort Dog(s). We will have a Free Will offering for the Comfort Dog Ministry!

Everyone is welcome!

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

Marilynn Sells  
630-927-9996

## Picnic Time

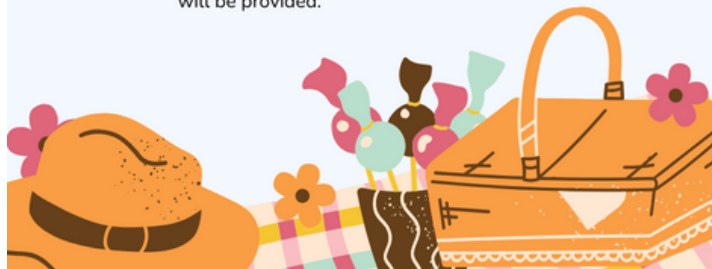
to have a chat, playing games together, and sharing foods!

**21**

September

11:30 AM  
at Lord of Life  
Hot Dogs, chips and drinks  
will be provided.

Sign up in the Narthex  
Bring a dish to share.



**Lord of Life**

**We Share God's Love**

## Ride Dupage

Ride DuPage provides subsidized taxi and lift equipped bus transportation for income eligible DuPage County residents. Primarily used for visits to medical facilities and government offices within the county limits. To register, call 630-407-6500 or 1-800-942-9412.



## Dial A Ride

Dial-A-Ride is a curb-to-curb paratransit service for senior citizens and disabled persons provided by the Township of Downers Grove through a contract with PACE. Registration is necessary before starting to use the service. Rides can be scheduled to any location within the Township, Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. The fare is \$3.00. To get more information call 630-719-6670.

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Volunteers!

Darien Fest and the 4th of July Parade were spectacular successes, and we have each and every one of our incredible volunteers to thank for that. Your dedication, energy, and community spirit are what make these events so magical. You poured your time and effort into creating joy for your neighbors, and it showed in every smiling face along the route and in the park.



## 2025 Council Members

- Marilyn 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

## Pet Blessing Sunday Oct. 5

11:30 AM

All animals and people are  
welcome!



# Committee Report

## **Finance:**

July donations were good. The \$16,820 total is the second highest July in the last ten years, Exceeding a good 2024 (\$16,281) by \$539, but trailing an outstanding 2023 (\$23,115) by \$6,295. July expenses (\$22,202) were higher than 2024 (\$21,177) by \$1,025 and higher than 2023 (\$20,839) by \$1,363. July operations generated a \$5,383 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$34,564, the deficit is the second highest at the end of seven months in the last ten years.

At the end of seven months, 58.33% of the year, 58.8% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 58.8% 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 July 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. Eleven on-line donations totaling \$733.82 were received by the last counters report date (07/28/25). There were no Thrivent donations. (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 \$36,675 since 12/31/24. The decrease is due to the operational deficit and the Gathering Place project.

James T. Kelly  
Treasurer

## **Council Highlights**

### **Worship/Livestream & Acolyte/Tech**

- Concerns noted about video quality on a recent Sunday - quality should improve when Sherry returns.
- Brief RIC-style teaching: council practiced using pronouns (they/them) and simple ways to ask/share pronouns; emphasis on welcome.

### **Pastor's Report (Highlights)**

- Strong summer engagement: Kane County Cougars outing well-attended; consider returning to Chicago Wolves game in winter.
- Attendance: summer mostly at/above ~40; only two Sundays under 40 (indicative improvement vs. prior summers).



## **Community Partnerships & Events**

### **1) Darien Arts Council (DAC) – Play: Proof**

- Request: Use Fellowship Hall Nov 10–15 (Fri/Sat performances; Sat matinee possible).
- Financials: DAC will donate equivalent of room use; Pastor cited \$130/day as the suggested donation.
- Motion: Approve DAC's use of Fellowship Hall Nov 10–15 for Proof under stated terms.

Vote: Passed.

### **2) Paint with the Pastor + Outdoor Worship**

- Date: Sept 10 (after outdoor worship).
- Support: DAC will bring snacks/treats and help host.

### **3) “Everyone Has a Story” (open-mic style stories/poems)**

- Co-host concept with DAC; proposed sanctuary-in-the-round setup (like Prayer Around the Cross).
- Encouragement to share meaningful stories/poems; date TBD.

### **4) Advent Holden & Community Non-Juried Art Exhibition**

- Exhibit: Invite congregation/community art pieces displayed around the sanctuary; brief optional 1-min artist sharing; light refreshments.
- Target: Wed, Dec 3 (not the evening before Thanksgiving).
- Holden Prayer: Dec 3 & Dec 10 (partners Christ Lutheran & Prince of Peace invited; hosting at LoL if possible). Coordination with Pastors Carol & Craig in progress.

## **Outreach Recaps**

### **1) Independence Day Parade (Darien)**

- Scale: ~2,400 glow sticks distributed (ran out mid-parade).
- Two convertibles (Jim Eckwall & friend), walkers/candy teams, updated banners.
- Idea for 2026: Parade shopping cart food-drive (collect cans along route) with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel & Christ Lutheran; Mayor exploring broader clergy collaboration. Early talk of combined multi-town parade for USA 250.

### **2) Darien Fest (Aug 9–10, Westwood Park)**

- Booth fee waived.
- Offerings: Face painting (Adam), temporary tattoos (Pastor's discretionary fund), children's books, coloring pages, Fall postcards.
- Traffic: ~20–25 children/day; \$41 in donations (box out late Day 1).

### **3) Hinsdale South “Back to School Bash”**

- LoL team helped pack backpacks; event reported as very successful (large donation from civic orgs; 200+ backpacks). Follow-up meeting next week.

## **Property & Facilities**

- Cottonwood limb fell; clean-up completed swiftly by Bruce, Arlene, Joyce, and Ken.
- Parking lot sealcoat: Prior quotes in the \$5,000–\$5,400 range. Property to revisit after HVAC costs are clearer.
- Utilities review: Tracking electricity, gas, phone, waste, water. Water bills lag (~6 weeks). Electricity up ~\$700 YTD (heat waves). AC outage reduced usage during part of June.
- Thermostats: User adjustments auto-revert to programmed setpoint after ~2 hours.
- HVAC rooftop unit (sanctuary): Aging (~2011). Seeking replacement estimate from servicing vendor (crane needed).

- Gutter guards on site; install when weather cools.
- Restrooms (two by sanctuary): Planning single-user, all-gender locks/signage (using existing compatible locks if possible).
- Cross dedication plaque: Wood backer deteriorated; re-mounted on ceramic tile and relocated near cross due to siding rot.
- Sanctuary Table: Art has machined lumber; assembly next, then finish.

## **Administration & Governance**

### **1) Council Membership**

- Minimal attendance this year; discussed per constitution.
- Consensus: Remove from active roster now; fill vacancy at the Annual Meeting via the Nominating Committee (no special meeting).
- Note: Constitution allows fewer than 12 seated if needed; 12 is not mandatory.

### **2) Finance**

- Regular packet reviewed; no additional report needed at this time.

### **3) Committees**

- Personnel: meeting to be scheduled.
- RIC Team: aiming to complete process and bring congregational vote at next Annual Meeting.
- Hospitality/Evangelism/Social Ministry/Stewardship/Wish List: no new items reported.

### **4) Communications**

- Fall postcards printed—hand out to neighbors/visitors and post on fridges.

## **Dates to Note**

- **Sept 10 (Tue):** Outdoor Worship + Paint with the Pastor (DAC snacks).
- **Sept 21 (Sun):** Church Picnic ~11:30am; invite SDA & Loving Word (building partners) and neighboring ELCA congregations. Hot dogs & veggie dogs; bring-a-side signup to go out soon.
- **Nov 10–15:** DAC Proof in Fellowship Hall (approved).
- **Dec 3 & 10 (Wed):** Holden Evening Prayer (partner churches TBC).
- **Dec 3 (Wed):** Non-Juried Art Exhibition in the sanctuary (before/after Holden; refreshments).



**The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our  
God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8**

# September

SUN 31	MON 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Pers</li> <li>12pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>	Labor Day	<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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Dance Academy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Pers</li> <li>12pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Lunch Bunch</li> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>6pm Outdoor Worship</li> <li>7pm AA</li> <li>7pm Paint with Pastor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm Dance Academy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> <li>12:30pm SDA Luncheon</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Pers</li> <li>12pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> <li>7pm Church Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Senior Spirits</li> <li>5pm Dance Academy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
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## August in Review

